

TIMES COLUMNIST

## MHS ready to LAUNCH

Our world is ever changing and our community is as well. It is very easy to see that our local businesses and organizations desperately need more skilled and dependable workers.



**Jeriamy Jackson**

Students in high school question everything they are asked to do, and one of the biggest questions they ask is “Why do we need to learn this?” Staff work tirelessly to implement instructional practices and activities that are engaging, relevant and meaningful for students, but it is very hard to recreate the “real world” in high school.

With an eye on the future of our students and community and the continuous effort to make what we do relevant, meaningful and engaging, Monroe High School is starting a new program for the 2022-23 school year. This project-based learning experience will partner our students with local and community businesses and organizations to solve real-world problems. This program is called LAUNCH.

LAUNCH is a member of the Center for Advanced Professional Studies (CAPS), a nationally recognized, innovative high school program. Students will be immersed in a professional culture, solving real-world problems, using industry standard tools, while being mentored by actual employers. For this opportunity, students will receive high school and potentially college credit. LAUNCH is an example of how business, community and public education can partner to produce personalized learning experiences that educate the workforce of tomorrow, especially in high-skill, high-demand jobs.

LAUNCH provides students the opportunity to deeply explore professional areas of interest through a profession-based, inquiry learning method. CAPS is driven by the changing workforce needs of industry; therefore, instructors and LAUNCH business partners collaborate to develop coursework.

Monroe High School will be implementing two career strands in LAUNCH for the 2022-2023 School year; Business Analytics and Media Solutions. We are beginning to develop future career strands for the 2023-24 school year as well. Our initial conversations with local businesses and their rep-

resentatives have been very encouraging as we believe this program is a “win-win” for everyone involved. Students gain the skills, knowledge and amazing experiences of this program, and businesses get a project completed as well as possible future employees, keeping our young, talented students here in Monroe.

In developing LAUNCH, we have been working with another district in Wisconsin, Elmbrook School District. They are the only other district in our state that is currently operating the LAUNCH program and are in their fifth year of doing so. Our team is collaborating with their team through this implementation and has made site visits with teacher teams and student teams. We are extremely excited to be bringing this program to Monroe High School, and these opportunities to our students, local businesses and organizations.

For more information, go to: <https://www.monroeschools.com/schools/high/academics/launch.cfm>.

— Jeriamy Jackson is the Interim Principal at Monroe High School. He can be reached at 608-328-7359 or [jeriamyjackson@monroe.k12.wi.us](mailto:jeriamyjackson@monroe.k12.wi.us).

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

## You are not alone – NAMI Green County can help

### Mental Illness Support, Education and Resources

**From Frank Mixdorf**  
President NAMI Green County, Inc.

**To the Editor:**  
Founded in Dane County in the 1970’s, NAMI (the National Alliance on Mental Illness) is the nation’s largest grassroots mental health organization providing mental illness education, support, advocacy and public awareness. By “grassroots,” we mean that the NAMI community of care is led by many individuals and family members who have lived mental illness experience and who truly understand the complex and multiple challenges these conditions cause. Today, nationwide, NAMI is an alliance of more than 600 local county affiliates and 48 state organizations who work in communities to raise awareness and provide support and education that was not previously available to those in need. Green County is fortunate to have a NAMI affiliate office in Monroe.

After nearly two years of the COVID-19 pandemic, more people than ever are experiencing mental health conditions —

by some estimates 1 in 3 individuals. Mental illnesses are brain disorders that are biologically based medical problems, just as are diabetes and heart disease. Untreated, they can cause severe disturbances in thinking, feeling and relating. This results in substantially diminished capacity for dealing with the ordinary demands of life. Mental illness can affect persons of any age and occur in any family. They are not caused by bad parenting and not evidence of weakness of character. There is no reason to feel shame or be stigmatized.

If you or someone you care about is in need of help or you would like to stand with us and join our NAMI Green County community and help others through our many volunteer opportunities, please visit [namigreencounty.org](http://namigreencounty.org) or contact us at [namigc@tds.net](mailto:namigc@tds.net) or 608-324-4677 (Not a crisis line). You can also visit us on Facebook.

You Are Not Alone. NAMI Green County Can Help. Learn more at [namigreencounty.org](http://namigreencounty.org).

### SUBMIT A LETTER

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**Congress** shall make no law respecting an establishment of religion, or prohibiting the free exercise thereof; or abridging the freedom of speech, or of the press; or the right of the people peaceably to assemble, and to petition the government for a redress of grievances”  
— First Amendment

## THE MONROE TIMES

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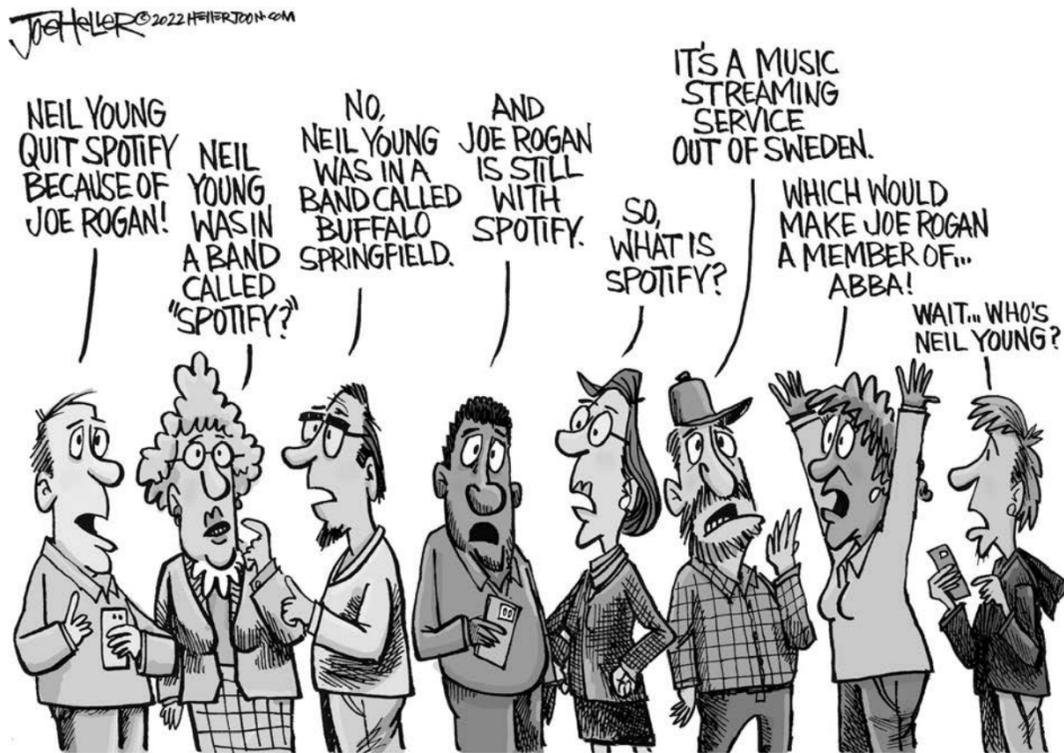
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JOE HELLER



## Losing democracy is like a death sentence

**By Diana Vance**  
Monroe

As an American I can no longer be silent. I am doing what I hope every American will do and that is to ask Merrick Garland, Attorney General at the Justice Department, Washington DC, to gather all the evidence against Donald J. Trump, our former president, and prosecute him for trying to overthrow the government of the United States of America on January 6, 2021.

The evidence against him is piling up by the minute. I have read opinions from two constitutional professors who say in essence he is guilty. As an American citizen I want Donald J. Trump, who apparently spent his entire time as president planning this attack on our government in the hopes he will rule again, to be prosecuted as a traitor to the Constitution and the people in this country and democracy itself.

For me the thought of losing democracy was like a death sen-

tence. Gone would be my freedoms and my rights. I thought of my grandson, serving in the military, and would take an oath to serve a country ruled by a despot. I haven't talked with him as yet. He just returned from serving overseas.

I also think of the five policemen who died as a result of the attack on the Capitol and the staff members who were so brave and one of them grabbed the papers containing the Electoral College votes to protect them. They deserve a better boss than loser and liar Donald Trump.

As for Donald Trump's supporters, I think their punishment is too lean. Trying to overthrow the government in our nation is an attempt to fatally annihilate our democracy. That is the reason to convict Donald Trump and be tough on anyone who participated.

As I see it, Donald J. Trump is a traitor to this nation and our Constitution and deserves the stated punishment for a traitor. According to the Constitution that is death.

That will be the deterrent necessary for those who want to follow him.

It is also for the world to see that we punish traitors according to the Constitution. Our Founders' obviously believed democracy is priceless and the punishment for someone who tried to overthrow it should be severe.

As a former American History teacher, I think civics should be taught again in all public and private schools. Jon Meacham's book "The Soul of America" also needs to be explored. In it he helps us understand we have had critical moments in our history when we overcame division and fear. He writes that Americans need to reach inside for their "better angels" and begin to appreciate once more that we have a heart, a core, a soul and an essence of what it means to have faith in our nation.

All we have to do is look inside our souls and see once again we have these strengths and beliefs in a government where democracy is the best way to govern our country.

## Help available for unwanted pregnancies

**From Dennis Goldenman**  
Monroe

**To the Editor:**  
I read with interest the letter from Donna Phillips regarding the impact of overturning Roe v. Wade. She asked the question, "so, if people who are pro-life want babies to live, will they provide help for women?"

Actually, there is help available for women in crisis pregnancies in Green County. The Care Net Pregnancy Care Center provides testing and counseling services for women. Support is also available for mothers with newborn babies who are in need of diapers, formula, clothing, furniture, and everything that newborn babies need. The counseling office is located at 1512 11th avenue street in Monroe. The Family Support Services has a large inventory of necessary supplies and is located at the Hope Community Center, 2902 13th Street in Monroe. Both the office and Family Support Services are staffed with individuals who have great compassion for women in crisis pregnancies and ready to provide whatever service is necessary. Hours of operation are listed on its website "[carenetgreencounty.org](http://carenetgreencounty.org)".

BARBS

## Blossoms

A Big Blossom to the staff at Pick and Save. I want to express my heartfelt thanks to people who mean a lot to me. I am so grateful for them and for all the hard work they do to keep the shelves full as best they can during these difficult times. I thank God for them. Thank you, Amber, Sonja, Britny, Lisa, Tiffany, Joanne, Jana, to all, for blessing my life.

— Sincerely yours,  
Kathy Bohnert, Monroe

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