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JUNE EVENTS

MUSIC

SUN. JUNE 4: Marv Van Horn - 2pm
 SUN. JUNE 11: Brothers K - 2pm
 SUN. JUNE 18: LA Drive - 2pm
 SUN. JUNE 25: Mark Byerley - 2pm

Happy Anniversary Marilyn & Jim Kelly- June 16
 Happy Birthday Jim Kelly- June 19
 From The Horseshoe Family

JOIN US & OTHER LOCAL BUSINESSES PARTICIPATING IN THE 2023 GREEN CO. BURGER CONTEST: MAY 1-JULY 31
 TRY OUR HORSESHOE RODEO BURGER

DAILY SPECIALS • BEST BURGERS • FAMOUS PIZZAS • FRIDAY FISH FRY ALL DAY

the **Monroe Times**

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STORIES BEHIND THE STARS

1st Lieutenant Robert Amans

By Krista Finstad Hanson
 For the Times

During World War II, the 163rd Infantry Regiment of the 41st Division of the U.S. Army trained in the U.S. and left for Australia in April of 1942. They fought in the Pacific Theater on islands in the South Pacific from 1943 to 1945, including the Papuan Campaign, Luzon, New Guinea, and the Philippines. In March of 1945, they were fighting on the islands of Mindanao and then Jolo and Tawi-Tawi.

When the war ended on August 15, 1945, they served as occupation forces in Japan. They inactivated on December 31, 1945. The 163rd Infantry Regiment received two Presidential Unit Citations.

Green County soldier Robert Leslie Amans eventually served with the 163rd Infantry Regiment, 41st Infantry Division of the U.S. Army in the Philippines.

Robert Leslie Amans was born October 24, 1918 in Douglas County, Wisconsin. His parents were Edward and Mabel (Van Arman) Amans.

From the 1920 U.S. Census, the Amans family lived in Oakland Township in Douglas County, Wisconsin, with some of the children living with their maternal grandparents.

From the 1930 U.S. Census, some of the Amans family, including Robert, lived with mother Mabel Amans' family in Superior in Douglas County. Robert had eight siblings: Nellie, Hazel, George, Harry, Francis, Lloyd, Grace, and

Stories Behind The Stars

A series that honors more than 421,000 Americans that lost their lives in World War II.

Fallen soldiers from Green and Lafayette counties will be highlighted in the Monroe Times.

To learn more about the project, visit storiesbehindthestars.org.

See AMANS, Page A4

MTG does Shakespeare

Married couple to direct "Midsummer" play

By Gary Mays
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MONROE — For the first time in nearly 50 years, Monroe Theater Guild is poised to present a Shakespeare play, the popular comedy 'A Midsummer Night's Dream.'

Performers and production staff are hard at work on the upcoming show, which has a six-day run, from June 16, June 17, and June 18; and again, the following weekend, June 23, June 24, and June 25.

Tickets went on sale May 17 from the MTG box office and website, and those who want to see the show are urged to get their tickets ahead of time, as they expect plenty of lovers of the arts to take advantage of the chance to experience live theater close to home.

With a married couple as the co-directors — and set, literally, around the longest day of the year, or "midsummer" — the play promises to delight audiences young and old, organizers say.

"It's the most popular of the plays he



Times photo: Gary Mays
 Monroe Theatre Guild directors Kate and Stephen Eliasson.



Photo supplied
 From left to right: Jules Leverton, Ben Holland and Abby Ewert, in back are Elijah Cook, Jackie Ceithamer, Amelia Kister and Lydia Salus.

wrote," co-director Stephen Eliasson said. "It's a lot of fun and a lot of laughs and has plenty to say about relationships."

In A Midsummer Night's Dream, some inhabitants of Athens mix with whimsical fairies from a local stand of forest. Shakespeare's imaginative comedy essentially tells a story of four young lovers whose romances become entangled in magical mishaps as they learn what it's like to be in love and in lust with each other.

"Shakespeare could be bawdy at times, but we're not trying to go in that direction," Stephen said. "This is something that everyone can enjoy."

In the play, four "Athenians" escape to the forest only to have the character Puck, a fairy, make both boys fall in love with the same girl.

The four chase around while Puck helps play a trick on the fairy queen. In the end, though, Puck reverses his magic spell, and the two couples reconcile and marry.

"The course of true love never did run smooth," reads the quotable script.

Meanwhile there is a play within the play, and plenty of trademark Shakespearean dialogue along the journey.

On a recent afternoon, the stage was still in neutral tones, ready to be transformed by paint, props and light into an indoor forest. Kate Eliasson — sitting on a prop tree stump — and her husband spoke about the challenges of directing as a married couple.

They think that the dynamic will have a positive impact on this love story, even if it's "not so great," in theory, for their

See SHAKESPEARE, Page A6

CARDINALS STATE-BOUND



Times photo: Natalie Dillon

Brodhead's Taetum Hoesly celebrates with teammates after their softball team knocked off River Valley 11-0 in a WIAA Division 3 sectional final in Spring Green on June 1. The victory punched a ticket to state for the Cardinals, a program that last played for the championship in 2004 before any player on the team was born. A full recap of the game and a preview of the upcoming state tournament can be seen in **Sports, page A9**. As a reminder, all Times photos are available for sale and reprint by going to www.themonroetimes.com or by calling the office at 608-328-4202.

Darlington's Canoe Fest floats boat for 57th year

By Gary Mays
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DARLINGTON — For more than a half a century, Darlington has played host to the annual Canoe Fest, a family-focused event featuring music, food and, of course, canoeing on the scenic Pecatonica River.

The event is in its 57th year and is considered more than just a summer festival. It is billed as a "homecoming" for former residents to make an annual return visit to Darlington and the small-town way of life.

The event is held in Darlington's historic downtown business district along the banks of the Pecatonica River.

The four-day festival has something for everyone, including Little League and softball tournaments, stock car races, two- and five-mile road runs, the Beowulf Motorcycle Club summer party, a talent show, and more. It also includes an arts and crafts fair, carnival, and a parade.

A highlight of the event is the fireworks show set for 9:45 p.m. on Saturday, June 10.

The 2023 Canoe Fest Princess Contestant participants are Allison Andino, Alyza Johnson and Laura Andino.

Andino is a 15-year-old freshman and the daughter of Karla Andino. She said being a contestant allows

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CONCERTS ON THE SQUARE

Summer 2023
 Concerts start at 6:30 PM.
 Food Vendors & Beer Gardens open at 5:30 PM

Fri. June 9: John King
 Fri. June 29: The BriTins
 Thurs. July 13: The People's Brothers Band
 Fri. July 28: Generation Jones
 Sat. August 19: FBI and the Untouchable Horns

www.mainstreetmonroe.org