

# Masonic

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off an ethereal feeling. "To be able to work with a show like this, with a theater backing that's designed for theatrical work is really quite fun," Schell said. "So I think people are ... going to have a really great experience."

Last year, city leaders approved an agreement with Great River Shakespeare Festival (GRSF) to manage and activate the facility. GRSF Director of Operations Eileen Moeller said GRSF has put in a lot of time into cleaning the space up and painting since moving into the building. GRSF began programming the theater again last August. Moeller said lots of groups have expressed interest in the

space, adding that she was excited to partner with Schell to have the first big concerts at the theater since before the pandemic. "Obviously, the Campfire Concert Series is a really cool community event that is offered in the summer, so being able to host something that will raise money for that so that it can keep going, is a great opportunity," Moeller said.

Similarly, Schell said he's excited to be back at the ARC. He has previously hosted concerts at the ARC before the pandemic. "It's still an old theater, which I think is part of its great charm," Schell said. He added that having a concert with a theater backing like at the ARC is really fun and allows for some creativity, such as with the historic theatrical backdrops.

Schell said there will be two more concerts

at the ARC. The first will be on February 28 and feature Winona is Dead performing a Grateful Dead-themed show. Then, on April 4, Texas Toast and Saltydog will perform at the ARC. Schell said that 100% of the proceeds from these shows will go toward funding musicians for the free Campfire Concert Series this year. He said it typically costs roughly \$10,000 to fund all of the free summer concerts, and that while Front Porch Management has won grants the last few years to help fund the free concerts, this year it has not. Schell said he hopes these winter concerts at the ARC can help keep the summer concerts going.

Schell said the Campfire Concert Series has grown a lot and has become really important to the many people and families it attracts. "It's easy to pull into the campground, set up

your chair. There's a food truck and music, and it's free ... It's just extraordinarily family friendly as well. There's kids running everywhere. Parents can sit, hang out, talk with friends and feel really safe with their kids running around, getting that outdoor play, having fun," Schell said.

Moeller said that she is excited for the concerts and other upcoming events at the ARC. She added that GRSF has many goals to improve the space and is working on cosmetic improvements that are affordable, but added that funding is limited. If anyone wants to support the improvements to the ARC, Moeller said they can donate online at arcwinona.org/about.

Local@winonapost.com

# 'Meet Cute' variety show in Lanesboro Feb. 15

Lanesboro Arts will showcase local talent celebrating love in its many forms with a Valentine's weekend variety show, "Meet Cute: Love Stories from Lanesboro," on Sunday, February 15, at 1 p.m. at the St. Mane Theatre. Audiences will enjoy a sweet and humorous collection of poems, songs, and stories from friends and neighbors.

Whether romantic, platonic, or familial, "Meet Cute" is all about sharing the love

that abounds in community. The lineup includes local writers, thespians, poets, musicians, and more. The show will be emceed by dynamic theatrical duo, Jaclyn June Johnson and Alex Schlesinger, adding their own friendly charm to the mix. Just in time for Valentine's Day weekend, this variety show makes for a delightful afternoon outing. Visitors can also enjoy the specials, events, and sales happening during



Image courtesy of Lanesboro Arts.

■ Rachel Storlie and Stela Burdt perform in the 2023 "Lovebirds in Lanesboro" variety show.



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the town's annual Lovebirds in Lanesboro weekend.

Tickets are on sale now for \$20 for general admission and \$15 for Lanesboro Arts members. Tickets can be purchased online at lanesboroarts.org. Seating is first come,

first served.

This activity is made possible by the voters of Minnesota through a grant from the Minnesota State Arts Board, thanks to a legislative appropriation from the Arts and Cultural Heritage Fund.

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**NOTICE:** An ordinance has

been introduced for passage

before the City Council of

the City of Winona, Minnesota, the purpose and

effect of which is to amend

the Unified Development

Code to modify elements

related to townhouses and

rowhouses.

Dated: January 20, 2026

Monica Hennessy Mohan

City Clerk

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