

Letters

Walser proven to be dedicated, qualified

To the editor:

I have known Donnetta Walser (then Halverson) since 1971, while a student at Monroe High School. I am a 1972 graduate.

In the mid 1970s, she married Fred Walser, and they moved to a home across the street from my parents here in Monroe.

I have known her for virtually all of my teen and adult life, and while in school found her to be a dedicated, caring, and professional teacher. She has carried these same characteristics into her tenure as the current mayor of our fine city.

I believe her to be the most qualified of the current group of candidates, and intend to vote her another term, and would encourage Monitor readers to do the same. It is a difficult and sometimes thankless job, and she does it well.

Regards,

Michael H. Bond
Monroe, WA.

Tessandore will serve county well

To the editor:

Rico Tessandore is the best candidate for Snohomish County Superior Court Judge. My opinion is based on working with or around four of the five candidates during the 20 years that I advocated for victims of violent crimes in Snohomish County. Rico Tessandore has been endorsed by many others who have worked with him to hold criminals accountable, such as the Edmond's police officers association, the Snohomish County Associations of deputy sheriffs and of prosecuting attorneys, and many Judges.

No incumbent Judge is running for this vacant position. One candidate refers to himself as a Judge, but is actually an ex-Judge who was voted out of office when too many cases had to be kept out of his courtroom. Another candidate has a criminal record including jail time.

I worked as a victim advocate with two of the other candidates while they were both prosecuting attorneys. Their goal was always to hold criminals accountable for their behavior. In my experiences working together with both candidates, Rico Tessandore was the most sensitive to the needs of victims; most clear in his decisions; the most courageous, dependable and persistent in his work; and had the highest level of courtroom skills.

These qualities will serve Rico Tessandore well, and he will serve us well, in the critically important role of Superior Court Judge.

Sincerely,

Bill France
Monroe, WA

Climate bill needed now

To the editor:

I know that the local area is suffering as are lots of businesses, including my husband's, but if we don't address one of the most important issues of our lifetime (global warming) there won't be a need for an economy or industry. I write this letter from a mother's perspective. The importance of the American Clean Energy and Security Act is paramount to our children's futures. I remember that when my daughter Linnea was born life changed for me. I became ultra aware and overly concerned about many things. I also came to realize that everything we as humans did impacted her life as well as the lives of all children on this planet. I look at my children as well as all children and see so much potential and life ahead of them. Then, because I am a mom, I worry. I worry that if we wait too long and don't move in the right direction THIS DAY, there may not be enough tomorrows for mine or any of our children. I think most Americans want more clean energy solutions. I don't belong to any political groups (unless you count the PTA). I only join other local moms 6-10 times a year at our local bookstore (Main Street Books) where we talk, listen and generate ideas about saving money (next month we're going to do a costume swap) and ways to limit the damage we do to our planet. I believe with all my heart that new ideas will spring forth and set off a wave of innovation that will create a plethora of American jobs, reduce the hold that fossil fuels have on our economic and national security, and address the global climate crisis head on. I taught young children 15 years ago who have graduated high school and are already more informed and proactive than I ever was! The children of yesterday ARE problem solvers and I have faith that great things are just around the corner.

I urge all other Monroe and greater Sky Valley moms to ask Senators Cantwell and Murray to ensure that there is a federal climate bill BEFORE the international climate negotiations in December.

Thank you,

Debi Roberts-Lindgren
Sky Valley CoolMom Member



Editor's Notebook

BY POLLY KEARY, EDITOR

On winning

Once I had a young journalist in my office, an earthy, grounded woman who wanted to talk about how to improve her writing and skills.

I talked about some of my favorite writing techniques I learned while studying journalism in college, an opportunity she hadn't had.

It was good, I said, if you could write a feature in such a way that the last paragraph brought the story back to the first paragraph.

Stories like that, I said, can win you awards.

She looked at me with her disconcerting clear gaze.

"Why do awards matter?" she asked.

I sort of gaped. I wasn't expecting that response.

My first thought was based on my own sheer competitiveness. An award matters, like a climber once said of Mount Everest, because it's there. If there is an award and you don't win it, what does that say? It is there; you must compete for it. If you don't get it, you must ask yourself why.

But there's no way I could tell that to the sincere young woman. That was the very shallowness of which I felt she suspected me.

I cast about for other reasons.

Thankfully, I realized that behind the simple desire to win whatever there is to win is a deeper meaning.

A win in newspaper writing is granted by other news professionals. It means that your peers, the people who do what you do and think what you think, about how to write a story without harming the subject, about how to thoughtfully and clearly communicate news stories, have judged your work and given it the nod of approval.

In this job, it's best to get a reality check from peers on a regular basis. It is good, even vital, to know that you are doing your job not only with skill, but with honor.

An award usually is granted based not only on writerly skill but on ethical treatment of a story, on usefulness to the community, and on good old fashioned hard work.

Once again this year, I have won a significant amount of awards at the annual awards banquet hosted by the organization of small Washington papers to which we belong.

That is always a mixed feeling for me.

On one hand, I'm extremely excited to win them. I am, as I mentioned, rather competitive. It's validation that I have brought something useful to my team, that I am carrying my weight, that I am still in the asset column and not the liability column on my crew.

I generally have a lot going on, too. I have another career in music which demands a great deal of time, and in my time here, I've owned and lost a business, too. The awards mean that I'm pulling it all off. It means I get to keep going, that the day has not yet arrived in which I have to make a choice of which career to drop and which to pursue.

But with those good feelings come some anxiety.

Immediately I wonder, can I do it again next year? I feel the bar has been raised, and I start thinking about where I can find more time in my day to do yet better work.

I wonder, too, as many people do in these situations, I've learned, whether I haven't somehow pulled a fast one. This is common for people who have experienced a success, to feel as if one somehow got away with something one hasn't earned.

Thankfully the awards are judged by a different group of journalists each year, and I don't think I could hoodwink that many people in the last five years.

Another thing that makes me lightly squeamish is the concept that I could win an award for a story about a horrific event like the fire that claimed the lives of a young Hispanic family.

"...and you got second place in the news category for "A New Life Ends," reported Dan on the phone the day after the awards as I stood eagerly listening in an Idaho coffee shop.

The memory of the horror of the story silenced me in the middle of my general glee over his report. I remember talking to people who knew that family. I remember the promise of two young sisters, and a new home that was the payoff of years of hard work for them, a new life and a new country, a new school for the kids, all ended in one early morning blaze.

At least I guess I did a good job writing about them, I thought. You wouldn't want to do a bad job.

As Dan named off the rest of the awards, I smiled to revisit some of my old friends. Yeah, I thought, that story I did about David Hose the muralist, that was a good one. David, what a guy. Oh, yeah, the Troll Under the Bridge. Good, I'm glad they saw that story as being as important as I did. I still can't believe it, a sex offender ordered to live under a bridge.

The awards each year are a quick trip through some intense territory sometimes; my best work is the work I had the most feeling about, for better or for worse.

The awards I unequivocally celebrate are those of my co-workers. I truly believe us to have the best team in Washington journalism. Our three photographers do such great work I just can't believe it. Every week when I see the photos, especially the sports photos, I agonize about having to choose among them. They are all amazing, of a quality suitable for publications far more august than this one.

The guys proved it, too. Between the three of them, they won every single award available in the category of black-and-white action sports photos. They flat shut the rest of the state completely out of the category. Ha ha! I knew it!

And Rhonda does the most amazing and creative front page layouts on any paper, anywhere. I feel she's been overlooked in her category too many times because she does non-traditional work. Our front pages don't have square corners and blocky layouts. They are fluid, they incorporate images forcefully, the text conforms to the image and not the other way around. It's powerful, and she is finally getting the recognition she deserves.

And these awards, too reflect the wonderful camaraderie we have with those who don't enter work for awards; Kathie and Brendan round out a crew that works together so well that everyone involved can do their best work.

I'm glad for the boss that we racked up this impressive array of awards, too. Good journalism springs from good leadership.

When I was in college, a publisher of a chain of local papers visited our class to talk about the business. It left me with a cold, dismayed feeling. It had become quite clear that he saw news as a means of selling ads. News was merely the sugar with which he coated the advertising pill. It was clear which was the true purpose of his publications, and I just hoped that there were still publishers who saw news as the most important part of the paper.

Then I met Ken. He loves to sell an ad, and he thinks they are plenty important. But he is as mission-driven about news as I am. The ads support the news, not the other way around.

He loves community journalism and brings to it a sense of mission. He makes our work possible by trusting that we are as committed to that mission as much as he is, and letting us do our jobs. So he's earned these awards as much as we have.

I confess, there is another side of me that is puzzled at the outcome of the awards.

I was a runner up for News Writer of the Year and Feature Writer of the Year. I've won both of them before.

Being a runner up means I'm one of the top three in the state in both categories.

But why wasn't I the best?

Hmmm. I better get busy.

Briefs

Mexican Dinner Night at the East County Senior Center

The East County Senior Center, 276 Sky River Parkway in Monroe, invites you to enjoy a homemade Mexican meal and start a tradition with your family. Mexican Dinner Night is the second Thursday of every month,

October 8 this month, at 6:00 p.m. The cost is \$5.00 per person. Come early to learn how the dish is made. Call (360) 794-6359 or stop by the East County Senior Center to sign up.

Join basketball training camp at Monroe Boys & Girls Club

The Monroe Boys & Girls Club, through progressive on-court instruction, as well as off-court conditioning and training to improve speed, strength and agility on the court for players who want a competitive advantage. Cost is \$100, and enrollment is limited. Please call (360) 794-4775 for more information.

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Professional Service Directory

Eye Care

Monroe Vision Clinic (360) 794-2020
Herb W. Courtney, Jr., O.D.; Stanton J. Sessions, O.D.; James A. Lombardo, OD, FAAO
14841 179th Ave. S.E., Suite 110, Monroe

Wedding Photography

In Any Event Photography
Serving Snohomish, King and Whatcom Counties
inanyevent@comcast.com (425)343-7483

Printing

Monroe Monitor/Valley News
113 W. Main, Monroe
Tabloids and Typesetting (360) 794-7116

Travel Agencies

Carlson's VacationShop.com
(360) 794-4886; Toll Free 1-800-433-5945
Travel@VacationShop.com www.VacationShop.com
Serving the Skykomish Valley since 1985

To list your business here call (360) 794-7116.

THE MONROE MONITOR & Valley News

113 W. Main, P.O. Box 399,
Monroe, WA 98272
(360) 794-7116 • FAX (360) 794-6202

• e-mail: comp@monroemonitor.com
• Website: www.monroemonitor.com

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Ken Robinson *Publisher* • Polly Keary, *Editor*
Kathie Savelesky, *Office Manager* • Debbie Robinson, *Sales Manager*
Brendan David Butler, *Production Manager* • Stevie VanBronkhorst, *Production Designer*
Dan Armstrong, Adrian Johnson, Jim Scolman, *Contributing Photographers*

Valley Church Directory

CASCADE COMMUNITY CHURCH (360) 794-4600

14377 Fryelands Blvd. S.E., Monroe
Nate Hettinga, Lead Pastor; Kirk Gendron, Executive Pastor
Sunday Services: 8, 9:30 and 11:15 a.m. (K-5th grade programs for 8 a.m. service; nursery through 5th grade programs for 9:30 and 11 a.m. services). Junior high group, Tuesdays, 6-8 p.m. Senior high group, Wednesdays, 7-9 p.m. AWANA, Thursdays, 6:30-8 p.m. MOPS, first and third Fridays, 9:30-11:30 a.m. Pathways Womens' Bible Study, Mondays, 7-8:30 p.m. and Tuesdays, 9-11 a.m. Call for more information or visit www.cascadechurch.org.

CHURCH OF OUR SAVIOUR EPISCOPAL (360) 794-4816

Vicar: the Reverend Peter Lane
331 S. Lewis St., Monroe. www.MonroeEpiscopal.org
Not your ordinary Episcopal Church.
Sunday Worship Services 10 a.m., Sunday School with Godly Play 10 a.m.
Child Care Available

FIRST BAPTIST CHURCH OF MONROE (SBC) (360) 794-8044

17922 149th St. S.E., Monroe - 1 block south of hospital
Pastor Dan McMillan
Loving God, Loving Others, Faithful to the Word. Worship Service 10:30 a.m. (birth through kindergarten ministries provided); Bible Study/Sunday School 9 a.m. (for all ages including adult discipleship classes); Youth Ministry; Tuesday nights at 6:30 p.m. AWANA; Wednesday nights at 6:30 p.m. (Sept.-May)
For more information (including audio sermons online) visit us at www.fbcmonroe.org

MONROE COMMUNITY CHAPEL (360) 794-4440

Scott McClure, Lead Pastor
23515 Old Owen Rd., Monroe
Chapel Life Services, 9 a.m., Sunday Services: 10:30 a.m. For more information and activities throughout the week please call or visit our website @ www.monroechapel.org.
Sonshine Preschool, (360) 794-7953.

MONROE CONGREGATIONAL UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST

(360) 794-7601 • **Pastor Tom Sorenson** • 301 S. Lewis St., Monroe
Uniting Faithfulness with Discovery. Adult Education Classes, 9 a.m. Sunday Worship Service and Sunday School, 10:30 a.m., childcare provided. Quilters, Tuesdays, 10 a.m.; Men's Group, Tuesdays, 7-9 p.m.; Women's Fellowship, second Tuesday, 1 p.m.; Choir practice, Wednesdays, 6:30 p.m. Website: monroeucc.org. E-mail: tcucc@juno.com.

MONROE COVENANT CHURCH (360) 805-8433

Mac Taylor, Pastor
www.monroecovenant.org • 202 S. Sams St., Monroe
Worship Service, 9:30 a.m. Tuesday, 6 p.m., Community dinner in connection with "Take the Next Step" followed by a variety of classes geared toward building self-sufficiency and independence.

PEACE LUTHERAN CHURCH "Celebrating 60 years! (LCMS) (360) 794-7230

peacemonroe@verizon.net • Dickinson & Park Lane, Monroe
Pastor Mark Griesse
Worship Services, Sunday at 10 a.m.; Sunday School/Education Hour 9 a.m. Nursery Service available. Little Doves Preschool and Kindergarten, for ages 2-5.

SHEPHERD OF THE VALLEY LUTHERAN CHURCH (360) 793-0134

• 36817 - 143rd Pl. S.E., Startup
Worship, 10:30 a.m.; Sunday School and Bible Study Class, 9 a.m.

ST. MARY OF THE VALLEY CATHOLIC CHURCH (360) 794-8945

Father Phillip Bloom • 601 W. Columbia St., Monroe
Masses: Saturday, 5 p.m., in English; Sunday, 9:30 a.m., in English; Sunday, noon, in Spanish.

To list your church in the

Valley Church Directory call (360) 794-7116 by 4 p.m. Thursday. It's just \$10 per week.