

Highrock Road wreck may have been due to heart attack

At 10:25 a.m. Monroe fire department was called to a motor vehicle crash at SR 203 and Highrock Road between a Ford Ranger and a dump truck. The dump truck, belonging to the City of Duvall, was traveling to Monroe on SR 203 when the Ford Ranger, sitting at the intersection with Highrock Road, rolled forward. The driver, Leroy Usey, 86, of Monroe, appears to have had a heart attack and lost control of the truck. In spite of the dump truck driver's attempt to avoid the truck, the vehicles collided. Usey was transported to the hospital. The two people in the dump truck were unharmed.



PHOTO BY DAN ARMSTRONG

Letters

Zimmerman: only choice for mayor

To the Editor:

Robert Zimmerman is my choice for Mayor. He is friendly, personable and concerned about our City. His time on City Council has shown that he is willing to push for improvements for the citizens of Monroe.

He and his wife Rita have been strong supporters of our schools and kids activities in our community.

Even in Robert's time out of office he has stayed on top of community issues and has listened to the public.

After looking at the alternatives, Robert Zimmerman is my ONLY choice for Mayor!

techniques around the world, again it is the Friends who partner with the Sno-Isle Libraries Foundation to make these problems possible.

Stop by the library October 18-24 and meet a Friend in person. You might decide to join this wonderful organization to make friends and support the library.

Sincerely,

Betsy Lewis
Managing Librarian
Monroe Library

Kiwanis fundraisers successful

To the Editor:

The Monroe Kiwanis Club held two successful fundraisers in September.

The first was our 11th Annual Golf Classic held at Blue Boy West Golf Course in Monroe on September 12th. We, despite the harsh economy, raised \$2,131.

It will be used mainly for college scholarships for graduating seniors at Monroe High School. Our Kiwanis Club has been awarding scholarships for more than 30 consecutive years. Food left over from the huge lunch was donated to Matthew House.

The second fundraiser was our first annual corn roast at the Betty Frohning farm in Tualco Valley just south of Monroe off SR 203. Kiwanis raised \$816. We consider this impressive for our first effort. The corn roast was held September 27th.

Monroe Kiwanis thanks all those who participated in either event.

Ron Park
Monroe

We Love Letters!

Write to
113 W. Main, P.O. Box 399
Monroe, WA 98272



Editor's Notebook

BY POLLY KEARY, EDITOR

An antidote to prejudice

I grew up prejudiced against Mexicans. I hate to admit it and I hate that it was true, but there you have it.

I was prejudiced against them because most of my friends were prejudiced against them and because I occasionally got hassled by the young, single Mexican men that came to our area in Eastern Washington to work in the apple orchards.

I also was prejudiced against them because the language barrier prevented me from getting to know any Mexicans, which is the usual antidote to prejudice.

I was prejudiced against them because they were an unknown "other," people from a different world with different food and a different language. Who knew what they were thinking or saying and what might they be saying about me?

I was prejudiced against them because I was a kid, and ignorant, and prejudice is easy, and it's fun. In a sick kind of way, it's flat-out fun to feel superior to anyone, to feel that they have deserved the jokes you tell about them, the nasty things you say about them, the racist slurs you yell at them from the window of the car in which you and your teenage friends are cruising.

It was easy to bolster that instinctive prejudice with indignation over illegal immigration or the fact that very few migrant workers spoke much English. Once you've decided to be racist, you can always find something to justify your position.

When I was 15 and in an alternative high school, there was a Mexican teacher who taught us Spanish. He asked what I would like to learn to say. I wracked my brain.

The single, solitary thing I could imagine saying to a Mexican was "don't bother me."

The kind-hearted teacher actually taught me how to say that. It must have stung.

At 16, I traveled to Mexico with my much-older, travel-loving boyfriend and lived there

for the winter.

That ended my prejudice permanently. There wasn't any one dramatic experience that did it.

Just traveling in their country, seeing their world, speaking their language as best I could, shopping in their stores, eating their food, visiting their homes, seeing their cities and fields and roads and beaches and lives, gave me to understand that these people we'd called "Mexicans" and dismissed were as fully human as I.

Not only that, their world was beautiful. Different, certainly, and you could see with all the poverty and the rickety state of the country why so many people bailed to try to make some money in the states, but it was a cool world none-the-less.

I came home proud of my new knowledge, my new understanding of the people that made up a full third of our town during harvest season. I was proud of my language skills, proud of my new worldliness (and, being a teen, probably insufferable because of it), and proud most of all of my new tolerance.

I actually don't like the word "tolerance." You tolerate a toothache. I celebrated Mexican-ness after I got back.

But I don't find it terribly helpful to point out all the good things about Hispanic culture (They're so family-oriented! Such a rich musical tradition! etc.). That implies an ethnic group must merit inclusion somehow. I'm reminded of Shakespeare, whose Hamlet said, "Use every man after his desert and who shall escape whipping?"

Hispanics are just another group of humans, no more, no less. They've got young men who whistle at young women, and they've got wonderful families and strong values, too. They've got rowdy teens and good scholars and working moms and alcoholics and nurses and lawyers and cooks.

Same as anyone.

What changed for me in Mexico was that I was finally able to see that. After that, Mexicans weren't "the other" any more.

That felt 10 times better than prejudice ever had. It felt clean.

This month is Latino Awareness Month.

As much as these designated months feel a bit contrived to me, I tend to go along with them, because these little annual nudges to pay attention to childhood cancers or fire safety or other ethnic traditions certainly don't hurt anything.

In fact, they are kind of useful, the way remembering to change your smoke alarm batteries at daylight savings time is useful. It's a way to remember to take care of worthwhile things.

So this month, I decided to try to find out what it's like to be a Hispanic teenager living in the Sky Valley.

I learned some good things. I learned that things have changed a lot for the better since I was a kid. When I was growing up, a Hispanic kid didn't have a prayer in school. There weren't classes to help them learn the language. They had no resources. I don't even remember there being many Hispanic kids in my Eastern Washington school. I remember them being in the orchards, but not the schools.

I learned that Anglo kids are trying harder to reach out to Hispanic students now and that immigrant kids have resources now, and staff people on their side.

I'm glad. Life is already hard enough for these kids. No matter how you feel about illegal immigration, I don't think anyone would argue that support for struggling, lonely kids is a bad thing.

And maybe now there will be less kids who grow up and look back in regret at having once been one of the unkind.

NORTH KELSEY: Specter of WalMart a big concern

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

Walser, however, said that Walmart, if indeed that's who Sabey wanted to bring in, might actually be good for the city.

The council raised other objections as well.

"This property has not been marketed," said council member Kurt Goering. "I've heard from a number of people that this is the only deal on the table, but I don't really know that. We have never marketed it. It feels rushed."

Council member John Stima worried about traffic.

"Obviously if you bring more people to town, traffic's not great now," he said. "Traffic will only get worse unless there's some major upgrades."

Ruth also objected to the fee that the city would have to pay Sabey's broker.

"I've never agreed to pay their broker and will not," he said.

And Stima and others worried that the city's vision for the North Kelsey parcels of a "Main Street approach," a plan in which a central street winds through a shop-

ping center that includes a variety of shops, would be lost.

"Basically, an affirmative vote tonight means that we've pretty much shelved that idea of that Main Street idea," said Stima. "So I can't in good faith go through this dance, this charade, this letter of intent... spending time on staff, Sabey spending money."

Walser countered that the city will have the right to approve Sabey's site plan, should the deal go forward. She also noted that Sabey had thrown an extra \$100,000 into his offer to help offset the broker's fee.

And council member David Kennedy argued that the letter of intent was only a preliminary step, not a final purchase and sale agreement.

"Let's give these professionals a chance to bring something to us," he said. "If they can't meet what the council and constituency wants, we cross that bridge when we get there."

"We've been talking and being careful for two years," added council member Margie Rodriguez,

who with David Kennedy made a motion to sign the letter of intent. "I don't feel we've rushed. It's only a letter of intent."

City Finance Director Carol Grey, who seldom comments unbidden in city council, added a word before the final vote.

"I feel like I have to be fiscally responsible in relating the terms to you," she said. "Since 2008, we've paid \$808,000 in interest to Bank of America. "We still owe \$11, 207,000 and Bank of America has renewed that with us. There is nothing else on the table. We have one more year. Our funds are limited. You realize in another year we will only have \$500,000 and after that, it will have to come out of the general fund. I want to make sure you are aware of that."

The council then voted. Kurt Goering, John Stima, Geoffrey Thomas and Mitch Ruth voted no; with Margie Rodriguez and David Kennedy voting in favor of signing the letter of intent. Tony Balk was absent. Before voting, Goering said he

thought the deal could still proceed. But the mayor said later that she wasn't so sure.

"I'm not sure Sabey will be interested in anything more from the city, but if the council shoots it out from under us again, it's totally dead," she said. She and city administrator Tim Quenzer have been trying to smooth things over with the developer, she said.

Some citizens are organizing, hoping to convince the council to at least explore the option further.

"We've spent all this time to develop a retail center and attract a buyer, which has been difficult for the properties," said local businessperson Dick Stiemert. "The world is totally different than it was two years ago and to find a buyer is not an easy task, especially one with the means to buy it without trying to find financing."

He and others are planning to attend Tuesday's city council meeting to to ask the council to reconsider.

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

Printing

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

Wedding Photography

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

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.

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.

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

The Valley News was established September 6, 1890 as the *Sultan City Journal* and then as the *Sultan Star*. The *Monroe Monitor* was established on January 14, 1899. The two newspapers consolidated on October 1, 1985 as the *Monroe Monitor-Valley News* (ISSN 0890-2879). It is published every Tuesday and entered as Second Class Matter at the Post Office, Monroe, Washington 98272 under Act of Congress of March 3, 1879 (USPS 359-580). Subscriptions are non-refundable.

Member National Newspaper Publishers' Association, and Washington Newspaper Publishers' Association.

Contents copyright © 2009, Robinson Communications, Inc.

POSTMASTER: Send address change to the Monroe Monitor-Valley News, P.O. Box 399, Monroe, WA 98272.

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*

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