

Observer welcomes new editor, bids farewell to Laurel Hauser

By Lucia Petrie, Washington Island Observer president

Laurel Hauser has been the managing editor of the Washington Island Observer since June 2016.

Doesn't it seem as if she has always been with the Observer?

Laurel has an abiding love of the Island and belief in the mission of the Observer. Among her accomplishments have been her recruitment of amazing Island volunteer writers and photographers. She worked to recruit assistant editors to report on the school and town committees and boards, insisting that the Observer needed to cover "real news."

She also encouraged editorials, because they give readers an opportunity to share their thoughts.

She also worked with the International Society of Weekly Newspaper Editors to bring fabulous interns to the Observer for the past two summer seasons. The third intern is on board for this coming summer.

During her tenure, the Observer has won numerous Wisconsin Newspaper Association awards, including second place for a series of stories she and Kyra Haas, the Observer's 2018 intern, wrote.

Who wouldn't want Laurel as part of a team?

Well, it turns out others have noticed her skills and charm. She was recently hired by Crossroads at Big Creek, a learning center in Sturgeon Bay, where she will be returning to her love of saving the beauty and environment of Door County.

The Observer Board is pleased to announce that it has selected Heidi Hodges as the next managing editor of the Washington Island Observer. What great fortune we had to find Heidi!

Heidi comes well prepared for this work. She was editor of Door County Magazine for six years. This included arranging coverage with freelancers, copywriting, editing and providing photographs for all the stories.

She was the photo editor of the Door County Advocate from 1987 to 2001 and worked on general assignments for the Advocate for those years as well. In addition, she is the owner of Heidi Hodges Photography, providing photography for weddings and special events.

And, like Laurel, she loves Washington Island.

Both women live in Sturgeon Bay and have known each other through the years. Laurel and Heidi will work together to co-edit the Observer for a few issues starting in April until Heidi takes over.

The Observer Board, staff, writers and readers thank Laurel for innovative, high quality work on behalf of the Island's residents and visitors. We welcome your comments about Laurel's work. We know that members of the Island community will welcome Heidi with the same warmth as they did Laurel.



Heidi Hodges, a well-known and respected Door County journalist, will become the Observer's new managing editor.

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Laurel Hauser has been the Observer's managing editor since 2016.

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Observer Washington Island

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