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"News from Next Door"

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75 cents

Board praises Ed Muzzulin

BY PETER WILLIAMS
 News Editor

Perquimans County Commissioners bid farewell Monday to veteran commissioner Ed Muzzulin and welcomed a new member, Alan Lennon.

After two four-year terms on the board, Muzzulin decided not to seek reelection this year.

Perquimans County Manager Frank Heath and each

of the fellow board members who served with him praised Muzzulin for his contributions.

Kyle Jones also focused in on all of the outside boards Muzzulin served on.

"When you look at the list of committees he's serving on, it's twice the number of many of us," Jones said, admitting he was as guilty as any. Jones serves on four boards or committees. Muzzulin was serving on 12 of

them. Fondella Leigh runs second by serving on eight.

"The county is better off for Ed's service," Jones said.

Chairman Wallace Nelson also alluded to the service on outside board.

"Most people think you get elected and that's that, but that just scratches the surface of what commissioners do."

Nelson serves on five boards or committees, in-

cluding the College of The Albemarle.

Muzzulin thanked the board and listed some of the accomplishments that have happened in the past eight years. That includes an outreach effort to make sure citizens can get agendas of what the county is doing. There was also the construction of a new public library, the creation of a new

See MUZZULIN, 2



STAFF PHOTO BY PETER WILLIAMS

Outgoing Perquimans County Commissioner Ed Muzzulin (right) accepts a plaque from Chairman Wallace Nelson on Monday night.

HOLIDAY CHEER



STAFF PHOTO BY PETER WILLIAMS

Children on Big Wheels ride in the annual Winfall Christmas Parade.



STAFF PHOTO BY PETER WILLIAMS

Mr. and Mrs. Santa Claus wave to the crowds at the annual Perquimans County Christmas Parade in Hertford on Saturday.



STAFF PHOTO BY PETER WILLIAMS

Perquimans County High School Volleyball Coach Kristie Thach rides a float as the Grand Marshal for the 2018 Perquimans County Christmas Parade.



Submitted photo
 Members of the JROTC unit from Northeastern High School, pose Saturday with World War II veteran Rufus Rouse, the Grand Marshal of the Winfall Christmas parade.



SUBMITTED PHOTO

Santa and his helpers get ready to receive guests inside the Historic Perquimans courthouse.



STAFF PHOTO BY PETER WILLIAMS

Members of the Student Government Association ride their pirate ship in the annual Perquimans County Christmas Parade in Hertford.

Magistrate rejects Jackson's claims

BY PETER WILLIAMS
 News Editor

On Wednesday a magistrate dismissed charges filed by Hertford Town Councilman Quentin Jackson against the Town of Hertford and a town employee.

Pasquotank County Magistrate Lee Custis heard the small claims cases in a Perquimans County courtroom. An out of town magistrate was brought in because Jackson is a local elected official.



JACKSON

Custis only heard one case, the one against Judy Bateman, a town employee who handles duties in the N.C. DMV office in town hall. The office handles people renewing car titles, getting tags and transferring vehicles.

Custis dismissed the Bateman case "without prejudice" — which means Jackson is free to refile the complaint. Jackson also has 10 days to decide if he wants to appeal the case to District Court.

"I can't establish that Miss Bateman

See JACKSON, 2

Board denies town request on gym use

BY PETER WILLIAMS
 News Editor

The Perquimans County Commission gave a "respectful" answer of "no" to Hertford officials who wanted to be able to allow Hertford town employees use the gym at the Perquimans County Senior Center during off hours.

Hertford Councilman Quentin Jackson had made the suggestion at the previous town board meeting. He viewed it as an incentive for town employees. Jackson pointed out county government workers are allowed to use the

See GYM, 2

Veteran Chowan Herald journalist Rebecca Bunch dies at age 64

BY MILES LAYTON
 Chowan Herald

EDENTON — Longtime Chowan Herald journalist Rebecca Bunch is being remembered not only for her four decades of newspaper work but also for her tireless advocacy of the community she called home.

Bunch died Sunday at Vi-

dant Medical Center in Greenville. She was 64.

Mike Goodman, publisher of The Daily Advance, the Chowan Herald and The Perquimans Weekly, said Monday he mourns the loss of a valued colleague.

"I am saddened personally by Rebecca's passing and will miss her kind, caring nature," he said. "The



BUNCH

community where she lived and worked, and which she loved, also will miss her dearly, I'm sure."

Many of those who knew and worked with Bunch in Edenton for decades are also mourning her death.

Town Manager Anne-Marie Knighton said she considered Bunch more than a newspaper reporter; she also thought of her as a friend.

"I am heartbroken over the loss of Rebecca Bunch," she said. "Edenton has lost a special journalist who was the eyes and ears of our

community for decades. She told Edenton's story week after week and she strived to write the complete story. And citizens trusted her to write the important news stories of the week."

Knighton praised Bunch's skill at capturing the human element of a story.

"She had this incredible skill of being able to capture the human side of news stories," Knighton. "One of the last articles Becky wrote, about the 15-year anniversary of Hurricane Isabel, was an example of her outstanding ability to weave

individual people's recollections into an interesting narrative."

Bunch, a Burlington native who graduated from John A. Holmes High School in 1973, didn't start out her newspaper career as a writer and reporter. When she was first hired at the Chowan Herald by then-Publisher Bud Amburn in 1978, Bunch initially sold advertising and worked in production of the newspaper.

Amburn, who left the newspaper in 1985, said he hired Bunch because she "showed a compel-

ling desire to work, doing anything." Amburn said he was "shocked" to learn of Bunch's death, saying he considered her family.

Pete Manning, who was working as the Chowan Herald's general manager when Bunch arrived, recalled how she was working in the advertising department when she decided she wanted to be a writer for the paper.

"She constantly inquired and observed experienced writers and editors at the Herald, learning everything

See BUNCH, 2

