

BUNCH

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she could in writing as well as other aspects of newspaper," he said.

Manning, who retired as the Herald's publisher in 2002, said Bunch was a "person of few words and a quiet leader" whose hard work resulted in her being promoted to news editor.

"She worked extremely hard and could have been found at work early in the morning as well as late at night," Manning said. "Becky can most be remembered for her willingness to cover stories in our community thoroughly yet impartially."

Bunch won many North Carolina Press Association awards over the years. Last year, she won second place for her coverage of Edenton Town Council's handling of a controversy over the town's Confederate monument.

Goodman had high praise for Bunch's skill as a reporter.

"As a reporter, Rebecca contributed much to the citizens of the area through thousands of stories, written with empathy and understanding for those she covered as well as for the readers she touched through the pages of the Herald during her four decades at the newspaper," he said.

Peter Williams, editor of the Perquimans Weekly, said Bunch's focus on serving her community is what he'll remember most.

"Over the 40-plus years I've been in journalism, I've run into reporters who saw whatever newspaper they were at as just a stepping-

stone for something else," he said. "Becky was not like that. She had no aspirations other than just doing her job for the people of Chowan County. And she did it very well."

As news of Bunch's death spread on Monday, a number of people who had known her a long time visited the Chowan Herald office, telling the newspaper's staff it was hard to believe she was gone.

"My heart is empty with Becky's passing," said Town Councilman Craig Miller, who said he shared a number of long conversations with Bunch at the Herald's office. "I will always cherish our friendship over the years. I will miss our office chats; driving her to night meetings and social events to cover a story; and being a good listener for her when she felt overwhelmed at work."

Miller described Bunch as a "wonderful caring person and an outstanding newspaper reporter who put her heart and soul into her work."

"Chowan County has indeed lost someone very special this week," he said. "She will be greatly missed."

Through her skill with a pen, Bunch also became a tireless advocate for community causes.

"We all know her articles about community events inspired citizens and businesses to give their talent and treasure to important and meaningful organizations," Knighton said. "Many of Edenton's nonprofits are stronger thanks to Becky's special style of reporting. Becky Bunch helped make

Edenton a better place, for sure."

Roger Coleman, director of the Edenton-Chowan Food Pantry, credits Bunch with helping to ensure the nonprofit's needs stayed at the forefront of the community's focus.

"Stories are still told how, not many years ago, shelves at the Edenton-Chowan Food Pantry were often bare. Rebecca would come to the rescue with a front-page plea for help and a photo of empty shelves," he said. "A generous community would then respond and again there would be food to distribute."

Coleman believes without Bunch's help, "the food pantry would not be the resource for families in need that it is today."

Peggy Vaughan worked closely with Bunch on a host of stories, including openings of art exhibits for the Chowan Arts Council and other events that have become annual traditions in Edenton.

"Becky was a dear person who asked so little of anybody but was always willing to do anything for anybody who asked her to do something," she said. "She lived a very simple life but was content with what she had. Her generosity, her wonderful gift of writing and her genuine love of this community will be greatly missed."

A visitation for Bunch will be held today from 6 p.m. to 7:30 p.m. at Miller Funeral Home & Crematory at 735 Virginia Road, Edenton. A memorial service will be held Wednesday at 2 p.m. at Edenton Baptist Church.

PETS OF THE WEEK



SUBMITTED PHOTO
Missy the Calico is just one of the felines currently at the Tri-County Animal Shelter.



SUBMITTED PHOTO
Jessie is a young medium-size mixed breed female at the Tri-County Animal Shelter. For more information, call 221-8514.

LIVESTOCK JUDGING



SUBMITTED PHOTO

Members of the Perquimans County Middle School FFA recently participated in a livestock judging competition in Raleigh.



STAFF PHOTO BY PETER WILLIAMS

Surrounded by his family, Alan Lennon is sworn in Monday as a Perquimans County Commissioner by Todd Tilley, Perquimans County Clerk of Superior Court.

MUZZULIN

Continued from 1

senior center, a new boat ramp that was funded by Golden LEAF and state and federal dollars and getting a paid director of the tourism authority. All of which was accomplished while holding the property tax rate low.

Heath said Muzzulin's leadership extended far beyond just Perquimans County given the outside boards he served on. One was the regional landfill, where Heath said Muzzulin made sure Perquimans County was treated fairly. Another was the Albemarle District Jail.

"When he got the board the finances were in disar-

ray, but now they are showing a seven figure surplus," Heath said of the jail.

"I think Ed has been a tough fighter, but a fair one."

At the end of Monday's meeting after swearing in Lennon, the board opted to keep Nelson as chairman for the next year and Fondella Leigh as the vice chair.

JACKSON

Continued from 1

did something out of the ordinary," Custis said.

Since the second case involved the same issues, Custis dismissed that one too.

In about 2014 Jackson said he had a trucking company, an auto dealership and a moving company. There were five employees in all.

One of them, Alex Sanchez, apparently signed over the title of a 2003 GMC tow truck owned by Jackson to himself. Jackson said he did it without his knowledge or permission.

"For the last two years I've been fighting this," Jackson said. "This is something that

shouldn't have happened." Custis asked Jackson if he could produce a title for the truck.

"I can't produce something I no longer have," Jackson said.

Bateman did not speak during the hearing. She was represented by Elizabeth City Attorney Keith Teague. Jackson did not have an attorney and represented himself.

Three other town board members were at Wednesday's hearing — Mayor Horace Reid and councilmen Sid Eley and Frank Norman.

Jackson could not be reached for comment after the hearing. As of Monday, the Perquimans County Clerk's office had no record of an appeal being filed.

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THE PERQUIMANS WEEKLY

(USPS428-080)
Vol. 86 No. 49
Published each Wednesday.

A publication of Adams Publishing Group
Established 1934
111 W. Market St., Hertford, NC 27944

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Peter Williams..... News Editor
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Phone 252-426-5728 • Fax 252-426-4625
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Subscription Rates

In Daily Advance home delivery area..... \$26.25*
All other continental U.S..... \$32.50*
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Look into the possibilities to find dogs, cats and other pets looking for a home this year!

PETS

THE PERQUIMANS WEEKLY