



PHOTO BY ELIZABETH SNYDER

Copy editors Laura Tucker, left, Julie Vander Velden and Scott Koker pose together Friday, their final day at the Kenosha News.

So long, farewell ...

“If you do your job perfectly, no one notices.”

That description fits a lot of jobs, from airplane mechanics to pyramid builders.

It’s also how my husband, Rex Davenport, a longtime newspaper reporter and editor, describes copy editing.

And he’s right; being a copy editor is one of those jobs that, if executed perfectly, no one notices. Readers of the Kenosha News, for example, don’t know if a copy editor caught my missing word in a headline. Or that time I misspelled my own name. (In my defense, “Elizabeth” does have a lot of letters in it.)

There have been a lot of changes in the newspaper industry in recent years, and one of the big trends is newspapers (including the Kenosha News) using regional design centers (ours is in Madison) to lay out the paper each day. Since we switched to that system, we no longer lay out our own pages – you no doubt no-

ticed your newspaper looks different recently; that’s why.

In making that change, three copy editors/page designers – Julie Vander Velden, Laura Tucker and Scott Koker – left the News last week. We miss them already; they had all worked here at least 20 years and, in that time, they greatly contributed to your daily newspaper.

When I started here in December of 1987, Julie had the difficult task of training me on the copy desk. And, ever since then, I would yell out “Julie! Help!” whenever I needed assistance with a page design idea. (Now I have to text her for advice.) With Julie’s absence, I also can no longer make my longstanding lame joke: “Julie trained me, so if you don’t like something I’m doing, blame her.”

Bigger and better things await all three of them, and we salute them for doing an “invisible” job so well for so long.

Best wishes, my friends.