

THE PERQUIMANS WEEKLY



"News from Next Door"

DECEMBER 2, 2009 - DECEMBER 8, 2009

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35 cents

Hertford UM, Holy Trinity unite, Page 5



Miller-White named to state board
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Waiting



PERQUIMANS WEEKLY PHOTO BY CATHY WILSON

Kalisha Jackson (center), 26, is surrounded by her children Kyajia and Etavion in her Stokes Drive home. Jackson recently underwent open heart surgery to receive a life-saving heart pump that will help her survive until she can receive a new heart. She suffers from heart failure and is currently on the heart transplant list at University of North Carolina Hospital in Chapel Hill.

Mother waits for new heart

Heart pump inserted in upper abdomen helps her for now

By Cathy Wilson
Staff Writer

Kalisha Jackson's new friend "Sally" sticks close by her at all times and helps get her through the day and night.

"Sally" is actually a black shoulder bag that holds a battery pack connected to the heart pump that doctors inserted in Jackson's upper abdomen almost three months ago to help keep her alive. Jackson, 26, suffers from heart failure, and is waiting for a new heart. She is cur-

rently on a heart transplant list at UNC Hospital in Chapel Hill.

"I had to name it something, so I named it Sally," joked Jackson referring to the bag that follows her everywhere including into the shower. When she goes to bed, Jackson unhooks herself from the portable battery pack and plugs herself into another machine bedside.

Her Left Ventricular Assistance Device, better known as LVAD or heart pump, helps her heart pump blood to the rest of her body since her own heart can't do it.

To look at Jackson, one would never know she suffers from heart failure. In fact, she's always been strong and healthy, and even played

basketball for six years including four for the Lady Pirates at Perquimans High School. She has given birth to two children with no problems.

Then, in February, Jackson said she began to experience shortness of breath just climbing stairs.

"When I got to the top of the stairs, I felt as if I'd run a marathon," she remembered. Episodes of shortness of breath was followed by extreme pain in her abdomen and days of vomiting. She eventually was diagnosed with heart failure and has been hospitalized for various periods of time each month

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Goss undergoes surgery overseas

Economic director was visiting Costa Rica

By Cathy Wilson
Staff Writer

The phrase "home for the holidays" has new meaning for the county's economic developer David Goss.

He left Perquimans County Nov. 13 for what was supposed to be a week's vacation of touring and hitting the beaches in Costa Rica. A few days into his vacation, however, he suffered a serious illness while in the thick of a rain forest, underwent major surgery in a foreign country, battled a fierce infection, and finally made it back to Hertford the day before Thanksgiving.

In his Albemarle Plantation home on Monday, Goss was feeling better but still weak from his ordeal.

"I don't have a temperature and there is no pain," Goss said. "I'm facing a second surgery, but that's several months down the road. I'm just glad to be home."

"Cost Rica is a beautiful country," he said. "We had planned to take some tours and spend some time on the beach. It's a fun place to just go and relax."

While touring a rain forest Nov. 17, Goss started feeling a severe pain in his left side.



"We were in the middle of nowhere. Finally, the pain got so bad I just couldn't stand it any longer."

David Goss

Perquimans economic development director

"We were in the middle of nowhere," Goss remembered. "Finally, the pain got so bad I just couldn't stand it any longer."

The tour guide drove Goss to a clinic in town near his hotel, and doctors there quickly realized the situation was "pretty serious".

With no hospital nearby, Goss was transported by ambulance to the nearest fa-

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FILE PHOTO

Smiling faces will fill the streets at this year's Chamber of Commerce annual Christmas Parade starting at 2 p.m. in Hertford, Saturday.

Town set for Grand Illumination, parade

Denny to be Christmas parade's grand marshal

By Cathy Wilson
Staff Writer

Christmas in Perquimans will be celebrated in style during this year's annual Chamber of Commerce Christmas parade beginning at 2 p.m. on Saturday.

Bands, floats, marching units, horses and the big man himself, Santa Claus, will parade through downtown Hertford delivering holiday greetings to parade-goers lining the streets.

The parade's grand marshal this year is Donnie Denny, the Hertford plumber who was named runner-up in the recent Karaoke Challenge on the Opra Winfrey Show.

"I'm really honored," Denny

said of being asked to serve. "It's a way I can say thank you to all the people who voted for me in the contest."

Parade organizers say they are hoping Denny will sing a song to Santa when the jolly fella in the red suit arrives on his sleigh.

More than 50 units, including three bands, have signed up to take part in the parade that begins at the high school and loops through Grubb, Church and Dobbs streets back to the school. The viewing stand will be located in front of the historic county courthouse. Line up at the school begins at noon, and parade entries will be accepted until the parade starts.

Santa will hang around Hertford for a while and be available for photos at

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WEEKEND WEATHER

FRIDAY
HIGH: 56 LOW: 40
PARTLY CLOUDY

SATURDAY
HIGH: 55 LOW: 38
MOSTLY SUNNY

SUNDAY
HIGH: 54 LOW: 44
SUNNY



Wreck destroys S-bridge light

By Cathy Wilson
Staff Writer

A Belvidere man was injured Sunday when the car he was driving struck the traffic light pole at the historic S-bridge and overturned down an embankment, landing approximately four feet from the Perquimans River.

According to the Hertford Police Department, Alvin Trendale Burke, 28, fled the scene following the accident, which occurred around 3:30 a.m. Police said a 1989 Pontiac Bonneville registered to Terrence Lindall Burke of Belvidere travelled down Church Street, rounded the curve, struck the custom-made luminaire-styled traffic light pole and overturned down the embankment. The wreck took out the traffic light, pole, and alarm system, police said. Damage is estimated at about \$35,000.

The driver fled the scene, police reported.

Hertford Police Sgt. Kevin Worster responded and discovered the wrecked vehicle below the bridge. While waiting for the wrecker to arrive on scene, police saw a white Hyundai vehicle with no lights on approach the area. Police found Burke inside the Hyundai with a severe laceration to his head and wearing only one shoe.

Hertford Police Chief Joe Amos said Burke denied driving the vehicle at the time of the accident. When the car was upright, Burke's matching shoe was discovered wedged up against the accelerator, Amos said. Burke was taken to a local hospital by members of Perquimans EMS.

According to police, Burke is charged with leaving the scene of an accident. Amos said both speed and alcohol are believed to be involved in the accident. Police estimate the vehicle was traveling in excess of 50 miles per hour at the time of the accident.

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