

# THE PERQUIMANS WEEKLY



See more photos from Saturday's Christmas parade, P. 10

"News from Next Door"

DECEMBER 7, 2011 - DECEMBER 13, 2011

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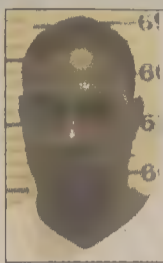
## Attempted murder, rape trial begins

By WILLIAM F. WEST  
Staff Writer

Jury selection continued Tuesday morning in Perquimans County Superior Court for a man accused of attempted first-degree murder of a woman in the New Hope area more than a year ago.

Herbert Anthony Wilson, 29, of the 3200 block of New Hope Road, also is

charged with first-degree rape, first-degree sexual offense, assault with a deadly weapon and first-degree burglary in the case.



Wilson

The woman, who was 30

years old at the time, reportedly was left for dead in the early morning hours of Aug. 28, 2010.

According to authorities, Wilson stopped at a house about 4:30 a.m., knocked on the door and asked for a piece of gum. Wilson's claim was he was concerned about encountering a traffic stop in the vicinity.

The woman, who knew

Wilson through a prior acquaintance, opened the door, but when she turned to get the gum, Wilson allegedly ran in the house and allegedly began attacking her, authorities said.

The woman was allegedly raped and then allegedly strangled and also lost consciousness at one point while trying to fight off Wilson, authorities said.

Authorities also said

that Wilson allegedly tried to contaminate the crime scene, covered the woman with a sheet, stole her cellular phone and ripped telephone cords from the wall before fleeing the house.

Authorities said the woman, after playing dead, managed to walk to a neighbor's house to call for help. Officers took her to a hospital.

Wilson was later arrested at his home. He has been held in lieu of \$1.46 million secured bond at Albemarle District Jail.

Judge Richard Dough-ton of Alleghany County is presiding in court this week. Assistant District Attorneys Nancy Lamb and Josh Quidley are representing the state. Chief

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## SANTA ARRIVES; TOWN ILLUMINATES

The Christmas season is here!

By CATHY WILSON  
Staff Writer

Christmas officially arrived in Hertford last week.

The well-attended Grand Illumination lit up the town from the riverfront throughout Church Street Thursday evening. On Saturday, a large crowd watched over 60 units ranging from dogs and horses to decorated floats and marching bands parade through town bringing Christmas cheer.

Chamber Director Sid Eley said the parade was one of the longest held in several years. He expressed thanks to the many people who helped make it possible.

"People think when they see a parade, it just happens," Eley said, "but there is a lot of work behind the scenes. We appreciate all who had a part in putting this year's parade together...especially those who took part in the parade."

Local volunteer Steve Burkett was the parade's grand marshal this year. Burkett is known for helping local organizations with website creation and design free of charge.

Also participating in the parade were state Representative Annie Mobley and Senator Ed Jones.

Three bands participated this year including the Perquimans County High School Marching Pirates, the Perquimans County

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STAFF PHOTO BY CATHY WILSON

Santa arrives during Saturday's annual Christmas parade in Hertford. Santa stayed around to take photos with children at Inteliport.



STAFF PHOTO BY BRETT A. CLARK

Members of the Perquimans County High School Band perform Christmas music during the Hertford Grand Illumination, Thursday.

See more photos from Hertford's Christmas parade online at [DAILYADVANCE.COM](http://DAILYADVANCE.COM).

STAFF PHOTO BY CATHY WILSON

Area school children, like these from Hertford Elementary, brought their holiday greetings to Saturday's parade.



## County's Tier 2 status unchanged

From staff reports

Perquimans County's Tier 2 designation will remain the same in 2012. Two other county designations in the region changed.

Chowan County's designation dropped from Tier 2 to 1 while Gates County's rose from Tier 1 to 2. Elsewhere in the region, Pasquotank and Currituck remained Tier 2 counties while Camden remained a

Tier 1 county.

According to the North Carolina Department of Commerce, the designations, which are mandated by state law, determine a variety of state funding opportunities to assist in economic development.

"Our goal is to encourage economic development statewide so all of our residents can find good jobs regardless of their location in our state," N.C. Commerce Secretary Keith Crisco said. "These tier rankings provide important tools that help attract

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## Donahue opens law firm in Hertford

By CATHY WILSON  
Staff Writer

Most kids spend their summers on a ball field or in a swimming pool. Daniel Donahue spent his youthful summers inside a courtroom.

The 34-year-old Elizabeth City native loved being inside a courtroom while spending summers with an uncle who was a state's attorney in Maryland. He fell in love with opening arguments, juries, testimony, and closing statements. Donahue continues that love affair today as a criminal defense attorney who recently opened his law practice in Hertford.

"I never remember



STAFF PHOTO BY CATHY WILSON

Attorney Daniel Donahue has opened the Donahue Law Firm PLLC on Market Street.

thinking there was anything else I wanted to do other than become a lawyer," said Donahue. "I love

it. If I could do it for free, I would. That's how much I love the law."

He doesn't practice law

for free, but he does like the small-town warmth and atmosphere that comes with hanging out his shingle on Market Street.

"I envision myself as a kind of a country boy," he said. "There is a sense of community here. Being able to wake up and walk to work or walk my dog over the historic S-bridge...these things you just can't put a price on. It's wonderful."

He is married to the former Michelle Nixon of Hertford. They have chosen to come back home to be closer to family. In fact, Donahue says he picked out the building in which

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