

LOCAL

Grover community still prays, lends support for Cheryl Green

EMILY WEAVER

eweaver@kingsmountainherald.com

There has been a flood of sympathy and community support in Grover over the past week as a mother of three continues to fight for her life.

As of Wednesday morning, Cheryl Green, 31, was still listed in critical condition at Carolinas Medical Center in Charlotte. Green was working her shift at the Wilco Travel Center on Christmas morning when she spotted a shoplifter.

The two suspects ran and Green chased after them. Police say that she jumped onto the hood of the get-a-way car to avoid being hit. She held on for about a half of a mile before being thrown near the corner of Cherry Street and Mulberry Road in Grover.

Green was transported to Carolinas Medical Center where she has remained in a coma. But her mother, Ann Robinson said on Monday that doctors have noted a little bit of improvement. "It's slow with this type of injury," Robinson said. "They won't give us any estimates."

The doctors began weaning Green off of medications on

Monday to see how she will respond on her own and more importantly, if she will wake up. Robinson said that her daughter has shown some reflexes, some voluntary muscle movements, which doctors have said is better than just involuntary movements. But there is a long road to recovery still ahead.

Ann and Charley Robinson have been taking care of their grandchildren at their home in Grover. "They're truly too little to comprehend what's going on which is good," Mrs. Robinson said.

The Robinsons have been looking after the children while their son-in-law goes to the hospital. "Her husband Matt goes every day and stays all day with her," she said.

The Grover Rescue Squad is currently accepting donations for Green. Members of the squad, including Chief David Campbell, who was first to respond to the scene and a friend of Green's, took the Robinsons to see their daughter on December 26. On Monday, the Robinsons were looking forward to another visit.

"I'm going to see her tomorrow," Mrs. Robinson said. "I'm really hoping she will be awake then."

More than anything she wants her daughter to wake up. It's what she has prayed for everyday. It's what dozens have prayed for and her only request is that the prayers continue.

They planned to celebrate Christmas with the children on Tuesday. "The children's father wanted to wait to have Cheryl with them," Mrs. Robinson said. "But the children wanted Christmas and didn't understand why they didn't have it."

Green's oldest son Jason Cribb, 8, was set to return home from Myrtle Beach on Tuesday. Sara Green, 6, and Connor Green, 4, celebrated Christmas with Cribb on New Years.

To make a donation, call the Grover Rescue Squad at 704-937-7632.

The two suspects, Donald Joshua Jones, 26, of 107 Sprouse Lane in Grover, and Pamela Dockery, 21, of 915 Grass Hollow Court in Charlotte, first appeared before Judge Larry J. Wilson in Cleveland County on Wednesday. Their trial has been set for January 17 in Superior Court.

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wait to get that in," Hensley said.

"We always like new toys," said Fire Chief Gary Burris.

The department is the only one in Cleveland County to have a Kubota with a skid unit, which will help in the cases of brush fires and land searches. The Kubota can venture into areas where no other emergency vehicles can go. With a payload capacity of over 1,600 pounds, the skid-equipped

RTV-900 will not only help firefighters get to and extinguish a hard-to-reach fire, but can also help them with emergency transports.

Burris said that they will use the Kubota to assist other departments in need.

The grants are available every year and GRVFD usually receives grant money from NCDOT on an annual basis. But Hensley said, "the competition is going to get a little harder now. They've opened it up to more departments and made it a bigger population. But hopefully, we'll still get it."

Springs joins Army

Allan I. Springs has joined the United States Army under the Delayed Entry Program. The program gives young men and women the opportunity to delay entering active duty for up to one year.

Springs, a 2005 graduate of Kings Mountain High School, reported to Fort Jackson, Columbia, S.C., for basic training in October.

He is the son of Marcell A. Springs of Melvin Court, Grover, and Leroy Springs of Cross St., Charlotte.

MEDITATION

Be ready when God gives an opportunity

When I was in third grade at Haw Creek Elementary School in Asheville, I checked a book out of the library that was titled "A Night to Remember." It was the story of the sinking of the Titanic. I had no idea at the time that reading that book would lead to a life-long fascination with the story of that ill-fated ship.



Jeff Hensley
Meditation

As the years have passed, I have read many other books about the Titanic and have often been moved by stories about the people who lost their lives that night. Such stories personalize and add depth to the record of the sinking. One of these personal stories is about one of the wealthiest men who lost his life in the disaster. His name was John Jacob Aster.

As the story goes, there was a small third class hotel in the city of Philadelphia, and one night two very tired people came into this hotel and went up to the night clerk. The husband pleadingly said to the clerk, "Mister, please don't tell us you don't have a room. My wife and I have been all over the city looking for a place to stay. We did not know about the big convention that is in town, and the hotels at which we usually stay are all full. We're dead tired and it's after midnight. Please don't tell us you don't have a place where we can sleep."

The clerk looked at them a long moment and then answered, "Well, I don't have a single room except my own. I work at night and sleep in the daytime. It's not as nice as the other rooms, but it's clean, and I'll be happy for you to be my guests for tonight." The wife said, "God bless you, young man."

The next morning at the breakfast table, the couple sent the waiter to tell the night clerk they wanted to see him on very important business. The night clerk went in, recognized the two people, sat down at the table and said he hoped they had had a good night's sleep. They thanked him most sincerely. Then the husband astounded the clerk with this statement, "You are too fine a hotel man to stay in a hotel like this. How would you like for me to build a big, beautiful, luxurious hotel in the city of New York and make you general manager?" The clerk didn't know what to say. He thought there might be something wrong with their minds. He finally stammered, "It sounds wonderful." His guest then introduced himself. "I'm John Jacob Astor."

Presumably, this was the beginning of the Waldorf-Astoria Hotel, which was at one time the best known hotel in the world. I can't say whether or not this story is factual, but I do believe it illustrates an important spiritual truth, and that is that God often surprises us with new opportunities, and so we should always be ready to embrace them.

Jeff Hensley is pastor of Kings Mountain Baptist Church.

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Phone (704) 739-7496 • Fax (704) 739-0611

Office: 824-1 East King Street • Kings Mountain, NC 28086

E-mail: heraldnews@kingsmountainherald.com

Bill Parsons - Publisher
(bparsons@kingsmountainherald.com)

Gary Stewart - Editor
(gstewart@kingsmountainherald.com)

Emily Weaver - Staff Writer

Nancy Miller - Advertising Coordinator

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