

Georgetown woman, 43, struggling to overcome series of personal tragedies

By **LISATALLYN**
Staff Writer

A Georgetown woman is struggling to pick up the pieces of her family's lives after her husband's sudden death a couple of weeks ago.

Catherine Blacklock's husband Paul committed suicide Wednesday July 11 at their rented home. His death came two days after the family received an eviction notice because they were behind on their rent, and a day before a court proceeding involving their daughter who suffers from mental illness and who is now under the care of a relative for seven months.

"The week was a crazy week, we knew it was all coming at us in 10 different directions," said an emotional Blacklock, 43. "I honestly thought he (her husband) was dealing with it ... better than he was."

Despite her grief, the first thing on Blacklock's list right now is to find a new home as she and her other two young daughters (aged 11 and 10) have to be out of the house Tuesday, July 31. She has no idea where she will be staying.

"I have to keep going, I've got to look after my girls, run a business, find a home to live in I can afford on my own, buy a new vehicle," said an emotional Blacklock from the turmoil of her overturned home while her father and some volunteers from a nearby church packed up and hauled out box after box of her belongings to be housed temporarily in a storage unit.

"I'm kind of starting at ground zero right now. It's excruciatingly overwhelming."

She's looked for apartments but hasn't found anything and said she hasn't had any luck going through various agencies, but has her name on waiting lists. She's been told she's not eligible for emergency housing until she's actually on the street with no home, Blacklock said.

The family has a dog and cat, she said, and for that reason she said she can't go to the women's shelter in Milton.

"The children have had enough ripped away from them right now. I don't want to make it worse by telling them to kiss their pets goodbye. They would be devastated."

Her only income right now is Employment Insurance of about \$1,200 a month she receives after losing her travel agent's job in February. She said the benefits will run out in September. They had to put her and her husband's business, IPIKUP4U, a delivery service, on hold because her van is in need of costly repairs she can't afford,



Catherine Blacklock and her children are in need of a place to live in town. The woman who recently lost her husband is in dire financial straits. The family is being evicted from their rented Georgetown home next Tuesday.

Photo by Ted Brown

but Blacklock said it's not likely worth fixing.

"At this point— nothing," said Blacklock when asked how much rent she could pay, but added she likely could afford about \$700 a month with utilities included. But she said she's not going to be able to find that what with her pets, and the need for two or three bedrooms.

She said she needs to stay in town because her two young girls have special needs and attend programs at local schools.

She needs a new vehicle to get her delivery business back up and running.

"If I don't get back to that business real soon there's not going to be one," she said.

"It's a valuable service in this town. A lot of people rely on it, the elderly rely on it a lot."

Blacklock has set up a trust account for her children.

"I'm really worried about their future. I don't want money to be the one thing to stop them from getting an education," she said.

The trust account has been set up at Prosperity One Credit Union ("Blacklock in Trust") transit 68572828, account 4266938124.

To contact Blacklock call 289-924-0479.

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