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THE PERQUIMANS WEEKLY

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Woman charged for killing neighbor's dog

ERIN RICKERT

A Hertford woman was arrested last week after she allegedly hung her neighbor's pit bull by a chain because the animal would not stay out of her yard.

Perquimans County Sheriff Eric Tilley said Nancy Renee Goodman, 28, of 110 Tuscorora Trail, was charged with felony

animal cruelty last Wednesday after witnesses' statements were able to connect her to the dog's death.

Tilley said Goodman and her boyfriend, Ronald Euler, were in an ongoing dispute with their neighbors about the dog.

The group had even appeared in court just a matter of weeks ago, Tilley

said, but their case was dismissed.

"It was an ongoing thing about the dog being in their (Goodman and Euler's) yard," Tilley said.

Things did not escalate out of control, however, until Aug. 17.

That day, Tilley said, a county social worker had been to visit Goodman and Euler at their home in the

Little River Shores neighborhood.

As the social worker was walking out of the home with Goodman, Tilley said, they saw the pit bull in the yard.

Tilley said after the social worker admitted to Goodman about being a little nervous near the animal, Goodman retrieved a chain from the home which

she later put around the animal's neck.

Apparently upset that the dog was in the yard again, Tilley said, Euler grabbed the chain from Goodman's hands.

Around this time, Tilley said Euler allegedly told the children at the residence to get inside because he was going to kill the dog. Tilley said this is when

Euler claims the pit bull turned on him and he beat the dog with his aluminum cane.

But deputies found no evidence of any bite marks or scratches to indicate any type of altercation, Tilley said.

"There was no signs of aggression from the dog," Tilley said. **Continued on page 10**

Festivals weekend is approaching

ERIN RICKERT

There are less than two weeks before streets in downtown Hertford and Winfall fill with the tantalizing smells of Italian sausage, roasted peanuts and funnel cakes.

This year will mark the 24th for the Indian Summer Festival in Hertford, which over the years has been joined by first the Hearth & Harvest Festival at the Newbold-White House and later Winfall's Oak Leaf Festival.

The festivals offer residents the chance to peruse the wares of more than 50 vendors, take a seat under a shady tree and listen to live music or participate in several local games.

The Indian Summer Festival

Now in its 24th year, Hertford's Indian Summer Festival offers something for those big and small.

The street fair will offer more than 35 vendors dealing in everything from candles and wall hangings to pottery and county memorabilia.

Residents may also travel down to the courthouse lawn where live music will play from the festival's start to end.

Bands such as Loose Change, Flashback, Double Eagle Band and the Atlantic Fleet Jazz Band will be featured, said Festival Co-Chair Susan Harris.

As with tradition since

the festival began, the Perquimans County High School Marching Pirates will fill the streets at 11:45 a.m.

For the second year, Lacey Reames, a Perquimans County High School student who appears at church and community events across the county, will sing at 1:15 p.m.

Harris said those looking for a bite to eat, may choose from 10 vendors specializing in all your festival favorites.

But for many who come to the festival each year, no one quite cooks an Italian sausage like the Holiday Island Yacht Club, a group that has sold their sausage at the festival for more than eight years.

"We get the best comments from people," said Barbara Bostwick, who helps coordinate the cooking for the booth. "My favorite is 'I smelled you two blocks away.'"

Bostwick said the group sells close to 300 sausages each year — typically running out before event's end.

"It's the best money maker we have," Bostwick said. "Without it we would not be able to do as much throughout the year."

For those younger, Harris said the Hertford Baptist Church/Chowan Hospital Youth Pavilion offers children a variety of games and activities.

Throughout the day, children may ride one of several

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BACK TO THE BOOKS

Students head back to school

ERIN RICKERT

There were pictures with big toothless grins, friendly reunions and a few tears as hundreds of youngsters headed back to Perquimans County Central School for the first day of classes Thursday.

As vehicles began to line the parking lot of the school only minutes after 7 a.m., almost an hour before school was actually set to begin, children, with parents in hand, ascended the school's walkway decked out in new backpacks and shoes.

The school's principal, Billy Stallings, greeted many by name at the door, making the first day seem almost routine after five years.

While Stallings' hellos were usually followed with high fives and giggles, a few students could barely remove the face they had buried in their parents' shoulders to acknowledge the greeting.

For Marcus Riddick and his two children Anthony, 7, and Sarabi, 5, Thursday was so exciting they were one of the first to walk through the school doors at just nine minutes after 7 a.m.

Riddick said he arrived that early to ensure he had time to travel a few of the

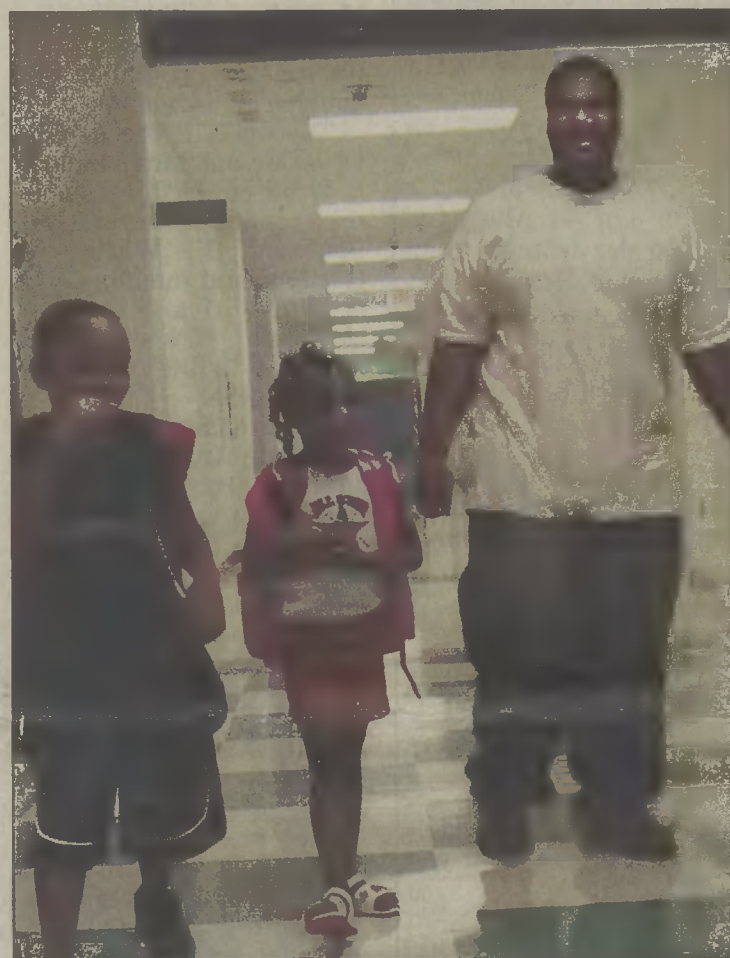


PHOTO BY ERIN RICKERT

Marcus Riddick takes his children, Anthony, 7, and Sarabi, 5, to their classes at Central School last Thursday, for the first day of the 2005-06 school year.

hallways, familiarizing Sarabi, who starts kindergarten this year, with the school.

Riddick said he also wanted to make sure he had the chance to speak with his children's teachers and allow Sarabi time to talk with some of the other students — maybe make a few friends early — task he felt he had accomplished.

By 7:30 a.m., Sarabi, who

loves Barbie and had picked out a Barbie backpack especially for school, was sitting in the cafeteria drinking juice and happily giggling with one of her classmates who also carried a Barbie backpack.

"I think she be all right," Riddick said as he looked on from the next table over where he sat with his son. "Long as she makes some

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Home damaged by shots

ERIN RICKERT

The fresh holes in the floor, walls and window of Maurice and Ruby Saunders' new doublewide may be small, but they have certainly caused a big alarm in the community.

Two 9MM bullets tore through the home the family had been preparing to move into just after 8 a.m. Aug. 6.

One shot went through a dining room window, ripping through a wall and tearing through their carpet before landing underneath their coffee table, the other lodged in the wall of a bedroom closet.

Even though no one was actually in the County Line Road home at the time the shots were fired, that did little for the family's anxiety, because no one knows who fired the bullets or where they came from.

On Friday, Chowan County Sheriff Fred A. Spruill was calling the incident accidental.

Though the home is just feet from the Chowan/Perquimans County line near the woods, he said it is unlikely the shots were fired by a hunter because hunting season does not start for another few months.

And Spruill said he could find no other reason anyone would have to harm the Saunders family, but that the investigation into the matter was continuing.

Ruby Saunders said Monday, though she was thankful the act was not done maliciously, she still felt it was careless.

Law enforcement is now urging residents to be cautious and aware of their

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White named Teacher of the Year for local schools

SUSAN HARRIS

If you're going to keep up with Michelle White for a day, wear track shoes and bring caffeine because you'll need them to keep up with the energetic music and art teacher at Perquimans Central School.

Recently selected as Perquimans County Schools' Teacher of the Year, White begins her work day early and ends it late in order to help students get fine arts opportunities they might not otherwise have.

Her love for children is obvious, as is her desire to work cooperatively with other teachers and incorporate core subjects into music and art.

For instance, when students were studying towns, including public services,



PHOTO BY ERIN RICKERT

Perquimans Central School music and art teacher Michelle White was recently named the school system's Teacher of the Year.

officials and buildings, White wrote, choreographed and set to music a play about Hertford to bring the lesson to life. She said she also finds ways to reinforce reading and math skills through her classes.

A fifth grade teacher who reached out to her at a difficult period of her life became her inspiration for teaching, and White makes every effort to note no only her students' academic progress, but social concerns and moods or actions that might indicate a child needs a mentor, someone to boost self-esteem or just a friendly ear.

Her day starts early, as she usually arrives at school by 7 a.m. to set up her classroom for that day's lessons and be ready for the piano students she teaches in groups before school. After a full complement of

classes, she teaches group piano in the afternoon through the school's after-school program.

When she's not at school or planning for school, she's often playing the flute at churches or volunteering in the community.

Principal Billy Stallings praised White's professionalism, enthusiasm, dedication and competency.

"Her positive attitude, bubbling personality and love for helping students achieve are reflected in the outstanding success her students have in the classroom and in grade level performance," Stallings said.

Stallings added that White has an excellent reputation.

White write, plans and directs three grade-level performances each year at

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WEEKEND WEATHER

THURSDAY
High: 92, Low: 70
MOSTLY SUNNY

FRIDAY
High: 91, Low: 71
SUNNY

SATURDAY
High: 90, Low: 69
SUNNY