

THE PERQUIMANS WEEKLY

"News from Next Door"

THURSDAY, AUGUST 27, 2020

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NEWS
 Pasquotank County reports 23rd COVID-19 death — A5



PETS OF THE WEEK
 See what's available at the shelter — A6



COMMUNITY
 The Fishin' Hole — B1

PQ Central School Student Quarantined at Home

BY MILES LAYTON
 Editor

A student at Perquimans Central School tested positive for COVID-19 last weekend.

Tuesday, Perquimans School system sent a letter to parents from the school system and Albemarle Regional Health Services. A copy of the letter appears at the end of this article.

To protect the student's privacy,

the school system is not releasing the student's name, grade level or teacher's name.

"The student is currently isolating at home. The family has done an excellent job of supporting mitigating efforts outlined in the school system's re-entry plan by following the daily screening process and keeping the child at home when symptoms emerged," said the letter that was signed by Superintendent

Tanya Turner and ARHS Health Director Battle Betts.

The Perquimans County Schools was the only area school district to begin the school year last week with in-person classes. Perquimans High School held in-person classes on Monday; Perquimans Middle School held in-person classes on Tuesday and Wednesday; and Perquimans Central and Hertford Grammar schools held in-person classes

Tuesday through Friday.

According to Perquimans Schools, 30 percent of the system's 1660 students enrolled Pre-K — 12th grade opted for remote education over the face-to-face approach favored by 70 percent of students.

Students entering the buildings had to wear masks and if they did not have one, masks were provided. Staff and teachers led by example by wearing

masks.

After a student's temperature was taken by staff, they were asked a series of health questions before being allowed to proceed to classes. Social distancing was practiced.

Students exited the school buses one by one — usually at least 6 feet apart. Desks divided the hallways so as to keep

See STUDENT, A3

Man Faces Animal Cruelty Charge

Gertie Recovering at Tri-County Animal Shelter

BY MILES LAYTON
 Editor

Hertford man has been charged with animal cruelty after he allegedly dragged his dog that was tied to his vehicle's back bumper.

Thanks to a citizen's tip, Sergeant John Duncan and Officer Mark Cummings, both of the Hertford Police Department, arrested Robert Selph, 42, of Hertford on Aug. 15 after receiving a call that he was allegedly dragging a dog for several feet on Granby Street near the boat ramp, according to witnesses. Selph was charged with felony animal cruelty, driving while under the influence and open container.

Selph appeared Aug. 19 in District Court. His case has been moved to Nov. 18. He's posted bond that was set at \$3,000 secured.

Duncan said the dog, a pitbull mix blend named Gertie, looked bad and had lost a lot of blood after the incident.

Dog was treated an area vet and is now doing fine in custody at the Tri County Animal Shelter, Perquimans County Sheriff Shelby White said.

Animal shelter Director Kate-lynn Robertson said Gertie's paws were injured, but it is in good health and she's in recovery. Robertson said pending the outcome of Selph's court case scheduled for November, Gertie would not be released into his custody because the dog is considered evidence.

Robertson said if Selph is found not guilty, he would have to pay veterinary bills and associated cost of care if the dog is released into his custody.



GERTIE



PHOTOS BY MILES LAYTON

Hertford Town Councilman Quentin Jackson (center) was among the leaders of a protest seeking, if a vacancy occurs, that the Perquimans School system hire a Black principal.

Rally Calls for Change in Education

BY MILES LAYTON
 Editor

A peaceful rally was held Monday to call attention to how there is no Black principal in Perquimans County's four schools as well as the low performance rates by Black students taught within those schools.

See the Perquimans Weekly's Facebook page to view a video of the protest at the Perquimans County Board of Education office.

Letters expressing support for hiring a Black principal appear on the editorial page A4 from Black elected officials and the Perquimans County Fellowship of Churches.

Worth noting, there have been Black principals in the past at Perquimans schools and presently, 50 percent of the system's assistant principals are Black.

For graphs about Perquimans

See RALLY, A2



A marcher lays a flower at the base of historical markers commemorating the accomplishments of educators Lillie Essie Burke and Beulah Elizabeth Burke, two of the Alpha Kappa Alpha Sorority Inc.'s original nine founders.

ROUND-UP McMullan and the Power of Prayer

BY MILES LAYTON
 Editor

A round-up of all things Perquimans County... Assistant Superintendent James Bunch remains in the hospital in Greenville. Been a rough week, but he's reputed to be a "tough old bird." Please offer your prayers.

In other news, author Philip Sidney McMullan, Jr. has a formidable resume. See a related story about the book "A House in the Albemarle" he helped to write on page B1

Anyway, this country editor enjoys local history and learning more about folks' background. If you didn't know Phil better, you'd think he was just an ordinary guy, but check this out — notes included in the book.

Phil attended Edenton High School and Virginia Episcopal School. He holds an engineering degree from Duke University '52, an MBA from the Wharton School '58, and a Master of Arts in History from North Carolina State University 2010. After DuPont, Hughes Aircraft, and Army service, he spent 22 years at the Research Triangle Institute (RTI International). He returned to the Albemarle to direct Northeastern North Carolina Tomorrow, Inc. at ECSU, then became an Adjunct Professor of History at the College of the Albemarle. He is now a consultant to the IBX Harbortown Project, which

See LAYTON, A3

Garvey Named Perquimans County Schools Teacher of the Year

FROM STAFF REPORTS

Kristine Garvey, a fifth grade teacher at Hertford Grammar School has been named the Perquimans County Schools Teacher of the Year.

Also, three outstanding educators have received a pat on the back for their service to the school district and students: Doriece Pittman, Kira Johnston and Susan Perry.

Garvey will represent the school district in regional Teacher of the Year Competi-



GARVEY



JOHNSTON



PERRY



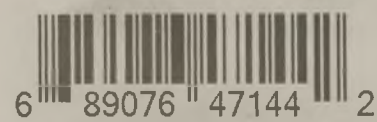
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tion as part of the 2021 Burroughs Wellcome Fund North Carolina Teacher of the Year Program coordinated by the North Carolina Department of Public Instruction.

The program provides an opportunity to honor and recognize exemplary teachers in North Carolina and call attention to the importance of the teaching profession. Garvey

was selected by her peers as this year's Teacher of the Year at Hertford Grammar School. Superintendent Tanya Turner describes Garvey as an energetic, enthusiastic, and professional educator. "When I visit Mrs. Garvey's classroom, I enter an atmosphere of excitement, praise, and innovation. Students are actively involved in a myriad of activities, demonstrating Mrs. Garvey's practice of providing instructional

See TEACHER, A3



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