

An Aberdeen Man, on probation for assaulting a female, has been charged with murder in the death of another woman with whom he had been living. Arrested and jailed without bond is 35-year-old Michael Berger of 726 Kennedy Circle in Aberdeen. Acting on a tip,, Moore County Sheriff's Deputies located the body of 33-year-old Crystla Smith in a wooded area near the entrance of the county landfill on Route 5 between Aberdeen and Pinehurst. The remains were sent to the chief medical officer in Chapel Hill for an autopsy to determine the cause of death. Investigators say Smith had been dead since last Sunday. Her body was found three days later. Kimberly Marshall, who rented a room in the Kennedy Circle Home, told authorities that Smith had moved in with Berger a month ago. She says the two had known each other for a number of years. Smith said she went to the beach on Saturday and received text messages from Smith the next day, Sunday, saying she feared Berger was going to kill her. Marshall says that when she phoned on Monday to inquire about Smith, Berger at first told her she was asleep but then called back to say instead that his girlfriend had left him Sunday night. He said he was upset and asked Marshall not to come home. State Division Of Adult Corrections Records show that Berger had been serving 24 months on probation after a conviction in June for assaulting a female by strangulation.