

THE PERQUIMANS WEEKLY

"News from Next Door"

NOVEMBER 3, 2010 - NOVEMBER 9, 2010



Lady Pirates out of playoffs, 7

PALMER features artist's art, 2

NOV 03 2010

50 cents

Sterilized at 14, Riddick tells her story

Procedure OK'd by Eugenics Board

By CATHY WILSON
Staff Writer

It's been 42 years since it occurred, but Elaine Riddick still feels the pain as if it were yesterday.

She's grown older now, but the memory of discovering that she was sterilized by the state without her knowledge at the age of 14 is as tender and fragile as the newborn babies she longed to hold.

Her small voice grows strong with anger and frustration when she speaks of what happened to her in Perquimans County back

in the 1960s.

"Being able to bear children is a gift from God," said Riddick who now lives in Georgia. "The state of North Carolina took that God-given right from me. I have been fighting this for more than 30 years, and I will continue to fight until I die."

Riddick, 56, is one of 7,600 men, women, black and white - even children who were sterilized by actions of the now defunct Eugenics Board of North Carolina from 1933-1977. The board, which the state closed down in 1977, approved or declined petitions for sterilization "for the public good" after institutional or county offi-

cers filed petitions for sterilizations.

In Riddick's case, a county social worker discovered she was pregnant at age 13 during a public welfare visit to her grandmother's house. Citing past problems with the young teen, the petition was made, approved by the board, and Riddick was sterilized when she gave birth to her only child at the age of 14.

She never knew she was sterilized until several years later when she and her husband experienced difficulty conceiving. A doctor's visit determined that her fallopian tubes had been cut.

"I deal with this every day of my life," said Riddick. "I feel even stronger about it today. It's embarrassing...I feel like everyone knows what happened to me. It's devastating to me, but I have to go on. I have to let others know what our government did to many of us."

According to the North Carolina History Project, before the 1960s, more whites were sterilized than blacks through the board's actions. That changed, however, in the 1960s when social workers gained authority to recommend sterilization. The numbers of African American sterilizations in the state increased dramatically.



SUBMITTED PHOTO

Formerly of Winfall, Elaine Riddick, now of Atlanta, Ga., was ordered sterilized by the Eugenics Board of N.C. in 1968.

See RIDDICK, 4

Report card is snapshot of schools

By CATHY WILSON
Staff Writer

Students took home report cards last week; however, the reports told how well the schools are performing rather than individual students.

The state-issued NC School Report Cards for every school district in the state were released Thursday by the state's department of public instruction.

"The state report card goes a long way toward providing parents with what they want or need to know," said Superintendent Dwayne Stallings. "The convenience of having so much information about school progress can't be overstated and it promotes parental involvement."

The two-page profile provides a snapshot of each school's testing performance and numbers on class size, teacher certification levels, classroom technology, and the school's rate of campus crime. Report cards are issued for each school, each school district, and the state's education system as a whole.

District wide, the school system is below state average in size of schools on all three levels: elementary, middle and high school. Class sizes, therefore, are also smaller than the state averages with the excep-

See GRADES, 2

YEE HAW!



STAFF PHOTOS BY BRETT A. CLARK

Cowboys got bucked, bounced and tossed during the bull riding competition at the Bull Bash held at Meylar Farms last Friday and Saturday. Cody Watson (top photo) tries to keep stable during his ride, as Beau Bowman (bottom photo) is about to be ejected at the Bull Bash competition Saturday night.

WEEKEND WEATHER

FRIDAY
HIGH: 59 LOW: 40
PARTLY CLOUDY

SATURDAY
HIGH: 54 LOW: 37
PARTLY CLOUDY

SUNDAY
HIGH: 54 LOW: 42
SUNNY

Hertford to lose two businesses

By CATHY WILSON
Staff Writer

The downtown business district is losing two local businesses on Church Street.

Nickalena's Restaurant closed last week, and Gateway Insurance Services will consolidate and move to their Elizabeth City office next week.

Shirley Hranko, owner of Nickalena's, said even though she closed the restaurant, she will continue to operate her catering business and will honor commitments through the end of the year.

For her, closing the day to day operations of the restaurant will allow her to put a better perspective on life.

"I need to put my family first," she said. "With my mother's passing, I realized my family comes first. By getting out of the day to day operations here, I will be able to take care of my family better."

The restaurant, located in the Hall of Fame building, has fed hungry folks

See CLOSINGS, 4

Stabbing arrest made

From staff reports

The man wanted in connection with the Oct. 25 stabbing of another man on Brace Street turned himself in to police last Wednesday.

Chief Joe Amos with the Hertford Police Department (HPD) said Duane Michael Lyons, 24, turned himself into the HPD and placed under

arrest for felony assault with a deadly weapon inflicting serious injury. Lyons was taken to Albemarle District Jail under



Lyons

See ARREST, 2

