

THE PERQUIMANS WEEKLY

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County approves recognition resolution

SUSAN R. HARRIS

Sunday, Sept. 8 will be a day to recognize the many emergency and law enforcement volunteers and salaried personnel who work every day to keep us safe.

The county commissioners adopted a resolution Monday submitted by Hertford Baptist Church to recognize emergency and law enforcement volunteers and employees throughout the county. The day of recognition is just three days shy of the anniversary of the terrorist tragedies that rocked the nation last year.

Hertford Baptist minister Kenneth McNeil said in presenting the resolution that the idea of a county-wide day of recognition came during a deacons meeting at the church. He said the church board wanted to recognize these people who daily risk their lives attempting to save others in the community during one of their own services.

As the idea developed, the church decided that rather than invite all law enforcement and emergency personnel to come to Hertford Baptist, thereby taking them away from their own places of worship, the church would encourage other congregations to hold recognition services on the same day.

A list of county churches has been obtained, and Hertford Baptist Church will send letters to other congregations asking that they also observe the day of recognition.

Recreation center bids too high

SUSAN R. HARRIS

It's not the \$64,000 question, it's the \$600,000 meeting.

A committee of county commissioners, composed of chairman Ben Hobbs, Charles Ward and Mack Nixon; County Manager Paul Gregory; and will meet Thursday morning to try to trim the bids for the county's planned

recreation/community center.

When the county opened bids on the project on July 11, the lowest cost estimate was over \$2 million. The project budget is \$1.4 million. Funds will come from a \$250,000 state recreation grant, a \$750,000 loan from BB&T and funds set aside in the county's general fund budget.

"We've got to get as close as we can (to budget)," said

Gregory Tuesday. "We're hoping to cut \$600,000 to make it more palatable."

The center, which will be located on the riverfront at the Perquimans Commerce Centre, will include a gymnasium/auditorium, lighted baseball fields, a lighted soccer field and parking facilities. It represents phase I of a three-phase long-term plan.

Phase II will expand the building with a cardiovas-

cular rehab center complete with indoor pool. Gregory said the pool has already been donated to the county.

Phase II will add a par 3 golf course, and money has also been promised toward that project, Gregory said.

Gregory said he feels sure the committee can cut the project budget and begin construction without many more delays.

"I'm feeling confident

that we can come within budget or close enough to where the commissioners will give the nod and say let's go," Gregory said.

He said he expects the commissioners to call a special meeting next week to award bids. Construction should begin shortly thereafter.

Under the terms of the grant, the project is supposed to be completed by May 31, 2003.

CHICKEN KICKIN'



PHOTO BY ALICE BREWIN

The Historic Hertford Business Association held a Chicken Kickin' on the courthouse lawn last Thursday, complete with ice cold watermelon and live music.

The event was a fundraiser to support entertainment costs for next month's Indian Summer Festival, set for Saturday, Sept. 14.

School starts tomorrow

SUSAN R. HARRIS

It's back to the books for students and teachers in Perquimans County Schools.

Tomorrow is the first day of school for students.

Faculty and staff celebrated the opening of school Monday, with the annual convocation at the high school. Guest speaker was Eugene Gallelli, assistant director of the Principal's Executive Program at UNC-Chapel Hill and a 40-year education veteran.

School hours are: Central School (pre-k-2) 8:05 a.m. - 2:45 p.m.; Hertford Grammar (grades 3-5) 7:50 a.m. - 2:55 p.m.; Perquimans Middle (grades 6-8) 8 a.m. - 3 p.m.; and Perquimans High (grades 9-12) 8 a.m. - 2:53 p.m.

For more information on the school system, visit the school system website at pcs.k12.nc.us/.

Hertford-based Periauger project sails ahead after delay

The periauger, a long-lost colonial workboat, is closer to setting sail thanks to the success of an ongoing fundraising campaign by the Hertford-based Periauger Project.

The Periauger Project has raised over \$17,000 from private individuals and businesses in addition to donated building materials valued at approximately \$10,000.

"The businesses and individuals supporting the Project have been very supportive and forthcoming in recognizing its unique opportunities," said Montgomery Spindler, chairman of the executive committee of the Periauger Project. "When completed, the periauger will be the only boat like it in the world and will be a significant tool for both regional maritime education and economic development."

In addition to private funds, a grant application for \$75,000 has been submitted to the 2002 Enhancement Program of the North Carolina Department of Transportation. The grant requests funds to complete

the construction of the boat and to pursue archaeological studies to determine the best location for the periauger's docks at the historic Newbold-White House.

Partnering in the Periauger Project are the Perquimans County Restoration Association, the North Carolina Maritime Museum, and East Carolina University's Program in Maritime Studies. The Museum of the Albemarle, Perquimans County, the Town of Hertford, and North Carolina's Northeast Partnership have also joined the effort.

History of the periauger

In colonial America, settlers traveled the waterways in common ships called periaugers—the pick-up trucks of those days. Surprisingly, no physical evidence of these typical colonial ships exists today. Through this history-making project, the periauger will be built and reintroduced to the waterways. The periauger replica will be the only boat of its kind in the world.

Periauger is a generic

term for a two-masted ship made of a dugout and split cypress log and propelled by both oars and sails. Historical references indicate that for many colonial settlers, the periauger was the vessel of choice, especially on the sounds and rivers of North Carolina. After over a decade of research and study, final plans have been drawn up for the unique 21st century construction of a "typical" periauger.

Details of the periauger

The periauger replica will be 30 feet long with two masts reaching the height of 25 feet. It will have rowing stations for up to 10 oars. Supervising the design is Michael Alford, former curator of maritime research at the North Carolina Maritime Museum and author of *Traditional Workboats of North Carolina*.

"Boat construction techniques once common in the southeast are virtually unknown today," said Dr. Larry Babits, maritime archaeologist, East Carolina University's Program in Maritime Studies. "Constructing the

periauger will provide a means to relearn a significant form of traditional boat building and preserve a very unique aspect of our maritime heritage."

The historic 1730 Newbold-White House in Hertford will be the final home for the periauger. Among the documentary evidence discovered about the ship was a reference to a periauger in the 1751 estate of Abraham Sanders, the builder of the 1730 Newbold-White House.

Construction schedule

The periauger's construction is scheduled to begin in the spring of 2003 at the North Carolina Maritime Museum in Beaufort. The construction start date of mid-2002 was delayed when the North Carolina Maritime Museum, a museum of the North Carolina Department of Cultural Resources, experienced substantial budget and staff reductions. The reductions directly impacted the Periauger Project schedule.

The periauger's oars, sails and other ancillary equipment will be made in

Hertford at the Perquimans County Business Center beginning in September of this year. To date 14 local woodworkers and craftsmen have signed on to assist. The public is invited to participate in the building process as a builder or observer.

"Building a colonial-era ship is a once-in-a-lifetime opportunity for most people," said David Webb, site manager for the Newbold-White House. "We want to include as many people as possible in this groundbreaking project."

Upon completion, the historic 1730 Newbold-White House and the Town of Hertford will be its homeports. The first home for the periauger will be the Town of Hertford's docks. Perquimans Heritage Inc. is currently managing the design and construction of the boat's first mooring. At the historic 1730 Newbold-White House, the periauger will be a key component to the site's maritime heritage program and an important tool for regional tourism development, visiting port towns in the region and

WEEKEND WEATHER

THURSDAY
High: 83
Low: 62
Mostly Sunny

FRIDAY
High: 87
Low: 66
Sunny

SATURDAY
High: 89
Low: 69
Partly Cloudy