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# THE PERQUIMANS WEEKLY

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## Periauger sails home

### Lost piece of history berthed in Hertford

ERIN RICKERT  
Staff Writer

The three-week journey for the replica of an 18th century work vessel to seven historic North Carolina port towns commenced in Hertford Harbor Saturday.

The periauger's arrival drew more than 300 people to the harbor to see the 30-foot long boat adorned with two masts stretching nearly 25 feet high.

Montgomery Spindler, project director of The Periauger Project, said the replica periauger is the only boat of its kind in the world.

The periauger was originally a common workboat used by colonists in North Carolina to transport goods along the waterways.

Dr. Lawrence Babits, professor in the maritime studies program at East Carolina University, said the idea for the periauger began in 1983.

"It has been germinating and coming along ever since," Babits said. "It's been a labor of love."

Volunteers helping with The Periauger Project spent years of research and study, but only documentary evidence was found to help draw up plans to bring this piece of history back to the area.

With help from Babits, the boat was designed by Michael Alford, former curator of maritime



SAM WOLFE, The Daily Advance

The periauger was welcomed home to Hertford by about 300 spectators Saturday during the Indian Summer Festival.

research for the North Carolina Maritime Museum.

An original periauger would have been built by hollowing out a flawless tree measuring close to 35 feet in length and 9 feet in diameter. Spindler said because finding a flawless tree of this size is difficult, volunteer craftsman constructed the replica by piecing together individual blocks of wood to create a similar effect.

"This construction was very time consuming," Spindler said.

Paul Fontenoy, curator of small craft research for the

North Carolina Maritime Museum, said 25 volunteers consistently worked on the periauger during the nearly eight months of actual construction. During that time, he said, close to 9,000 volunteer hours were put into the boat's assembly.

The Periauger Project built the vessel under a partnership with the North Carolina Maritime Museum, Perquimans County, the Restoration Association and East Carolina University's maritime studies program. Spindler said construc-

tion of the boat cost close to \$100,000 and came from both private funding and a federal grant from the NC Department of Transportation's Enhancement Program.

The periauger will now be docked in the Hertford until it is relocated to the Newbold-White House where it will remain as a piece of history.

"We have filled a page of maritime history that has been unfilled for many years," Spindler said. "She's [the periauger] is an asset no matter how you look at it."

## Would-be Trade Mart robber nabbed in EC

CHRIS WHIPPLE

Two convenience store workers became part of a police sting last Monday after one of them received threatening phone calls at the Trade Mart in Hertford.

A man began calling the Trade Mart on Church Street Extended Monday night, threatening to kill

the female employee who answered if she didn't take a deposit bag full of money to a drop-off location after the store closed at midnight, Hertford Police Chief Dale Vanscoy said. The clerk was told not to call police, that she was being watched and would be killed if she

didn't follow the caller's instructions exactly. She was told to drop the money bag at the public phone booth in the parking lot of the Pizza Inn in Elizabeth City.

Adrienne Meads, 34, said she was terrified. She called the district manager in Manteo to ask if she should comply.

"No," Meads said she was told. "...You drop that money in the safe right now. I'm on my way."

Meads said after she hung up with the district manager the phone rang again. "I told you no calls," Meads said she was told. "I am watching you." The man called six times saying "You will be killed. You will be killed. You will be killed."

The other clerk working that night was Andrew McKnight, 19. When he found out what was going on he called police. Plain clothes officers were dispatched in unmarked cars. Hertford Police investigators wanted to know if Meads would collaborate with them in capturing the threatening caller. But Meads said she would be too scared. So McKnight offered to make the drop in Elizabeth City, driving Meads' car.

Arrangements were made with the Elizabeth City Police Department and Perquimans County Sheriff Department. Surveillance was set up around the phone booth. Meads prepared a fake money bag, filling it with other bags and a bottle of hot sauce to give it the right weight. Then she was driven to a friend's house to wait it out while McKnight made the drop.

"We had a female plain clothes officer assist in providing her security so she would feel more comfortable," Vanscoy said. McKnight headed out, trailed by an unmarked

police car.

"Basically, I drove Adrienne's car to Elizabeth City," McKnight said. "I drove it there with a sheriff's deputy telling me what to do. I went to the Pizza Hut parking lot, opened up the window, threw the bag out the window and it landed right by the pay phone. I took off and left. Then I came back to Hertford and filed a report at the police station."

A car drifted up to the pay phone about a half-hour later and stopped. A man got out, retrieved the bag, got back in his car and started driving away. "Elizabeth

Cit P.D. stopped the vehicle," Vanscoy said. "They found the money bag inside and we took custody of the individual and brought him back to Hertford where a warrant was obtained for common law robbery."

Tron White, 34, of 1325 Mill Pond Road, Elizabeth City, was arrested and processed at Albemarle District Jail under a \$6,000 bond.

"I knew the guy," Meads said. "He's been to my house!"

Meads said White is an ex-boyfriend of a former Trade Mart employee.

"He was a great guy," Meads said. "Honestly, he was. I would never have expected it to be him."

As terrified, excited and, ultimately, surprised as Meads was, McKnight remained cool through it all. He said he had been through something similar before.

"I basically volunteered," McKnight said. "but I wasn't doing it for the store. I was doing it for Adrienne. He had threatened her life. That made me upset. I wanted to make sure the guy was caught."

(Contact Chris Whipple at [cwhipple@coxnews.com](mailto:cwhipple@coxnews.com))

I knew the guy. He's been to my house! He was a great guy. Honestly, he was. I would never have expected it to be him.

Adrienne Meads  
Trade Mart clerk

## Festivals bring thousands

ERIN RICKERT  
Staff Writer

The air pungent with the smell of plump bratwurst and freshly popped popcorn, three-year-old Lauren Lawyer and her mother Sheila sit, immune to the tantalizing smells and the distant beat of the band. The two concentrate intently on the ceramic masterpieces they are painting at the Earthworks Pottery booth.

Lauren, now covered by many shades of the rainbow, slabs another layer of paint onto her already eye-catching ceramic bookworm as Sheila adds the final details to a small trinket box.

Like thousands of others in the area, these Hertford residents spent a portion of their afternoon participating in the many activities Saturday's Indian Summer Festival offered.

Appropriate for all ages, the festival brought live bands, arts and crafts, pony rides, puppet shows, a student art show, face paint-



ERIN RICKERT, The Perquimans Weekly

Lauren Lawyer, 3, and her mother, Sheila Lawyer of Hertford, paint ceramic figurines at the Earthworks Pottery booth in the youth pavilion at Indian Summer Festival Saturday.

ing, kayaking and a handful of concession stands to Hertford.

Now in its twenty-third year, Indian Summer Festival is an event many in the area have made a tradition.

Patrons like Anne and

Red Lindsay have attended the event with their dog Molly for the last five years. With homes in both Norfolk and Nags Head, the couple said each year they make sure to grab two seats near the band area so they can listen to the music as

they watch the festival going on around them.

"Every year we are glad we came," Anne said as she enjoyed a bratwurst. "As many years as they have it we will come," Red added.

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## WEEKEND WEATHER

THURSDAY  
High: 85  
Low: 71  
ISOLATED T'STORMS

FRIDAY  
High: 82  
Low: 71  
SCATTERED T'STORMS

SATURDAY  
High: 83  
Low: 70  
SCATTERED T'STORMS