Queen Anne's Revenge dive expedition begins this week

JANNETTE PIPPIN - DAILY NEWS STAFF

The artifacts raised from the Queen Anne’s Revenge shipwreck site in the coming weeks will be smaller in size but big in excitement.

An eight-week dive expedition begins this week with final preparations for work in Beaufort Inlet at the wreckage of the ship considered to be the flagship of the infamous pirate Blackbeard.

While divers with North Carolina’s Underwater Archaeology Branch aren’t planning to bring up any of the remaining cannons or anchors during this dive, they will be excavating from the forward hold area on the east side of the wreck site, which correlates to the lower portion of the ship.

The QAR team is expecting to find ballast stones and smaller artifacts, but the excitement is in the unknown as it’s a lesser explored area of the shipwreck.

“They are moving into areas that haven’t been excavated or looked at before. We don’t know what they may find,” said Sarah Watkins-Kenney, director of the QAR lab in Greenville, where all the artifacts are taken for conservation once they are recovered from the site.

But before excavation work can begin, there is preparation work to be done. Watkins-Kenney said the team will be getting the N.C. Division of Marine Fisheries research vessel ready for use as a staging area at the dive site.

During the second week, they will be setting up at the shipwreck site as well as doing monitoring of the corrosive condition of the anchors and cannons that have been fitted with aluminum rods called sacrificial anodes, that change the electrochemical process that corrodes iron in saltwater, reducing and potentially reversing the amount of salts absorbed by the objects while they are underwater.

The excavation and recovery of artifacts is scheduled to begin the week of Sept. 17.
“It’s a full eight-week dive expedition, weather permitting,” Watkins-Kenney said.

While the goal continues to be a systematic recovery of artifacts from the site, there is a one notable change this year.

Longtime QAR project director Dr. Mark Wilde-Ramsing, who was deputy state archaeologist for the N.C. Underwater Archaeology Branch, retired effective Aug. 1 after more than 30 years with the state.

QAR field conservator Wendy Welsh is acting as field supervisor for the dive expedition.

The QAR dives have traditionally been made possible through a partnership of a variety of organizations and agencies and this year is no exception.

The Division of Marine Fisheries has assisted with a research vessel while Coast Guard Station Fort Macon will serve as a landside staging area and Fort Macon State Park assists with housing crew during the dive.

Once conserved, artifacts are displayed by the N.C. Maritime Museum in Beaufort.

Also among the partners are East Carolina University, UNC-Wilmington, Friends of the Queen Anne’s Revenge and Nautilus Productions.

Updates on the dive expedition will be posted on the Facebook page at Blackbeard’s – Queen Anne’s Revenge. Information on the QAR project can also be found online at qaronline.org.

Contact Daily News reporter Jannette Pippin at 910-382-2557 or jannette.pippin@jdnews.com.
Councilman’s rental violated rule

“We certainly do not expect a person to move out and find other acceptable means of occupancy in seven to 14 days.”

Cpl. Chris Viverette
code enforcement officer

By Wesley Brown
Thursday, September 6, 2012

A Greenville city councilman who proposed changing a city ordinance that prohibits landlords from renting to more than three unrelated people has been renting a home in the city to four students.

The Daily Reflector has confirmed that District 5 Councilman Max Joyner recently rented a five-bedroom house he and family members own on East 14th Street to four unrelated people, three students at East Carolina University and one at Pitt Community College.

A young woman who answered the door at the house last week told the newspaper that four women were living there, each of them caring for their own dog.

Joyner has not been available for comment, despite multiple attempts to reach him since the middle of last week by phone, e-mail, text message and in-person at his home. When a Daily Reflector photographer encountered the councilman near the rental home last Friday, Joyner left, saying he had not “talked to anybody” about a violation.

The same woman tenant, when again questioned by the Reflector on Tuesday, said the councilman “took care” of the problem, but she would not
comment further. She said Joyner had been kind to her and the other students regarding their rental of the house.

“It is currently being investigated as we speak,” Lt. Richard Allsbrook, commander of the Greenville Police Department’s Code Enforcement Division, said Tuesday of Joyner’s rental property. He said Inspector A.J. Basille had been assigned to the case.

The Daily Reflector visited the property after receiving a tip on Aug. 24 that the councilman had been violating the housing code. The four women were each paying $250, according to two of the tenants, compared to the $600 monthly rent at larger apartment complexes.

Joyner bought the property along with 22 other tracts of land from Charles Boulevard to Forbes Street on July 14, 2010, under the name of Crones, LLC, a consulting firm he and his wife Kelly run, according to the land’s deed.

Based on pending case files and its records management system, Allsbrook said code enforcement has not cited any violations at the rental home where the four women were living. However, two properties Joyner owns next-door have been cited three times since October 2011 for excessive trash and debris and overgrown weeds. The most recent citation was issued July 20, records show.

When a violation is substantiated, Allbrook said a notice is sent by certified mail to the property owner asking them to either provide proof their home is in compliance or take corrective action to fix the issue themselves.

If the landlord does not respond, the city will give him or her a “reasonable” deadline to evict as many unrelated people as necessary to bring a house up to code.

“We certainly do not expect a person to move out and find other acceptable means of occupancy in seven to 14 days,” said Cpl. Chris Viverette, a veteran officer of the Code Enforcement Division. “That would be unreasonable. We generally give them 30 days.”

While many cases can result in litigation or a mediated settlement, Allsbrook said: “Our preferred method is to have compliance and at the end of the day, we would like it to be voluntary.”

Joyner proposed on Aug. 9 that the City Council adopt the Neighborhood Revitalization Initiative. The initiative is a permit program that would allow
four unrelated people to live together in all properties between Fifth, Elm and Reade streets to the Tar River.

Notices were mailed Tuesday to residents in the proposed zone. The home on 14th street sits outside the area covered by the initiative.

Allsbrook said since the council gave a preliminary nod to the Joyner’s proposal, Code Enforcement has seen a spike in complaints involving more than three unrelated people living in a home in the city.

The division has received five complaints in the last 10 days, compared to one in the past six months, Allsbrook said. Only 22 citations have been issued since 2009.

The most violations of the three-unrelated rule were recorded from June 2006 through December 2007, when 83 separate cases were investigated, almost all of them in the area north of East Fifth Street, records show.

Cases usually are complaint-driven or opened as a result of officers noticing more than three people possibly living at home while issuing citations for minor and more obvious violations, like excessive trash, parking on unimproved surfaces and loud noise.

“It is not something you can determine on any single given day. That’s unrealistic and we cannot operate like that,” Viverette said. “You have to show a pattern of behavior over a period of time, because what may seem like a violation could just be someone visiting from out of town.”

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The reasoning behind the controversial code that only allows three unrelated people to live in a house is often misunderstood. City Council Member Max Joyner recently demonstrated his ignorance by rhetorically asking, “How many people should live in a four-bedroom house?” His answer of course, was four. However the “three-unrelated” rule is designed to protect the quality of the neighborhood and most importantly, the price and value of the individual neighborhood homes.

Let me ask, if the number was raised from three to four, what sort of people would move into the Tar River-University neighborhood? Families who own their homes and have a stake in the Greenville community? No. It would be college-aged renters who are more concerned with drinking beer and partying than preserving a safe and family-oriented environment.

Speaking of a safe environment, do you believe it is a coincidence that break-ins in the Tar River-University neighborhood spike during university winter and spring breaks? I don’t. Criminals know the university schedule and understand that college students are easy targets. So I ask you, what is better for the community: a concentrated area with more college parties, more drinking, more drugs, more crime and more college renters? The answer is no. Raising the number of unrelated people who can live together to four will only further degrade what is a historic and proud section of Greenville.

C.A. LAWSON
Greenville
CHARLOTTE - Jamie Kristine Kimble was born April 13, 1981 in Galesburg, Ill. and died on Monday, Sept. 3, 2012 in Tampa, Fla. In her brief life here on earth Jamie accomplished so much and brought so much joy and energy to all those who came in contact with her. At age 2 Jamie moved with her parents to Greenville where she attended Pitt County Schools and graduated in the top ten in her class in 1999 from Greenville Rose High School. She continued her education at UNC-Chapel Hill graduating in December 2002, completing her degree in just 3.5 years. Jamie was the recipient of the 2002-2003 Joseph Edozien Outstanding Undergraduate Award.

Following her graduation she embarked on a career in healthcare and pharmaceutical sales in Charlotte and Orlando, Fla. However, most recently she was employed at BYB Brands, a subsidiary of Coke Consolidated, where she flourished in sales and marketing. Jamie had just been promoted to Director of Regional Sales for the Southwest U.S. and was in the process of moving to Dallas, Texas to assume her new responsibilities in the next three weeks before her life was tragically cut short. Described by her bosses and co-workers as a passionate, energetic and enthusiastic leader respected by all who worked with and for her, Jamie was ready to embark on what she described as the job she was meant to have. She could not have been more excited and anxious to begin.

Jamie will be sorely missed by all her family and friends who she loved beyond measure. As dedicated, hard-working, and driven as she was in her work and education, she was just as passionate in her non-work life where her smile would light up the room as she spread that special Jamie Kimble joy to all who came in contact with her.
She is survived by her parents, Ron and Jan Kimble of Charlotte; paternal grandparents, Robert and Jean Kimble of Galesburg, Ill.; maternal grandparents, Eldon and Frances Neff of LaHarpe, Ill.; aunts and uncles, Fred and Kathy Kimble of West Bend, Wis., Scott and Stannie Kimble of Keller, Texas, Sam and Peggy Mangieri of Abingdon, Ill., Barb and Mike Boyle of New Sharon, Iowa, Tina and Dan Baker of Roscoe, Ill., Gary and Jane Neff of Burlington, Iowa and Terry and Sheila Neff also of Burlington, Iowa; cousins, Amy and Jerry Zavorka, Ryan and Jack Zavorka, Kelsy Kimble and fiancee, Casey Lopez, Kaitlyn Kimble, Kameron Kimble, Sammy Mangieri, Maddie Mangieri, Bradley Boyle, Dylan Boyle, Mallory Boyle, Rachael Neff, Ryan Neff, Mary Arvidson and Chavez Borrego

The family will receive friends Friday evening at Hankins and Whittington Funeral Services from 6:30 to 9. Funeral service will be held 2 p.m. on Saturday at Myers Park United Methodist Church, 1501 Queens Road, Charlotte. Interment will be private in Evergreen Cemetery. An additional memorial service will be held at 11 a.m. on Saturday, Sept. 15, 2012, at Central Congregational Church, 60 Public Square, Galesburg, Ill.

In lieu of flowers, memorials may be made to: United Family Services, P.O. Box 36667, Charlotte, NC 28236.
Arrangements are in the care of Hankins and Whittington Funeral Service; please share condolences online at www.hankinswhittington.com.

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Connector questioned by legal ad

By Wesley Brown
Thursday, September 6, 2012

A legal ad, offering to help private landowners in Greenville get fair compensation for their property before a “condemning authority” takes it to build a major highway connector in the city, has many residents worried they may lose their homes.

Several residents have called City Hall concerned that their property has been “authorized for condemnation” for the construction of the 10th Street Connector, a four-lane highway being built to streamline traffic between East Carolina University and Vidant Medical Center, said Steve Hawley, communications manager for the City of Greenville.

The notice, details of which were mailed in a letter by Cauley and Pridgen, a land use and zoning law firm based in Raleigh, is untrue and should not cause any alarm, Hawley said.

“No properties have been condemned,” Hawley said in a news release issued this week. “In the process of acquiring right-of-way and easements, condemnation is a last resort.”

Scope unchanged

Ed Eatmon, the district engineer overseeing the construction of the 10th Street Connector for the N.C. Department of Transportation, echoed Hawley’s assessment.
Eatmon said the scope of the project, which in recent weeks has come under fire for the addition of 15-foot utility easements in certain areas, has not been altered any further, despite Cauley and Pridgen sending letters to people whose property is not in the highway’s projected path.

“I do not know where they got their mailing list,” Eatmon said. “At this time, no properties have been condemned and no more properties are being considered for acquisition.”

The DOT is under contract with Telics, a right-of-way management company headquartered in Sanford, to purchase the property necessary for the future construction of the 10th Street Connector, Hawley said.

So far, Telics has contacted 150 of the 190 residents and business owners projected to be affected by the project.

The first batch of appraisals, based off the fair market value of a home or business, came in last week and are being checked against federal standards and state guidelines for accuracy and consistency, said Doug Askew, the DOT right-of-way agent heading the state buyout for the 10th Street Connector.

An estimated $27 million will go toward right-of-way acquisition with another $19.6 million estimated for construction, to begin in October 2013.

Beginning at Memorial Drive, with improvements ending at 10th and Evans streets, the proposed four-lane connector will create a central avenue between East Carolina University and Vidant Medical Center.

The 1.4-mile stretch will widen symmetrically down Farmville Boulevard before crossing a residential neighborhood at and rising into a bridge over the railroad tracks at Dickinson Avenue.

The number of non-profits, residents and shop owners to be displaced by the project jumped to 60 last month, when temporary utility easements were changed to permanent. The switch cost Air Mania, a custom-printing shop on 14th Street, its parking lot, and closed an auto garage Greenville landowner Kenneth Lloyd spent $50,000 to renovate.

Askew said less than 1 percent of purchases are challenged in court.

No word of a lawsuit has been made yet in connection to the 10th Street Connector.

It is uncertain who sent the letters at Cauley and Pridgen. When contacted Wednesday, the receptionist directed media inquiries to Chris Beacham, an
East Carolina alumnus who serves as the law firm’s expert on condemnation and eminent domain legal matters.

Beacham did not immediately return phone messages.

Contact Wesley Brown at 252-329-9579 or wbrown@reflector.com. Follow him on Twitter @CityWatchdog.
College students get real-life advice, inspiration at UFuture summit

Rep. Mel Watt, D-N.C., urges people at the UFuture summit to make sure they and their families aren’t among North Carolina’s 500,000 unregistered black voters. The summit for students focusing on technology, science and finance in the global marketplace was co-presented by the Congressional Black Caucus Institute and Johnson C. Smith University. (Claire McNeill - mcneill@charlotteobserver.com)

By Claire McNeill
mcneill@charlotteobserver.com

CHARLOTTE, N.C.–College students received plenty of advice both practical and inspirational Tuesday at UFuture, a summit focusing on technology, science and finance in the global marketplace.

More than 250 college students from the Carolinas filled the room at historically black Johnson C. Smith University, representing schools from Clemson University to Bennett College.

Co-presented by the Congressional Black Caucus Institute and JCSU, the event was hosted by actors Hill Harper, Alfre Woodard and Nicole Ari Parker. Speakers ranged from members of Congress to company executives and White House policy makers.

“You guys are a generation like no other, in a time of anxiety like no other,” Woodard told the audience, introducing common themes – the need for widespread civic engagement and the power of youth.
Rep. Mel Watt, D-N.C., told the audience to make sure they and their families weren’t among North Carolina’s 500,000 unregistered black voters.

Rep. G.K. Butterfield, D-N.C., said the way to create change is by voting for politicians that meet their needs.

“Student loans and Pell Grants are authorized by the Congress,” he said. “(Politicians) must represent your views. If they don’t represent your views, they have to be defeated in the next election.”

Mentions of President Barack Obama drew cheers from the crowd amid talk of a need to show up in force for the November election.

Streamed online, the event prompted viewers and audience members to tweet or email questions to panelists.

Questions ranged from how to build a good credit score to how to increase diversity in study abroad programs.

Fred Humphries, vice president of U.S. government affairs for Microsoft, highlighted what he called an opportunity gap in different fields.

He encouraged students to pursue the majors that will get them jobs, adding that the unemployment rate in the engineering field is just 3 percent.

“I don’t know how to make STEM (science, technology, engineering and mathematics) sexy or cool. But I’ll tell you what, it makes a great living,” he said.

Rep. Martha Fudge, D-Ohio, said students entering political fields must pay their dues by aiding other campaigns or becoming activists.

“You can’t just start at the top,” she said. “Don’t feel that something is owed to you.”

Emanuel Cleaver, chairman of the Congressional Black Caucus, received wild cheers after he suggested that students in the audience were broke and had nothing to lose.

“That’s why we need you,” he said. “We need broke people to come out and change America. You can change America. You are America. You are the young black men and women who have historically built this nation.”

McNeill: 704-358-5298
Court Rulings Help Illegal Immigrants’ College-Bound Children

By JULIA PRESTON

Several states with financial difficulties have moved quietly in recent years to reduce spending on college education by denying low tuition rates and financial aid to American citizens who are the children of illegal immigrants.

But in separate decisions over the past month, courts in New Jersey and Florida have rebuffed those efforts, adding new limits to the measures state officials can take to crack down on illegal immigrants by denying benefits to them and their families.

The latest ruling came on Friday from a federal court in Florida, which threw out state regulations defining American children of parents without legal immigration status as out-of-state residents, ineligible for tuition breaks given to state residents at public colleges and universities. Tuition for out-of-state students can be as much as three times as high as the rate for residents.

The five students who brought the lawsuit against Florida education officials were born in this country. They had been living in Florida for most or all of their lives and had graduated from public high schools there.

One student, Noel Saucedo, was born in Florida in 1991 and graduated from a high school there in 2010. But according to the suit, he was not even able to complete his application to Florida International University, one of the leading four-year schools in the state system, because he could not provide proof that his parents were legal residents of the United States.

Mr. Saucedo was offered a full scholarship to Miami Dade College, a two-year school, the lawsuit said. But when he could not show that his parents had legal immigration status, he was deemed to be an out-of-state resident. His scholarship was reduced and his tuition was raised, so he could not afford to go to college full time.

Florida’s regulations were adopted in 2010 and 2011, with the most recent coming under Gov. Rick Scott, a Republican who took office in January of last year.

In a broad decision, Judge K. Michael Moore of Federal District Court in Miami found the regulations unconstitutional because they “create a second-
tier status of U.S. citizenship,” by denying benefits to the students in the lawsuit that were freely available to other Americans.

The policy “does not advance any legitimate state interest,” the judge wrote, while it hindered Florida’s goal of “furthering educational opportunities for its own residents.” The lawsuit was brought by the Southern Poverty Law Center in Montgomery, Ala.

Policies to deny college assistance to American children of illegal-immigrant parents build on efforts by many states to deny aid to immigrant students who themselves are here illegally. But they have attracted far less attention than other state immigration laws, even though they affect thousands of Americans in Florida alone.

“Legally, the issue is straightforward,” said Michael A. Olivas, a professor of immigration and education law at the University of Houston. “These children are citizens. These are not kids whose status is at issue at all. The provisions are struck down on plain vanilla equal-protection grounds.”

Lawyers said many American students had been reluctant to challenge the policies for fear of exposing their parents to the possibility of deportation.

That was the situation of an American student, now 18, who brought a challenge anonymously, under the initials A. Z., to financial aid laws in New Jersey. A. Z. had been living in the state with her mother, an illegal immigrant from Guatemala, since 1997. After graduating from high school with honors, she was accepted at a four-year state college, according to Alexander Shalom, a lawyer for the American Civil Liberties Union who helped bring the lawsuit.

A. Z. applied for state financial aid based on her mother’s yearly income of $4,950. Her application was denied by New Jersey education officials “because your parents are not legal residents,” they wrote, under a policy put in effect in 2005.

In a ruling on Aug. 8, a New Jersey state appeals court rejected that decision. “She is a citizen,” three justices found, adding that the record clearly showed that A. Z. had also shown “lengthy and continuous residence” in New Jersey.

“She is a citizen being denied rights and privileges because of who her parent is,” Mr. Shalom said. “We think that’s decidedly un-American.” She plans to reapply for the aid next year, he said.

In California, state officials agreed in 2007 to settle a similar lawsuit, putting an end to policies there that denied residency to American students with parents in the country illegally.