Nathan Henry, assistant state archaeologist with the N.C. Department of Cultural Resources, holds one of the artifacts recovered during the first week of the fall dive expedition at the Queen Anne's Revenge shipwreck. The artifact is believed to be a shackle used as rigging or leg iron. Jannette Pippin/The Daily News

Artifacts found during QAR dive
JANETTE PIPPIN - DAILY NEWS STAFF

FORT MACON — The raising of a cannon is planned as part of a fall dive expedition now under way at the Queen Anne’s Revenge shipwreck site off the Carteret County coast, but recent excitement has been over an artifact much, much smaller.

Now in its second week of the four-week dive, the N.C. Department of Cultural Resources archaeologists closed out the first week with an artifact recovered Friday of a small lid that appears to go to the set of seven bronze nesting weight cups recovered from the shipwreck in 2007.

The set of graduated, cup-shaped weights that fit inside of each other have already gone through the conservation process and are on display as part of the largest exhibit of artifacts from the shipwreck considered to be the flagship of the infamous pirate Blackbeard.
The exhibit is located at the North Carolina Maritime Museum in Beaufort, which is the official repository for the QAR project.

David Moore, curator of nautical archaeology for the Maritime Museum, said the artifact was located about 20 feet from where the nesting weights were originally found.

“I would be surprised if it’s not (the lid),” he said.

Having the lid would help to complete the set, which was missing the lid and its smallest weight when it was found.

Moore said the smallest of finds make a big impact when it comes to piecing together the story of the Queen Anne’s Revenge.

“The small, seemingly insignificant artifacts all play a part,” Moore said. “All the artifacts give us a little bit of the story and enable us to put together this 3-D jigsaw puzzle.”

The nesting weight cups could have been used for measuring medicine or gold dust.

The recovery of the likely lid for the weight set came as East Carolina University students Laurel Seaborn and Rob Minford worked the dredge and sluice box used in separating tiny artifacts from sediment from the shipwreck site.

Students with ECU’s maritime studies program and a student from the Winterthur/University of Delaware Program in Art Conservation are participating in the dive expedition.

“Part of what we’re doing is education,” said Nathan Henry, assistant state archaeologist.

Also recovered this week was an artifact believed to be a shackle from the ship.

“It’s definitely a shackle, but we don’t know if it was used for rigging or possibly as part of the slave trade,” Henry said.

A leg iron would be indicative of the slave trade that is part of the ship’s history. Before being taken over by Blackbeard, Queen Anne’s Revenge was the slave ship La Concorde.

Rough seas from a passing storm will keep divers on land this week but when they return to the water recovery efforts will continue as well as preparation for raising one of the larger cannons from the site, which is expected to take place Oct. 26.
The Queen Anne’s Revenge Project is a coordinated undertaking involving a number of individuals, organizations and institutions under the overall management of the North Carolina Department of Cultural Resources. Partners in the project include East Carolina University, NOAA’s Office of National Marine Sanctuaries and National Marine Sanctuary, N.C. Division of Marine Fisheries, N.C. State Ports, Town of Beaufort, and Friends of the Queen Anne’s Revenge.

For more information on the QAR project, visit the website at qaronline.org. Updates on the fall expedition will be posted on Facebook at Blackbeard’s – Queen Anne’s Revenge.
ECU's waiting game continues
By Nathan Summers
The Daily Reflector
Thursday, October 13, 2011

Terry Holland has been gainfully employed since his childhood working in the family store in Clinton after school.

The East Carolina University director of athletics and former University of Virginia men’s basketball coach and administrator can’t help but feel like an expectant job applicant this week, however, as he and other ADs wait to hear if the Big East Conference will make East Carolina one of the six schools expected to be asked to join.

Holland thinks ECU is perfect for the job, which for the Pirate football team would mean membership in the Bowl Championship Series and its immeasurable benefits, most notably a chance at automatic qualification into the BCS bowl games.

The Big East appears poised to announce its choices at any moment, but Holland is still playing the waiting game.
“You have worked hard to present what you believe is a stronger resume than that of the other job applicants, but now you wonder if the employer values the same things that you value — passionate fan base, attendance that exceeds all other candidates by more than 10,000 per game (60,000 per season), excellent television ratings in major markets compared with ACC schools in their home markets, highly-ranked in licensed product sales, best game day atmosphere of a non-(automatic-qualifier) BCS school,” Holland said on Wednesday.

Since the Big East learned last month that long-standing members Syracuse and Pittsburgh were leaving the league to join the Atlantic Coast Conference, the college sports world has buzzed with dozens of possibilities about which school might land in which conference.

Holland and ECU applied for what were two Big East vacancies at the time, but this week the league announced it was seeking up to six new members. On the same day, TCU — which was seemingly set to leave the Mountain West to join the Big East — announced it was accepting a bid to join the Big 12.

The Pirates may or may not get to take the conference leap they’ve long been seeking. Numerous reports include one out of Orlando that fellow Conference USA member Central Florida was grooming itself for a move to the Big East, a move that could reportedly come with a $7 million exit fee from C-USA.

If ECU faced a similar fee, Holland suggested it would be worth the price, especially with a bit of haggling.

“That could become a factor but I believe that C-USA would work with any of its schools as they have done in previous circumstances,” Holland said, referring to exit fees assessed to previous C-USA members on their way out of the league.

One scenario that hasn’t changed for Holland in the weeks of speculation on expansion is that if ECU is not asked to join the Big East, the best bet is very likely a potential merger between C-USA and the Mountain West, but the AD now in his seventh year in Greenville said even a merger could be sweetened by the Big East.
“There are no other current options but we are always open to and looking for opportunities,” Holland said of what might lie beyond the Big East for the Pirates. “It is hard to come up with a merger that is stronger (than the possible meshing of C-USA and the MWC) unless the remaining Big East institutions join the merger or vice versa. Joining forces is the option we think is the best for all concerned but that would be up to the Big East and C-USA to find the common ground necessary to make it work.”

For weeks, the military academies have been viewed as potential front-runners to fill at least one or two of the Big East spots, and despite some speculation to the contrary, the Star-Ledger in Newark, N.J., reported Navy was interested in joining the league as a football-only member, but wanted assurance from the six remaining football members (Cincinnati, Connecticut, Louisville, Rutgers, South Florida and West Virginia) that they would remain in the conference.

It was perhaps just more proof for Holland that no one will know anything until the Big East renders an official decision.

“There is no timeline as far as we can tell,” he said. “Technically, the Big East has eight members for another 27 months but they cannot wait that long since new institutions would have to work out their separation agreements with their own conferences.”

Contact Nathan Summers at nsummers@reflector.com or 252-329-9595.
Your Oct. 10 editorial on amending the state Constitution to ensure that all proceeds from the lottery are handcuffed into spending solely for education is interesting, but misguided. Let’s take a closer look at the mess our leaders have gotten our poor state into.

First of all, North Carolina is more than $3.6 billion in debt with no foreseeable way of paying it off. When times are good, education grabs all it possibly can. When times are bad, it screams the loudest, like any union would, when the necessary cuts must come. And it gets unbelievable support from our friends in the liberal media. It’s becoming obvious to me that education needs another haircut to even come close to sharing the hardships that most of the state is going through.

Here is the total budget for North Carolina this year including capital spending, education, reserves and debt service: $18,430,761,466 or more than $18 billion.

Community colleges receive $985 million. The University of North Carolina system receives $2,540,375,132. Public schools receive $7,464,492,057. The subtotal of which is $10,989,867,189 or, as a percentage of the budget total, 59.6 percent.

Do the majority of readers think that a state that’s broke, with a higher tax rate than the national average, should be spending 60 percent of its budget on education? How many think we should be spending more? How about the product education is turning out. I believe it’s about the same as when we were spending $6 billion. Lord, help us out of this mess.

The figures quoted above were supplied by the John Locke Foundation in Raleigh, but do not include the sizable funds provided by the federal government, which are currently not available.

RHETT HONEYCUTT
Greenville
Pirates hoping to build on success
By Tony Castleberry
The Daily Reflector
Thursday, October 13, 2011

Don’t accuse East Carolina men’s basketball coach Jeff Lebo and his players of not paying attention to preseason predictions.

While it’s become common for coaches to say they don’t put much stock in ranking teams before they’ve even had an official practice, it was clear during ECU media day on Wednesday that Lebo’s club being picked to finish at or near the bottom of Conference USA might’ve struck a nerve for the Pirates.

“I just got back from Dallas for Conference USA media day,” Lebo said at the Murphy Center. “I didn’t see officially where we were picked (but) I saw a whole lot of magazines where we were picked preseason anywhere from 10 in the league to last. Our kids have read that, and we obviously feel that we are better than that.”

Lebo, whose debut season at East Carolina last year featured an 18-16 overall record and a postseason appearance for the first time in 18 years, led the Pirates to an 8-8 league mark last season, good enough for a tie for seventh place, which is ECU’s best finish ever in C-USA.

To improve upon that success, Lebo will have to find a way to replace the loss of two starters — leading scorer Jontae Sherrod and swingman Jamar Abrams — as well as 2011 C-USA Sixth Man of the Year, point guard
Brock Young. All three exhausted their eligibility last season, but the cupboard is not exactly bare.

Forward Darrius Morrow is back for what could be a scintillating senior season if the 6-foot-8, 245-pounder can carry over his stellar play from the second half of last season to this one, which begins in earnest with Friday’s first practice. Morrow’s averages of 13 points and 6.3 rebounds per game don’t tell the story of how unstoppable he was at times after shedding almost 30 pounds. Morrow finished the season with four consecutive double-doubles and earned a spot on C-USA’s All-Tournament team after leading the Pirates to victories over Central Florida and top-seeded Alabama-Birmingham — ECU’s first-ever C-USA tourney triumphs.

“We’re just going to build off what we did last year,” said Morrow, the team’s only four-year senior. “We’ve got high expectations on being one of the upper echelon teams in the conference at the end of the season.”

Also back for the Pirates are junior backcourt mates Corvonn Gaines (6-4) and Erin Straughn (6-6), who each started 33 of ECU’s 34 games last season and should provide stability at the point and shooting guard positions. Sophomore forward Robert Sampson (6-8) added 15 pounds of muscle in the offseason and could challenge for a starting spot.

After sitting out last season following a transfer from Missouri, junior point guard Miguel Paul (6-3) brings his lightning quickness to the backcourt and junior college transfers Shamarr Bowden (6-4 guard) and Maurice Kemp (6-8 forward) could earn considerable playing time as well.

Contact Tony Castleberry at tcastleberry@reflector.com or 252-329-9591.
Something that made Woody Durham a great sports broadcaster — besides his distinct voice of course — is one of the things he’s going to miss the least now that he’s retired.

Durham, who called North Carolina men’s basketball and football games for 40 years and was the guest speaker at Wednesday’s Greater Greenville Sports Club meeting, said preparing for gameday broadcasts played a vital role in his success, but it also took a lot out of him.

“I get the question all the time, ‘Do I miss it?’ Yes, you don’t do anything like that for 40 years and not miss it,” said Durham, a UNC graduate who officially stepped away from the microphone six months ago. “But I will tell you this in all honesty, I do not miss the preparation it took to get ready to do those games.”

Durham, who became known as the “Voice of the Tar Heels” during his long, storied career, regaled the Hilton Greenville audience with vivid recollections from his time spent with Carolina’s hoops and gridiron squads.
Of the 1,805 games he called from 1971-2011, Durham worked 23 bowl games, 13 Final Fours and four national championship contests.

The Mebane native saw firsthand the rising career arcs of former Tar Heel stars from Bobby Jones to Michael Jordan to Vince Carter and worked closely with legendary coach Dean Smith, who Durham still visits regularly as the coach continues to battle Alzheimer’s disease.

Durham also heaped praise on former Tar Heel and current East Carolina men’s hoops coach Jeff Lebo.

“You all are so fortunate to have him here in Greenville,” Durham said as the crowd applauded. “He’ll be successful. That’s the great thing you have to look forward to.”

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Facebook post gets college student banned

HICKORY -- A Catawba Valley Community College student was unhappy when he received a credit card offer -- an unwanted offer that he says was the fault of the school.

So, according to WCNC-TV, the student went on Facebook and vented his unhappiness. The school responded by suspending him and banning him from the campus, WCNC is reporting.

The student, Marc Bechtol, has been told he can attend classes today, but he isn't sure if the suspension has been lifted.

Bechtol says it started when he received Catawba Valley Community College's branded debit card, which doubles as student ID. Bechtol says he needed to activate the card to get his college grant money.

The next day, Bechtol told WCNC, he received a credit card offer, at the same email address where he receives Catawba Valley Community College messages. So he went to Facebook.

"Anyone else's inbox full of spam today?" Bechtol wrote on Facebook. "I wonder if they'd like it if we register them with every porn site known to man. Anyone know of any good viruses we could send them?"

He immediately added this post, "OK, maybe that would be a bit excessive."

But the college sent Bechtol a letter, informing him of the suspension and telling him he was banned from campus, according to WCNC. "They even threatened to have me arrested while leaving," he added.

The Foundation for Individual Rights in Education joined the fight, telling the school that it violated Bechtol's protected speech rights. The college then told Bechtol he could attend classes today.

Catawba Valley Community College told WCNC it is investigating the matter and cannot comment.

WCNC's story: bit.ly/mQv6Q1
Bethany Imondi, a junior at Georgetown University, cooks meals in the on campus apartment she shares with roommates, Saturday, September 17, 2011.

**Washington Cooks: The college kitcheneer**

By Bonnie S. Benwick

Even with enlightened meal plans that bring sustainable, organic, ethnic and vegan choices to the dining hall, college students end up facing the same constraints as other weeknight cooks of all stripes: limited time and a tight budget.

This year, Georgetown University junior Bethany Imondi graduated from a dorm room to an apartment on campus, with three roommates and a kitchen that had no microwave.

“Can you imagine?” she asks while giving a sweep-of-the-hand tour of the unadorned common space. “You don’t realize how much you need a microwave! For college students, it’s an essential thing: for making oatmeal, melting butter, for steamer bags of frozen vegetables. We had to get one of our own.”
Imondi belongs to that subset of achievers who rise early and go full-steam all day. The 19-year-old Rhode Island native will spend seven or eight hours in class (double major: English and government) and studying, plus one or two hours on extracurricular activities. She works part-time in the MBA program office and at a yoga studio in Georgetown. And though her diminutive frame might suggest otherwise, Imondi loves to cook and loves to eat: “At a party, I take three or four servings of everything,” she says. “Everybody asks me where I put it.”

She doesn’t care much for ramen noodles, those crinkled platforms of cheap, effortless cuisine, preferring to roast a sweet potato, assemble quesadillas or boil pasta for dinner. Lunch is a turkey sandwich or yogurt with fruit. Breakfast is usually a bowl of cereal or oatmeal. In her designated cupboard on this fall afternoon: ground cinnamon, chili powder, garlic powder, dried rosemary, bouillon cubes, balsamic vinegar, peach butter, sun-dried tomatoes, oatmeal, dried pastas, Nutella, Luna power bars. Mindful of cost, she says she’s not a big meat eater.

“I may do risotto for a dinner party,” Imondi says, her enthusiasm ramping up. “I really, really like salmon. I use dried bread crumbs and dried oregano to coat it, then bake it in the oven.” Her friends rotate evening meal duties among their small group.

Following food blogs such as Serious Eats, CHOW and Smitten Kitchen led her to answer a call over the summer for collegiate contributors to BigGirlsSmallKitchen.com, whose Brooklyn-based co-founders, Phoebe Lapine and Cara Eisenpress, were looking to expand options for their 20-something demographic.

“Bethany has good ideas,” Eisenpress says, citing Imondi’s posts as some of the most-viewed among their Small Kitchen College writers. “She did a guide to reinventing childhood classics like mozzarella sticks. For her ‘Portion Control Dilemma’ piece, she reached out to interview nutritionists and put together something useful for students.”

As Imondi stirs a sauce for baked mac and cheese, roommate Kate Dylewsky, 20, surveys the stove top on her way out. “I don’t cook ‘gourmet.’ And by that I mean I don’t put onions in my mac and cheese like Bethany does,” she says. “I make Kraft!” Imondi says college kids are more into baking than cooking; she’d rather do the latter.

With her mac and cheese in the oven, the cook preps ingredients for her favorite salad, which reminds her to mention the new, six-week, 11-vendor farmers market held Wednesday afternoons in front of Healy Hall. Imondi
would like its customer base to stay strong; the fall market, whose season ends today, is underwritten by student-run groups at GU and managed by students. “I love fresh produce. This makes it so much easier than getting up to the [Georgetown] Safeway,” she says.

Her lightweight plastic-handled knife, from a set her mother won, ka-chinks against a textured-glass cutting board. Cherry tomatoes, basil, baguette and mozzarella are dispatched with care. Utensils, pots and pans are few in number, the kind you wouldn’t mind leaving behind by senior year.

Imondi’s kitchen skills date to high school days, when her mom asked her two daughters to help get weeknight meals on the table. “When I started cooking, I was all about sticking to recipes. Now I’ve learned to tailor them. If I don’t have spices or something else on hand, I’ll leave them out or use what I do have.”

She learned to rub cut garlic on bread in Florence, when she lived with an Italian family during her study abroad last spring. That was about the extent of any cucina lessons, however. “It was fun watching this Italian mama. She made it look so easy. But she moved too fast and didn’t measure a thing,” Imondi says. “We ate a different second course every night: veal, turkey, chicken, rabbit.”

Soon, the room-filling scent of cut basil and roasted tomatoes signals that the salad is ready to come together, except Imondi can find no receptacle large enough to handle the job. At a moment of impasse, neighbors from across the path in Village A walk by Imondi’s open door.

She darts out: “Hey, do you have a bowl I could borrow?”

A minute or two later, her roasted caprese panzanella is ready for sampling and for its close-up.

“See,” she says. “It always really works out. So dig in.”

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