

THE BRUNSWICK BEACON

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Practical Solution Proposed For Piers

It happens every summer: pier fishermen complain that the fishing boats are coming in too close to their lines.

A system of marking the 750 foot protected fishing area from fishing piers has been proposed and is the subject of a public hearing scheduled today (Thursday) before the Marine Fisheries Commission in Beaufort.

The measure is expected to pass, which is good. It's a proposal that could satisfy fishermen both on the piers and in the water.

Fishing pier owners would be required to mark the area by setting yellow buoys in the water and beach markers on the strand on both sides of the pier.

With such markers in place, net and boat fishermen will have no reason (or excuse) to inadvertently come in "too close."

Calendar Of Events

Thursday, Aug. 15

PUBLIC HEARING sponsored by the Marine Fisheries Commission at the Duke University Marine Lab, Beaufort, to hear comments on proposed menhaden, channel net and pier marker regulations, 9 a.m.

BRUNSWICK COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS meets briefly to approve a bond refinancing order for publication, Brunswick County Government Center, 12 noon.

HURRICANES ON THE COAST, a slide program on the impact of hurricanes on various types of coastal development, and a 30-minute black and white film on Hurricane Hazel with footage of Long Beach will be shown at the Long Beach Recreation Center, 30th Street SE, 7:30 p.m.

BRUNSWICK COUNTY BOARD OF EDUCATION meets in special session at the Southport conference room, 7:30 p.m.

GAME NIGHT at the American Legion Hut, one mile south of Shallotte on U.S. 17, 7:30 p.m.

Friday, Aug. 16

N.C. MARINE FISHERIES COMMISSION business session at the Duke University Marine Lab, Beaufort, to act on items presented for public hearing on Aug. 15, 9 a.m.

GAME NIGHT at the Sunset Beach Volunteer Fire Department, 8 p.m.

Saturday, Aug. 17

TOWN CREEK Volunteer Rescue Squad sells shrimp plates for \$4 each, with a bake sale, at the station, located on U.S. 17 at the intersection with N.C. 87 south in Winnabow, starts at 11 a.m.

CHARITY GOLF TOURNAMENT sponsored by the Knights of Columbus, Charles Tilghman Council at Carolina Shores Golf & Country Club to benefit Sea Haven Youth Care Home and Mercy Hospice of Horry County, 1:30 p.m. Entry forms available at all pro shops in the area.

CHAPTER 36 Special Forces Association, meets at the Boiling Spring Lakes VFW Building, 1:30 p.m.

GAME NIGHT at the Calabash Volunteer Fire Department, 8 p.m.

Monday, Aug. 19

BRUNSWICK COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS meet in regular session in their chambers, Brunswick County Government Center, 6:30 p.m.

Tuesday, Aug. 20

HOLDEN BEACH COMMUNITY WATCH will discuss hurricane evacuation and police report at a business meeting at the town hall, 10 a.m.

Wednesday, Aug. 21

BRUNSWICK TOASTMASTERS meet for breakfast at the Ship's Chandler Restaurant, Southport, 7 a.m.-8 a.m. Visitors and prospective members welcome.

SHALLOTTE ALDERMEN meet at the town hall in regular session, 7:30 p.m.

BRUNSWICK COUNTY PLANNING BOARD meets in the Planning Building, Brunswick County Government Center, 7:30 p.m.

LETTER TO THE EDITOR

Sell Out, Not Fall Out Is Threat To America

To the editor:

The incomparable and former American Party presidential candidate, Tom Anderson, said it: "The threat to America today isn't from fall out, it's sell out."

While our leaders wring their hands and appear powerless to respond, the murder of American citizens by Communist thugs has become almost a daily occurrence.

Vice President George Bush has expressed shocked surprise and disbelief that anyone could be so evil as to kill innocent civilians including women and children. One wonders where C.F.R. and Trilateralist member George Bush has been hiding all these years. Apparently he hasn't read a recent wire service report revealing: "Soviet armored units killed more than 1,000 men, women and children in attacks on a dozen villages in Afghanistan." Those armored vehicles were produced with American tax dollars and

technology, incidentally.

Meanwhile everything is just peachy and it's business as usual as C.F.R. member and U.S. Commerce Secretary, Malcolm Baldrige, hastens to sign an agreement "resuming agricultural cooperation with the Soviets" and promises to "speed up permits for exporting high technology to the Red Chinese."

And Secretary of State George Shultz (C.F.R. and Trilateral Commission) jokes with and toasts a scowling Andrei Gromyko (Jimmy Carter kissed them on their cheeks). And the White House solemnly warns our adversaries that we'll honor those treaties even as the Communists boast they'll ignore them. How's that for a blueprint for defeat?

Well founded rumor has it that our government will issue a "new currency" in the near future. Rubles maybe?

Lynn Batson
Wilmington

Kid For A Day? You Bet!

Horror tales of cracked bones, skinned shins and close hairline shaves had kept me out of the tubes, ensconced safely behind the lens of a camera as friends splash-landed.

Today would be different. Today I would slide my first time—and possibly my last.

Throughout the entire week, I had mumbled under my breath, "I'll take a book and read while the others slide. I'll wear my swimsuit underneath my clothes, though, for the flume ride."

But when the morning came bravado took hold. I was waiting near the head of the line when the slide opened, confidently plunking down the cash for a full day, not just an hour.



Susan Usher

"Miss Susan, I thought you weren't going to slide!" one of the girls in the group said, just a little surprised.

"Oh, I thought I'd try it," came the casual reply. "After all, I just turned 32 and I've never been on a water slide. That's embarrassing. I'll soon be too old and too scared to try."

That first slide was history in a matter of seconds. It took longer to

climb the hill than to come swooshing down the "slowest" tube, a winding ride that gradually sloped toward a highly-chlorinated pool. I sat rigid, gripping the mat tightly with both hands, and let the attendant push me off and away.

Around me, on other slides, youngsters were sliding feet-first backwards, cross-legged, pop-and-child together. Some even spun around as they swooshed down the tubes.

Soon I was slithering down the fastest chute, face first, lying flat for a faster ride, grinning like a 10-year-old. Sliding was a blast!

To think of having missed this for years.

And I wasn't the only "senior

citizen" on the tubes. One set of grownups had brought the grandchildren along and were keeping up slide for slide the first several hours. Grandma and Grandpa bowed out only when the walk uphill became too demanding. The man was 68 and he said he thought sliding was as good as anything he'd played at as a child.

It was a good way to spend the day. But for several hours, I forgot to reapply the sunscreen so carefully smeared on before leaving home. Afternoon was too, too late.

I've paid and paid again for that day's fun—my nose is peeling for the second time and my shoulders have all the texture of dried snakeskin.

Hey, but it was worth it to be a kid for a day.

Putting 'Squeeze' On Students Debated

Under a plan approved by the Brunswick County Board of Education last week, seventh and eighth grade students will be allowed to take a wide variety of new 12-week "exploratory courses" next year. But are the classes necessarily good for the students?

One board member believes not. Doug Baxley of Tarheeland Acres believes the classroom schedule has been "squeezed" enough to make room for additional classes, such as French, band, etc. He voted against



Terry Pope

adding the exploratory courses last week based on that reasoning.

Baxley may have been the only board member to realize right away

that a problem may already exist in the classroom schedule for middle school students. His point was well expressed and well taken—that devoting just 45 minutes a day to language arts may not be enough.

After Baxley explained his position against adopting the "exploratory classes," board member James Clemmons may have also realized that middle school schedules may need further study, for afterwards he did not seem quite as confident in keeping his motion on the floor to ap-

prove the plan.

Assistant Superintendent Ed Lemon said the new courses will allow students to explore other subjects at a time when they should be considering career choices. He added that offering the courses would not be making any changes in the current schedule, but would be offering more to the students during their third block of study.

It is the belief of some board members that the time used to offer the exploratory courses should instead be devoted to math, English or social studies, that those subjects should be strengthened before getting into rocketry, calligraphy, animal anatomy, video production or photography. It is the standard "back to basics" approach.

"I think the guts of your education should not be squeezed timewise," Baxley said. He noted that adding new courses to an already busy schedule could result in "the perils of trying to do too much."

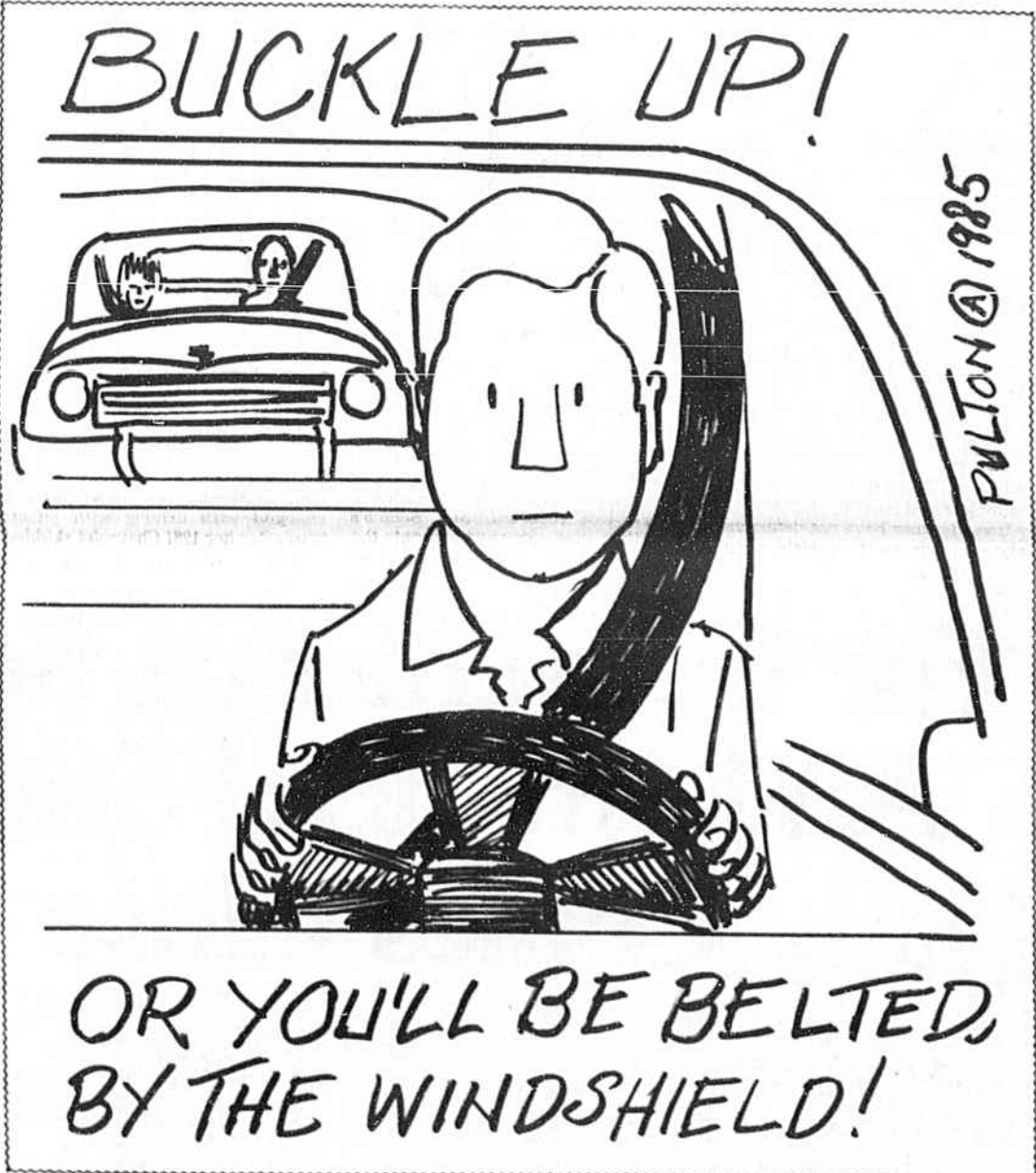
"I'm not sure if the idea of squeezing English down is necessarily a good concept," Baxley added. It was noted that adding the programs would not affect the current schedules as they already exist.

All middle school students are scheduled for three, two-hour blocks of classroom instruction, including a language arts-social studies block, a math-sciences block and a period for band or physical education, occupational education and a health-related course.

That calculates out to 45 minutes each for English, or language arts, math, science and band or physical education. For students taking French, 30 minutes of their language arts period is used for that class each week.

The new courses would be used to give students who do not want to take band, O.E. or P.E. a variety of classroom offerings. As always, there are two sides to the issue, one side that believes there are already too many courses and another side that believes variety would enhance the class offerings. Teachers who are able to teach such courses as rocketry and animal anatomy should be able to introduce the subjects to their students during the regular math-sciences block.

"Even gifted children can be squeezed too much," added board member Jane Causey. "I see evidence of that."



In Memory Of The Scot Settlers

In May 1965, the North Carolina General Assembly named an official state seashell "in memory of the early Scotch settlers in this state. This action made North Carolina the first state to designate an official state seashell. The Scotch Bonnet was the shell chosen for the honor.

Scotch Bonnets are fairly large, ovate, strong shells with a series of uniformly arranged brown, squarish markings on their cream to white color. They belong to the family Cassidae, which claims about 70 living species of Bonnet and Helmet shells. Usually they are found in shallow, tropical waters. All members of this family have a broad, heavy shield adjoining the opening.

On the specimens we find along the beaches, the spots have often faded and they appear to be only a solid color. The dark grays and blacks of some shells are believed to be caused by the mineral content of the water and the age of the shells.

Scotch Bonnets range from North Carolina to Brazil and prefer to live on sandy bottoms in shallow water. They feed on sea urchins and sand dollars. Shells of the females are usually larger than the males. Egg capsules are laid in the shape of a tower or in clumps and are horny in appearance.

Pieces of shells are often found



Bill Faver

along the beaches, but complete specimens are found only occasionally, usually following a storm. Bonnets are more abundant along the

outer banks at Hatteras and Ocracoke and Cape Lookout areas. Even the broken pieces are unusual and unique and such pieces are carried into cameos in some areas of the world. Abandoned shells are quickly inhabited by the striped hermit crab and this may account for their scarcity.

Someone asked at one of the shell programs at Holden Beach several summers ago why such a scarce shell was named as our state seashell. Her feeling was that if you were going to

have a "state shell" it should be one that was abundant. Maybe so! Maybe it was more abundant at one time, for Emerson and Jacobsen, in *Guide to Shells*, writes, in discussing the designation of the Scotch Bonnet as the state shell, "This action has caused it to be overcollected for the souvenir market, much to the distress of the law's sponsors." As for me, I am pleased that this special shell was chosen "in memory of the Scot settlers" and that those that find them along our beaches have found a treasure worth keeping!



SCOTCH BONNET SHELLS are found only occasionally along the Brunswick County Beaches.

PHOTO BY BILL FAVER