

MORE LETTERS

Firefighters Are Thanked For Saving Family's Home

To the editor:

Our sincere thanks to all the many volunteer fire departments who responded and saved our house at 957 Ocean Boulevard West, Holden Beach, that was in peril the morning of Oct. 21.

How can we ever give enough praise or monetary contributions to these volunteers who are always ready to serve the citizens of Brunswick County.

Our hats are off to them for the fantastic job each of them did. Thanks a million.

John and Bonnie Miller
Lawrenceville, Va.

Good News, Bad News

To the editor:

I have good news and bad news.

First of all I want to say that throughout all of the organizations I

have joined in the Calabash area, I have never met such talented, energetic and fun-loving retirees.

The bad news: I find most people forgetting to put on their directional signals when driving—and I don't mean three feet before turning. Not only is this a safety factor, but it is the law and courtesy of the road. If I only had written this a few weeks ago as I intended, perhaps an accident involving two teenagers, one of whom was my grandson, may have been avoided.

Think about it, folks. The life you save may be your own or a loved one.

Also, yard sale signs bug me when they are not taken down after the sale—that goes ditto with the political signs.

We live in a lovely community; let's keep it that way.

Write Us

We welcome your letters to the editor. Letters must have an original signature and must include your address and telephone number. (This information is for verification purposes only; we will not publish your street/mailing address or phone number.) Letters must be typed or written legibly. Address letters to:

The Brunswick Beacon, P.O. Box 2558, Shallotte NC 28459.

Anonymous letters will not be published.

Mary Benes
Sunset Beach

What Change?

To the editor:

Retired Union Elementary School principal Clara Carter and now member of the County Board of Education is all eager to "walk the walk" to respond to the electors who "voted for change."

What change?

She said her initial emphasis would be to visit individual schools to determine the effectiveness of existing programs. If there is a more cogent proof that electing school administrators to the Board of Education is a conflict of interest, I wouldn't know what it is.

Who will visit the parents to obtain judgment about how effective educational programs are?

Besides, all the reports via the media for years and the urgency of Governor Hunt's creation of the N.C. Standards and Accountability Commission show that the programs are, academically at least, failures. Why does Carter need such personal extension of effort to discover the obvious?

And of course she repeats the politically correct item on the wish list of school administrators to "involve parents in their children's education." Why not require teachers, as I have suggested before, to submit to parents prior to each school year a synopsis of the courses of instruction, together with the intention

tions thereof, so that parents will know what is supposed to be going on in the schools?

And cut down on teacher requirements to submit reports to county and state administration and use that time to give comprehensive reports to parents?

And cut in some hot lines so parents can converse without formal appointments with administrators and board members?

The conscientious concern about children without reaching out to parents in communication, and the virtual exclusion of parents from the judgment of educational verity and effectiveness, destroys the proper role of public education in a free society and preps out children for Communism.

And parents elect administrators to the board? I don't get it at all!

Karl E. Brandt
Shallotte

Don't Blame Hunt

To the editor:

In the interest of accuracy, and in fairness to our esteemed governor, I feel obliged to offer a correction of one statement in your otherwise typically pertinent item concerning the Senior Tarheel Legislature in your Oct. 27 issue. The tardiness of this response is because I have recently returned from a visit to Florida—contender for the title of Second Best Haven State for Retirees (or anyone else).

The item included the mis-statement that "Ferlauto was appointed

by Gov. Jim Hunt to represent Brunswick County in the Senior Tarheel Legislature." Onus for selection of me as delegate for Brunswick County does not belong to the governor!

As prescribed in the act which established the Senior Tarheel Legislature, selection of delegates was assigned to the 18 State Areas on Aging by the Department of Human Relations, Division of Aging, in accordance with procedures set forth by that state department. Region O Area (Cape Fear Council of Governments) had this responsibility for Brunswick County, in addition to Columbus, New Hanover and Pender counties.

I pray that this information will not result in too many headaches for the responsible agencies. But, in any case, our governor is absolved.

Is any apology to him called for?
Joe Ferlauto
Ocean Isle Beach

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If It Really Happened...



Lynn
Carlson

their hips to a deafening party in a chilly firehouse when it would have been so much more peaceful to put them to bed and relax with a drink and a movie on the VCR.

I dreamed of Jean Louise "Scout" Finch in *To Kill A Mockingbird*, running through the autumn night in a ham costume, pursued by bitter, evil Ewell until Boo Radley comes to her rescue and delivers her gently back to her wise and cherishing father.

I dreamed of Nance Dude, who in mountain lore, in Maurice Stanley's book and in ghastly reality left her granddaughter to die in a cold mountain cave many years ago for reasons no one will ever really understand.

I dreamed of Kim Harding, the 17-year-old who shot her dad in the head as he napped on the couch after subjecting her to a lifetime of sexual brutality so horrific it couldn't be fully described on tabloid television shows.

I didn't dream of Alex and Michael Smith—not specifically.

Every mother is good at recognizing crocodile tears, and I saw them in Susan Smith on the news early the next week. "Don't judge her too soon," people said to one another. "What if she's just in shock? You have no idea what she's going through." No idea, indeed.

I took part in the nationwide gasp when savvy Sheriff Wells tersely delivered the news of her arrest at 6:35, as millions of us wives and mothers were stirring together their families' suppers and listening to the evening news.

I didn't spend too much time wondering why. When you make your living from news, and you have friends in criminal justice, you learn quickly that there's no comfort in the reasons: Lots of people are stupid. Lots of people are hateful. Lots of people are ignorant.

Some people would dispose of their children to keep from losing a boyfriend who found them bothersome.

Some people wouldn't think twice about saying a black man did it because lots of people would believe them.

Some people wouldn't dream of treating a yard dog as poorly as they treat their own flesh and blood.

I don't want Susan Smith to die—not at the hands of a mob and not by the decision of a jury. I want her to live to old age all alone in a small cell. Nothing will punish her worse than her memory.



Many thanks for your Vote
of Confidence & support by
re-electing me to serve as
County Commissioner District II

Sincerely
Jerry W. Jones

Paid for by Jerry Jones

From the bottom of our hearts, thanks for your overwhelming vote of confidence!



My family and I are grateful to all our friends and my supporters for electing me Sheriff of Brunswick County by such a wide margin. I will always treasure that endorsement and will do my best to measure up to your expectations.

To so many who worked so hard on my behalf during both the primary and general elections, I can never thank you enough.

Ronald E. Hewett

**Ronald E.
HEWETT**
★ SHERIFF

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