

**MORE LETTERS**

**Wear Your Red Ribbon**

To the editor:  
Who will win the war on drugs? We would like to say that we will, the good guys. But yet, how realistic is the picture? Are our kids armed enough to fight against substance abuse? Nowadays there are many efforts through various organizations which are pulling together to wage the war on drugs.

One of these such organizations that knows to reach out to young people is the Girl Scouts, an organization that is building an impressive campaign against addictive substance. In 1985, the Girl Scouts took an important first step in drug education with their *Tune Into Well-Being — Say No To Drugs* contemporary program issues. In 1988 the Girl Scouts launched an important initiative. Called *Fight Drugs*, this initiative offered Girl Scouts the opportunity to take an active role in this battle.

The *Fight Drugs* initiative focused on its youngest members, Brownies ages 6-8, to prevent drug and alcohol use and to empower young people everywhere to ask for help when confronted with pressure from their peers and the society in which they live. As one out of four girls aged 6-8 is a Brownie Girl Scout, the message impacts on Daisy and Brownie Girl Scouts, which number more than a million. These girls are leaders and role models in their communities because they are reaching out to their peers to prevent substance abuse.

For more than 78 years, Girl Scouting has provided a supportive environment—an environment that enables girls to develop their potential. Today, various programs that focus on alcohol, drug and tobacco abuse prevention are emphasizing strategies familiar to the Girl Scouts: increasing self-esteem and achievement, development of problem-solving and decision-making skills, making sure that children have the all-important coping skills in place—before they are needed and encouraging active cooperation between schools, families and communities.

It is time for us all to recognize the leadership position that Girl Scouts is taking in this deadly battle—to support the Girl Scouts in this nationwide campaign. Girl Scouts are joining with government groups, schools, parents, media and now the national Red Ribbon Week campaign for an enormous effort to end this horrifying threat to our youth. Working together we can curb the demand for alcohol and illegal drugs. Children's lives are hanging in the balance. We must not fail them.

During the week of October 21-27, Red Ribbon Week, we encourage you to wear your Red Ribbons in support of drug free America. The Girl Scout Council of Coastal Carolina, Inc. serves 13,000 girls and adults in 25 Eastern North Carolina counties and is a United Way Agency.

Vickie Poole  
Shallotte

**Great Role Model**

To the editor:  
In the educational field throughout Southeastern North Carolina, P. R. Hankins Jr.'s record speaks for itself. He has been a great asset to the school system, the community, and is a great role model for our young girls and boys.

Here's hoping his tenure as superintendent of Brunswick County schools will be his greatest endeavor.

Kenneth Bellamy  
Southport

**Flowers Are Beautiful**

To the editor:  
I would like for you to observe the beautiful flowers the Bobby Williamson family has in front of their business in mid-town Shallotte. They have been there since early spring and are still beautiful.

Thanks to them for making Shallotte more beautiful and I sincerely hope others will do the same in 1991, making Shallotte the most beautiful town in Brunswick County.

Ouida Hewett  
Shallotte



PHOTO BY BILL FAVER

**BIRDWATCHERS** joined other sports enthusiasts in spending billions of dollars on their interest last year.

**The Economics Of Birdwatching**

BY BILL FAVER

Have you ever noticed how almost every sport and outdoor activity has developed its own uniform? We expect to see football, basketball, and baseball players in their uniforms. We expect hunters to wear the colors that will conceal them and at the same time alert other hunters to their presence. Bicyclers, surfers, fishermen, sailors and a host of others have been prompted by the fashion promoters to wear certain clothing if they expect to be taken seriously about their sport. Birdwatchers or "birders" (some prefer that name) are no exception.

Actually all you really need to be a birdwatcher is an inquiring mind and some patience mixed in with a little curiosity. A bird guide will certainly help and a good pair of binoculars will help you see the birds that are farther away. Sometimes a spotting scope will bring in the birds you can't get near. For lazy folks, too, such a scope will make it possible to scan the beach or the waterway to see if the fall migrants have arrived as they head south.

These may be the basics. But birders have accumulated all kinds of "helps." We have books of all kinds, arranged in various ways, to help us identify

both birds and habitats, or "where to look." We have hats with emblems and camouflaged clothing with pockets for every kind of gadget. We have tapes playing calls to bring the birds to us and videotapes for learning about birds after we see them. We even have preferred 4-wheel drive vehicles which class us as serious (and also affluent) students of birds. Then there are all the backyard birding items—feeders, heated watering stations, suet bags, squirrel-proof poles, natural planting guides and materials.

Recently the magazine, *American Birds*, published an article based on a survey of one thousand active birders and their spending habits. These folks were participants in the Audubon Christmas Bird Count, so they may be more serious than some of the 61 million birdwatchers in our country. The survey found travel for the purpose of birding came to 2700 miles a year for each birdwatcher. In addition, each birder surveyed spent an average \$1852 per year for travel, accommodations, and products. The authors concluded the participants in the 1989 bird count spent \$79.6 million. If we apply the same rates for the total birding population, we can estimate birdwatchers contributed some \$112 billion dollars to the economy last year. Not bad!



PHOTO CONTRIBUTED

**Chamber Treats Volunteers**

Katherine Fisher (from left), Glenn Humbert and Terry Barbee chat at the South Brunswick Islands Chamber of Commerce annual Volunteer Appreciation Day, hosted recently by Village Pines Office Park in Shallotte. More than 100 persons who assisted the chamber during the past year attended.

**Boat Tips Off Lockwood Folly**

Rough seas caused a small boat to capsize off Lockwood Folly Inlet last Wednesday, sending one man to the hospital where he was treated for exposure.

The U.S. Coast Guard station at Oak Island dispatched three boats to the inlet, but the two men who were in the 15-foot johnboat when it overturned made it to shore on their own, said Petty Officer 2nd Class Jeff Blocker.

A woman called the guard station at 5:39 p.m. last Wednesday and said it appeared that a boat in the inlet was taking on water. Seas in the inlet were about eight feet high, and the breakers were 10 to 12 feet.

Blocker said a 41-foot Coast Guard boat was on its way to the inlet two or three minutes after the call, and a 19-foot rescue boat was dispatched a few minutes later.

The two men in the boat were apparently hanging onto a buoy in the

inlet but the current pushed them out into the breakers, where the boat capsized.

Shortly after the two Coast Guard boats arrived, Blocker said a third boat was sent. It was a 44-footer built to handle rough seas. Before that boat arrived, however, the two men had made it to the beach.

"We didn't have to make the rescue," Blocker said. "Thankfully, everybody made it to the shore OK."

The two men got out of the water at the east end of Holden Beach shortly after 7 p.m. "They were able to swim and the waves pushed them onto the beach," Blocker said.

One of the two men was taken to The Brunswick Hospital in Supply where he treated for mild hypothermia and released.

Blocker said he wasn't able to get the names of the boaters and didn't know whether or not they were fishing in the inlet.

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