

# Come on in, the water's fine!

*Ugu has declared the water in the Umzimkulu River safe, for those taking part in the upcoming the Bullslingers tube race next Saturday.*

HANNES VAN SCHALKWYK REPORTS.

**M**ORE than safe. In fact, some of our water purification staff are taking part in the race," says Brian Dube, spokesman for the Ugu District Municipality.

This comes after concerns had been raised as to the water quality of the Umzimkulu River in light of the forthcoming annual event. South Africa has been gripped by water pollution scares, as many cases have been reported countrywide.

However, Mr Dube explains that tests are conducted on a monthly basis by Umgeni, and bi-weekly by Ugu. Tests are sometimes done hourly! A set of samples will also be taken before the event.

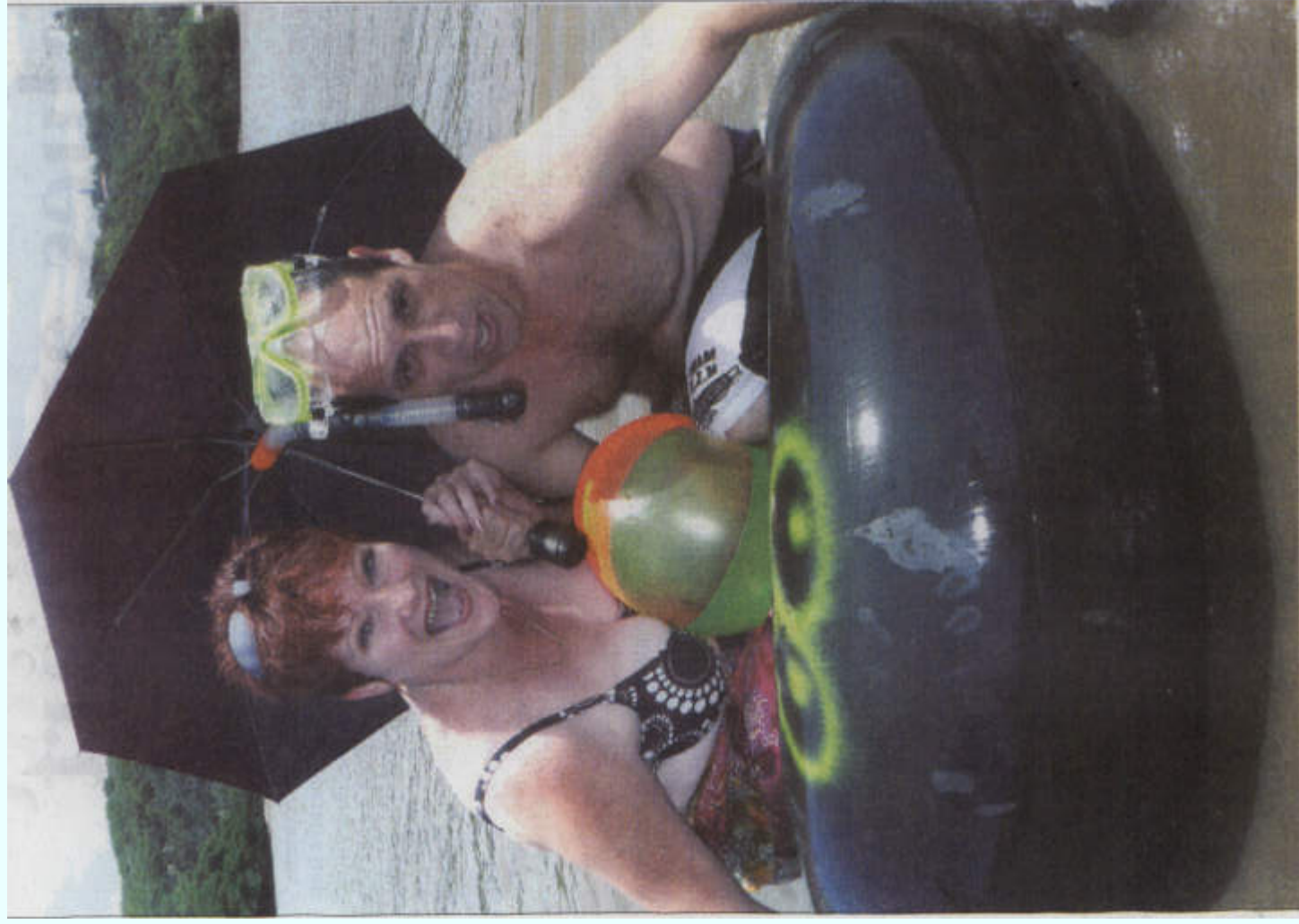
He went on to explain that Ugu is not the only testing body involved in water analysis. Umgeni water board's accredited lab has been utilised for benchmarking and accuracy purposes with regards to compliance testing.

The main causes for concern in South Africa has been water from burst sewerage pipes flowing into rivers.

But as for the Umzimkulu, Ugu says that there is no evidence of sewerage pollution, and that the river is a very clean stream which also serves as one of Ugu's water sources.

As for rural communities using the river for ablution purposes, Mr Dube says that there are a few communities which reside along the river. However, during the 55 years that the plant has been operational, there has not been any threat posed.

"The risk is minimal, to none. Through awareness, the communities have gained even more responsibility and accountability with regard to the stream. They clearly understand that they cannot disrupt services they need."



**Splashy fest:** Janine Weber and Michael Dodkins plot their paddling strategy for the upcoming Bullslingers' tube race which takes place on Saturday, February 16. For more details contact 076 977 3883.

P1100531



## Splashy times:

Youngsters, (from left), Lindo Mhabathi, Nkululeko Dlezi and Kaylan Marais, with Francine Kido in front, test the waters for the upcoming Bullslingers' tube race.

P1100524

