



Sports

South Brunswick travels to Whiteville Friday in search of 3rd conference win -- 1C

# The State Port PILOT

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## Road, school bonds

### Elementary, middle school construction

By Holly Edwards  
Feature Editor

A new elementary school, a new middle school, an additional 13 miles of paved road surface and the expedited construction of the Wilmington Outer Loop would be the primary benefits to Brunswick County if school construction and highway bond referenda are approved in the November 5 election.

That's the consensus reached by community leaders who gathered Tuesday evening at Supply Elementary School to kick-off a countywide campaign in support of

See Bonds, page 10

## A-D-M tax value question

By Terry Pope  
County Editor

A tax consultant has been hired by Brunswick County to study the dispute over property valuations at the Archer-Daniels-Midland Corp. plant near Southport.

ADM doesn't agree with the Brunswick County Tax Department's assessment of taxes due on the citric acid plant and has filed for a hearing before the N. C. Property Tax Commission. The county estimated ADM's real property assessed value for 1995 at more than \$19 million while ADM officials claim it is closer to \$13 million.

The company did agree on personal property values assessed by the county and, in the midst of the dispute, have paid 1994 taxes due. The company has filed a complaint for the 1995-96 tax years, prompting county commissioners to hire Thomas A. Tinker and Associates of Lexington, KY, to review figures before the dispute heads to the state commission.

"If someone with expertise in ap- See Question, page 6"

## MACKEREL TOURNAMENT



The Easy Times family fishing team of Yaupon Beach were winners of the 1996 U. S. Open King Mackerel Tournament and combined top prizes of \$40,885 awarded Saturday. Posing with the winning 37.75-pound king mackerel are (from left) grandson Wally Trayah, brothers James and Charles Wilson Jr. and father and grandfather Charles Wilson Sr. of Yaupon Beach.

Photo by Jim Harper

## Locals finish one-two in U. S. Open fishing

By Richard Nubel  
Municipal Editor

Nearly \$51,000 of the more than \$100,000 awarded at the 1996 U. S. Open King Mackerel Tournament Saturday will stay home in Southport-Oak Island.

Charlie Wilson of Yaupon Beach and Donnie Potter of Southport led the local assault on the Cape Fear kingfish population, bringing home first and second prizes, respectively.

For Wilson, owner of Oak Island Sporting Goods, the U. S. Open was a family affair. Fishing with him aboard

### Results, 6C

Easy Times were his sons Charlie and James and grandson Wally Trayah.

Wilson says the winning catch

was taken off Shallotte Inlet around 9 a.m. Saturday.

"We knew we had a money fish and we felt like it would beat the one on Friday," Wilson recalled as the 37.75-pounder was pulled into the boat. "So, as soon as we got it in the boat we headed in."

Just before the winner struck one of the Easy Times crew's lines, another king bumped the boat.

"When that fish hit the line, it just ran a short distance

See U. S. Open, page 10

## 'Unaffiliated' grows 38,835 county voters eligible

By Terry Pope  
County Editor

The number of unaffiliated registered voters continues to grow in Brunswick County, currently at 11 percent.

It is the fastest-growing segment of registered voters that help make up the pool of 38,835 now eligible to cast ballots on November 5. Those numbers are sure to increase this week before the deadline to register on Friday, October 11.

"It's getting busier and busier here each day," said Lynda Britt, Brunswick County Board of Elections supervisor, on Monday.

She opened a stack of registration cards that arrived by mail from the N. C. Department of Motor Vehicles. One way to register to vote is by "motor-voter" registration when renewing or obtaining a driver's license at the local examiner's office.

Current statistics show there are 20,672 Democrats, 13,878 Republicans and 4,281 unaffiliated registered voters in Brunswick County

Another way is to obtain a mail-in application form at local libraries or the elections office at the government center near Bolivia. Or residents may want to register in person at the elections office, located inside the coop-

See Voters, page 6

## Beavers to blame Blasting rules get shored-up

By Terry Pope  
County Editor

An anti-blasting ordinance the county adopted last month had to be replaced with a newer version on Monday.

It flows back to beavers. Locally, explosives are used to destroy beaver dams which are built in places that cause water to back up and flood property and highways. Under the former ordinance, those dynamite blasts were also prohibited.

County agencies contract to blast beaver dams, but the money used to pay for the project comes in the form of special grants through the U. S. Department of Agriculture.

"They won't give a grant to anybody that violates a local rule," said county attorney Huey Marshall.

Marshall, who was hired earlier this year, said he made what he thought was a complete investigation into the blasting industry before he proposed the public safety ordinance last month that protects the underground Castle

Hayne aquifer from explosive activity. It will also block the Martin Marietta Aggregates Corp. from blasting for rock at a proposed mining site north of Southport.

"I have not seen any data that explains why it is necessary to allow for the vibration of the Castle Hayne aquifer," said Marshall. "That's what explosives could do, vibrate and damage the aquifer."

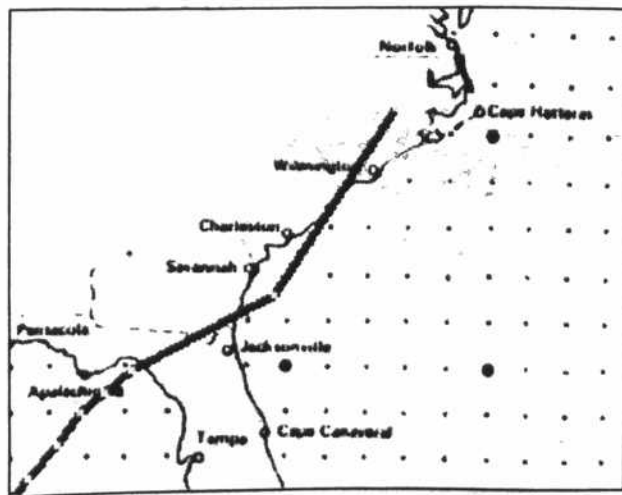
But being new to the county, Marshall wasn't aware of the battle against the beaver population the N. C. Department of Transportation and local farmers wage in a continuous battle against nature.

"I had no idea there were so many in this county," said Marshall. "I thought they were nearly extinct."

The new ordinance still prohibits persons and private corporations from setting off any explosives in the county, but it doesn't apply to any branch of the federal or state government from "prudent and necessary surface destruction of natural or arti-

See Blasting, page 6

## Rain, high water left in Josephine's wake



### Tropical storm brings bigger tides than Fran

By Richard Nubel  
Municipal Editor

She was hardly a rival for the attention given her bigger, badder sisters Bertha and Fran, but extratropical storm Josephine grabbed center stage in Southport's old yacht basin early Tuesday as she blew across the Southport-Oak Island area with sustained winds of 55 miles per hour.

The Cape Fear pilots tower reported Josephine let go a gust of 64 miles per hour at 6:01 a.m.

See Josephine, page 6



Kathy Melton shoves debris from the street in front of Potter's Seafood Tuesday morning after tropical storm Josephine pushed tides higher than did either hurricanes Bertha or Fran.