

THE STATE PORT PILOT

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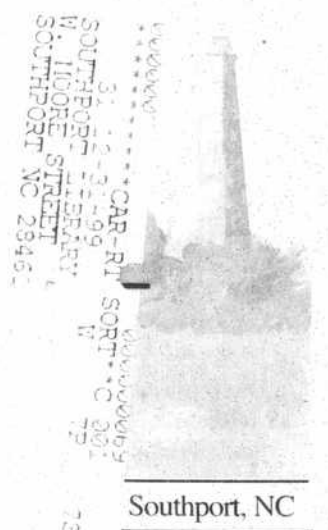
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GOOD SPORT



McCRACKEN

McCracken is honored for service

By Terry Pope
Staff Writer

The secret is out on Southport native Quinton McCracken. Now the world knows what Brunswick County folks have known all along: He's a good guy.

According to *The Sporting News'* August 2 issue which hit the newsstands last week, the Tampa Bay Devil Rays outfielder is a "Good Guy," someone to admire from the world of professional sports at a time when many athletes are labeled as greedy, self-centered and uncaring individuals.

The former South Brunswick High School baseball star and Duke University graduate was chosen by *TSN* senior writer Paul Attner as one of the best people pro sports has to offer. Attner's article profiles San Antonio Spurs forward David Robinson and Washington Redskins cor-
See McCracken, page 6

New Lowe's super-sized

By Richard Nubel
Staff Writer

A new fleet of earth-moving equipment buzzed through an 11-acre tract on N. C. 211 near its Beach Road intersection this week, clearing the way for construction of a new 100,000-square-foot Lowe's Home Improvement Warehouse.

The new store, to be completed in early 2000, will be built at an estimated cost of \$15 million and will be more than eight times the size of Lowe's 12,000-square-foot store now located on Beach Road. That store will be closed when warehouse superstore construction is completed. Lowe's Companies Inc. said in a statement from its Wilkesboro headquarters this week.

The new Lowe's Home Improvement Warehouse on N. C. 211 behind Bank of America (formerly NationsBank) will employ between 175 and 200 people, about 120 more than are employed at Lowe's
See Lowe's, page 13

Villas owners want to join Oak Island Officials say future goals would be better met

By Richard Nubel
Staff Writer

Consolidation isn't likely to be an election issue that Oak Island Beach Villas Owners' Association can influence with its largely out-of-town membership ineligible to vote in Caswell Beach, two directors of that association told Oak Island Town Council.

So, Oak Island Beach Villas (OIBV) directors say, they would like to secede from Caswell Beach and join Oak Island. Owners' association vice-president Dwight Hinnant and treasurer David Wilson presented town council Tuesday night with a letter from association directors requesting annexation by Oak Island.

Flattered, but placed in an indelicate position by the request, councilors authorized co-mayors Dot Kelly and Joan Altman to

engage in "conversations" with Caswell Beach officials and OIBV.

In other business brought before Oak Island Town Council Tuesday night, a staff proposal to finance \$572,000 for construction of bridges over Davis Canal at SW 18th Street and SW 28th Street was approved. The project to replace earthen dams with bridges will cost about \$720,000, but the town has some grant funds for the project in-hand and hopes to secure additional grants to pay down the loan council authorized. The \$520,000 loan will come at 5.3-percent interest for ten years.

Councilors and the association directors agreed that for OIBV to become part of Oak Island, Caswell Beach would have to agree to a redrawing of corporate lines. All considered that event unlikely.

"I understand and empathize with you," councilor Marty Wozniak told Hinnant and Wilson. "If we start taking from

Caswell Beach and gobbling them up piecemeal, that's not really a good, neighbor thing to do."

Wozniak urged the OIBV directors to work with Caswell Beach officials to seriously consider consolidation of Caswell Beach with Oak Island.

Though the directors said they had received little encouragement that consolidation would be considered by Caswell Beach officials, mayor Joe O'Brien earlier Tuesday said he would ask that town's board of commissioners to first examine the fiscal feasibility of consolidation and then to schedule a series of public information hearings on the issue. (See related story, page 2). Caswell commissioners are to discuss the consolidation issue more at a retreat today (Wednesday) and at their monthly business meeting on Thursday.

"I would hope that the Town of Caswell Beach, understand-
See Villas, page 6

SUNNY POINT



Photo by Jim Harper

Col. George R. Montgomery assumed command of Sunny Point with his acceptance of the "colors" in a Garrison ceremony Monday afternoon. He received the flag from former Sunny Point commander Col. Donald D. Parker after it was relinquished by Col. Michael J. Toal (right), who is moving to duty at Fort Lee.

Montgomery takes command

By Laura Kimball
Staff Writer

With the boom, boom, boom of three cannons over the Garrison at Fort Johnston on Monday, the change of command at Military Ocean Terminal Sunny Point was official.

Colonel George R. Montgomery is the new commander of Sunny Point, the largest ammunition terminal in the United States and the only Department of Defense port designed to handle containerized ammunition ship-

ments.
"He's handing me a well-oiled machine," Montgomery said of his predecessor. "All I have to do is take control."

Montgomery follows Col. Michael J. Toal as commander of Sunny Point. Toal served a two-year term, the customary tenure for a commander at the terminal.

The ceremony, accompanied by music by the 282nd Army Victory Band of Fort Jackson, S. C., included the traditional passing of the unit colors from Col. Toal to
See Command, page 5

Buffer zone hearing held in Brunswick

By Richard Nubel
Staff Writer

A proposed 30-foot buffer between public trust waters and new construction in the state's 20 coastal counties drew mostly supportive comment at a public hearing at Bolivia.

Six persons spoke at the second public hearing held in Brunswick County on the proposal by the N. C. Coastal Resources Commission. Two local government officials who spoke Wednesday asked representatives of the Division of Coastal Management — staff to CRC — to reevaluate costs of administering the buffer rule and to see that those costs were not passed on to local governments.

Oak Island co-mayor Joan Altman estimated CRC and its staff have understated the cost of the rule to local governments by 50 percent or more. Brunswick County planning director Leslie Bell asked DCM officials to "assure an accurate assessment of fiscal responsibilities to enforce this buffer."

A representative of an environmental group urged quick adoption of the 30-foot buffer, but asserted the buffer was only the least that could be done to enhance water quality along the state's coastline.

Bruce Porter, of Brunswick Environmental Action Team (BEAT), said the State of Maryland has established a 1,000-foot buffer between development and public trust waters of Chesapeake Bay.

"Those people are much more serious than we are," Porter said. "This 30-foot buffer is nowhere near enough, but ... it is a beginning."

The 30-foot buffer zone along public trust waters comes as a compromise measure. On March 26, under pressure from local government and economic development interests in the state, CRC abandoned its much larger Coastal Shoreline Initiative and said it would push only for passage of the 30-foot buffer.

At the same time, CRC appointed a panel of 27 citizen "stakeholders" — those with interests in coastal issues — to develop a comprehensive package of recommendations for water qual-
See Buffer, page 12

'We need to do this. We need to work as hard as we can to change what has been done wrong for the last 50 years.'

Betty Hupp
Oak Island resident

ABCs spell 'success' for schools

By Diana D'Abruzzo
Staff Writer

South Brunswick High School teachers poured chocolate syrup and sprinkles over vanilla ice cream, then used their sugar-coated spoons to toast their success — another school year down, another year named "exemplary" by the State of North Carolina.

It was a happy occasion and one celebrated across the state by many high schools that showed improvement in the state ABCs of Public Education account-

ability program.
All three Brunswick County high schools were deemed "exemplary" by the state, meaning they not only met their performance goals but exceeded them.

At South, principal James McAdams treated his staff to some cold dessert after school on Tuesday and commented about his hope for the new school year.

"I'm just tickled to death," he said on his school's status. "Now we're just trying to improve for next year. We're going to try to make 70 next year, and then we're going up to the top."

More than 63 percent of South students scored at or above grade level this past year.

Former South Brunswick High principal Sue Sellers said she was a bit worried about what the school's status would be — scores went down on six of the 11 end-of-course exams.

"I was concerned," she said. "We had done so well the year before and then went down in some areas. You just have to hold your breath and hope."

Also labeled "exemplary" for the sec-
See Scores, page 8



ABCs of Public Education 1998-99 results

SCHOOLS	GRADES	* PERFORMANCE COMPOSITE	ABC STATUS
Belville Elementary	3-5	82.3	Expected
Bolivia Elementary	K-5	84.5	Exemplary, School of Distinction
Leland Middle	6-8	78.8	Exemplary
Lincoln Primary	PK-2	n/a	Expected
North Brunswick High	9-12	53.3	Exemplary
Shalotte Middle	5-8	82.3	Exemplary, School of Distinction
South Brunswick High	9-12	63.2	Exemplary
South Brunswick Middle	6-8	82.4	Exemplary, School of Distinction
Southport Elementary	PK-5	75.0	Expected
Supply Elementary	PK-5	71.5	No Recognition
Union Elementary	PK-4	68.9	Expected
Waccamaw Elementary	K-8	82.6	Exemplary, School of Distinction
West Brunswick High	9-12	59.2	Exemplary

Source: N. C. Department of Public Instruction
* Percent of students performing at or above grade level

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■ Success stories are told at Bolivia, North and SBMS — Page 9