

THE STATE PORT PILOT

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Phone 910-457-4568/Fax 910-457-9427/e-mail pilot@southport.net

Keeping pace

South Brunswick's cross-country team has made great strides in its first season - IC



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Lawson top county principal

By Diana D'Abruzzo
Staff Writer

Knock on Rick Lawson's door at South Brunswick Middle School, and if you're a teacher touting a sure-fire way to better your classroom, you'll be greeted with a familiar refrain.

"The answer is 'yes,'" the principal will say. "If it's good for the kids and not against the rules, why haven't you done it already?"

Lawson's acceptance of all things innovative and exciting into the classrooms of his middle school has led to accolades and awards for his students and teachers.

And now for him.

Last week, Lawson was named Brunswick County's principal of the year — a title that his teachers say fits him well and comes on the heels of a state award proclaiming the school the most innovative in North Carolina.

Lawson insists that all the good news coming from his school is the direct result of that open-door policy where teachers are encouraged to pursue their ideas and watch them come to life.

"When you have a chance to see a teacher's dream come true, wonderful things happen for children," Lawson said, citing the award-winning physical education, technology and arts programs. "Every one of these things has been a teacher's dream."

With all the laurels bestowed upon
See Principal, page 8

Regional sewer plan has appeal

By Richard Nubel
Staff Writer

Nearly two years into a moratorium on permitting large subdivisions and advised they will need to create up to 2.5 million gallons of new daily wastewater treatment capacity to serve 20-year city needs, Southport aldermen may now be more inclined to join with Brunswick County and municipal partners to establish a regional wastewater management system.

Alderman Paul Fisher last Wednesday night advanced that possibility, saying he had met with county officials who are planning the establishment of three separate wastewater management regions in Brunswick County.

"The system looks like it is going to be a reality now," Fisher said. He recommended the board conduct a December workshop session to further explore Southport's possible involvement in a regional wastewater management effort.

"We've got to determine if we are
See Regional, page 7

Early edition

Next week's edition of *The State Port Pilot* will be published a day early, on Tuesday — a holiday tradition of our own.

The early schedule will allow distribution to vendors, and mail delivery to many subscribers, before the Thanksgiving holiday.

Deadline for real estate advertising (noon Friday) and classified advertising (2 p.m. Monday) remain the same. Deadline for news and display advertising material to be included in next week's edition will be noon Monday.

SBMS tops the state 'Entrepreneurial school of the year'

By Diana D'Abruzzo
Staff Writer

Students at South Brunswick Middle School were greeted Monday with a crackling message on the morning announcements, welcoming them to "the best school in North Carolina." It was no glorified pat on the back.

Last Friday, the school was honored by Gov. Jim Hunt as the Entrepreneurial School of the Year — the best in North Carolina.

"When Gov. Hunt made the statement that in 2010 he wants North Carolina to be first in America and he wants all schools to look like ours, well, that's a profound statement to make to

the people of Brunswick County," said Rick Lawson, principal of South Brunswick Middle School.

Forty-eight students, parents, faculty and administrators from Brunswick County gathered in Cary to accept the award, given to the school for its "compassionate and innovative approaches to improving education."

More than 100 schools across the state applied for the Governor's Entrepreneurial Schools Award, and South Brunswick Middle School was one of seven finalists. All finalists were honored at the banquet Friday night, but it was South Brunswick that came away with the top honor.

"These exceptional schools go above and beyond teaching
See School, page 9

U. S. OPEN

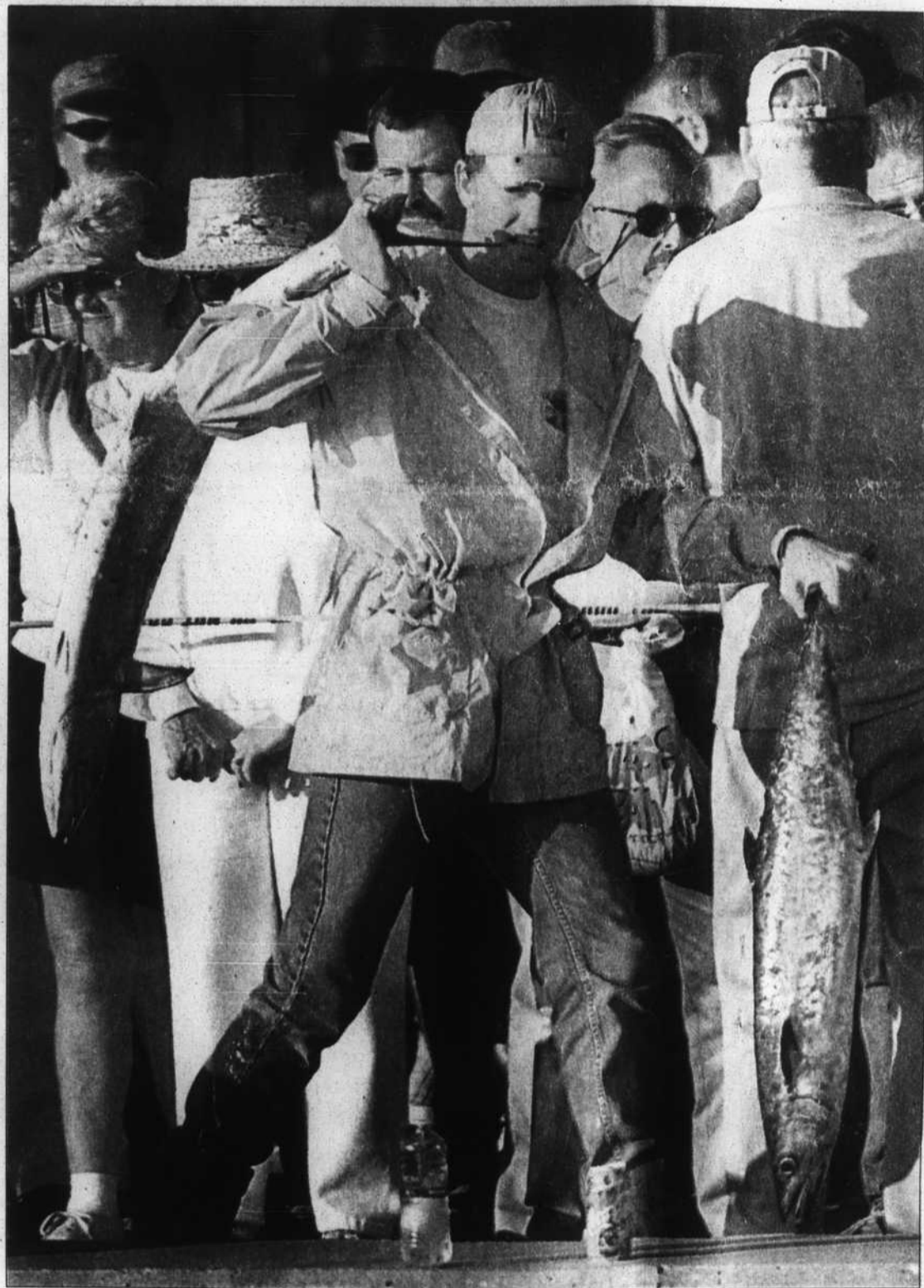


Photo by Jim Harper

Check-in of the U. S. Open catch proved again to be a popular spectator sport over the weekend, and some onlookers early Saturday afternoon got to see a new tournament-record 52.45-pounder come ashore.

New 'Open' record set

By Jim Harper
Staff Writer

The U. S. Open King Mackerel Tournament entered its third decade with a weather-hampered field but a record-setting catch Saturday.

Only 282 boats fished the 21-year-old event but a new tournament mark was set by Joe Winslow and David Haynes aboard the *Hooligan* — a 52.45-pound fish that bettered the six-year-old record by .05 pounds.

Their earnings with the catch totaled \$45,980, adding to an already impressive list of victories for the Little River, S. C., team this fall.

More drama was added to the event with a tie for the next largest fish — with the decision going to the one which reached the dock first.

Second place was awarded to the *Man-O-War* team led by Rick Nifong, who boated a 43.8-pound fish near Frying Pan Tower and weighed it in at 1:36 p.m. Saturday.

Jerry Dilsaver on the *Carolina Adventure* logged a
See Record, page 19

RESCUE AT SEA



Tournament fishermen Jerry Gainey and Fred Sherer were all smiles Monday night as they greeted family and friends after a two-day drift in stormy waters off Cape Fear. The story of their rescue by the Coast Guard is on page 19.

Beach projects BHI's threat could strand consortium

By Richard Nubel
Staff Writer

Breaking ranks with the other Brunswick County beach communities it had called partners, the Village of Bald Head Island has threatened to sue the U. S. Army Corps of Engineers if it is not provided the first 2.5 million cubic yards of sand dredged from the Wilmington Harbor Project.

The quantity of sand the village now demands is two and a half times what it would receive under a Section 933 plan by which the federal government would help pay to spread sand on four area beaches, including Bald Head Island, Caswell Beach, Oak Island and Holden Beach would be left to share about 2.3 million cubic yards of sand if Bald Head Island prevails.

Under terms of a sand distribution plan advanced by the corps two weeks ago, Bald Head Island was to receive one million cubic yards of sand from the project to deepen and widen the Cape Fear River shipping channel at no cost. Another 1.55 million cubic yards was to be shared by Caswell Beach and eastern Oak Island at no cost. Western Oak Island and Holden Beach were to share costs to place 1.59 million cubic

"I am quite concerned about the overall appearance here about Bald Head Island being an equal member ... then choosing to go off on their own and do something different."

Harry Simmons
BBC chairman

yards and 660,000 cubic yards of sand on their beaches, respectively.

Bald Head Island's surprise move, outlined in a letter from the town's
See Beach sand, page 6

Oak Island Deck rebuilding guidelines noted

By Richard Nubel
Staff Writer

Oceanfront homeowners got some solid direction for the repair and replacement of decks and steps Thursday.

In special session, Oak Island Town Council enacted an ordinance establishing rules for repair and replacement of decks, steps and walkways over the dune structure now under repair. The ordinance directs the repairing and replacing of steps, walkways and decks under four separate conditions.

The good news for oceanfront owners is that crosswalks can be repaired and replaced in many circumstances and may extend to the public beach from each oceanfront cottage. Confusing direction from state officials led town officials at one time to speculate steps may not be permitted to land on the beach under any circumstances.

Until now, oceanfront owners had been told steps may not be built seaward; they may only extend east, west or north.

The caveat is this: "All oceanfront walkways and steps constructed after November 10, 1999, in the public trust area are considered temporary and subject to removal."

The only other general provision of the ordinance holds that steps shall not interfere with an adjacent property owner's steps in any way or "extend past the riparian line on the seaward side of the dune."

The four conditions and the actions the ordinance directs are:

■ Condition: House habitable, deck, walkway and steps are less than 50 percent damaged and a dune is present. Direction: The owner may repair deck, walkway, steps as before, with steps landing preferably south as close to the
See Rebuilding, page 8