



Photos by Morgan Harper



# WISHIN' FOR FISHIN'

By Renee Spencer  
Staff Writer

Last Friday at Southport Marina, children smiled and squealed with delight as they took off for a day of adventure and fishing.

Through the United Special Sportsman Alliance (U.S.S.A.), area boat captains, local organizations and businesses joined to give disabled and critically ill children a day on the water. The joy on the children's faces brought tears to grown men's eyes.

Steve Tugwell of Farmville, North Carolina, serves as the U.S.S.A. state representative for North Carolina and South Carolina. He said with assistance from the Southport Lions Club and other local organizations, he hopes to make the Southport fishing trip an annual event.

Tugwell helped coordinate the excursion along with former U.S.S.A. state representative John Cranford of Winston-Salem. Tugwell and Cranford now work as a team to pull off many U.S.S.A. fishing events across the state. They've also helped support each other through some difficult losses.

Cranford still gets choked up when he talks about his first U.S.S.A. Child's Wish participant, Noah Mayberry, a 10-year-old boy from Tega Cay, South Carolina.

Cranford met Noah back in 2010. Noah loved



See Child's Wish, page 8B



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