

# Hearing On Submerged Lands In Wilmington On Wednesday

A hearing will be held Wednesday, May 8, in Wilmington to receive public comment on legislation intended to help resolve questions about who owns submerged lands located primarily along the coast. Ultimately, several state officials have said publicly, the questions will be resolved in the courts. But five bills introduced in the General Assembly are an attempt to find the answers to questions such as whether these lands can be sold to private individuals or whether the state is to hold them in trust for the use and enjoyment of the general public. Wednesday's hearing, called partly in response to requests from 14th District Rep. David Redwine, will be held from 9 a.m. to 11 a.m. at the New Hanover County Public Library at Third and Chestnut Streets. A similar hearing will be held in Manteo. Redwine is a member of a committee that studied the submerged lands questions. Sen. R.C. Soles of Taber City co-chaired the committee. Statewide more than 10,000 claims of private ownership of submerged

lands were filed by a Jan. 1, 1970, deadline. In Brunswick County, 384 parties filed 851 claims asserting ownership of submerged lands. But some legislators, including Redwine, say they aren't satisfied that the public was aware of its right to file the claims because of poor attendance at hearings in Raleigh in 1969 and in March of this year. The five bills introduced in the General Assembly in February would resolve claims to thousands of acres of submerged lands in Brunswick and 24 other coastal counties. They are as follows: •HB 111 would establish title to raised lands located in areas covered by Board of Education deeds. •HB 112 would declare as state policy that title to land subject to public trust rights may not be acquired through adverse possession. It protects public access to beaches and navigable water for recreational purposes such as swimming and fishing. •HB 113 validates deeds to certain marshlands conveyed from the

Literary Fund or State Board of Education. It provides a tax credit for donation of these lands to the state by a certain deadline and provides continuation or resumption of public trust rights in existence before conveyance to the Board of Education. •HB 114 provides that claims to land under navigable waters may be litigated in Superior Court. Such appeals are presently heard by the Industrial Commission. •HB 115 allows for resolution of claims to shellfishing beds by allowing the N.C. Division of Marine Fisheries to issue leases for areas such as natural shellfish beds, not to exceed 50 acres. Meanwhile, Attorney General Lacy Thornburg has said the state plans to file a class-action lawsuit to determine whether the state owns all lands below the mean high water mark. Thornburg said he wants the courts to decide whether submerged lands are held in trust by the state for use and enjoyment of the public or whether they can be sold to private citizens.



EXCITED West Brunswick High students claim the trophy their school won for winning the Business/Data Processing Contest Saturday. Mrs. Carolyn Sweatt, publisher of The Brunswick Beacon, which sponsored the trophy, helped present it.

## West Brunswick High Wins Business Course Competition

In close competition among the three high schools in the county, West Brunswick won the Business/Data Processing Contest Saturday. It was the first year for the competition, sponsored by Brunswick Technical College. Plans are to make it an annual affair. West Brunswick High was awarded a school trophy to keep for the coming year. It will rotate next year should a different school win the competition. Mrs. Jeanne Farrar, director of business programs at tech, presented the trophy to excited West Brunswick participants. The trophy was sponsored by The Brunswick Beacon. Individual awards were presented in four categories of competition by Mrs. Farrar and Vernon Parker of NCNB, which sponsored the awards and a luncheon for participants and guests. West Brunswick High students walked away with all three individual awards in beginning typewriting contests. First place went to Teresa Zuber, second to Michael A. Norton and third to Gary Galloway. West Brunswick's Debbie Pruitt took first place in advanced

typewriting, with Sandra Jones of North Brunswick coming in second and Donna Gore of South Brunswick, third. North Brunswick's Beth Thompson took first place in Accounting I, while Sandra Jones, also of North, took second. Third place honors went to Cheryl Borszich of South Brunswick. South Brunswick's David Blanton took first place in basic computer programming. Wesley Kirby, also of South, took second place, and Wayne Young of North came in third.



INDIVIDUAL first place winners included, from left, David Blanton of South Brunswick High, Debbie Pruitt of West Brunswick, and Beth Thompson of North Brunswick.

## Water Quality Said Topic For Resources Commission

Coastal water quality concerns will dominate discussions during a two-day meeting of the Coastal Resources Commission May 2 and 3 in Wilmington. The meeting will be held in the auditorium of Cape Fear Technical College, with sessions beginning at 9 a.m. both days. The meeting is open to the public. Kathy Henderson, spokesman for

the N.C. Department of Natural Resources and Community Development, said the commission will hear updates on the work of the Inter-commission Task Force on Coastal Water Resources and the status of submerged lands legislation during its Thursday morning session. In committee meetings that begin at 1:30 p.m., members will discuss the impact of marinas on water quality, potential standards for managing urban stormwater runoff and improving permit processing procedures and resolutions to encourage action by various groups on coastal water problems. A public hearing will be held at 10 a.m. May 2 to receive comments on proposed guidelines for enforcement and for permit processing procedures. The guidelines would: 1) clarify the procedure to follow when there

are continuing violations of CRC development standards or when a violation occurs on a project with a pending application; 2) establish criteria for determining what is a continuing violation and therefore subject to multiple penalties; and 3) provide for suspension of permit processing if a violation occurs on a site with a pending application. The proposed rules will be discussed at a committee meeting Thursday and will be acted upon by the CRC on Friday. Also on the committee meeting agendas are these items: general permits for replacing bridges; amendments to the Southport and Craven County land use plans; beach access permit standards and liability of local governments for access facilities; proposed changes in the mitigation policy and the future of the Soil Conservation Service.

## County 4-H'ers Busy In April

Educational tours to the North Carolina State Zoo and a Junior Retreat at Trenton kept Brunswick County 4-H Club members busy during their spring break. Billy Privette, associate 4-H agent with the Brunswick County Agricultural Extension Service, said those attending the zoo tours on April 9 and 11 were as follows: Amy Hewett, Kerry Cumbee, Shane Ward, Ginger Evans, Kristi Lewis, Jason Harvell, Carla Cavanaugh, Jason Cavanaugh, John Owens, Neal Young, Randy Hammon, Dee Hammon, Amber Salburn, Toni Long, LaTisha Cumbee, Jamie Ward, Joseph Lee, Carol Royals, Arlana Royals, Doris Reiner.

Also, Joseph Hunt, John Hunt, Luke Hunt, Jeff Smith, Sebastian Pigott, Manuel Wyley, David Short, Chris Bass, Lynn Massey, Michael Randolph, John Allen, Derek Smith, Chowan Simmons, Cory Simmons, Joy Griffin, Karen Manning, Portia Hankins, Zena Hankins, Michael Wright, Tashia Simmons, Terrance Randolph, Chawana Moore, Gina Essey, Dianne Gordon, Chris Hamrick, Robbie Johnson and Kelly Pfaff. Those attending Junior Retreat included the following: Shane Ward, Amy Hewett, Michelle Sellers, Jeremy Sellers, Kay Watterson, Pam Watterson, Mrs. O'Linda Sellers, Locke Karriker, Melissa Karriker, Sabrina Daniels, Sonya Gore and Chris Long. Michelle Sellers and Sabrina Daniels represented the county in an afternoon talent show. For information on 4-H activities call 253-4425.

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