

Tattoo Parlor Ordinance To Set Health Standards

BY TERRY POPE
Brunswick County health officials believe there may already be at least two tattoo parlors operating in Brunswick County, but with no tattoo

ordinance on the books the department has no way to regulate the parlors.

Health board members agreed Monday that an ordinance regulating

tattoo parlors should be prepared and brought back before the board at its next meeting.

Health Director Thomas Blum said the department has been contacted twice within the past month by "parties wanting to open tattoo parlors." Blum said he has obtained copies of New Hanover and Onslow county ordinances regulating tattoo parlors as a guide.

Tattoo parlors are placed under "very stringent restrictions" by the county health departments and must be inspected by the environmental health specialists the same as restaurants, Blum said.

"We have reason to think there are already two operating in the county," Blum said. "Two people have approached John (Crowder, environmental health director) the past month, so something is up."

Tattoo parlors must obtain a license and face routine inspections. A fee is also charged by the counties to operate the parlors.

"In some communities, they try to raise the fee so high that they just don't get any takers," Blum said.

The parlors must be placed under regulations to establish health standards since diseases often pass through the use of needles and blood, the two items mostly involved in the transfer of AIDS, acquired immune deficiency syndrome.

Without local legislation on the books, tattoo parlors can open in the county under no restrictions, Blum said.

"We have reason to believe they are coming," said board chairman John Madison, "so we ought to go ahead and prepare the ordinance."

In other business Monday, the board also learned that the number of patients eligible for the Women Infants and Children (WIC) nutritional program has been expanded by the state from 719 to 731 persons.

Blum also announced that the department's new health educator will begin work Monday morning.

Probable Cause Found On Rape, Sex Charges

A 26-year-old Varnumtown man charged with second-degree rape and second-degree sexual offense will face trial in Brunswick County Superior Court.

Probable cause was found Monday in Brunswick County District Court against Lindsey J. Simmons Jr., 26, of Route 2, Supply (Varnumtown Road), who has been charged by the Brunswick County Sheriff's Department with rape and sexual offense.

According to the warrants filed in the clerk of court's office, Simmons was charged with second-degree sexual offense on July 19 and placed under \$5,000 bond. Probable cause

was found Monday on the sexual offense charge by Judge Lee J. Greer Jr.

Judge Greer also found probable cause exists for the second-degree rape charges filed against Simmons on Monday, Aug. 12, by Detective Lindsey Walton. Both cases were bound over to Superior Court.

The warrant filed on July 19 accuses Simmons of allegedly committing a "sex offense by force and against the victim's will." The warrant filed Monday claims Simmons allegedly "did carnally know" the victim on July 19, the date of the original charge.

Holden Beach Patrolman Signs On With Shallotte

Another policeman is leaving Holden Beach to join the Shallotte Police Department, creating a second vacancy in the beach department.

George Murry Adkins, 31, of Swordfish Drive begins work as a patrolman Sunday, Sept. 1.

At the recommendation of Chief Don Stovall, also a former Holden Beach police officer, town aldermen selected Adkins at a special town board meeting Tuesday night.

Adkins joined the Holden Beach Police Department Dec. 22, 1983. He has previous experience in law enforcement and security work. From 1975 to 1981 he was employed as a deputy with the Rowan County Sheriff's Department. After a stint in government security work overseas, he worked with C & M Ambulance Service in Salisbury for six months

before taking the Holden Beach job.

"He's one of the most competent, capable officers I've ever worked with," Stovall said.

Adkins was one of six applicants for the job, two from within the county and four from elsewhere.

Holden Beach commissioners were to meet Wednesday morning to consider hiring an officer to fill the vacancy created by Stovall's resignation in June.

Police Vacancy On Agenda

Holden Beach commissioners were to meet 9 a.m. Wednesday to consider the hiring of a police officer, along with several other items of business.

Administrator Bob Buck said two of "nine or 10" applicants were interviewed for the vacancy, which was created when Assistant Chief Don Stovall resigned to accept the position of chief with the Town of Shallotte.

"We feel very optimistic," he said of the candidate that will be recommended for the slot.

Town Creek Offers Shrimp

Town Creek Volunteer Rescue Squad will hold a fried shrimp and bake sale Saturday, Aug. 17, starting at 11 a.m. at the squad building.

The building is located on U.S. 17 at its intersection with N.C. 87 south in Winnabow.


Shrimp plates will cost \$4 each. Proceeds will go to the support of the squad.

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