

New Rules Designed To Take A Bite Out Of Animal Attacks

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of dangerous dog designations. He called the move "another tool to safeguard the public."
 Dr. Harry Johnson agreed saying, "I've worked in an emergency rooms long enough to see the results of severe incidents. I certainly would favor more stringent limitations when needed."
 Board member Arthur Knox asked if the rule change might result in a dog being declared dangerous simply because another person doesn't like the animal.
 "If one of my deer dogs runs through a neighbor's yard, I don't want him calling and you saying (the dog) is dangerous," Knox said. "Are you going to declare a dog dangerous just because somebody says it is?"
 Thompson said hunting dogs engaged in a lawful hunt are specifically exempt from the law. He said no dog would be declared dangerous without a thorough investigation.
 "We certainly wouldn't declare a dog dangerous because he nipped somebody who stepped on his foot," Thompson said.
 The board voted 6-to-1, with Ludlum dissenting, to give Rhodes or his designee authority to declare a dog

dangerous. A pet owner who disagrees with that decision may appeal to the health board.
 In a related matter the board voted unanimously to modify animal control policies regarding the confinement of dogs that have bitten someone. Such an animal must be kept under observation for 10 days to see if it shows signs of rabies.
 Current regulations allow the dog to be kept at home if it has no history of running at large and if the owner has an adequate place to secure it. Thompson asked the board to add an additional requirement that the animal have a current rabies vaccination.
 "If the owner is not responsible enough to get a rabies shot, I have serious concerns about his ability to keep an animal confined," Thompson said.
 The board voted unanimously to approve the change. Members also agreed informally to authorize Thompson to update his department's policies for the use of tranquilizer guns to subdue dangerous pets and wild animals. He said technological advancements have made the guns safer to use in a broader range of applications as an alternative to "deadly force."
 In his final request, Thompson asked the board to

consider allowing the proceeds of cat carcass sales to be used by the animal control department for pet food and other supplies and to pay for the veterinary care of injured animals. The department currently sells the euthanized animals to Tri-State Laboratories for medical research.
 "While I agree with this policy, it has had a couple of unforeseen drawbacks affecting the morale of animal control staff," Thompson said. "Euthanizing animals is one of the most difficult tasks that can be asked of an employee. This adds to the task by requiring counting, sorting, measuring, bagging and freezing the animals instead of just loading them onto a truck and taking them to the landfill."
 The animal control department has received public comments criticizing the county for "profiting by the death" of the animals, said Thompson. Rhodes said the sale of the carcasses puts about \$5,000 to \$6,000 into the county's general fund.
 Thompson suggested that the county sell the carcasses to another company that will deduct the proceeds from the department's expenses on pet food and other supplies. He suggested that employees might feel better

about the additional handling of the carcasses if the funds were being used to care for other animals.
 "If a person is disturbed by it, they're disturbed by it. What difference does it make where the money goes?" asked board Chairman Patrick Newton.
 "Nobody feels good about doing this. It's an awful thing and you can't make it better," said Dr. Brad Kerr, the board's veterinarian member. "But you might make overall working conditions better if it was helping their own department. It seems fair to bring that revenue back in."
 Kerr said the sale of cat carcasses might be easier for the public to accept if the money was being used to benefit animals.
 "You want taxpayers to pay for your budget and other things to be paid for through this?" said Warren. "A lot of departments are looking for fee income. It might make the people in the building inspections department feel better if their fees came back to their department," he said.
 "It might," said Kerr. "But building inspectors don't have to put animals to sleep."
 The board took no action on Thompson's final proposal.

Performance Audit May Be Useful, School Board Decides

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cent to 50 percent.
 "We use the information from people who work within the system to validate the concerns, then try to recommend a structure that would streamline delivery of programs and services and make them much better."
 The agency might recommend adding or decreasing personnel, shifting lines of supervision, moving some services out of the central office and into the schools, or the opposite.
 "What the school board or county commissioners can expect to get out of this is either validation of the organization that exists if it is properly aligned, or information that they could use to help them realign the central office to better deliver service to the schools."

Other Business

In other business the board:
 ■unanimously approved Supply Elementary School's revised 1993-94 differentiated pay plan, on a motion by member Bill Fairley. The plan provides for teachers to choose committee assignments and for all committees to work for achievement of 75 percent or more of performance goals on its annual report card. The school would need to show improvement in nine to 13 areas. If not, teacher bonus pay would instead be used for staff development in the areas where improvement didn't occur.
 Since joining the board Fairley has been a strong advocate of tying extra pay for teachers to student and school success. He announced plans not to seek re-election after the board rescinded a policy that would have required all schools to tie bonus pay to performance.
 ■heard from Assistant Superin-

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—Jimmy Benson
Deputy State Auditor

tendent Jan Calhoun that the school board had never approved a central office staff differentiated pay plan and that the one drafted last year appears to conflict with state guidelines. At the board's April 18 meeting, it will consider a revised plan Calhoun thinks will meet guidelines.
 ■learned from Assistant Superintendent Oscar Blanks that the Children in Crisis Planning Committee will operate under the tax-exempt umbrella of the not-for-profit Brunswick County Educational Foundation while establishing a local Communities in Schools program.
 ■heard Leland parent Anthony

Roseman's request for purchase of classroom equipment and supplies for North Brunswick High beyond those obtained through a recent special allocation from county commissioners. "We need more," he said. Commissioners funded every item listed by the 12 schools as immediate needs. Some schools identified more needs than others.

Roseman said he finds the local school system's ranking among schools nationwide "personally offensive." "We're fighting, we're struggling, but it seems like we're not getting anywhere...I just want to figure out how to improve it."

■approved donation of 40 surplus small chairs to the Piney Grove Head Start Center in Bolivia;

■limited providers of tax-sheltered "cafeteria plan" cancer insurance and accident benefit plans to AFLAC, Colonial and Metropolitan Life insurers.

■agreed to loan the Brunswick County Airport Commission use of a fuel truck April 1-29 during a gypsy moth eradication campaign by state and federal agricultural agencies.

■approving a motion by Fairley, reviewed and adopted the personnel recommendation list in open session, a practice it expects to continue at future meetings. Members then went behind closed doors to discuss personnel, attorney-client and land acquisition matters, taking no action afterward.

■decided to invite county commissioners to join them March 24 in a tour of the South Brunswick High attendance district schools;

■planned to meet April 18 at the central office in Southport and May 10 at Union Elementary School in Shallotte.



STAFF PHOTO BY DOUG RUTTER

Confiscated In Shallotte

Shallotte Police Chief Rodney Gause holds a bag of white powder believed to be cocaine and some of the approximately 50 prescription medication bottles confiscated Sunday from an apartment at Shallotte Manor. Gause estimated the bottles contained between 3,000 and 4,000 pills. Officers also found crack pipes and a small amount of marijuana during the search. The pills and quarter-pound bag of white powder have been sent to the SBI Lab in Raleigh for analysis. Gause said the police department received complaints that a man and woman living in the apartment were selling drugs. "We'll probably make an arrest before this week is over with," Gause said Monday. "We definitely have charges that are going to be brought on both subjects."

Springtime Weather Is On Tap

More springtime weather will usher in the start of spring, with temperatures and rainfall expected to be near normal over the next few days.
 Shallotte Point meteorologist Jackson Canady said Tuesday he expects temperatures to average from the mid-40s at night into the mid-60s during the daytime, with about one-half inch of rainfall.
 For the period March 8 through 14 he recorded a high of 77 degrees on March 8 and a low of 29 degrees on March 12.
 A daily average high of 68 degrees combined with an average nightly low of 48 degrees for a daily average temperature of 58 degrees. That's about 5 degrees above, average, said Canady.
 He recorded eighty-two hundredths of an inch of rainfall for the period.

State Extends Oyster Season For 3 Weeks

North Carolina's oyster season has been extended for nearly three weeks because of recent rainfall that forced state officials to close coastal waters to shellfish harvesting.
 The N.C. Division of Marine Fisheries has extended the season through March 31 to compensate for the lost harvest days. The season was originally scheduled to end March 12.
 Most Brunswick County shellfish waters were re-opened to harvesting on Monday after being closed for approximately two weeks.
 Waters between Snows Cut and Southport, including Buzzard Bay, The Basin and Cape Fear River, remained closed as of Tuesday.

Public Meeting On Gypsy Moth Program Set Tuesday In Bolivia

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Most areas will be sprayed with *Bacillus thuringiensis* (Bt), a naturally occurring bacterium that is toxic only to caterpillars of certain agricultural pests. Home gardeners may be familiar with Bt under the commercial names "Worm Whipper" and "Dipel," Coleman said.
 On 4,000 acres where scientists have determined that Bt could harm rate or fragile species, an insect virus called Gypchek will be used against the moths. Gypchek is only produced in government labs and is in short supply. The local eradication program will use up the nation's supply of the virus.
 Meanwhile, another team of experts is gearing up to study the effects of the two sprays on other butterfly species. The group is planning to set traps and monitor insect popu-

lations before and after the insecticide is applied.
 Neither of the pesticides is considered harmful to mammals or to other insects, Coleman said. The sprays are water soluble and will be washed away with the first rain, he said. The applications should have no effect on plant pollination, birds or aquatic life.
 Still, an advertising campaign is planned to let residents know when

spraying will be done in their area.
 The management team is also ready to take applications for hiring 60 to 70 part-time workers to monitor insect traps that will be set throughout the area to gauge the effectiveness of the spraying program, Coleman said.
 A special Gypsy Moth Hotline has been set up for anyone who wants to learn more about gypsy moths and the eradication program. That number is 1-800-449-9007.

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