

N.C. wild horses quarantined after veterinarians find disease

BY JEFF YOUNG
STAFF WRITER

A relocation effort left a substantial portion of Cape Lookout's wild horse population without a place to call home when the animals tested positive as carriers of a horse disease.

The horse population that had roamed the eight miles of the uninhabited Shackleford Banks area of Cape Lookout for years grew beyond acceptable numbers, according to Cape Lookout National Seashore officials.

"In order to prevent mass starvation, we acted in accordance with our 1982 General Management Plan in an effort to bring the herd down to a more manageable size," said Chuck Harris, chief ranger at the Cape Lookout office.

The rangers and veterinarians from the N.C. Department of Agriculture collected the entire herd of 185 horses for testing and marking in an operation that began Saturday.

Originally, the park service planned to return 65 horses to 75 horses to the island after testing by state vets, while they

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CHUCK HARRIS
Chief Ranger, Cape Lookout

intended to put the rest up for adoption.

The plans went awry, however, when 76 of the animals tested positive for a viral condition known as equine infectious anemia.

As a result, all of the horses that tested negative for EIA were returned to their oceanfront homes, while the infected animals were put under quarantine by the Agriculture Department in a facility near Clinton. "EIA is a lifetime condition," said M.A. Mixson, assistant director for field operations at the Agriculture Department.

"The virus is usually transferred by

insect bites. It may be a chronic or acute condition that can result in rapid death." The infected horses from Cape Lookout might very well live out a normal lifespan, however, because their herd has been isolated and exposed to the virus for quite some time, Mixson said.

The problem now lies in finding new homes for the quarantined animals who could pose a threat to N.C. horses that have not been exposed to EIA. Due to the large number of horses being held and the expense involved, Harris said they would need to be moved from the temporary facility soon.

"We are looking right now for individuals who can meet the quarantine requirements and want to adopt these animals," he said. "There is the possibility of euthanizing them, but nobody wants to see that happen. People have a special place in their hearts for horses; they like to see them running on the dunes."

Mixson said potential adoptees for the Cape Lookout horses will need to maintain the quarantine for life. "They must be kept at least one mile from any other horses and they can never be transported."

OLD FRIENDS RESTORED



Two friends take the opportunity to talk Thursday afternoon behind Old East Residence Hall about their plans for the upcoming weekend.

DTH/MATT KOHUT

Durham NAACP to 'Boycott Santa'

BY ASHLEY MATLOCK
STAFF WRITER

DURHAM — Santa Claus, one of the most popular images of the holiday season, should not be the main focus of Christmas, Durham NAACP leaders said.

So they decided to sponsor Boycott Santa. "Christmas is a time of year when the rich get richer and the poor get poorer," said Curtis Gatewood, president of Durham's branch of the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People.

Gatewood said Thursday that society's emphasis on Santa Claus not only ignored the meaning of Christmas but also put unnecessary demands on the pocketbook. "Families are going to spend money they don't have."

The purpose of Boycott Santa is to celebrate the birth of Christ and diminish the role of Santa Claus during the holidays, Gatewood said.

Families should make wise investments at Christmas time, Gatewood said. "Families who don't have insurance could get health insurance or a savings account for Christmas."

He said those African-Americans who do buy presents should first consider black-owned businesses.

"People are not patronizing African-Americans in return," Gatewood said.

"We may be underhandedly promoting white supremacy when we should be promoting the truth."

CURTIS GATEWOOD
President of Durham NAACP

Gatewood said he felt the Santa Claus myth was harmful to black children because it promoted the idea that the children must ask a white man to bring them gifts.

"We may be underhandedly promoting white supremacy when we should be promoting the truth," Gatewood said.

NAACP representatives said children would get a greater meaning out of Christmas if society stopped focusing on Santa Claus.

"This is an opportunity to focus on the true values of Christmas, NAACP member Sidney Brodie said. "I think (children) can have fun without giving Santa Claus so much credit."

During and after the holiday season, Durham's NAACP will focus on community unity and black pride.

"This is the year that we rejuvenate our families, our communities and our black identities," Gatewood said.

Gatewood said the NAACP was working to protect the communities through a program called Brothers Protecting the Hood. This program would recruit volunteers to help patrol their communities for crime.

The NAACP will also take a more active role in area churches. Gatewood said the NAACP would work toward membership and voter registration in churches.

Gatewood said he thought churches should de-emphasize the white image of Jesus.

Along with scheduling local activities, Durham's NAACP is waiting to hear from the national chapter concerning the Rev. Jesse Jackson's proposed Texaco boycott.

"(By the Texaco boycott) being a national issue, we would have to be in sync with what happens nationally," Gatewood said.

"The NAACP is saying no action is being ruled out."

Gatewood said no decision has been made whether the NAACP will join the Texaco boycott Saturday.

NAACP member Larry Hall said the situation with Amoco reflected the NAACP's principle of fair treatment of all people.

Durham's NAACP will hold a Boycott Santa meeting at the Union Baptist Church at 4 p.m. Nov. 24.

Students with diabetes must learn how to balance busy college life with healthy habits, doctors say

BY MELISSA STEELE
SENIOR WRITER

November is designated as National Diabetes Month, and doctors say they are working to inform people that the disease is more serious than many believe it to be. Onset diabetes is permanent and requires a change of lifestyle, they say.

According to the American Diabetes Association, 60 million people in the United States have diabetes, which makes them more prone to heart attacks, strokes, kidney failure and blindness. Yet 92 percent of Americans still believe that the disease is not serious.

Margaret Vimmerstedt, a doctor at Student Health Service with a special interest in diabetes, said there are two main reasons for people's ignorance.

"Type II diabetes is a silent disease and people can go on for a lot of years feeling fine," she said. "Also, people have

the belief that because the insulin is available that the diabetes is cured — but it's not. They have to work hard to balance their blood sugar every day."

Type I diabetes, or insulin dependent diabetes mellitus, can occur at any age, but younger people are the ones who usually develop this type of the disease. In Type I, the pancreas fails and the body stops producing insulin.

Type II diabetes, or noninsulin dependent diabetes mellitus, is more common among older Americans. In this type, insulin is still produced, but in inadequate amounts, and the cells don't respond properly to the insulin. One type does not evolve into the other, Vimmerstedt said.

John Buse, professor of medicine and director of the UNC Diabetes Care Center, said the center will be holding a "Healthy Holiday" program Dec. 12 at the Friday Center as part of National Diabetes Month. Vimmerstedt also holds a diabetes support group for seven weeks

each semester.

The program will address the topic of diabetes and doctors will speak about it. People with diabetes, as well as their family members, can learn recipes and methods of cooking to accommodate special diets for holiday meals.

While there are no known ways to entirely prevent diabetes, Vimmerstedt said there is active research going on about preventing Type I by stopping the auto-immune destruction of the pancreas. She also said mothers should avoid having their infants drink cow's milk during the first six months of life and should breast feed instead.

"Exercising daily, maintaining your weight and eating a low-fat diet are helpful in preventing or forestalling Type II."

Buse said there are ways to cope with the disease once a person has been diagnosed as well. "Having adequate education to know the goals you're trying to achieve (is important)," he said.

TOBACCO

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the political process."

One industry spokesman claims farmers are not forgotten by lawmakers.

"Everyone understands that the sheer numbers of tobacco growers makes them a powerful political force," said Lisa Eddington, a spokeswoman for the National Tobacco Council in Raleigh.

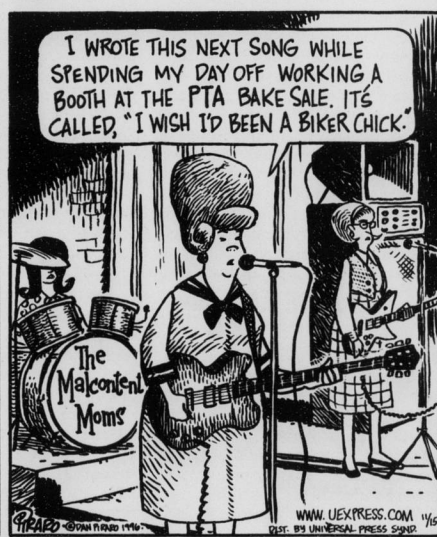
But ask other participants in the tobacco debate, and they say farmers are not being heard from. Anti-smoking advocates say people like Rogers are missing from discussions which affect their future.

"I can't say I knowingly recall having a conversation with a lobbyist for the growers," said Lisa Greene, who handles governmental affairs for the American Cancer Society in Raleigh. She said she would welcome their perspective.

Without a stronger voice in public policy, time may be running out for tobacco farmers. Rogers' son Billy is one of few young people in North Carolina who want to face the uncertain future of tobacco.

"We tried to push him into doing something other than farming," he said, remembering when his son graduated from N.C. State University. "The age of farmers in this part of the state is getting older and older. Young people won't go out and start on their own."

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