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Wednesday, August 16, 2017

Rockfish talks of incorporating Starts chamber of commerce, eyes annexation into Fayetteville



Brownie Brown talks about incorporating. (Catharin Shepard photo)

BY CATHARIN SHEPARD
Staff writer

For the last five years members of the Rockfish community have worked to address local issues through the volunteer Rockfish Community Board, and now with the formation of the Rockfish Chamber of Commerce and potentially additional groups on the way, some Rockfish residents are wondering if incorporation is in the community's future.

Members of the volunteer Rockfish Community Board met last week for the monthly meeting and discussed the possibility, among other concerns.

Rockfish businessman William "Brownie" Brown, who has twice run for a seat on the Hoke County

Board of Commissioners, rallied the Rockfish community in 2014 by forming the community board. The volunteer organization holds meetings every second Thursday night of the month at Brown's place of business at 2950 Lindsay Road.

Ever since then, the board has held public meetings regarding matters of interest including utilities access, road congestion and other topics affecting the heavily-populated part of the county.

This year, the group's work has extended even farther. Members of the community have joined forces to start a Rockfish Chamber of Commerce and the Rockfish Review newsletter, and are considering creating a small business association just for Rockfish. Additionally, organizers are working

to put together what they hope will be an annual county fair hosted in Rockfish. The fair is set for September 19-24 and its website is available at <http://www.hokecountyfair.com>.

At last week's meeting, attended by more than 90 people, Brown asked the community members to think about potentially incorporating Rockfish into a town.

"I personally kind of like the idea that's come up of incorporating Rockfish. You've all heard this before, I would like Rockfish to become a town, self-supportive, and that can happen," Brown said.

Frustration over being unable to get county utilities services into the community is part of the reason why incorporation is under
(See *ROCKFISH*, page 9)

Poole announces bid for commission



BY CATHARIN SHEPARD
Staff writer

Although filing for county elections won't open until February 2018, a local resident has announced his intentions to run for a seat on the Hoke County Board of Commissioners.

Local businessman Graham Poole filed his intention to run for office with the Hoke County Board of Elections earlier this month. The intention to run is a preliminary announcement that allows prospective candidates the chance

to start working on their campaigns. So far Poole is the only person who has announced intention to run in the election next year.

Poole announced his run publicly on his Facebook page, stating that county finances, education, public safety and the betterment of all people in Hoke County are all matters he would like to address.

"I have NO desire to be elected commissioner for any selfish, personal, financial gain, etc. Others have already done that, and some do now. Sorry if the truth offends the offenders or their supporters. Again, I care about ALL citizens of Hoke County, and I care that we live in a County that we can be proud of our leaders that truly wish that we all are represented
(See *POOLE*, page 6)

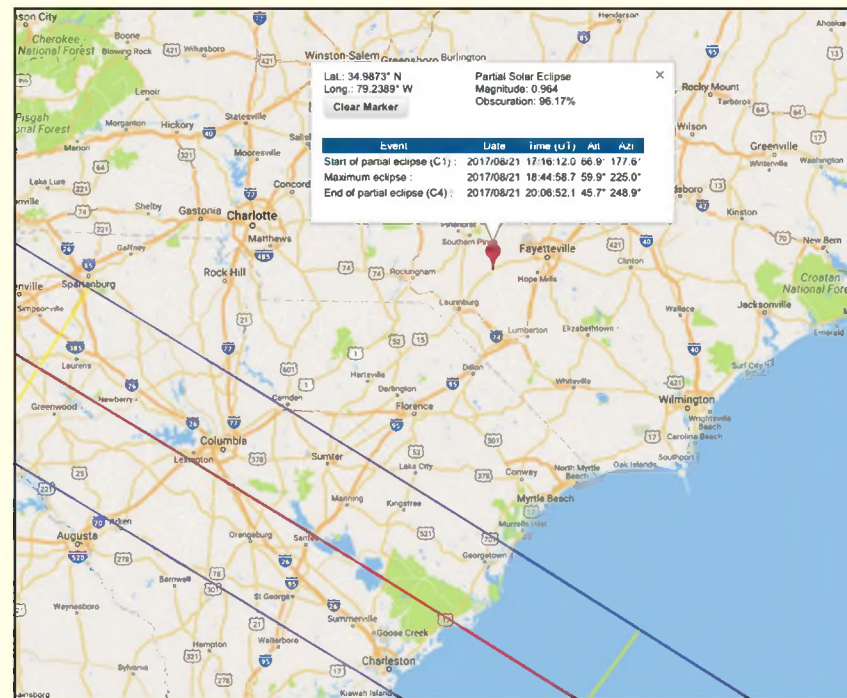
Partly cloudy with a chance of darkness Monday

BY KEN MACDONALD

You probably won't soon forget Monday in Hoke County. The solar eclipse will arrive here almost exactly at 2:45 p.m., and though the effects will be drastically different than a roughly 70-mile swatch over South Carolina where the eclipse will reach totality, you'll notice them nonetheless. It'll be darker and a tad cooler—even if clouds obscure the event. At press time the forecast for the area is roughly a 50 percent chance of rain, typical summer weather here.

Raeford will see just a tad over 96 percent obscuration of the sun. Partial eclipse will begin here just after 1:15 p.m. and will continue until roughly 4 p.m.

Even here, where totality won't occur, perhaps especially here, eye safety is of paramount importance. At no time in Hoke County—even
(See *ECLIPSE*, page 9)



Top: the path of totality—between purple lines (source, NASA); bottom: what the eclipse will look like here. (source, UC Berkeley)

Raeford police chief retires 5 years after 'test under fire'

BY CATHARIN SHEPARD
Staff writer

Raeford Police Chief Kemp Crumpler retired earlier this month after serving for more than 30 years in law enforce-

ment, including five and a half years as the leader of the city's police force.

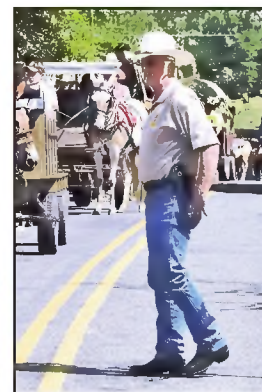
The city recognized Crumpler August 4 with a reception in his honor.

"We appreciate his years of service and he did a great job while he was here," Raeford City Manager Dennis Baxley said.

Maj. Marc Godwin, who



Five years ago, a counter-protest at a soldier's funeral.

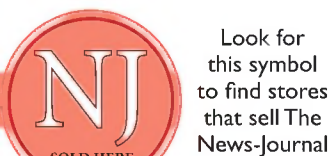


With the wagon train.

served as the assistant chief of police, is currently serving as the interim chief and has applied for the open chief's position.

The city has been advertising the position for about 10 days. The city is "excited" to have Godwin serving as the interim chief, Baxley said.

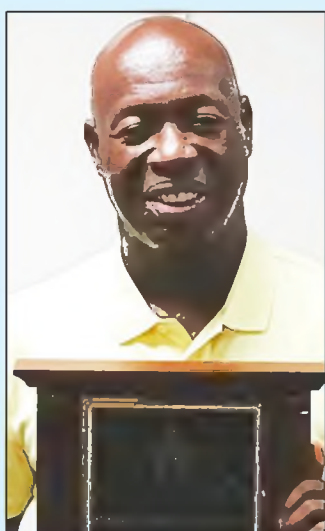
Godwin described Crumpler as "very nice, humble" and said he enjoyed working with him.
(See *CRUMPLER*, page 9)



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Chairs association

The North Carolina Sheriffs' Association recently reappointed Hoke County Sheriff Hubert Peterkin to serve a second consecutive term as chairman of the organization's board of directors, the first time in the group's history that one person has held the position two terms in a row. Peterkin served as president of the Sheriffs' Association in 2015-16. The group elects its leaders annually. The association honored Peterkin for "outstanding leadership and dedication."

OTHER STUFF

BY KEN MACDONALD

Here's something else we can't seem to do anything about, Pandora having opened the jar and all that.

An article in *The Atlantic* by a professor of Psychology says the differences between today's teenagers and those of the previous generation are so radical she's never seen anything like it in all her career, and she lays the blame at the feet of smartphones.

Today's kids get them early, spend several hours per day on them, sleep with them, and would rather socialize with their friends on them than do it in person.

"The roller rink, the basketball court, the town pool, the local necking spot—they've all been replaced by virtual
(See *OTHER STUFF*, page 4)



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