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During a partial solar eclipse, the Moon covers only parts of the Sun. The partial eclipse will be visible on Aug. 21 from the university campus.

University astronomers wait in anticipation for solar eclipse

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The first time Bill Willard, adjunct lecturer in physics at UNC Asheville, saw a solar eclipse with his own eyes, it made his hair stand up on its ends.

"As it began to get darker, it was not like how it gets dark in the evening. It was like someone was blocking the light. It was eerie because the animals reacted differently," Willard said. "It was almost like they went to sleep, like they thought it was night time so they stopped making their noise. They disappeared, then they came back out once it was over."

Willard attended Clemson University in 1984 when the solar eclipse occurred.

A solar eclipse will pass over most of North America on Aug. 21, according to the National Aeronautics and Space Administration. Asheville will not see a to-

tal solar eclipse but will see a 99 percent eclipse. Because the eclipse over UNC Asheville will not be total, a full blackout will not occur.

According to NASA, the partial eclipse at UNCA will last from 1:08 to 4:01 p.m. The maximum eclipse will be visible at 2:37 p.m.

Judy Beck, physics lecturer at UNCA, said the path of totality will travel right over Western Carolina University.

The total eclipse over WCU will last from 2:35 to 2:37 p.m.

Beck said the provost office has already ordered solar eclipse glasses for students and faculty at UNCA to use during the eclipse.

The glasses will have a cardboard frame and material over the eyes to filter out the sun's light.

"I think the university is definitely trying to make an effort to engage people in

the eclipse," Beck said.

Beck has seen two total solar eclipses. The first one, Beck said, occurred while she attended Williams College as an undergraduate. She and an astronomy professor traveled to Brandon, Manitoba, Canada.

"During the partial phases we watched the eclipse with our special glasses and recorded some data with some instruments we had," Beck said. "Then as totality neared, we got extremely excited. You could see the shadow coming across the land approaching us. At the moment of totality, we were able to take off our glasses and look at the total eclipse sun."

The second time Beck witnessed a total eclipse she was living in Ecuador. She said the total eclipse followed a path over Colombia, which borders Ecuador.

Beck traveled to Colombia to be in the path of the total eclipse, where she

met a local astronomy club who gave her eclipse glasses, and watched the eclipse on a hillside with a group of people.

Brian Dennison, professor of physics at UNCA, has seen a total of two total solar eclipses in his lifetime as well.

Dennison said his first experience seeing a total solar eclipse happened while he attended the University of Louisville. He, along with a group of students from the university, traveled to Currituck for the opportunity to see a total solar eclipse on March 7, 1970.

"At that time, I was an undergraduate at the University of Louisville. There was a bunch of us who worked on campus at the planetarium and we decided to go to see the solar eclipse," Dennison said.

The group camped on an island right

CONTINUED ON PAGE 18

Community Police Action Committee clashes with Asheville police force

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In the meeting room of the Community Police Action Committee, people gathered to discuss a heated agenda.

According to members, the recent upswing in community involvement divided the committee on how best to be effective, causing Chairman Larry Holt to make the decision to exclude police from the March meeting altogether.

Holt said he alone made the choice to change the traditional format. There were no police officers present and no formal table, just a circle of chairs lining the room at the Grant Center.

"Let's just see how this goes without the police," Holt said. "But a number of folks said the only reason we came is to holler at the police."

The minutes from March note the committee's desire to discuss the power of the chairman to make such a deci-

sion, as well as the possibility to have the police at every other meeting. No decision was reached.

"Some community members want the police to be at every meeting, but without guns," Holt said. "But a sworn officer of the law cannot just not carry a firearm."

Holt said the greatest participation from the public tends to occur when people get angry. When things get fiery, he said, CPAC takes the heat.

For example, on Jan. 30, a cellphone video showed an Asheville police officer approaching three teens with an AR-15. The call to APD said the teens had a gun, which turned out to be a BB gun with the orange tip broken off.

At the next CPAC meeting in February, the public became angered and increasingly critical. It became so intense the clash continued, Holt said.

CONTINUED ON PAGE 19