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Eclipse Fever

Hoke wasn't in the zone of totality, but the sun was 96 percent obscured by the moon here Monday. Top: The line to view the eclipse was long at Scurlock School Monday (contributed photo). Center: Folks used different means to view (Ramon Rivera photo). Bottom: Adults and children visited numerous booths set up to measure temperature and UV light levels, provide information on protection, and view the eclipse. (Ramon Rivera photo)

Commission, sheriff talk cutting overtime

Set aside \$30,000 for 2 months

BY KEN MACDONALD

Hoke County commissioners and Sheriff Hubert Peterkin are talking about ways to fix the sheriff's overtime problem. The sheriff appeared before the board Monday night and asked to move \$30,000 from a salary to overtime in the budget to get the department through the next two months.

Chairman James Leach was happy to oblige: "Sheriff, the good part about this—you made it real easy. You found the money," he said. "The LGC (Local Government Commission) loves it when we stay within our budget. And find it within our budget. And if they love it, you know we gotta love it. Because they pops our hand—I'm almost gotten sore," he said.

Commissioner Harry Southerland asked about a longer term solution. "In regards to the overtime, what do you think the commissioners can do to help you and your office with the overtime? Is there something we can do as a team? To make this thing work?"

"Yeah, we're going to have to," the sheriff answered. "I actually told the county manager—this is something we're going to have to put our heads together on."

"And the key is the citizens," said South-

erland. "Safety—safety of the employees and safety of our community. So we gotta work together."

"On overtime," Peterkin continued, "we gotta look at the liability it's become for the officers and the inmates."



County Manager Letitia Edens. (Ken MacDonald photo)

Commissioner Bobby Wright asked Peterkin about a measure the board had previously offered.

"Did you consider the extra five percent we offered for night workers at the jail?" he asked.

(See OVERTIME, page 9)

Buses will be rolling Monday



Nearly 9,000 students will be in school Monday. Many will be arriving on buses.

Schools open Monday for most of the nearly 9,000 students in Hoke County, and that means area roads are going to be much busier.

Hoke Schools spokesperson Jodie Bryant is reminding parents whose children ride buses to ensure they follow recently established guidelines for boarding and exiting buses. Last year Hoke had a "really close call," Bryant said, when a child was nearly hit while getting off a bus. The guidelines are credited with saving the life of the child.

Children boarding buses should:

- Stay on the side of the road 12 feet away from traffic

(See SCHOOL BUSES, page 10)

Number of booths tops 100 as N.C. Fall Festival nears

More than 100 vendors will set up on the big day—Saturday, September 16—of the North Carolina Fall Festival this year, says spokesperson Melissa Pittman.

That's 23 food vendors in the food court, 18 commercial vendors (including 31, Scentsy,

LuLaRoe, Paparazzi), 17 sponsor vendors, 14 informational booths and 31 craft vendors. There may be others, because applications are still being accepted.

Meanwhile entries are still being accepted for the festival parade, which will be held Thursday, Sep 14.

Tickets are ready for the Stuffin' and Stompin' Dinner on Friday, September 15. The menu is turkey, dressing, green beans, candied potatoes. Tickets are \$8 and are available from the festival board of directors and Child Nutrition Services employees, and at the festival office located in the Chamber of Commerce. The money raised during the dinner is split equally between the festival and

Child Nutritional Services of Hoke County, as it was in the festival's beginning when Clara Pope began the favorite event of the Festival.

Another highlight this year: the festival will remember Ray Burrow and acknowledge the impact of the (See FALL FESTIVAL, page 9)

OTHER STUFF

BY KEN MACDONALD



Eclipse in Dalzell. (Ken MacDonald photo)

We left Raeford around 10 on Monday, headed south for "totalitarianism," as one comedian school principal called it. "No, that's our current government," someone quipped as we drove down US 15. We had picked Dalzell, South Carolina for its smallness (2,600 people), and therefore supposed lack of traffic, and for its location, firmly, but just barely, inside the 70-mile band of eclipse totality.

My job in our group of friends and family had been to scout a location where we could experience total darkness, eat some barbecue and see something called shadow bands and a pink corona, which I thought might be a Toyota you were awarded for selling lots of Mary Kay.

On the barbecue front, I had found a place called the Chicken (See OTHER STUFF, page 8)



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