



Jeff Ter Har/For The Daily Astorian  
A view of the eclipse from Seaside.

## 'GEEKING OUT'

### Eclipse provided spectacular views, few hassles

By JACK HEFFERNAN,  
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*The Daily Astorian*

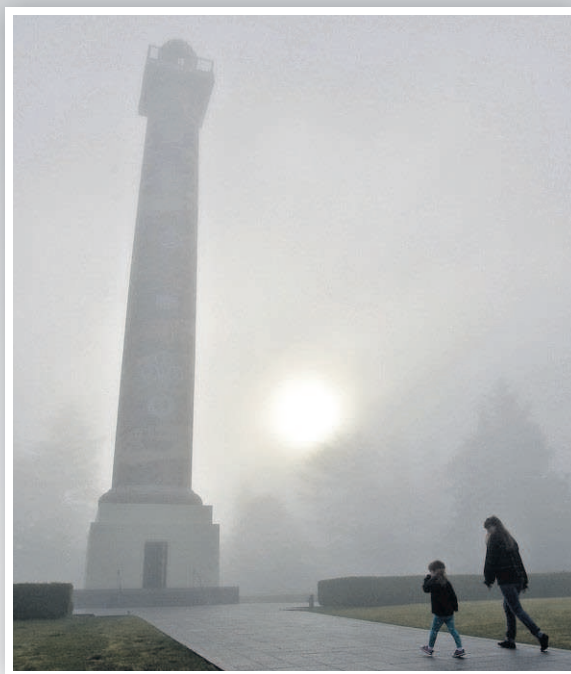
**P**orsche Brunzell, sporting a NASA shirt and sweatpants featuring drawings of galaxies, sat at the base of the Astoria Column facing the sun. An admitted space nerd, she had been counting down to the moment for weeks. She figured the Column, just up the road from her home, was as good a spot as any to see the celestial event.

"I'm geeking out a bit, trying to calm down," she said about an hour before the solar eclipse as early morning clouds began to fade. "The universe has to give me this."

For Brunzell and millions of people across the United States on Monday, the universe did just that. But the total solar eclipse did not bring the potential downsides many had feared. There was little traffic gridlock and no unruly crowds — a relief on the North Coast.

#### Sunny skies

Estimates had roughly 1 million people coming to Oregon over the weekend and Monday, temporarily — and quickly — increasing the state's population by nearly 25 percent. Officials from around the state were expecting massive traffic delays, including in some areas outside the path of totality like the North Coast. But compared to initial worries, it was sunny skies for the state Department of Transportation.



Colin Murphey/The Daily Astorian

People begin to make their way to the Astoria Column on Monday morning hours before the solar eclipse. Fog that was present early in the morning drifted away, providing a clear view of the event.

"It's like a busy weekend," ODOT spokesman Lou Torres said. "We didn't encounter anything we couldn't handle."

The Department of Transportation's maintenance crews and communications teams will take the next few days to discuss what worked and didn't work in preparation for future large events.

"This was a great experience," Torres said. "We've never had anything like this in terms of a mass traffic event."

Though some agencies increased patrols and even sent some officers south to aid other departments near the path of totality, law enforcement officials did not report any unusual traffic or criminal activity.

"I think this is a reaction to over-advertising," Cannon Beach Police Chief Jason Schermerhorn said.

#### 'Eerily quiet'

Local wildland firefighters were prepared for a number of emergency scenarios that, by the time the eclipse actually arrived, had yet to happen. Instead, they saw the last thing they had expected: Nothing.

In fact, said Neal Bond, Astoria protection unit forester with the Oregon Department of Forestry, the eclipse weekend was quieter than is typical for the summer. There was even a "vacancy" sign out for Fort Stevens State Park before the eclipse, he said, "which is fairly unheard of in August."

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### Eclipse watchers marvel at totality in John Day

#### A pristine view of the cosmic dance

By GEORGE PLAVERN  
*EO Media Group*

**JOHN DAY** — Anticipation turned to cheers Monday morning in John Day as visitors from around the world celebrated the arrival of the total solar eclipse.

For about two minutes, the moon came in perfect alignment with the sun, casting an otherworldly darkness that left spectators in awe. The skies remained mostly clear throughout the morning, offering a pristine view of the cosmic dance. Then, just as quickly as it came, it was over and light returned.

Located deep within the path of totality, John Day played host to thousands of eclipse

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E.J. Harris/EO Media Group

Gabriel Porter, of Sandy, right, reacts to the start of the eclipse while watching it with his twin brother, Nathan, on Monday in John Day.

#### MORE INSIDE AND ONLINE

See photos readers submitted of the total solar eclipse on Page 11A and online at [DailyAstorian.com](http://DailyAstorian.com)

### Crowds gather at Capitol to view eclipse

#### Moment more subdued than many expected

By CLAIRE WITHYCOMBE  
*Capital Bureau*

**SALEM** — For about two minutes Monday morning, Oregon's capital went dark during the first total solar eclipse to hit the continental U.S. since 1979.

State emergency managers and tourism officials had been prepping for the big event for about a year, though things seemed more subdued in Salem than some had feared.

The event did draw visitors to Salem — the first of five state capitals in the path of totality — from all over the nation and the world.

The crowd front of the state capitol building sported reflective eclipse glasses, telescopes and camera equipment.

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## In Astoria, an inventory of trees

### Report tracks trees found in city parks

By KATIE FRANKOWICZ  
*The Daily Astorian*

Two years ago, the Astoria Parks and Recreation Department contemplated destroying a giant: an iconic 150-year-old moss-covered bigleaf maple in Alderbrook's Violet LaPlante Park with an infected and rotting dual trunk.

Through thinning and other

measures, the department was able to save the tree for now, but Parks and Recreation Board member Jessica Schleif said then that she hoped the city would one day catalog important and historic trees, old trees that are "really special to us in this community."

A new tree inventory comes close to accomplishing this goal.

On Monday, the Astoria City Council accepted a report by ArborPro that looked at 1,860 tree sites across the city's parks, recording the size, species and condition of individual trees. It pro-

vides a sort of roadmap for the parks department, said Jonah Dart-McLean, parks maintenance supervisor.

"It's a great starting point, actually," he told city councilors.

He was pleasantly surprised to find that over the sprawling city park system, "we're fortunate to have some pretty healthy trees."

The city allocated \$30,000 for the inventory. Completed in June, the report highlights immediate and future maintenance needs, said Parks



Colin Murphey/The Daily Astorian

A comprehensive inventory of Astoria's parkland trees completed this summer will help guide future maintenance decisions.

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