

Bob Duke/Chinook Observer

If we luck out and the evening is clear, Pacific Northwest residents are in for one of nature's great shows on Sunday.

A TOTAL ECLIPSE OF THE MOON

Look to the skies on Sunday

By **BOB DUKE**
Chinook Observer

The Great American Eclipse is coming! Again.

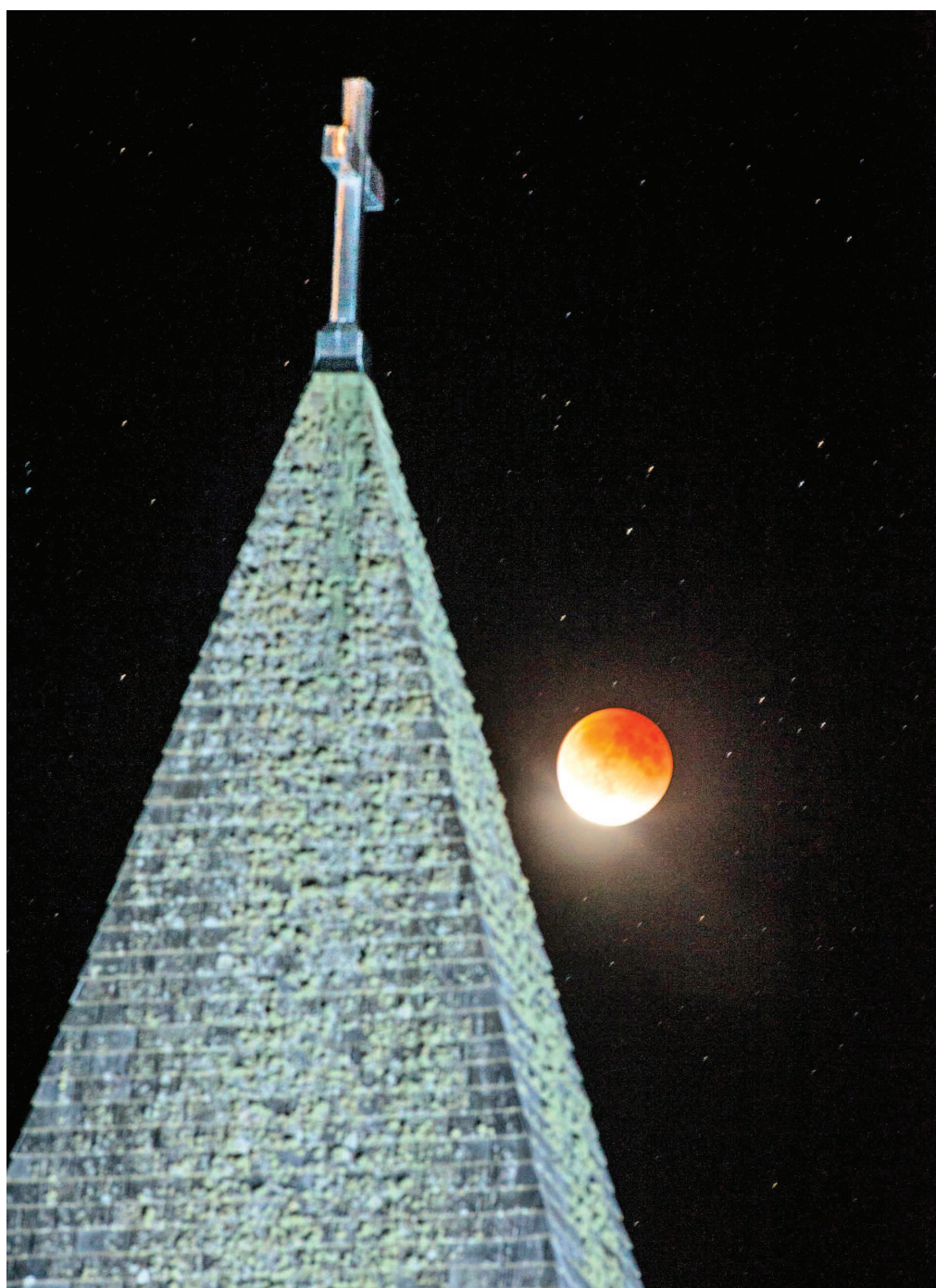
On Sunday, our Earth, moon and the sun once again align, but this time it is the moon that gets the shadow, and we get a total lunar eclipse. And unlike the 2017 solar eclipse, an optimal viewing location is already guaranteed. For this eclipse, not a single person in the Pacific Northwest will have to travel farther than their backyard to view it.

Not only will West Coast watchers be treated to a complete eclipse, from beginning to end, between sunset and midnight, but the entire western hemisphere, from Tierra del Fuego at the southern tip of our continents to Point Barrow, Alaska, and from Oystererville to Boston, and all points between, will enjoy the eclipse in its entirety. And a special, spectacular one it will be.

The winter sun resides below the celestial equator and barely rises above the southern horizon for us viewers in the northern climes. But the full moon, always positioned opposite the sun, occupies a place in the heavens reserved for the sun in summer; brilliantly high in the sky.

The full moon is an imposing sight in January as it bathes the land in reflected sunlight, brilliant enough to cast shadows. But from 8:41 p.m. to 9:44 p.m. on Sunday, its brilliance will fade to a dull reddish hue, that some folks like to call the "blood moon."

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Natalie St. John/Chinook Observer

The rare 'super blood moon' transitioned from eerie orange to brilliant white as it rose over the steeple of the historic McGowan Church in September 2015. The phenomenon was caused by the simultaneous occurrence of a 'super moon,' which made the moon look larger than usual, and a lunar eclipse, which temporarily turned the moon a striking orange color. An incrementally smaller-appearing lunar eclipse will occur Sunday.

AN ASTRONAUT ON THE MOON WOULD SEE EARTH SURROUNDED BY A THIN, RED RING OF SUNLIGHT, SHINING THROUGH THE ATMOSPHERE. HE WOULD BE OBSERVING EVERY SUNRISE AND SUNSET ON EARTH HAPPENING SIMULTANEOUSLY.

Local transit funding hit by shutdown

Cutbacks could disrupt bus routes, service hours

By **EDWARD STRATTON**
The Daily Astorian

The Sunset Empire Transportation District is missing more than half of its operational funding because of the government shutdown and could soon have to look at cutbacks.

Jeff Hazen, the transportation district's director, said the agency receives about 56 percent of operational money through reimbursements from Federal Transit Administration grants, amounting to about \$143,000 per quarter. But the federal staff who process the reimbursements have been furloughed.

Sunset Empire has already missed one installment.

"We've got plenty of cash," he said. "That's not an issue. But our cash is tied up in the ending fund balance."

By Oregon law, cash for the ending fund balance — about \$524,000 — can't be used except in the event of a natural disaster.

The agency has a contingency budget in place but has used much of it to recover from a data loss, and to help cover the cost of operating the Lower Columbia Connector route to Rainier. The connector route, which costs about \$2,600 a week to operate, was supposed to be shared with Columbia County. But because of budgeting errors, Columbia County ran out of money after the first year of this biennium to help cover its portion, leaving Sunset Empire to cover the entire cost of the route, Hazen said.

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States wrestle with salmon strategies

Debate over gillnets influences talks

By **KATIE FRANKOWICZ**
The Daily Astorian

SALEM — Oregon and Washington state are still figuring out what to do with gillnets on the Columbia River.

A committee that includes fish and wildlife commissioners from both states met for the first time Thursday with staff in Salem to go over areas where the states maintain different policies for the river.

They made no decisions. Rather, the meeting provided commissioners with a chance to delve into their opinions about what needs to be considered when it comes to the river's salmon fisheries.

There is pressure on the commissions to maintain similar rules for the fisheries this year. In recent years, the states, which manage the fisheries jointly, have diverged, sometimes markedly, on what they want to allow on the river.

Since 2013, Oregon and Washington have operated under the Columbia River Reform Plan — also known as the Kitzhaber Plan after its champion,

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Tourism project outlines goals

Grant money will help with sustainability

By **BRENN A VISSER**
The Daily Astorian

Establishing a beach and trail ambassador program, improving signs and starting a new message campaign about protecting natural resources are some of the ideas tourism leaders are proposing to make the tourism industry more sustainable.

For the past year and half, business owners, government, tourism and nonprofit leaders from Clatsop and Tillamook counties have been participating in a North Coast Tourism Studio, a program coordinated by Travel Oregon.

At the program's final event

Wednesday, participants designed teams to carry out projects related to solving congestion issues, overcrowding at popular destinations and visitor education over several years.

In addition to a \$25,000 grant from Travel Oregon, business leaders from Clatsop and Tillamook counties are pooling together about \$45,000 to help fund these initiatives as a region.

"The biggest benefit from this is that we ended working in silos," said Nan Devlin, of Visit Tillamook Coast. "It's not about just supporting one town, one county ... it's about supporting the North Coast."

Encouraging stewardship

Many of the projects are centered around protecting trails, parks and

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Colin Murphey/The Daily Astorian

Haystack Rock is a draw for visitors to the Oregon Coast.

