

Father, son prepare for eclipse after missed 1979 viewing

By GILLIAN FLACCUS
Associated Press

MADRAS — The last time a total solar eclipse blacked out the sun in Oregon nearly 40 years ago, Gene Brick was working in a timber mill that refused to shut down for the spectacle.

The World War II veteran and amateur astronomer was devastated when his friends raved about experiencing a pitch-dark sky in the middle of the day.

"Everyone who was outside got to see it, and they enjoyed telling me all about it — and I was hurt by that," said Brick, now 92. "But work is work, you know."

Brick will get another chance to witness history this month, when a total solar eclipse begins its path across the U.S. in Oregon.

The one he missed in 1979 covered the Pacific Northwest and parts of Canada. This total eclipse will be visible from coast to coast across the nation — something that hasn't happened in 99 years.

Brick plans to watch the event with his son using two telescopes: a fancy new one and one the two crafted together 53 years ago in their basement.

The men will peer at the sun through both during the eclipse's totality, when the moon's shadow completely covers the sun for just over two minutes. They also will use special filters to photograph the eclipse through the newer machine.

For Brick, who survived a kamikaze attack on the USS Drexler during the Battle of Okinawa, the opportunity is the experience of a lifetime.

"I always loved to look at the moon," he said, after peering through the telescope the pair crafted in 1964. "I still do."

The Bricks will have a prime location for their father-son moment. The town of Madras, in central Oregon, is in the high desert, where summertime skies are often clear and cloudless. Up to 100,000 people are expected to flock to the town and



This frame grab from a video shows Gene Brick, 92, left, and his son, Bartt Brick, peer through a telescope in Madras, June 12, that they made together in 1964. The two plan to watch the upcoming solar eclipse together Aug. 21, 2017, as it passes through Oregon.

surrounding Jefferson County for the Aug. 21 event, creating worries about overcrowding and traffic.

Brick's son, Bartt Brick, is on the Madras City Council and will be on call during the eclipse. But taking the time to watch the event with his father is important to him. The elder Brick got the last four credits he needed for his high school diploma by signing up for the U.S. Navy and never attended college — but even in his 90s, he's studying particle physics.

The pair decided to build the telescope when the younger Brick was 14, after finding a piece of glass in his late grandfather's garage that was hand-ground into a concave lens for a telescope. Gene Brick worked long, hard days cutting logs at the mill then stayed up into the night working on the project with his teenage son.

"We'd bought ourselves a book on telescopes and a new dictionary, and after about — what — four or five months, we had a telescope," Bartt Brick recalled on a recent summer day. "I'd sleep about half the night," his father added with a chuckle.

The two dragged the telescope outside on the night they finished, aimed it toward the heavens by propping it on a

stepladder, and peered into the night sky until they spied the Ring Nebula, a dying star in a constellation about 2,000 light years from Earth.

"We were so excited, we ran in and told Mom. But at 2 o'clock in the morning, she wasn't as thrilled as we were," the younger Brick said.

Over the years, the telescope got a lot of use from the family and from a string of neighborhood children who lined up most evenings to peer at the moon.

But when the 1979 total solar eclipse came along, the elder Brick was working, the younger Brick no longer lived at home, and the telescope went unused.

When Bartt Brick moved back to Madras three years ago, the stars aligned for another crack at a shared celestial show.

On Aug. 21, three generations of Bricks will assemble. They'll have a sleek black, new telescope equipped with a remote control and a USB cord for snapping photos through a computer.

But they'll also have on hand the unassuming, unmounted metal cylinder they worked on so long ago.

"Dad's had a message for me ever since I was 2 years old, and it was, 'Be curious,'" Bartt Brick said. "And boy, did I learn how to be curious with this."

PENDLETON Fire department union gets higher pay, better benefits in new contract

By ANTONIO SIERRA
East Oregonian

The Pendleton Fire Department's union has a new contract to go along with its new fire station.

The Pendleton City Council unanimously approved a new three-year contract with the fire department's union at a meeting Tuesday.

According to a summary of the contract changes prepared by Human Resources Manager Andrea Denton, union employees will only receive a marginal wage increase over the life of the contract — a 1 percent increase in 2019.

However, the city will now pick up the employees' 6 percent contribution into the Public Employees Retirement System.

Elsewhere in the contract, the city and the union agreed to nix the career development bonus but also created a 2 percent increase in certification pay for certain professional certificates.

The city will continue to cover 100 percent of the insurance cost share for union employees and 80 percent for employee dependents.

In addition to seeing changes to their salary and benefits, Pendleton's firefighters and paramedics will no longer have to live within 15 road miles or 30 minutes response time of the fire station, since a place of residence clause was removed from the contract.

Fifty percent of all off-duty employees will no longer have to be available to report in case of emergency, contract language Denton characterized as "unenforceable."

After meeting behind closed doors, the council emerged and unanimously approved the new contract without debate.

The International Association of Fire Fighters represents 21 members of the Pendleton Fire Department and Ambulance Service, excluding administration, reserves and interns.

Salaries currently range from \$42,168 per year for a single-role paramedic on the bottom tier to \$100,488 for a captain on the top tier.

In a previous interview, Fire Chief Mike Ciraulo said union members were aware that Pendleton voters

just agreed to a \$10 million bond and weren't being "greedy" with their requests.

Although council members didn't hold a vote on it, they did hold a public hearing about hiring a contractor during the fire station design process rather than bid it out once designs are complete.

Joseph Hull of McCormack Construction delivered a presentation on the "construction manager/general contractor" method, with assurances from Ciraulo that McCormack would not receive preferential treatment.

Over the course of his career, Hull said he's worked on several projects using this alternative method, ranging from the 1990s remodel of Pendleton High School to the Seattle Justice Center.

Hull said it would be advantageous for the city to employ this method because the designer and contractor will frequently perform cost evaluations during the design phase and change the scope of the project accordingly if its needed.

Additionally, a contractor must produce a maximum cost fee once the station is 80 percent designed.

The council will hold another public hearing at its next meeting and vote whether to use the construction manager/general contractor" method.

Other actions the council took include:

- The council unanimously approved \$107,000 in vehicle purchases for the Pendleton Police Department.

The department will use the money to buy three new patrol cars and two used, low-mileage sedans for the community services officer and the code enforcement officer.

- The council also unanimously approved a \$204,193 bid from Jesse Rodriguez Construction of Silverton to replace water mains at Northwest Ninth Street and Southwest 32nd Street and a \$67,676 bid from Columbia Pumping & Construction of Pasco to perform repair work on a sewer line running under the Umatilla River.

Contact Antonio Sierra at asierra@eastoregonian.com or 541-966-0836.

Corrections

The August 1 East Oregonian article "Plant goes offline for picnic and repairs" contained the wrong date for the next Stanfield City Council meeting. The next city council meeting is scheduled for Tuesday, Aug. 15. The East Oregonian works hard to be accurate and sincerely regrets any errors. If you notice a mistake in the paper, please call 541-966-0818.

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AccuWeather.com Forecast

TODAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY	SUNDAY
HOT	HOT	HOT		HOT
Very hot with plenty of sunshine	Very hot	Very hot with sizzling sunshine	Hot with some sun	Partly sunny and very hot
PENDLETON TEMPERATURE FORECAST				
102° 65°	102° 68°	104° 72°	101° 70°	101° 71°
HERMISTON TEMPERATURE FORECAST				
105° 64°	106° 69°	107° 74°	104° 71°	104° 72°

ALMANAC

PENDLETON

through 3 p.m. yesterday

TEMPERATURE

HIGH	LOW
99°	58°
Normals	90° 60°
Records	108° (2009) 41° (1897)

PRECIPITATION

24 hours ending 3 p.m.	0.00"
Month to date	0.00"
Normal month to date	0.01"
Year to date	11.30"
Last year to date	7.27"
Normal year to date	7.96"

HERMISTON

through 3 p.m. yesterday

TEMPERATURE

HIGH	LOW
100°	55°
Normals	90° 60°
Records	109° (2009) 41° (2002)

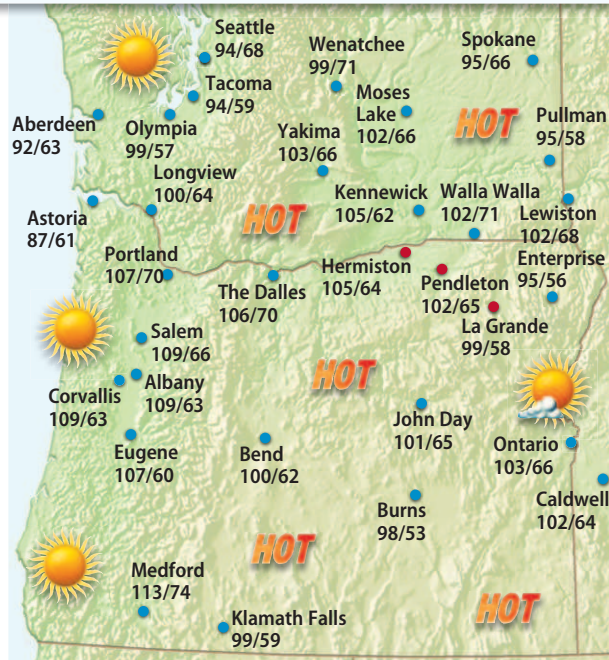
PRECIPITATION

24 hours ending 3 p.m.	0.00"
Month to date	0.00"
Normal month to date	0.01"
Year to date	6.59"
Last year to date	4.94"
Normal year to date	5.93"

SUN AND MOON

Sunrise today	5:40 a.m.
Sunset tonight	8:22 p.m.
Moonrise today	4:34 p.m.
Moonset today	1:35 a.m.

Full	Last	New	First
Aug 7	Aug 14	Aug 21	Aug 29



REGIONAL FORECAST

Coastal Oregon: Plenty of sunshine today; very warm across the north. Clear tonight. Plenty of sun tomorrow.
Eastern Washington: Hazy sun today; extreme heat can be dangerous. Clear tonight. Plenty of sun tomorrow.
Cascades: Blazing sunshine and very hot today. Clear tonight. Very hot tomorrow.
Northern California: Mostly sunny today; very hot in central parts. Mainly clear tonight.

REGIONAL CITIES

	Today			Thu.		
	Hi	Lo	W	Hi	Lo	W
Astoria	87	61	s	82	58	s
Baker City	95	48	s	95	50	s
Bend	100	62	s	100	63	s
Brookings	69	55	s	68	55	s
Burns	98	53	pc	98	51	s
Enterprise	95	56	s	95	58	s
Eugene	107	60	s	106	57	s
Heppner	98	63	s	99	69	s
Hermiston	105	64	s	106	69	s
John Day	101	65	s	100	61	s
Klamath Falls	99	59	s	99	56	s
La Grande	99	58	s	99	59	s
Meacham	97	55	s	97	56	s
Medford	113	74	pc	112	72	s
Newport	77	54	s	69	51	s
North Bend	77	56	s	71	55	s
Ontario	103	66	s	102	66	s
Pasco	105	64	pc	104	63	s
Pendleton	102	65	s	102	68	s
Portland	107	70	s	106	69	s
Redmond	101	55	s	101	56	s
Salem	109	66	s	109	63	s
Spokane	95	66	pc	96	67	s
Ukiah	95	52	s	96	55	s
Vancouver	104	69	s	104	69	s
Walla Walla	102	71	pc	102	72	s
Yakima	103	66	pc	104	67	s

WORLD CITIES

	Today			Thu.		
	Hi	Lo	W	Hi	Lo	W
Beijing	85	75	t	94	75	t
Hong Kong	92	84	sh	90	83	t
Jerusalem	88	68	s	86	67	s
London	66	61	r	72	58	c
Mexico City	79	58	pc	78	56	pc
Moscow	79	68	s	77	59	pc
Paris	81	65	pc	81	61	pc
Rome	94	72	s	97	74	s
Seoul	93	78	pc	95	77	pc
Sydney	63	51	pc	65	52	r
Tokyo	82	73	pc	84	75	pc

WINDS

(in mph)	Today	Thursday
Boardman	NE 6-12	NNE 4-8
Pendleton	N 6-12	NW 4-8

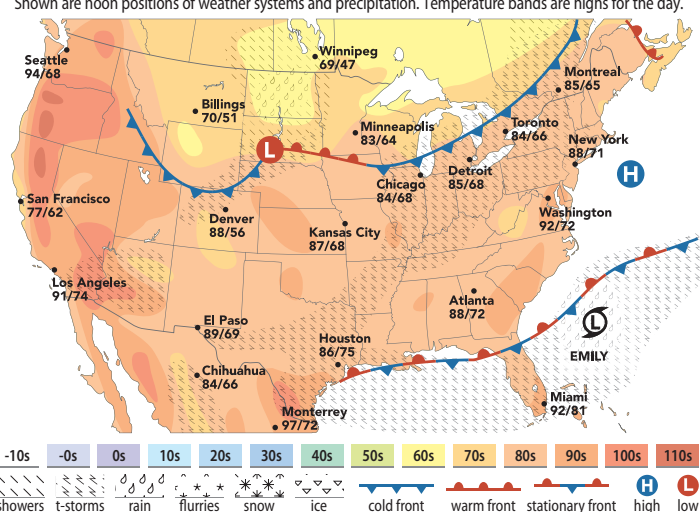
UV INDEX TODAY

1 4 7 7 4 1
8 a.m. 10 a.m. Noon 2 p.m. 4 p.m. 6 p.m.
0-2, Low 3-5, Moderate 6-7, High; 8-10, Very High; 11+, Extreme
The higher the AccuWeather.com UV Index™ number, the greater the need for eye and skin protection.

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NATIONAL WEATHER TODAY

Shown are noon positions of weather systems and precipitation. Temperature bands are highs for the day.



National Summary: Locally heavy storms will extend from the Plains to the Great Lakes and will riddle the Deep South and Southwest today. Rain will precede a cooldown over the northern Plains as heat builds in the Northwest.

Yesterday's National Extremes: (for the 48 contiguous states)
High 110° in Redding, Calif. Low 34° in Dillon, Colo.

NATIONAL CITIES

	Today			Thur.			Today			Thur.			
	Hi	Lo	W	Hi	Lo	W	Hi	Lo	W	Hi	Lo	W	
Albuquerque	88	66	pc	89	64	t	Louisville	87	70	pc	88	72	t
Atlanta	88	72	pc	84	69	t	Memphis	86	70	c	90	72	pc
Atlanta City	83	70	pc	82	72	pc	Miami	92	81	t	93	82	pc
Baltimore	90	67	pc	90	69	pc	Millwaukee	79	66	pc	78	59	t
Billings	70	51	pc	79	55	s	Minneapolis	83	64	pc	64	53	r
Birmingham	86	71	pc	87	72	t	Nashville	89	69	c	91	72	pc
Boston	102	66	s	100	67	s	New Orleans	88	74	t	84	74	t
Charlotte, SC	82	66	s	82	66	pc	New York City	88	71	t	86	72	pc
Chicago	85	65	t	87	67	pc	St. Louis	89	65	pc	89	65	pc
Chicago, WV	84	68	pc	83	60	t	Omaha	86	65	pc	72	54	pc
Cleveland	85</												