

# 'This is something that a lot of people don't get to see'

ECLIPSE continued  
from front page

witness the long-awaited celestial event.

Dave Shrestha set up an Orion SkyQuest telescope on the sidewalk just south of the intersection so that his wife, Anupma, and son and daughter, Kavi and Devina, could watch the total solar eclipse safely.

"We decided not to risk it," Dave Shrestha said of staying on the Oregon Coast.

The corner near St. Michael's Catholic Church became an impromptu observatory for many from Pacific City who hightailed it inland during the early morning and also set up portable telescopes.

In Tribal Elder Housing, Elder Herman Hudson sat in a lawn chair next to Gladys Bolton as the moon slowly encroached on the morning sun.

"This is something that a lot of people don't get to see," the 92-year-old World War II veteran said.

Hudson said he had seen partial eclipses before, but never a total solar eclipse. "This is totally different," he said.

Hudson shared the experience with his daughter, Kathryn Dunham, and son, Steve Hudson. Dunham brought her friends Patricia Love and Valerie Washington with her from Washington state, while Steve Hudson was with his friend, Rick Whitney (Cherokee).

Mike and Tammy Robison of Springfield, who were staying with Tribal Elder Steve Rife for Contest Powwow weekend, used welding masks to protect their eyes as they watched the eclipse progress toward totality.

"We thought that since we're here, we'll just take a look at this," Mike said while viewing the partially consumed sun at 9:45 a.m.



Photo by Dean Rhodes

**Tribal Elders, from front, Steve Hudson, Herman Hudson and Gladys Bolton watch the total solar eclipse unfold in Elder Housing at about 10 a.m. Monday, Aug. 21. Also watching in reclining lawn chairs in the background was Herman Hudson's daughter, Kathryn Dunham, and her friends Patricia Love and Valerie Washington. Totality was reached in Grand Ronde at 10 seconds before 10:17 a.m. and lasted 101 seconds.**

"The main reason was powwow, but this came in second," Tammy added.

Tribal Elders Marcella Selwyn and Marilee Norwest sat on their porch, watching the eclipse through widely distributed safety glasses.

"It's kind of exciting," Selwyn said. "I had seen one awhile back, but I can't remember when. It kind of scared me because I had never seen it before. Now, I know."

Tessa Grant sat in her driveway with her three children, watch-

ing the eclipse. "As I was telling her (10-year-old daughter Tasi-na Bluehorse), this is the only time she is going to see this in her lifetime," Grant said.

"It's pretty cool," Bluehorse, who knew that the moon was passing between the Earth and sun, said.

"I think it's great," said Tribal Elder Marvin Davis, who also saw a total solar eclipse that occurred over the Pacific Northwest in 1979. "It was amazing ... history being made."

Spirit Mountain Casino held an Eclipse Viewing Party on Monday morning in the parking lot near PlayWorld.

In addition, the casino's main parking lot and the parking lot at Grand Ronde Station were full of people craning their heads at 45-degree angles up at the disappearing sun.

"We had about 450 people with a lot of people standing by in cars," Marketing Manager Shawna Ridgebear said.

At about 10 a.m. as totality drew closer, Tribal member Steve Hudson observed that the sun looked "like a banana." The temperature was appreciably cooler five minutes later and Herman Hudson said that the other side of the moon facing the sun "must be hotter than Hell."

At 10:17 a.m., people took off their protective glasses and safely looked at the moon, which was surrounded by the tendrils of the sun's corona for what seemed mere moments. And then a sliver of sunlight

broke through, signifying the end of totality, and everyone donned their safety eyewear again.

Steven Hudson, a musician, started singing The Beatles' "Here Comes the Sun."

"That was so cool," Dunham said.

"I got tired there for just a second," Whitney quipped about the sudden darkness.

In anticipation of predicted heavy traffic, the Oregon Department of Transportation erected signs along Highway 18 between Sheridan and Grand Ronde, advising drivers not to park on the shoulder to view the eclipse.

Meanwhile, Tribal Facilities staff erected a barricade to ensure eclipse watchers stayed off the Governance Center campus.

Tribal Security and Grand Ronde Tribal Police Department personnel patrolled the area, ensuring that people did not trespass on Tribal lands. A few people in a hayfield south of the Women's Transitional Center were asked to move before the eclipse occurred.

General Manager David Fullerton said that eclipse aficionados trespassing on Tribal lands was the only problem he heard about during the event.

"We also had to remove people from the campus, medical, Lighthouse Church and we turned people away from the powwow grounds," Grand Ronde Police Department Lt. Tim Hernandez said. "Some people were parked on private property, blocking driveways, and the corner of Hebo highway and Grand Ronde Road got quite busy. We only asked two people to move who were too close to the highway fog line."

Except for a skeleton crew at the Health & Wellness Center, most other Tribal employees were granted the day off so as not to contribute to traffic congestion in the totality zone.

According to NASA's eclipse app, a partial solar eclipse started at approximately 9:05 a.m. over Grand Ronde and, after totality ended, lasted until approximately 11:30 a.m. ■

## Board seeking younger veterans

The Tribal Veterans Special Event Board is recruiting younger veterans – Iraqi and Afghanistan veterans – to join.

"Our committee is getting older," said Veterans SEB Chairman Steve Bobb Sr., who is a Vietnam War-era Marine Corps veteran.

Members of the Special Event Board attend events as flag carriers and represent the Tribe and their branch of service. Veterans interested in volunteering should contact Tribal Council Chief of Staff Stacia Hernandez at 503-879-2304 or [stacia.martin@grandronde.org](mailto:stacia.martin@grandronde.org). ■