

Polk County
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Try to capture a solar eclipse

By Stephanie Blair
The Itemizer-Observer

POLK COUNTY — For those looking to immortalize those two minutes of totality on Aug. 21, photography is the way to go. However, there's more to capturing an eclipse than pushing a button.

Mike Lowery, owner of Focal Point Photography in Dallas, explained that first and foremost, photographers need to ensure that they have proper protection for their eyes and cameras.

If proper protection is not used outside totality, uncovered eyes can go blind in 10 seconds, and a camera's imaging sensor is vulnerable in a similar way.

"You don't need a filter or glasses during totality," said Lowery. "Of course, that's only about two minutes."

For those still in need of a filter, they may still be available at online retailers, such as Amazon, as well as locally, at Focal Point.

If DIY projects are more appealing, it is fairly simple to construct your own solar filter using Baader AstroSolar photo film. Tutorials are available online.

Preparation is key for getting the perfect shot. Scouting out the spot you'll be shooting from ahead of time, as well as having a planned schedule of when you'll be where, is a great place to start.

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Firefighters fully contained a blaze near the intersection of Kings Valley Highway and Highway 22 on Thursday. STEPHANIE BLAIR/Itemizer-Observer

Fire burns five acres

Temperatures cool slightly, but dry conditions persist

By Emily Mentzer
The Itemizer-Observer

POLK COUNTY — Five acres burned in a field fire at Perrydale Road and Highway 22 on Thursday.

The fire was caused when a woman pulled to the side of the road with car troubles.

"She lost power in her vehicle," said April Welsh, spokeswoman for Dallas Fire & EMS. "Her engine stopped working. When she got out to see what was going on, she noticed smoke coming out of the ditch area."

The call came in to Southwestern Polk Fire District. Twenty-five firefighters

worked to contain the blaze within 30 minutes, completely extinguishing it in about an hour and a half, Welsh said. The Oregon Department of Forestry, Sheridan Fire, Amity Fire, Polk Fire District No. 1, and Dallas Fire & EMS assisted Southwestern Polk at the scene.

The blazing hot temperatures and low humidity could have presented a problem for firefighters, Welsh said, but no firefighters were injured.

The heat "is bad for our firefighters, because it's going to create more of a dehydrating issue for them when they're out there working on these fires that are already hot," Welsh said.

"They're going to lose a lot more fluid from their perspiration and the work effort they're putting into it. It's dangerous all around. It's dangerous for our community, and it's dangerous for our firefighters."

High temperatures for Thursday topped out at 103, breaking the record set in 1952 of 102.

The heat wave started on Aug. 1, with a high of 101, beating the previous record of 100 set in 2015, and didn't stop until Thursday.

Wednesday proved to be the hottest, coming in with a high of 107, shattering the previous record of 102 degrees set in 1939.

"We are nearing (becom-

ing one of) the top 10 warmest summers on record," said David Bishop, meteorologist with the National Weather Service in Portland. "We're kind of in this weird tie as it stands right now ... with the 2006 average and the 1985 average."

Oregon is getting into its summer systems, Bishop said, which is why temperatures are warmer. While the 107 on Aug. 2 was hot, it wasn't the hottest Polk County has seen.

"For your all-time high records, there was 108 that occurred in 1991; once in 1941, and once in 1927," he said.

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IN YOUR TOWN

DALLAS
Praegitzer Industries fire reunion is set for Saturday and Sunday.
»Page 3A

INDEPENDENCE
Central High School's "little actors" are ready to shine.
»Page 2A

MONMOUTH
Amanda Evola transitions from Western Oregon softball player to coach.
»Page 11A

SPORTS
Western Oregon volleyball hopes to continue building toward a bright future.
»Page 10A

Eclipse souvenir edition coming

Itemizer-Observer staff report
POLK COUNTY — A limited number of the souvenir eclipse special section will debut at the Polk County Fair Thursday through Saturday.

Subscribers will receive a copy of the souvenir edition on Aug. 16.

Any remaining copies will be available after Aug. 21 at the *Itemizer-Observer* for purchase for \$1. The Great American Eclipse will happen Aug. 21.

Fair animal entries promise to eclipse past years

By Jolene Guzman
The Itemizer-Observer

RICKREALL — The Polk County Fairgrounds & Event Center buzzed Monday morning in the scramble to get everything ready for the venue's event of the summer: The Polk County Fair.

"It's a zoo," said Fair Manager Tina Andersen, laughing. "I'm a zookeeper."

The three-day county showcase kicks off Thursday and runs through Saturday — with everything from barns full of prize animals to cooking contests to a goat obstacle course on the schedule.

This year's theme, "Moo at the Moon," is anchored in the Great American Eclipse, a mere nine days following the conclusion of the fair.

But don't worry, the Polk County Fair has plenty to see here on the ground.

Andersen said FFA and 4-H entries are challenging her creativity in making space in the animal barns



Moo at the Moon

What: 2017 Polk County Fair.
When: Thursday through Saturday 10 a.m. to 10 p.m.
Where: Polk County Fairgrounds & Event Center, 520 S. Pacific Highway West (99W), Rickreall.
Admission: Daily: adults, \$8; juniors (ages 11 to 15), \$5; seniors (62 and older), \$5; children 10 and younger are free. Season passes: adult, \$20; junior, \$10; and senior, \$10. Parking: \$3 per car.
Of note: Seniors are free on Thursday until 4 p.m. and members of the military are free on any day with a photo ID. Due to the rodeo, adult admission after 4 p.m. on Thursday is \$10.

the heat last year, we had record attendance on Thursday."

The ATV Rodeo, steadily growing in popularity, rides into the arena at 7 p.m. on Friday.

This year's event lineup has a few changes, with the annual truck and tractor pull canceled and American Thunder Monster Truck and Mega Truck Show added to Saturday night slate of events.

Polk Soil & Water Conservation District, which usually has a display and information at the entrance, has moved its booth inside the fair and will be presenting information on small animal care and an introduction to beekeeping.

Kids have entertainment choices galore out on the playground.

Bouncy houses, an obstacle course, water balls, an inflatable playground, mechanical bull and slide will be set up in one part of the lawn while Rickreall Fire's

firefighting-themed obstacle course is featured in another.

The kids' safety demonstration area, sponsored by the Confederated Tribes of Siletz Indians of Oregon, has been moved to the playground and will be giving away free car seats, bicycle helmets, and life jackets.

New this year is Dragon Theatre, offering on hands-on activities and shows, and Houston's Dinosaurs Alive.

If you see a dinosaur running loose through the fairgrounds, don't be surprised. It's all part of the interactive display and photo booth making custom T-shirts.

Andersen said there's a family connection between the dinosaur wrangler and with the conductor of another popular kids' attraction — the Rawhide Express Train.

"I'm really excited about having him here," Andersen said. "He's the brother of the guy who does our train."

THE NEXT 7 DAYS PLANNING FOR YOUR WEEK

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| wed Senator Jeff Merkley will hold a town hall meeting at the Colonel Nesmith Readiness Center in Dallas. 3:30 p.m. Free. | thu See what's fresh and in season at the Polk County Bounty Market this week, at the Academy building lawn. 10 a.m.-3 p.m. Free. | fri Rock out to some of the 90s best rock music with Schwing at Independence Riverview Park. 7:30 p.m. \$5 suggested donation | sat Dallas resident Donn Anderson will present about the total solar eclipse at the Dallas Public Library. 2 p.m. Free. | sun Skip making breakfast and support the Buell Grange Hall at its monthly event. The hall is on Mill Creek Road. 8-11 a.m. \$6 | mon Friends of the Delbert Hunter Arboretum seeks volunteers to help maintain trails and pull weeds. 6-8 p.m. Free. | tue With the Great American Eclipse less than a week away, Monmouth Library hosts how to get ready. 6 p.m. Free. |
| Sunny Hi: 90 Lo: 59 | Sunny Hi: 89 Lo: 58 | Partly cloudy Hi: 86 Lo: 55 | Sunny Hi: 85 Lo: 55 | AM showers Hi: 80 Lo: 53 | Partly cloudy Hi: 78 Lo: 53 | AM showers Hi: 80 Lo: 53 |

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