



The crowd at Riverview Park views the eclipse by
STEPHANIE BLAIR
Eclipse photos by JEFF MENTZER AND LUKAS EGGEN

A total eclipse



Campers set up a tent on the fields at Western Oregon University in Monmouth.

EMILY MENTZER/Itemizer-Observer



Dizzy Hips performs during Dallas' celebration.

Cities provide warm welcome

By Jolene Guzman
The Itemizer-Observer

DALLAS — Dallas Mayor Brian Dalton rolled out the welcome mat early for those looking for a place to watch the Great American Eclipse.

He penned a welcome letter posted on the city of Dallas' website.

Rebecca Martin, of Los Angeles, saw that letter and it inspired her to bring her family to the Dallas area.

"It was very nice and inviting, saying 'come visit our small town,'" Martin said.

She found a campsite on a farm outside of town and visited Dallas' festivities on Sunday. Volunteers working at the event had anticipated larger crowds, but Martin thought it was perfect.

"This feels nice, though, not too crowded," she said.

The larger crowd that organizers and volunteers expected was to come later that night for the JukeBox Heroes and Steelhorse concerts. That seemed to be the pattern from the three nights of celebration, Dalton said.

Dalton said he wasn't sure the festival could have handled many more people and gave the eclipse celebration a high grade.

He would like to see the event — which required collaboration between the city, the Dallas Downtown Association, Dallas Area Visitors Center, and the owner of Pressed Coffee & Wine Bar — become a model for future events in Dallas.

"This brought the whole community

together in way that I haven't seen in a long time," he said. "We can raise the bar for ourselves with good entertainment and a great time."

He added that the fun was shared by plenty of people from out of town, including even those from other countries.

Kim Brehm, the owner of Dallas' Pigs on the Wing, started keeping a list of visitors who came from on Saturday.

By Sunday afternoon Alaska, Arizona, New York, South Dakota, Wisconsin, Maryland, Nevada, Washington, Montana and elsewhere in Oregon, were represented.

She will be placing pins on a map to show where this weekend's eclipse chasers came from.

"There are people from Dallas



ROGER HARNACK for the Itemizer-Observer
Independence wowed visitors and locals with a fireworks show during the Indy Goes Dark celebration.



Eclipse chaser finally sees total solar eclipse

By Lukas Eggen
The Itemizer-Observer

DALLAS — Jerry Rosen didn't mean to make seeing a total solar eclipse into a lifetime goal, it just happened that way.

Rosen, who lives in Seattle, has attempted to see an eclipse three other times — the most recent in 1979.

Each time, the weather has foiled his plans. "Every time, it's been cloudy," Rosen said.

The 1979 eclipse proved to be especially frustrating.

Rosen parked alongside a highway in Washington and was excited to finally see the solar eclipse.

Then, a single cloud began creeping toward the sun.

"People were getting into their cars and driving down the highway to get the view," Rosen said. "I couldn't because I had driven into a ditch."

Rosen watched in horror as the cloud moved in front of the sun — just in time to block the eclipse.

With another chance to see a total eclipse, Rosen wasn't going to pass up the chance — and this time he had help from family.

His original plan was to watch it from the coast, but when weather threatened that plan, his son David made the decision to go to Dallas.

Though the lack of traffic on the way over made them question themselves just a bit.

"We thought we made the wrong choice," Jerry said.

The Rosen's group split; some remained on the coast while others, including Jerry and David, made their way to Dallas.

Turns out they made the right choice.

The Rosens in Dallas got a clear view of the eclipse.

Those who stayed on the coast did not.

"I told you I was going to make this happen," David said after the eclipse on Monday.

Though it's taken a few attempts — and years — to see it, the total solar eclipse was well worth the wait.

"I was lucky," Jerry said. "I lived long enough to see an eclipse — and with my son."



Pigs on the Wing performs for an enthusiastic crowd Sunday at Monmouth.