

Views from the Rock

OUTSIDE THE PATH OF TOTALITY

On the morning of Aug. 21, parts of Oregon will witness a total eclipse of the sun, the first since Feb. 26, 1979. While Cannon Beach residents are close to the 70-mile wide “path of totality,” we’re still slightly outside its veil. So if you absolutely, positively want to see a total solar eclipse, start planning now.

Cannon Beach Chamber of Commerce Executive Director says purists will find it “really tough” to get down to Newport, Depoe Bay or Lincoln City the day of the eclipse.

To get down there and have any chance of seeing it, visitors going to need to leave at 2 or 3 a.m. in the morning, before people even wake up, he said. “Even then, it will probably be cloudy and have morning fog.”

During a total solar eclipse, the sun, the moon and the earth align in such a way that the moon completely blocks out the sun, briefly turning daytime into twilight for nearly two minutes.

Touching down just north of Depoe Bay at 10:15 a.m., the moon’s shadow will race east at 2,955 mph passing through cities in the Willamette Valley, Central Oregon and eastern Oregon in just nine minutes. It then traverses the country 1 hour, 33 minutes and 16.8 seconds later. The eclipse will spend 2 minutes and 40 seconds in St. Claire, Missouri. Portland, Tennessee, will receive 2 minutes and 37 seconds of totality. McLellanville, South Carolina, will be the last U.S. city to see the eclipse, at 2:49 p.m. EDT.

Dark sky

How far will sky-watchers go for totality? In Newport, the Hallmark Resort, Travelodge and Inn at Nye Beach are all sold out, however Trip Advisor shows rooms from \$499 a night at the Best Western Agate Inn and \$599 and \$699 a night respectively at the Holiday Inn Express and La Quinta Inn.

Expedia lists three rooms left at \$800 a night in Lincoln City, and 60 vacation rentals are no longer available between Aug. 19 and Aug. 21. Rooms in Salem, McMinnville, Newberg and other locations along the “totality path” are also completely booked.

According to Jay Anderson and Jennifer West of eclipsophile.com, a site “dedicated to the global traveler who appreciates and seeks out the spectacles that nature offers to aficionados of the day and night sky,” the Willamette Valley offers a very good chance of sunshine on eclipse day and an even better forecast for sunshine in the Deschutes River Valley in the vicinity of Madras.

All 28 hotels and motels in the Madras vicinity listed on Expedia were booked by mid-April.

An extra 1,018 state park campsites made available by the state’s parks and recreation department offer South Jetty at South Beach, Fogarty Creek, Driftwood Beach and Governor Patterson Memorial, all in the path of totality. They were available online at 8 a.m., April 19 and reserved one hour later.

Cannon Beach is definitely a second choice for those seeking this astronomical

wonder— outside of the veil of totality, problematic weather-wise and subject to long travel delays.

Our latitude is 45 degrees 89 minutes north; Lincoln City, within the path, is charted at 44 degrees 96 minutes north. Close, but no cigar.

Getting from here to there, close as it may be, could be a difficult feat. Motorists are discouraged.

“Transportation planners predict unprecedented traffic and crowds during the eclipse weekend, and we are planning accordingly,” Oregon Parks and Recreation Department Chris Havel said in an April statement. “We ask that campers plan to stay off the roads on the morning of Aug. 21 and respect any fire restrictions.”

There’s the added difficulty of weather. “The coast-hugging regions of Oregon are not especially favored for eclipse watching,” Anderson and West advise.

Meteorologist Michael Zeiler advises eclipse-watchers to avoid the Oregon coast and its summer marine layer “unless the short-term weather forecast confidently predicts the absence of morning fog or cloud cover.”

The outlook through June tells that there is a one-third chance of “above-normal,” “one-third chance of normal” and “one-third chance of below-normal” precipitation in our region. The National Weather Service says there is a “50 percent chance” of El Nino developing in the July, August and September timeline, which could add to the change of precipitation later in the summer.

The weather on the North Coast on Feb. 26, 1979, the date of the last total eclipse? Rain.

Once in a lifetime

The Cannon Beach Chamber of Commerce and Visitor Center have received only sporadic eclipse inquiries, Carrier said.

“I had one call this last week,” he said in mid-April. “A lady had made reservation for a family reunion, she wanted to bring them down and have a chance to see the eclipse.”

“I don’t think she really realized we’re 2½ hours or so away in being able to get down there — and that’s in normal traffic,” Carrier said. “The three days that’s going on, I’m expecting there’s going to be insane traffic.”

Carrier said visitors should avoid major roads to Depoe Bay or Lincoln Beach. “You go around a little bit and catch it from the back side,” he said.

For Cannon Beach, the impact will probably be “minimal,” Carrier said. “If people are doing their homework, they understand and realize they have to be in the 20-mile totality area for them to be able to get that perfect view. Though there will be bits of view from other locations, I don’t think people are coming for that.”

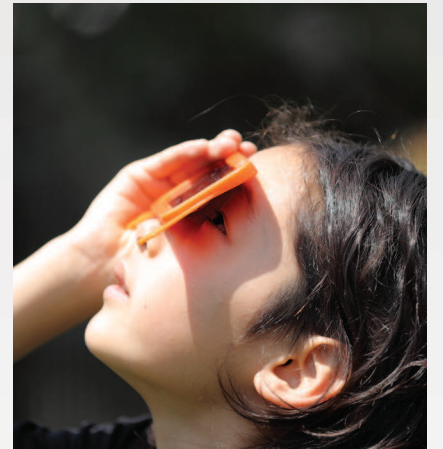
Why does it matter? “The total solar eclipse is a once-in-a-lifetime occurrence,” Carrier said. “Some people feel insanely passionate about it and they want to get a peek of it.”

Is anything planned in Cannon Beach? Souvenir glasses, parade, group gatherings, howling at the moon?

“No we don’t plan anything then,” Carrier said. “I do believe it will be quite the spectacle and a lot of folks will enjoy it,” Carrier said.

Between high costs, chance of clouds, high crowds, you might just want to shelter in place and satisfy yourself with 90 percent totality.

And there’s always the next total solar eclipse — July 2, 2019. You’ll have to go to South America for that one.



How to view the 2017 solar eclipse safely

On Monday, Aug. 21, a solar eclipse will be visible (weather permitting) across all of North America. During its travels, anyone within a roughly 70-mile-wide path from Oregon to South Carolina will experience a brief total eclipse, when the moon completely blocks the sun’s bright face for up to 2 minutes 40 seconds.

Looking directly at the sun is unsafe except during the brief total phase of a solar eclipse (“totality”), when the moon entirely blocks the sun’s bright face, which will happen only within the narrow path of totality.

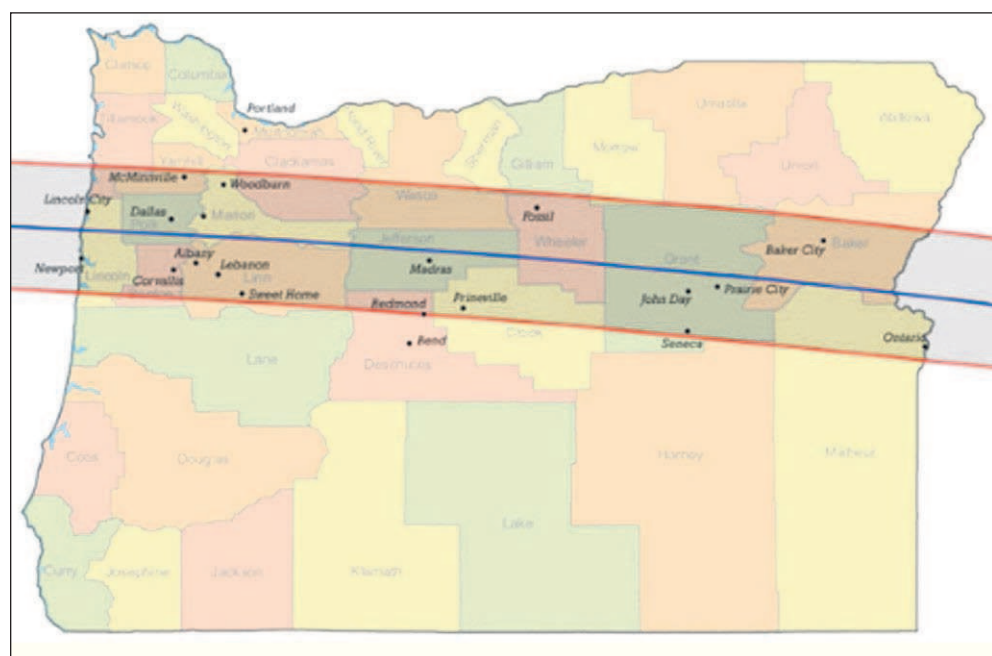
The only safe way to look directly at the uneclipsed or partially eclipsed sun is through special-purpose solar filters, such as “eclipse glasses” or hand-held solar viewers. Homemade filters or ordinary sunglasses, even very dark ones, are not safe for looking at the sun. To date, four manufacturers have certified their eclipse glasses and hand-held solar viewers meet international standards.

Do not look at the uneclipsed or partially eclipsed sun through an unfiltered camera, telescope, binoculars or other optical device. Similarly, do not look at the sun through a camera, a telescope, binoculars or any other optical device while using your eclipse glasses or hand-held solar viewer — the concentrated solar rays will damage the filter and enter your eyes, causing serious injury.

For more information, visit www.eclipse2017.nasa.gov.

CANNON SHOTS

R.J. MARX



FILE PHOTO

The path of totality for the 2017 eclipse.

Opening a ‘new door’ to the future in Cannon Beach

Does anybody need a door? since we recently installed our brand new door at the library, our old door (which we admittedly put to good use for many years) is for sale at Found. According to Ann Marie Radich of the shop, the door is available for \$750, and the proceeds will benefit our library. Found is open from 10 a.m. to 5 p.m., but is closed on Tuesdays. Go check it out! The shop is located in the Midtown area on the east side of Hemlock.

For Spring Unveiling weekend through May 7, we will be putting out our art and music books for sale on a weeklong display ending May 13. Come check out our sale during regular library hours.

In other news, the Northwest Author Series will be held at the library on Saturday, May 13, at 2 p.m. This month our speak-

AT THE LIBRARY

CARLA O'REILLY



er will be Mindy Hardwick. She will be discussing her book “Kids in Orange: Voices from a Juvenile Detention.” She will also be introducing her soon-to-be-published book “Sweetheart Wedding.” The book is the third in her Cranberry Bay Series, which is set in the fictional small town of Cranberry Bay, located on the north Oregon Coast. Be sure to arrive in a timely manner, as we often have overflow attendees. By the way, Mindy is a member of our library and facilitates poetry workshops for teens. Her book “Stained

Glass Summer” was a 2013 epic eBook Award finalist.

Cannon Beach Reads, our monthly reading discussion group, will be meeting on Wednesday, May 17, at 7 p.m. This month the group will be reading and discussing “The River Why,” by David James Duncan, which was published in 1983. The novel is a coming-of-age comedy about love, nature, and the quest for self-discovery. New members are always welcome!

On Memorial Day Weekend, which is May 27-29, the Cannon Beach Library will be offering a rare, old, and poetry book sale from 10-5 each day. Hundreds of pre-loved books will be available to choose from. White gloves will be on hand so visitors can safely handle the rare books. Since this is one of our fundraisers, all proceeds will go to help fund

the library. The library will also be open as usual for book checkouts and other services.

Book donations needed

The library is eagerly accepting donations of previously-read books, to be sold at our annual Fourth of July Book Sale. If your closets and bookcases are overflowing with books you and your family have already finished, put them to good use and bring them to us as soon as possible. Evaluating and pricing the donations takes a lot of time, so the sooner we have them in our possession, the less work we will have as the Fourth draws closer. Donation tax forms are also available at the library desk, should you want to claim your donations as tax deductions.

Come join us for our busy (and hopefully sunny) month of May!

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