

97 PERCENT

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it would be. The moon moved more slowly than she expected across the sun, and it never got as dark outside as she had imagined.

Not everyone at Butte Park was a local. While many out-of-state travelers headed farther south to the path of totality, Lisa Cochrane and Sandy De La Rosa were in Hermiston from Yakima.

"We wanted to get as close to totality as we could without fighting all the traffic," Cochrane said.

The women stayed at the new Holiday Inn Express — a hotel they said Hermiston should be proud of — and then grabbed their lawn chairs and headed out.

"We found this beautiful park and settled down," De La Rosa said.

She said the whole event was giving her flashbacks to watching Oregon's last solar eclipse when she was in sixth grade.

Some people who had to work on Monday in Main Street businesses paused during the eclipse so workers could go outside and see the celestial show.

Those who had eclipse glasses offered to share with passersby that didn't so everyone could see the

moon blocking out much of the sun.

Viewers also remarked in the noticeable drop in air temperature and the way the eclipsing sun cast crescent-shaped shadows through the leaves on trees lining the street.

Monday afternoon Umatilla County caught some of the post-eclipse traffic jams that had been predicted. Traffic backed up for several miles on Interstate 82 near Hermiston and Umatilla, made worse by a bottleneck on the bridge over the Columbia River, which is down to one lane of traffic due to construction.

Out of concern for safety as vehicles attempted to merge into that single, non-stop lane of traffic moving onto the bridge, the Oregon Department of Transportation closed the bridge's westbound on-ramp at Umatilla off of Highway 730 into Monday evening and there was still congestion on that stretch on Tuesday.

"It's hazardous to get on and off there," ODOT spokesman Tom Strandberg said.

He said people would have to find alternate routes or be patient until the congestion cleared out.

Contact Jade McDowell at jmcdowell@eastoregonian.com or 541-564-4534.

FIRST DAY

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sidewalk, marking where their feet were and the time they were measured. Later, students stood on the same spot and re-traced their shadows, showing how they had moved since they last stood there.

On the track, social studies teacher Brad Rogers helped students with what might have been the most delicious activity of the day: Solar s'mores. Teachers had put together homemade solar ovens, using pizza boxes, black paper, plastic wrap and tinfoil. Students placed s'mores in the ovens and closed the lid, watching them cook.

A handful of freshmen said they were enjoying the activities on their first day back at school, and were excited to see the eclipse.

"It's a once-in-a-lifetime opportunity," said Lyndzee Keltz.

"My dad hasn't stopped talking about it," said Kayla Perkins.

Logan Hendricks knew how to harness the power of the sun to whip up a snack, as he revealed while placing a s'more inside a solar oven.



STAFF PHOTO BY JAYATI RAMAKRISHNAN

A class of Stanfield first graders eagerly wait to watch the eclipse on Monday morning.



STAFF PHOTO BY JAYATI RAMAKRISHNAN

Carlos, Nelly and Jjay Chavez show off their homemade eclipse viewers.

"I remember baking cookies on the dashboard of a car," he said. "It took

a couple of hours."

Inside, students had lessons, but they were all eclipse-themed. They heard from Good Shepherd health professionals about protecting skin and eyes from the sun, and played trivia games testing their knowledge.

Math teacher Blaine Braithwaite read out questions to the students, who answered on

laptops, and had to answer quickly and correctly to win points.

"Which civilization believed that the earth had four previous suns, and we are currently on our fifth?" he asked students, who had a few seconds to answer. The correct response? The Aztecs.

In addition to questions about ancient cultures' beliefs about the sun, Braithwaite also asked questions about the last solar eclipse, and the order of the moon, earth and sun during an eclipse.

At the elementary school, students poured out onto the field around 10 a.m., sitting on blankets with bags of popcorn, ready to enjoy the eclipse. Some had worksheets they'd brought, to track their observations as they watched.

The students made note of the sky as it got darker, the air got a little cooler, and the moon edged over the sun, until it was time. The entire school put on their glasses, sat on their blankets, and looked skyward.

Contact Jayati Ramakrishnan at 541-564-4534 or jramakrishnan@eastoregonian.com

BY THE WAY

BTW

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... **Cason's Place: Grief Support for Children and Families of Eastern Oregon** recently received a donation of 70 books from **Altrusa International of Pendleton**.

People from throughout Umatilla County have met regularly in Hermiston and Pendleton to create Cason's Place. The nonprofit organization is named in memory of **Cason Terjeson**, who died in an Eastern Oregon farm-

ing accident in 2007.

Cason's parents, **Matt Terjeson and Jan Peterson-Terjeson**, and sister, **Lydia**, gained help through the **Dougy Center** in Portland and wanted to create a similar facility in Umatilla County to help children and their families that are experiencing a loss.

Altrusa's literacy committee members, **Debbie McBee**, who also serves on the Cason's Place board, **Beth Harrison and Marge Norrington-Jones**, met with Cason's Place board members Aug. 3 to present the donation. Some of the

books will be given to kids to take with them, while others will be utilized in the "talking rooms" at Cason's Place.

The facility is located at 1416 S.E. Court Ave., Pendleton. It's targeted to open in the fall. For more information, to volunteer or to make donations, contact 541-612-0828, janpt.loss@gmail.com or visit www.casonsplace.org.

... Longtime Hermiston hair stylist **Loretta Lowrance** recently moved her shop, **Shear Illusions**, to 29278 Bloom Road, Hermiston. It's open Mon-

day through Fridays from 9 a.m. to 6 p.m. Her former beauty shop location at 611 E. Highland Ave., Hermiston, is being renovated as **Sassafras Flowers**. **Shera Hopper** said they are shooting for a September opening date.

... You can submit items for our weekly *By The Way* column by emailing your tips to editor@hermistonherald.com or share them on social media using the hashtag #HHBTW. Follow the *Hermiston Herald* on Twitter at @Hermiston-Herald.

SECURITY

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Wayland said.

Wayland said the total cost of the upgrades would be less than \$10,000 for both facilities, and that work would be complete before school begins. Work is being done by Knerr Construction.

The district is also in the process of demolishing the old Umatilla County

Fairgrounds. Work on that property, at 515 West Orchard Avenue, will include removing the fairgrounds and rodeo structures, and eventually creating a new parking lot behind Hermiston High School. Two structures will be left at the grounds: Thompson and Hoeft halls.

Completion of the parking lot is scheduled for Dec. 1. The entire project should be complete by April 2018.

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