

University plans free eclipse event

School to hand out 50,000 'tree pairs of solar glasses

THE JOURNAL STAFF

CLEMSON — While Clemson University will host an event for the Aug. 21 total solar eclipse where visitors pay to reserve designated parking spots, the school will also hold a free, family-friendly event that begins several hours before the start of the eclipse.

Sponsored by the College of Science, with additional sponsorship by the Watt Family Innovation Center, "Eclipse Over Clemson" is a free event with no need for tickets. The only costs will be for any food and beverages visitors might choose to purchase and for one special "tailgazing" parking

area. All other parking is free.

The eclipse will begin at 1:07 p.m. and end at 1:02 p.m. But the totality of the eclipse — the part that spectators will find most fascinating — will begin at 2:37 p.m. and last, incidentally, 2 minutes and 37 seconds.

The university will also be giving out up to 50,000 free pairs of solar glasses. These eclipse-viewing shades, which are certified for users to view

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COURTESY OF CLEMSON UNIVERSITY
Clemson University will be giving out up to 50,000 free pairs of solar glasses, which are necessary to protect your eyes from the damaging rays of the sun.

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COUNTDOWN TO THE
TOTAL SOLAR ECLIPSE
Aug. 21, 2017

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DAYS

ECLIPSE: Free parking, experts, food all part of Aug. 21 event

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the sun without harm during the eclipse, will be distributed at strategic locations on the campus on the day of the eclipse. They are not available for preorder.

To avoid injury to eyes, eclipse viewers must wear the glasses any time they are looking directly at the sun. However, there is one exception: During the brief eclipse totality, it will be safe — and is highly recommended — to remove the glasses and watch totality with the naked eye. But when totality ends, viewers must wear the glasses again to safely look at the sun.

Responsibility for wearing the solar glasses at the appropriate time lies with each spectator or parents or guardians of children, the university said in a news release.

“Eclipse Over Clemson” will be held primarily on the Library Commons in front of the Watt Family Innovation Center and adjacent to the Cooper Library. Most eclipse experts will be situated in that area, along with the main stage. From there, spectators will spread out to the amphitheater and beyond. For a good view of the eclipse, all one needs is a clear view of

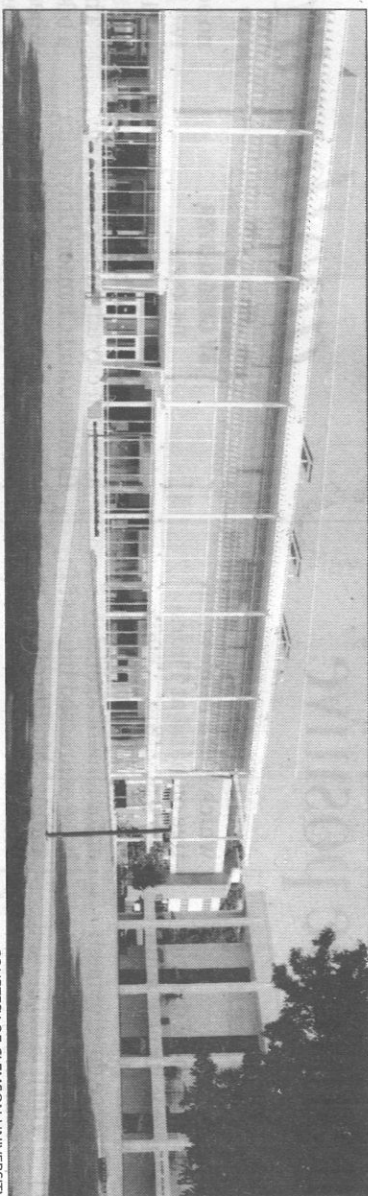
the sun in the southwestern sky.

At 8 a.m., the day will begin with a series of cosmic tours held at the university’s planetarium in Kinard Hall. To attend one of these viewings, register by email with Deb Helvie at hdebra@clemson.edu.

The only remaining viewings with availability are at 8 a.m. and 8:15 a.m. on eclipse day. From 11 a.m.-12:45 p.m., a team of renowned speakers will take the stage for brief talks about the eclipse and the event. There will also be music, handson demonstrations and opportunities for one-on-one chats with Clemson experts. Food and beverages will be available.

There will be plenty of free parking in several lots that are within relatively easy walking distance of the main venues. Both the east and west campus shuttles will be available from some parking lots for those who choose to ride, and the Clemson Area Transit buses will also be running the normal Red and Campus route schedules. There also will be reserved parking for those with disabilities.

The university asks those attending to carpool if possible and expect traffic to be relatively similar to game-day traffic, and thus it advises visitors



COURTESY OF CLEMSON UNIVERSITY

“Eclipse Over Clemson” will be held Aug. 21 on the Library Commons in front of the Watt Family Innovation Center and behind the Cooper Library.

to arrive early. More specific details about parking, including the location of the parking lots and what time they open, will be published soon on the “Eclipse Over Clemson” webpage and “Eclipse Over Clemson” Facebook page.

Among the speakers at “Eclipse Over Clemson” will be Clemson University president Jim Clements (accompanied by the Tiger Band), founding dean of the College of Science, Cynthia Young; College of Science expert physicists and astronomers Mark Leising, Sean Brittain, Dieter Hartmann, Jeremy King, Amber Porter and Chad Sosolik; College of Science conservationist Rob Baldwin; Renowned

“eclipse-chaser” Rick Brown; and University of Maine electrical engineer Richard Eason.

There will be food, beverages and plenty of bottled water available at the event. There also are six restaurants within convenient walking distance of the inner campus, and food trucks will be on-site. However, it is welcomed (and encouraged) for visitors to bring their own food and drink. Alcohol will not be served at the event.

University officials also suggest visitors consider bringing blankets and foldable chairs for a picnic-style view of the eclipse. There will also be restroom facilities. A large team of student vol-

unteers — wearing Clemson-orange VOLUNTEER T-shirts — will be on hand to answer questions and give directions. The Watt Family Innovation Center will be open to the public, providing a break from the expected summer heat, as well as displaying internal views of the eclipse on its numerous high-resolution monitors.

There will be a first-aid station near the Strom Thurmond Institute, and emergency personnel will be on hand.

Finally, the university advises guests to not forget to bring plenty of sunscreen. “It’s going to be sunny and hot — with the keyword being sunny!” it said in a release.