

# The Recorder

YOUR HOMETOWN NEWSPAPER SINCE 1832

AMSTERDAM, N.Y.

TUESDAY, APRIL 9, 2024

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## Eyes on the sky

AMSTERDAM

### Families gather to watch eclipse

BY ASHLEY ONYON

FULTON AND MONTGOMERY COUNTIES — Streetlights came on several hours early in Amsterdam on the Mohawk Valley Gateway Overlook Pedestrian Bridge as the solar eclipse neared its peak.

"It was cool. It got dark at daytime, we've never seen that," said Lilianna, 9, of Scotia.

She and her family were among the dozens of area locals gathered at the MVGO Bridge in Amsterdam to

watch the eclipse despite cloudy conditions on Monday afternoon.

As the clouds shifted, families would periodically exclaim, "you can see a little orange now" and other similar phrases of excitement as they peered into the sky through eclipse glasses.

"We could see every step up until the end. It was cloudy on and off, but still really cool," Jennifer Sawicki said. She was there with her husband, Chris, and son,

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ASHLEY ONYON

Locals view the solar eclipse from the Mohawk Valley Gateway Overlook Pedestrian Bridge in Amsterdam on Monday.

## Total solar eclipse races across North America

BY MARCIA DUNN

MESQUITE, Texas (AP) — A chilly, midday darkness fell across North America on Monday as a total solar eclipse raced across the continent, thrilling those lucky enough to behold the spectacle through clear skies.

Street lights blinked on and the planets came into view, as the moon shrouded the sun for a few minutes across the land. Dogs howled, frogs croaked and some people wept, all part of the eclipse mania gripping Mexico, the U.S. and Canada.

Almost everyone in North America could see at least a partial eclipse, weather permitting.

It was the continent's biggest eclipse audience ever, with a couple hundred million people living in or near the shadow's path, plus scores of out-of-towners flocking in to see it. With the next coast-to-coast eclipse 21 years out, the pressure was on to catch this one.

Clouds blanketed most of Texas as the total solar eclipse began its diagonal dash across land, starting along Mexico's mostly clear Pacific coast and aiming for Texas and 14 other U.S. states, before exiting into the North Atlantic near Newfoundland.

In Georgetown, Texas, the skies cleared just in time to give spectators a clear view. In other spots, the eclipse played peek-a-boo with the clouds.

"We are really lucky," said Georgetown resident Susan Robertson. "Even with the clouds it is kind of nice, because when it clears up, it is like, Wow!"

"I will never unsee this," said Ahmed Hussein of Austin, who had the eclipse on his calendar for a year.

Just east of Dallas, the hundreds gathered at Mesquite's downtown area cheered and whistled as the clouds parted in the final minutes before totality. As the sun finally be-



YUKI IWAMURA

The moon partially covers the sun behind the Statue of Liberty during the total solar eclipse on the Liberty Island, Monday, in New York.

came cloaked, the crowd grew louder, whipping off their eclipse glasses to soak in the unforgettable view of the sun's corona, or spiky outer atmosphere, and Venus shining brilliantly off to the right.

Going into Monday's spectacle, northern New England into Canada had the best chances of clear skies,

and that didn't change. Holly Randall, who watched from Colebrook, New Hampshire, said experiencing the eclipse was beyond her expectations.

"I didn't expect to cry when I saw it," she said, as tears ran down her face.

The show got underway in the Pacific before noon EDT. As the dark-

ness of totality reached the Mexican resort city of Mazatlán, the faces of spectators were illuminated only by the screens of their cellphones.

The cliff-hanging uncertainty of the weather added to the drama. But the morning's overcast skies

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TOWN OF AMSTERDAM

### Chunky Boy Yarn Shop closing after less than a year

BY ASHLEY ONYON

The Chunky Boy Yarn Shop is shutting down after less than a year operating in the Polar Plaza on Route 30.

"We have so enjoyed being a part of the community and will miss you all," read a sign on an interior window inside a locked entrance vestibule at the store on Monday.

Another posted "FAQ" sign attributed the closure to insufficient depth of market and community support despite the best efforts of owner Beth Ressel.

"I threw everything I had at making this shop work," the sign reads. "I appreciate all of you who gave us your business while we were here so, so much."

The store was to remain open until inventory was liquidated, but no specific hours were posted at the shop or on its Facebook page.

It's unclear if the shop has already closed its doors for good. A Google business profile lists the yarn store as permanently closed.

Multiple attempts to contact the Chunky Boy Yarn Shop for comment for this story were not returned.

Ressel opened the shop with supplies for knitting, crocheting and other needlework in October.

The space also housed production of the patented Chunky Boy craft handle created by Ressel.

Production of the ergonomic silicone handle to comfortably hold hooks for crocheting and other needlework will continue and expand despite the closure of the yarn shop, according to a recent Facebook post.

"For those of you who have fallen in love with the Chunky Boy craft handle, that portion of my business isn't going away and will actually be growing this year," the post reads.

In January, Ressel said manufacturing of the craft handle would be moving off-site this year to a subcontractor outside of Albany in order to increase production.

The craft handles sold in the store and online would often sell out within 10 minutes of being restocked, Ressel previously said.

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ASHLEY ONYON

The Chunky Boy Yarn Shop in the Polar Plaza on Route 30 in the town of Amsterdam is closing. The exterior of the shop is shown on Monday.

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Biden promotes 'life-changing' student loan relief  
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#### WEATHER



Mostly sunny.  
High 73/Low 45  
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**SEVEN DAY FORECAST FOR CAPITAL REGION**

Tuesday	Tue. night	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday	Sunday	Monday
Sun mixing with clouds; warmer	Mainly cloudy	Cloudy with a shower; cooler	Windy with periods of rain	Some rain and a thunderstorm	Windy; occasional morning rain	Partly sunny and warmer	Warmer with plenty of sun
<b>High 74</b>	<b>Low 45</b>	<b>58/51</b>	<b>61/56</b>	<b>64/45</b>	<b>49/41</b>	<b>61/49</b>	<b>70/45</b>
<b>RealFeel: 76/42</b>		<b>RF: 58</b>	<b>RF: 53</b>	<b>RF: 61</b>	<b>RF: 43</b>	<b>RF: 64</b>	<b>RF: 79</b>

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**Monday's Almanac**  
**Temperatures**

High/low	68/28
Normal high/low	56/34
Last year high/low	52/28
Record high	88 in 1929
Record low	19 in 2018

**Albany through 5 p.m. Monday**  
**Precipitation**

24-hour total	0.00"
Month to date	1.17"
Normal month to date	0.80"
Year to date	13.06"
Normal year to date	8.87"

Forecasts and graphics provided by **AccuWeather.com** ©2024

**Eclipse**

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Landon.

The couple probably would have kept their sixth-grader home from school for the once-in-a-lifetime experience had the Greater Amsterdam School District not closed schools for the eclipse.

"I wanted him to experience it and he'd be on the bus right now," Jennifer Sawicki said.

Tara Holcomb brought her kids, Conner, 13 and Emmaleena, 8, to the bridge hoping the wide-open space would offer a better viewing experience than they would have from their home in Amsterdam.

The family said the sun gradually blocked by the moon reminded them of the Cheshire Cat from "Alice in Wonderland."

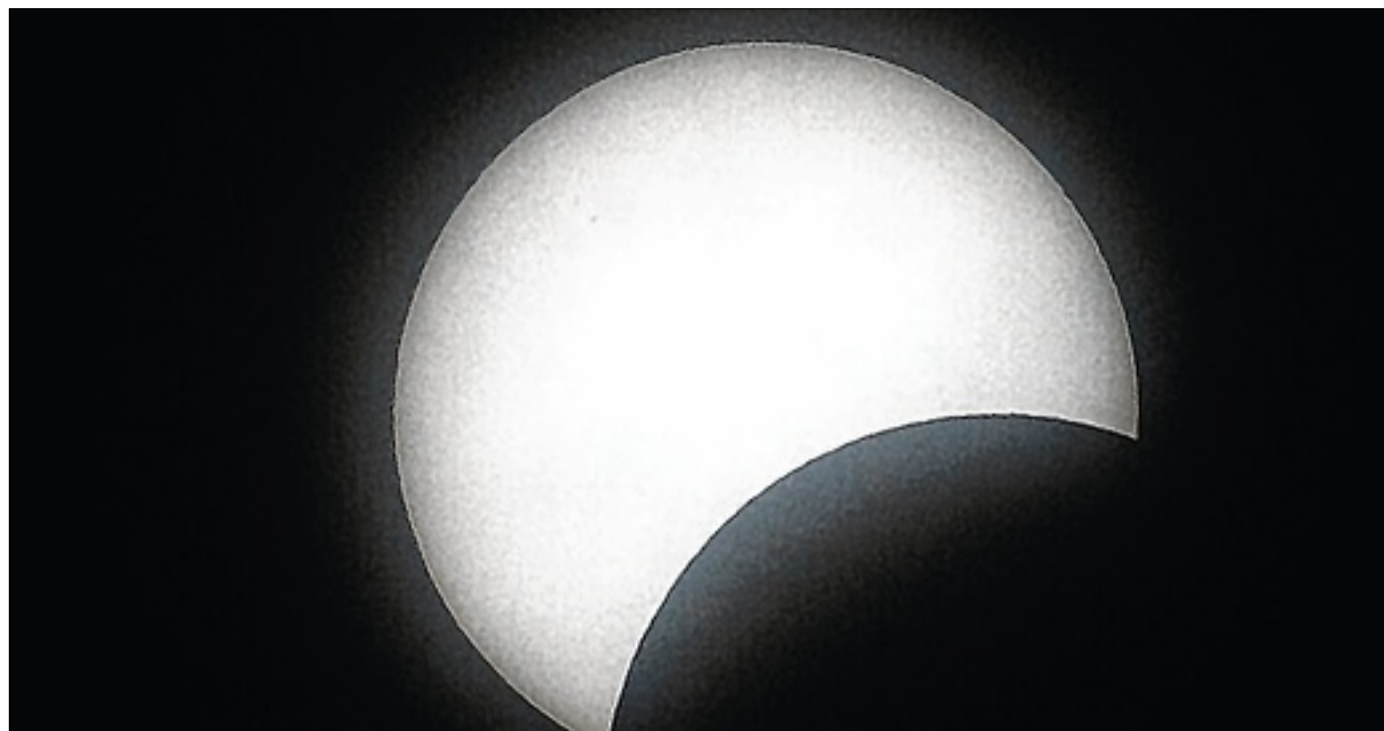
"It's something you don't see everyday," Tara Holcomb said.

Although the roughly 98% coverage in the city didn't bring the dramatic effect Conner Holcomb was hoping for, he and his sister agreed it was a worthwhile experience.

The gathering on the bridge was prompted by a Facebook event created by 4th Ward Alderman Christopher Carpenter.

"I love gatherings. Anything to bring people together is always a good thing," Carpenter said, overjoyed at being surrounded by families with kids and pets roaming around.

Mayor Michael Cinquanti was among those at the bridge



PETER R. BARBER

The beginning of the eclipse Monday.

after closing City Hall at 2 p.m. to ensure non-essential staff had the chance to see the eclipse.

"It's something you'll always remember," Cinquanti said. "I just wish the clouds cooperated a little bit better."

A water main break on the South Side required the attention of water department staff into the afternoon. A boil water advisory was in effect following the restoration of water service.

Other watch parties were held at Rug City Bar and Lounge in Amsterdam, Great

Sacandaga Brewing Company in Broadalbin, Stump City Brewing in Gloversville and Northville Public Library in Northville.

In the hours before the eclipse, Carla Kolbe said traffic was flowing smoothly through the Vails Mills roundabout at Route 29 and 30 outside the Fulton County Visitor Center.

"Everybody is curious and excited. It's a beautiful day here," said Kolbe, tourism coordinator for Fulton County.

Still, Kolbe said traffic heading north on Route 30 towards

the Adirondacks was a little higher than usual for this time of year.

"I have a lot of traffic of people searching for eclipse glasses," she added.

A variety of travelers and locals stopped by or called the visitor center searching at the last minute for the filtered glasses to safely view the phenomenon.

Anne Boles, executive director of the Fulton Montgomery Regional Chamber of Commerce, said local supplies had largely run out by the day of the eclipse.

"The businesses who invested in glasses are all sold out. The libraries and schools have helped families take advantage of this once in a lifetime viewing of the eclipse," Boles said.

Libraries in Amsterdam, Canajoharie, Fonda, Gloversville, Johnstown and Northville had all run out by the day of the eclipse.

Many area schools were closed on Monday to avoid traffic issues related to the eclipse starting around dismissal time, while ensuring students and families could experience it.

"It's a great opportunity for us to view the eclipse. I think we really lucked out with the weather," Boles said.

While full details on the impact of the eclipse on local tourism were not immediately available, Boles and Kolbe said hotels saw an increase in bookings in Fulton County.

"People were coming in for the eclipse," Kolbe said.

Historic Hotel Broadalbin was fully booked. Occupancy at the Holiday Inn in Johnstown was up around 60%. The Inn at the Bridge in Northville had only two vacancies.

Paul McAvoy estimated three to four times the number of regular visitors passed through the Mohawk Valley Welcome Center on the state Thruway between Fonda and Canajoharie.

"We have seen a big uptick in the number of visitors to the welcome center, especially this past weekend," said McAvoy, spokesperson for Liberty ARC.

Liberty ARC operates the welcome center at Erie Canal Lock 13 for Taste NY and the NY Thruway Authority.

Many visitors to the rest stop were reportedly traveling west towards communities in the path of totality, such as Rochester and Buffalo.

"Lots of people are traveling from many states to see the eclipse," McAvoy said. "There has been a buzz and excitement around it."

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**Solar**

Continued from page A1

in Mesquite didn't rattle Erin Froneberger, who was in town for business and brought along her eclipse glasses.

"We are always just rushing, rushing, rushing," she said. "But this is an event that we can just take a moment, a few seconds that it's going to happen and embrace it."

A festival outside Austin wrapped up early on Monday because of the threat of afternoon storms. Festival organizers urged everyone to pack up and leave.

Eclipse spectators at Niagara Falls State Park had to settle for darkness, but no stunning corona views. As people made their way out of the park a little more than an hour later, the sun broke through.

"I'd give it a 6 out of 10," said Haleigh Thibodeau, who traveled from Buxton, Maine, with her mother.



MATT ROURKE

People gather to watch the total solar eclipse from Niagara Falls, Ontario, Monday.

In Rushville, Indiana, the street lights lit up as darkness fell, drawing cheers and applause from residents gathered on porches and sidewalks.

For some, eclipse day was also their wedding day. Couples exchanged vows in a mass

ceremony at a park in Trenton, Ohio.

St. Louis was just outside totality, but that didn't stop residents from taking in the scene from the Mississippi River aboard the Tom Sawyer, a paddlewheel riverboat.

"I almost enjoyed it a little bit more because it didn't go black," said passenger Jeff Smith of St. Louis.

During Monday's full eclipse, the moon slipped right in front of the sun, entirely blocking it. The resulting twilight, with only the sun's outer atmosphere or corona visible, was long enough for birds and other animals to fall silent, and for planets and stars to pop out.

At the Fort Worth Zoo, Adam Hartstone-Rose, a researcher from North Carolina State University, said most animals remained relatively calm. One gorilla climbed atop a pole and stood there for several seconds, likely a sign of vigilance.

"Nobody was doing sort of

bonkers behavior," he said.

The out-of-sync darkness lasted up to 4 minutes, 28 seconds. That's almost twice as long as it was during the U.S. coast-to-coast eclipse seven years ago because the moon was closer to Earth.

It took just 1 hour, 40 minutes for the moon's shadow to race more than 4,000 miles across the continent.

The path of totality — approximately 115 miles wide — encompassed several major cities this time, including Dallas; Indianapolis; Cleveland; Buffalo, New York; and Montreal. An estimated 44 million people live within the track, with a couple hundred million more within 200 miles.

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