



# Clay County News

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Vol 132 • No 34

Wednesday, August 23, 2017 | Published in Sutton, Nebraska

One Dollar



PHOTO COMPILATION BY TORY DUNCAN, JORDYN HULINSKY, AND ASHLEY D. SWANSON | CLAY COUNTY NEWS

Phases of the Aug. 21 solar eclipse are shown from partial to total eclipse, taken from various parts of Clay County.

## MESO teaches hundreds over two-day course

When it's all folded up and put together, the old-fashioned van is a simple vehicle sporting various science decal on each side.

However, unfold the back and open the doors, and a world of astronomy, gadgets, and gizmos come alive.

The Mobile Earth Space Observatory is a 1970's van that was remodeled into a traveling science center and made its debut to the public in Sutton, following a small open house in Colorado.

Developed as a way to encourage and enlighten people of all ages about science, MESO is equipped with a two large televisions, a built-in telescope, and various photos of space phenomenons.

The two televisions hook up to a system called the All Sky Infrared and Visual Analyzer (ASIVA), which was designed and developed by Dimitri Klebe, one of the scientists on-site in Sutton for the eclipse.

The ASIVA is an automatic, continuously operating, digital imaging and software system. Klebe said the ASIVA is designed to analyze hemi-

spheric sky changes by taking photos with one infrared and one regular camera.

The cameras are able to determine how much cloud coverage there is, even if the clouds are not visible to the human eye. The cameras provide high-quality multi-spectral all-sky imagery in the thermal infrared and visible wavelengths for sky and cloud analysis.

Originally, it was invented for astrology use, but has more recently been used to study cloud changes and how they're affecting the Earth, Klebe said.

He added that clouds help cool the Earth down, but with a recent decrease in cloud coverage, temperatures and carbon dioxide levels have begun to rise. When these levels rise, such as in the ocean, certain life forms are unable to change fast enough to adapt to their surroundings.

In the case of MESO and those traveling with it, ASIVA was used to show cloud coverage for stars and eclipse viewing.

Also tagging along for the



Margaret Hanson, far right, explains a photo of the sun to Jack Carlson, Owynn Carlson, and Carol Carlson, on the first opening day of MESO at Sutton Public Schools. Hanson is a professor at the University of Cincinnati.

MESO experience was Bryan Costanza, the lead technician for Citizen CATE; Marc Staub, executive director of COOL Science; Margaret Hanson, a professor at the University of Cincinnati; and Robert J. Sallee, chairman of the

National Space Science and Technology Institute Board of Directors.

### MESO

Scattered around the science center on wheels were a number of various telescopes set up for interested people to

take a look at the sun, stars, and even planets.

Staub explained that some of the telescopes worked like a regular viewing glass, in that they weren't strong enough to see planets, such as the large telescope mounted

in the center of MESO.

This particular telescope allowed visitors to see the sun spots during the day time, but when evening fell, visitors were able to take a look at the white silhouetted shape of Saturn.

At the back of the center six photos are plastered to the walls, each one showing factual representations of the sun and its many facets. Three of the photos are digital representations of the sun, Earth, solar disk, and even an up-close representation of the sun.

Hanson said the digital representations are created to show scientists and physicists how well they understand what they are studying. The digital representations also help in teaching others about parts of the sun and in space.

On the other wall, an up-close, infrared photo of the sun shows the different textures and sights that the human eye would never be able to see. Another depicts a solar eclipse with the sun's corona, with the third photo

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ASHLEY D. SWANSON | CLAY COUNTY NEWS

## Sliding into fun at Triple F Fest

Kayden, left, and Chris Paulk slide down a water slide during Triple F Festival activities on Saturday, Aug. 19. The day-long event started with a sand volleyball tournament and ended with a dance on Main Street, with live music.

## Sutton Board to host public meetings

A hefty price tag for future projects at Sutton Public School has prompted the school board to host two public meetings, in order to receive feedback from the public.

During the Aug. 8 SPS board meeting, members of 360 Engineers presented a \$3 million and a \$6.2 million project estimation for updates to the school. Several board members were concerned with the total amount, but were told by the 360 Engineering presenters the million dollar projects were simply ballpark figures.

The company said they show higher numbers to schools, instead of coming in and showing the board lower figures, only to have them increase immensely and unexpectedly. This way, the schools have an idea of what projects they're getting into.

However, despite the numbers being ballpark figures, the board voted to host two meetings, one from 8-9 p.m., Monday, Sept. 25, and another from 8-9 p.m., Wednesday, Oct. 11, in order to get the community's opinion on the projects, and figure out what the community is comfortable with.

The board also approved the hiring of a licensed therapist from Fillmore County Hospital. The therapist would work six hours per week at a total rate of \$12,000 for the 2017-18 school year.

Sutton's Beef Boosters reported the kitchen will serve local beef once a week at the school. They currently have 20 donors—six beef and the remaining as monetary donors. The Beef Boosters Club is also

hoping to host a beef kick off on Sept. 22. Beef donors will be invited to join the kids for the kick-off, and the beef council is anticipated to join also.

In administrative reports, High School Principal Brandy Thompson said there will be changes in the standardized testing within the next year. She reported that the former company, DRC, that was running the tests have stopped administering them due to some faulty information in the past. NWEA will be taking over, and while the tests will remain like NeSA tests, they will be named differently.

Thompson added that the state is expecting higher nonproficiency scores due to changes in testing. She explained that instead of simple multiple choice questions, students are being asked to choose an answer and then defend why they chose that answer. The same is for the math part of the test—there are different equations to do in math in which students need to show how they came to the answer they did. In other parts of the test, there are two parts to the question, and if a student misses one part, the

entire question is considered wrong.

Elementary Principal Shawn Carlson said he is working on making sure expectations for students and teachers are known and has been working at making sure there is a general positivity between the staff and students.

He added that he is also asking teachers to stay in their classrooms when guidance and Spanish lessons are occurring so teachers can know the lessons kids are learning and then support what the kids are learning within their own classrooms.

Superintendent Dana Wiseman reported that she talked with a local arborist about planting trees on school grounds, and said she was advised to mix the current cedars with various tree types.

After discussion, the board suggested Wiseman look into the cheapest and most effective tree types and hopefully get them planted sooner rather than later.

She also reported that enrollment numbers are down by 23, on account of the large senior class that graduated, as well as smaller kindergarten classes. In kindergarten through sixth grade there are 195 students, while in seventh through 12th grade there are 196, for a total enrollment of 391.

In other business, board members voted to hire Donis Reutzel as a para-educator; Brenda Stigge as a cafeteria worker; and Morgan Fangmeier as a local substitute teacher for ag only, all for the 2017-18 school year.



SECTION B



### ECLIPSE HIGHLIGHTS:

Take a look at the many views from Monday's solar eclipse.

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### HOW TO REACH US

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# The amazing darkness of Monday

I can honestly say that prior to the "Great American Eclipse," that took place Monday afternoon, that I was one that was a bit pessimistic about the entire thing!

No, I wasn't negative, but I had questions, I just had a hard time wrapping my arms around what was to take place. But as Monday unfolded, at around 12:30 I felt an "evening breeze" pickup as I stood atop the grandstands at Sutton's football field, shooting pictures of the students and visitors gazing up at the sky to soak in this once in a lifetime event.

As I floated around Sutton, while Ashley hit the Harvard school and Jordyn the Sandy Creek school, I just kept wondering what the feel of this would be.

Guess what? I want it to come back...I wanna see it again, not just see it but feel it! Yep, the pessimist side of me



**BULL**  
Tory Duncan  
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turned 180-degrees, as I wasn't fully feeling like, "Eh, whatever," just a tad bit.

I will say, I'm thankful that my duties for the CCN in the county, as it sounds as if many many areas of Nebraska proved to be a packed house...a zoo, if you will.

In talking with a few people that cruised into Sutton for the event, in some cases, it took over two hours to make it from Lincoln to Sutton. Between Lincoln and Omaha on Interstate 80...THAT was

no doubt a zoo according to reports in the state media prior to, and following the eclipse.

As I finished up my trek through Sutton I ended up at DLD Park in northwest Sutton to finish out the spectacle, where I would witness, like many others, the sun and moon going into totality, catching the corona at the very moment of totality. WOW...dare I say, it was breathtaking to see and witness something that not many people ever will have the chance to see.

While Mother Nature cut the view of totality to half of what was supposed to be over two and a half minutes in Sutton, to have witnessed this in my lifetime, my pessimistic side quickly changed to something completely the opposite.

Duncan to self... "You just watched something that you'll never see live again, perhaps?"

I guess after watching every-

thing unfold Monday, maybe, just maybe, I've caught the bug to see another total eclipse, but the reality just might be that I won't get to witness this ever again.

Watching the students at SPS; elementary, junior high and high school, proved to make the event even that much more enjoyable. The energy, especially with the elementary students, was priceless. The moment for me was a picture that I took of Kenny D. Griess and his grandson, Louie Schelkopf, as they watched together, talking away as they sat and layed on the football field turf to take in the event together.

Mr. Vincent Friesen's second grade class donned their own version of "safety glasses," making for a very cool look through the lens.

As I bounced back and forth from the school to the baseball

complex, one thing was clear, there was a great deal of visitors to Sutton Monday.

I know of people from Canada, the state of Washington, Virginia, Wisconsin and so many other parts of the country.

While Clay County might not have been the "hotbed" viewing location, most of my hesitation with the entire situation was the unknown.

Some eclipse professionals were warning of "thousands of people" streaming into the county to view this spectacle, and while we certainly had plenty of visitors to the county, it was far from being overwhelming!

Quite honestly, unless you were a school administrator, a police officer or an organizer of events for watch events, it was very peaceful, even quiet, outside of the very excited kids and adults from several

watch points in the county.

The cattle and chickens, as well as other animals were certainly "messed up" because of the amazing darkness of Monday, but I'd be fibbing to myself if I didn't say....WAY COOL!!!!

So, now that is gone and over with, what next?? Fall Sports, that's what!

You'll find in this week's issue our 2017 Fall Sports Preview, featuring the upcoming seasons at Sutton, Harvard and Sandy Creek.

Jordyn Hulinsky, our newest addition to the CCN team, worked her tail off getting this issue ready to roll.

We hit the ground running starting this Friday night with a pair of football games. The true race begins next week when all three football teams and volleyball teams, as well as the two cross country teams we cover, step into competitive mode and really kick off the new season.



ASHLEY D. SWANSON | CLAY COUNTY NEWS

## Splashing into the school year

Dawn Piper reacts to cold water slamming onto her head, after a student connected a bean bag with the target. The modified dunk tank was set up for the annual Harvard Back-to-School Picnic on Tuesday, Aug. 15.



RIGHT: Ashlyn Goc pushes herself over a part of the bounce house obstacle course set up during the Harvard BTS Picnic. FAR RIGHT: Kindergarten teacher Shelley Stone talks with one of her new students, Bryan Zara's-Aguilar, during the BTS Picnic on Aug. 15.



## MESO: Teaches hundreds over two-day course

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showing the northern lights.

Hanson explained that these kinds of lights occur at the north and south poles; however, since there's nothing other than ice in the southern part of the world, there's never any documentation of those lights.

She added that the lights come when electrically charged particles collide into the Earth's atmosphere and go into an excited mode. Before they hit the Earth's atmosphere, the particles are free sailing through space, which means there's no cause for collision. Once the electrically charged particles collide with the atoms in Earth's atmosphere, they react with countless bursts of light, creating what people know as the northern lights.

### CITIZEN CATE

The Citizen CATE (Continental-America Telescopic Eclipse) Experiment is a network of 68 telescopes, operated by citizen scientists, high school students, and universities, to capture images of the inner solar corona during a solar eclipse.

For this Monday's eclipse, at each of the 68 stations, 1,000 images were taken, covering over 2,500 miles of totality. The thousands of images will then be stitched together for a 90-minute movie, Sallee said.

This system is used to study the sun's wispy outer atmo-

sphere, as the powerful light that comes from the sun covers it. Using a coronagraph, an instrument that covers the Sun's bright disk, stations are able to view and photograph the corona, allowing for the study of the outer atmosphere of the Sun.

### COOL SCIENCE

Straub began working with COOL Science about seven years ago, bringing the wonder of science to people of all ages. COOL Science provides a series of hands-on experiments that engage kids and teach them along the way.

While in Sutton, Straub had kids—and some adults—making dipping dots, which are ice cream balls. Droplets dripped the ice cream mix into a bowl of liquid nitrogen, which then froze the mixture into tiny balls of ice cream.

Straub explained to attendees that the liquid nitrogen, which sits at 320 degrees below zero, instantly freezes the ice cream mixture. Due to the intense freezing temperature, those eating the ice cream had to wait until the ice cream actually warmed up before they could enjoy their treat.

The crew traveling with MESO came into Sutton early Sunday morning, and departed the area Monday evening, following the eclipse—in many cases, this year's eclipse was a first for the scientists.



Byran Costanza, left, and Dimitri Klebe re-adjust a telescope so people can view sun spots.

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YEARLY SUBSCRIPTION RATES: Clay, Adams, Hamilton, York, Fillmore & Nuckolls Counties: \$29; Outside of the Six-County Local Area: \$33.  
 POSTMASTER: Send address changes to: Clay County News  
 P.O. Box 405, Sutton, NE 68979-0405

Published every Wednesday at Sutton, Clay County, Nebraska. Periodicals postage paid at Sutton, NE 68979-0405.

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DEADLINES: Letters to the Editor, News articles, photographs and other materials that readers want published must be in the Clay County News office by each Monday at 5 p.m.

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