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Left, Steve Morgan of O. Wayne Rollins Planetarium at Young Harris College, with Tobie Chandler of the Blairsville-Union County Chamber of Commerce. Photo/Shawn Jarrard

That's why the chamber teamed up with North Georgia Technical College to provide thousands of pairs of special eclipse-viewing glasses to the public, for \$2 apiece, that will make looking at the eclipse safe during its partial phases.

To be clear, looking directly at the sun is never safe, even with sunglasses on, and the same holds true for the majority of the phases of the eclipse. It is only during totality, when the moon completely blocks out the sun, that it is safe to view the eclipse with the naked eye.

For Blairsville, that

period of totality will last about two minutes starting at 2:34 p.m. that Monday, Aug. 21, which is a viewing time much longer than nearby Blue Ridge, which will only see about 30 seconds of totality.

Atlanta residents will get only a partial viewing of the eclipse, since they live outside of the path of totality, and this is a big reason first responders are prepping for the eclipse – there will be more warm bodies up here, more cars and need for parking, and the possibility of accidents will inevitably increase.

Representatives with the Union County Sheriff's Office, Union General Hospital and EMS, Union County Fire Department, Union County EMA, Union County Government, Georgia Department of Natural Resources, the U.S. Forest Service and other first responders attended the meeting.

Many of those representatives said they are looking into boosting first responder presence during the eclipse, and the school system is considering options of early release or just not having school that day, with an eye toward eclipse traffic, though that decision will be up to the Union County Board of Education.

As for what's actually happening during a solar eclipse, the moon is moving directly between the sun and earth, causing a 70-mile wide shadow of the moon to travel upon the planet's surface.

Eclipse-viewing glasses are available for \$2 at chamber headquarters in the Union County Community Center, where residents will also be able to purchase Blairsville Eclipse Experience T-shirts.

EMA Director Dyer said he plans to hold another eclipse safety meeting with county and regional first responders in the near future, as the eclipse is a mere month and a half away.

Meeting to discuss filming of TV show in Towns County

There will be a Northeast Georgia & Western North Carolina Regional meeting in the Anderson Music Hall, Georgia Mountain Fairgrounds, Hiawassee, GA, Monday, July 10, 2017, 5:30 p.m.

This is an incredibly unique opportunity to collaborate with Dailey & Vincent LandFest and The Dailey & Vincent TV Show on RFD TV to tape an entire year of national TV, filmed in our area.

The opportunity is to feature Northeast Georgia and Western North Carolina; local businesses, tourist attractions, scenic environments, and history in the taping of Season 3 & 4 of The Dailey & Vincent TV Show on RFD TV (consisting of 26 brand new episodes). The TV Show is full of music, humor, family, and fun. This will be taped during the Dailey & Vincent LandFest, September 14-16, 2017 at the Georgia Mountain Fairgrounds and aired weekly on RFD TV for the entire

2018 calendar year. RFD TV is available in over 51 million households in the USA and The Dailey & Vincent TV Show is one of the top 3 programs on the network (consisting of over 100 programs) with approximately 1.3 million monthly viewers tuning in to watch the show.

Each episode will feature different parts of our area: local scenery, local businesses, local stories, etc. This opportunity will have a tremendous economic impact, drive national tourism, and provide wonderful exposure for the Northeast Georgia Mountains and Western North Carolina.

Application was made for the Georgia film tax credit; however, this project does not meet their qualifications. As a production, The Dailey & Vincent Show on RFD TV is entirely underwritten by sponsorship and partnership funding. The surrounding counties in the Northeast Georgia and Western North Carolina will benefit from being featured

in the commercials, once a week for 52 weeks.

A brief intro to the Dailey & Vincent Show on RFD TV can be viewed on this link: www.youtube.com/watch?v=JKxJjcyM88I.

We are encouraging you to attend this important meeting and asking for your support to make this a successful project. Please contact Hilda Thomason at 706-896-4191 if you have any questions regarding this exciting event for our area. Please RSVP by July 5, 2017 and let us know if you are attending this important meeting.

Cliff Bradshaw,
Sole Commissioner,
Towns County
Ronnie Phillips, Chairman
CVB Board, Towns County
Hilda Thomason,
General Manager, Georgia
Mountain Fairgrounds
Candace Lee, President,
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Chamber of Commerce



County officials attended a June 29 EMA meeting on the upcoming solar eclipse. Photo/Shawn Jarrard

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