**The Great American Eclipse**

**It's the cross-country trip of the century -- for celestial bodies, that is. On August 21, the moon will pass completely in front of the sun. And for the first time in nearly 100 years, its shadow will traverse the United States from coast to coast, making this eclipse one of the most highly anticipated and widely visible total solar eclipses in history.**

**Although the entire country will be able to see at least a portion of the moon glide across the sun, the sweet spot (known as the "path of totality") will be along a route that stretches from Oregon to South Carolina. This is where the moon will block all sunlight, leaving the ground below in darkness. Only during this period will it be safe to view the eclipse with the naked eye. If the weather cooperates, stars will appear in the sky in the middle of the day. Complete darkness will be brief, lasting only about two minutes, depending on location. So be on time -- or miss the bliss. *(Emily Barone, in Time magazine, July 10 - 17, 2017)***

**\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\***