

## The Face of Fillmore

By Sherry Shepard

It's that most wonderful time of year when everyone goes "leaf-peeping". Facebook is filled with beautiful scenes of fall colors on the leaves east of the Face of Fillmore. The most often made comment is that "even though the fire" ruined some areas, others are bursting with the colors of the season.

I am always excited as I see the hollows east of town filling with the red of maples. That is certainly not their only color, as the oranges and pinks and others delight us at every turn. Going up the mountain, the colors change more quickly. We know it will soon be time for the golden/rust of the oaks bushes and the crowning gold of the aspens.

An unusual phenomenon happens at just time of year on the top of Mt. Catherine – the golden eagle appears. At the summit, with its wings outspread and tail feathers ruffled, the eagle looks out over the Pahvant Valley in its golden glory. Just take a look! The height of the eagle's colors should about coincide with the Chronicle this week.

Millard County and other places will also have another treat in the sky this week as the annular solar eclipse will highlight the day on Saturday, October 14. During an annular solar eclipse, the moon appears slightly smaller than the sun, this time 91%, so it cannot block the entire disk. The result is a beautiful "ring of fire." This rare event will be visible from eight U.S. states, including ours.

The eclipse will pass over central Utah with at the following times in these popular areas:

- Great Basin National Park, Nevada: 9:24 a.m. PDT; 3 minutes, 46 seconds
- Bryce Canyon National Park, Utah: 10:27 a.m. MDT; 2 minutes, 31 seconds
- Capitol Reef National Park, Utah: 10:27 a.m. MDT; 4 minutes, 37 seconds

Although it is being seen as a warm-up for the 2024 total solar eclipse, the 2023 annular solar eclipse is a great excuse to watch the skies, and for eclipse chasers who have yet to see an annular solar eclipse, it's a great opportunity.

Remember to do this safely.

According to NASA, to view the sun directly (and safely), use "solar-viewing glasses" or "eclipse glasses" or "personal solar filters" (these are all names for the same thing. The "lenses" of solar-viewing glasses are made from special-purpose solar filters that are hundreds of

thousands of times darker than regular sunglasses. These glasses are so dark that the face of the sun should be the only thing visible through them. Solar-viewing glasses can be used to view a solar eclipse, or to look for sunspots on the sun's surface.

NASA and the AAS recommend that solar-viewing or eclipse glasses meet the current international standard: ISO 12312-2. Some older solar-viewing glasses may meet previous standards for eye protection, but not the new international standard, NASA spokesman Fienberg said.

