



Wolken: Can Purdue handle UConn in NCAA championship?

SPORTS, 1B

The Desert Sun

MONDAY, APRIL 8, 2024 | DESERTSUN.COM

PART OF THE USA TODAY NETWORK

Eye damage from eclipse can be averted

Doctors explain risks of gazing at sun without sufficient protection

Eduardo Cuevas
USA TODAY NETWORK

When the ophthalmologist looked into a 26-year-old's eye in 2017, it was a worst-case scenario. The distinctive contours of the solar eclipse the woman stared at days prior were etched onto her retina.

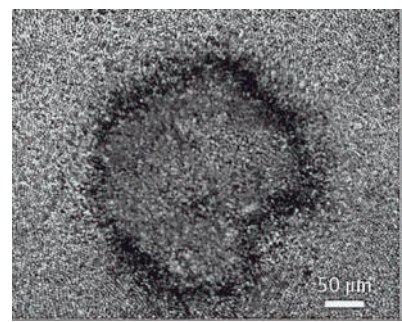
The case of the Staten Island woman who watched the eclipse through faulty glasses was notable enough to be chronicled by doctors from Mount Sinai's New York Eye and Ear Infirmary in JAMA Ophthalmology, a

medical journal, because these cases are, luckily, rare.

"It's a very focused beam of high-energy light from the sun itself," said Dr. Avnish Deobhakta, an ophthalmologist at the Mount Sinai infirmary who treated the woman. "It can actually destroy parts of the retina, and certainly destroy it in the shape of an eclipse."

The woman told Mount Sinai doctors she had gazed at the moon passing in front of the sun through what she believed were protective glasses. In scans, the damage on her left retina, the area at the back of the eye where the brain receives images, resembled the shape of a partial eclipse. She told a local TV station that year when she closed her eyes, she saw a

See ECLIPSE, Page 8A



This scan of a woman's left eye shows the 2017 solar eclipse etched on her retina. Mount Sinai New York Eye and Ear Infirmary doctors treated the woman who had retina damage

from staring at the eclipse with glasses she thought would protect her from harmful rays.

PROVIDED BY MOUNT SINAI HEALTH SYSTEM



Construction workers construct a major storm drain and flood control line on Ramon Road near the intersection of Compadre Road in Palm Springs on Wednesday. PHOTOS BY JAY CALDERON/THE DESERT SUN

Why Palm Springs is closing traffic lanes

Storm drain project on Ramon, Farrell to last until November

Paul Albani-Burgio
Palm Springs Desert Sun | USA TODAY NETWORK

If you've spent anytime driving along Ramon Road near the Palm Springs airport, you're probably all too aware of the ongoing construction work that has turned traffic into a crawl around El Cielo.

And if you've been stuck there at a particularly inopportune or traffic choked-time, you've probably found yourself cursing whoever greenlit this construction to happen at the height of the busy tourism and snowbird seasons.

But while the projects (there are actually two happening in this area, although only one has much impact on Ramon Road traffic) are frustrating, the agencies behind them say they will benefit the city — and that there's no way to avoid the work coming during the busy season.

Here's what to know about the roadwork — and when it will finally be over.

What is happening?

The most significant of the two projects to most drivers is a project to construct a new storm drain that will ultimately extend from near Palm Springs High School to about the Ramon and El Cielo intersection, where it will hook into existing drainage infrastructure.

The second is a Desert Water Agency project to replace aging pipes that run along frontage roads just



Vehicles merge last week into one lane on eastbound Ramon Road. The work zone will gradually move west along Ramon Road to Farrell Drive and then north on Farrell Drive to Tahquitz Canyon Way.

north of Ramon Road, as well as along Compadre Road up to Via Vaquero Road.

Why is it being done?

The work under Ramon Road will provide additional drainage infrastructure that will alleviate existing issues with flooding around Pam Springs High School, reducing the likelihood of street flooding and other flood-related impacts, according to online

See RAMON ROAD, Page 8A

DA clears cop in beating seen in viral video

Cathedral City police ruled use of baton improper; officer left force

Christopher Damien
Palm Springs Desert Sun | USA TODAY NETWORK

A former Cathedral City police officer caught on camera beating a man during an arrest will not face criminal charges, according to records obtained by The Desert Sun.

Jose Lenor Garcia, 34, fled from a police officer who tried to pull him over near a convenience store on Avenida Maravilla and Ramon Road around 3 a.m. on Nov. 21, 2020. Cathedral City police then pursued him through residential streets before he stopped at his parents' home. But after he fled again, police used a spike strip to destroy his tires.

The footage shows then-Officer Jeffrey Aguirre hit Garcia with a baton several times after other officers had removed him from his car and were attempting to handcuff him. The dash camera footage of the beating was posted online and began going viral in late 2022, about two years after the confrontation.

A former Cathedral City police officer, Cladiu

See BEATING, Page 8A

EARLY BIRD INDUSTRY

\$20 FREE BET OFFER

EVERY MONDAY THRU THURSDAY
12AM - 8AM

Play your favorite table games every week Monday through Thursday and when you buy-in a minimum of \$100 you will receive a coupon for

\$20 FREE BET

from designated kiosks.

Must meet minimum \$100 Free Bet coupon with valid government issued photo ID & Player's Club card to Table Games Counter during valid date and time to receive Free Bet coupon will be void. Limit one \$20 Free Bet coupon per game per promotion period. Management reserves the right to cancel or modify promotion at any time without notice.

FANTASY SPRINGS RESORT CASINO

800.827.2946 | fantasyspringsresort.com | f i v

84-245 Indio Springs Parkway, Indio, CA 92203

Subscriber-only eNewspaper

The eNewspaper is an electronic copy of your print newspaper. Enjoy every page by going to desertsun.com/enewspaper or scan this code on your mobile device. You will also find late news and sports in the bonus sections. Check it out today!



Volume 97 | No. 147
SERVING THE COACHELLA
VALLEY SINCE 1927
©2024 \$3.50



0 40901 08201 9