Transit of Venus Preview

VFTH

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An astronomical phenomenon is happening next Tuesday evening, and WKU doesn’t want you to miss it!

In this week’s View from the Hill, Amy Bingham tells us about the Transit of Venus viewing party for this once-in-a-lifetime event.

Once Venus passes between the Earth and Sun on June 5th, it won’t happen again for another 105 years. So grab the kids and head to Smith Stadium after work next Tuesday and witness this rare alignment for yourself.

The rare celestial event where Venus passes between the earth and the sun has only been witnessed by humans six times.

“After June 5th, it won’t happen for 105 years, in 2117.”

That’s why WKU doesn’t want you to miss it.

 “It puts into perspective something otherwise only astronauts and a few others get to see and that’s the magnificent scale of the solar system that we live in.”

On Tuesday, beginning at five pm, you can come to Smith Stadium and receive a free pair of safety glasses and also have access to telescopes to safely view the phenomenon.

 “About ten after five people will be able to see a little shadow just on the edge of the bright sun.”

 “At 5:22 the circle of Venus will be on the sun and from that point on, its gonna be just a dot on the sun til the sun sets.”

The jumbo tron will also carry a live feed of the event from Hawaii .

 “When the sun sets for us it will not be setting in Hawaii so they’ll get to see the entire thing from start to finish.”

Scientists say the harmony between math and science has never been more perfect than the study of the transit of Venus.

 “In 1864 we now knew what we were doing, they figured out for the first time, really nailed it…how far away from sun.”

16:24 “This isn’t a scientific event, this is a gee whiz event, it’s a wow look how incredible that is opportunity.”

The Transit of Venus viewing party will begin at five pm next Tuesday at Houchins-LT Smith stadium and continue until sunset. It’s a come and go event and other activities are also planned.

With this week’s View from the Hill, I’m Amy Bingham.

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