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Many area hotels already sold out

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book yet an opportunity to do that." Ridgebear said that although there will be a premium on Lodge rooms and that they will cost more than the normal rate, the idea of doubling rates like other area hotels is not part of the plan at Spirit Mountain.

"Just because of the price of demand Spirit Mountain has never engaged in any price-gouging," Ridgebear said. "If we had high demand for rooms we might have an increase, but we would never hurt our image with price-gouging."

A recent look at the Red Lion Hotel's website in Salem listed current room prices between \$108 and \$135, but the hotel is sold out for the night of Sunday, Aug. 20. It's the same situation for the Rodeway Inn and the Grand Hotel in Salem. Rooms at the Rodeway Inn are currently selling for as little as \$60 a night, but the Inn is booked completely for Aug. 20. The Grand charges \$159 to \$189 for a room currently, but is also sold out for Aug. 20.

Western Oregon is expecting possibly hundreds of thousands of tourists and eclipse aficionados to be in the area and local campgrounds completely sold out within

an hour of the reservation period being opened by the Oregon Parks and Recreation Department.

State recreation managers are expecting heavy traffic in the Mary's Peak and Mt. Hebo areas as people try to get the best viewing spots. People at the top of even a good-sized hill may see the moon's shadow approaching along the ground at a speed of more than 1,150 mph.

Access to both of those areas will be managed by the state to ensure safe routes will be maintained and that sensitive areas will be protected.

Although total solar eclipses are not rare – one occurs somewhere on Earth every 18 months – the Aug. 21 event will be first one visible in the lower 48 states since February 1979. It will be the first total solar eclipse in 99 years to sweep from coast to coast.

Locally, Tribal Cultural Resources Department Manager David Harrelson said there is no lore he is aware of in Tribal history regarding eclipses and that there are no official Tribal cultural events currently being planned besides the annual Contest Powwow, which will be held the weekend before.

"I have no knowledge of our Tribal stories, beliefs or practices that would be relevant to a solar eclipse," said Harrelson. ■

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