

Stars over Sisters

By Amy Hills
Correspondent

As the world exercised the New Year’s Eve tradition of bidding adieu to the old year and welcoming in a new one, many of us look forward to 2019 with the hope that it will be filled with joyful and uplifting experiences.

Indeed, some of these exciting events will take place in the night skies of January, such as a meteor shower, a lunar eclipse and great views of some bright planets. But first a backward glance to December 2018 is in order.

On December 16 comet 46P/Wirtanen, a member of the Jupiter family of comets, approached to within 7.2 million miles of the earth. In terms of astronomical distances, this is very close. In fact, it is one of 20 closest comets to pass by the earth since the ninth century.

Discovered by American astronomer Carl Wirtanen in 1948 from the Lick Observatory in California, it is a relatively small comet that currently has an orbital period of 5.4 years.

Although the comet is currently leaving the inner solar system, it likely will still be visible with a pair of binoculars through the first half

of January, after which light from a brightening moon will interfere. Scan the area of sky about halfway between the bright star Capella in the constellation of Auriga and the northern-most star in the bowl of the Big Dipper.

The comet won’t come close to the earth again for another 27 years.

The Quadrantids meteor shower will peak on the evening of January 3/morning of January 4 when perhaps 40 meteors per hour will streak across the sky. These meteors are produced from space dust left by an extinct comet called 2003 EH1. When traced backwards, the streaks of light appear to emanate from the northern part of Bootes, but can be seen all over the night sky. Feeble light from a thin crescent moon will not interfere with the viewing conditions.

A total lunar eclipse will occur on the evening of Sunday, January 20. During this event, the moon will pass completely through the earth’s shadow. As a result, the moon will gradually get darker before turning a red hue. The eclipse will be visible through all of North America and will peak at about 9:12 p.m. But there’s more. This will also be a supermoon eclipse, meaning



PHOTO PROVIDED

This photo of comet Wirtanen was taken by a local photographer on December 13, 2018, three days before its closest approach to the earth.

the fully eclipsed moon will be about 15,000 miles closer to the earth than its average distance.

The moon will be new (dark) on January 5, which will make for ideal viewing conditions for this month’s most prominent planets and deep-sky objects.

Conveniently, Venus will reach its greatest western elongation on January 6. This will be the optimal time to view it since it will be at its highest point above the horizon in the early morning sky. Venus and Jupiter will be in conjunction on January 22, appearing together in the morning sky.

Additionally, Mars can be spotted well above the southwestern horizon as night falls, and not setting until about 11 p.m. local time.

Another celestial object

worth taking a look at this month is M45, also known as the “Pleiades” or “Seven Sisters.” It is perhaps the finest and brightest open star cluster in the entire sky. M45 contains seven prominent stars that have a distinct blue color to them. It will be visible low in the eastern sky at nightfall, reaching its highest point in the sky at about 8:15 p.m., a full 70 degrees above the southern horizon.

The Pleiades is an easy naked-eye object that can be found in the constellation of Taurus just above the bright star Aldebaran. The cluster is, in fact, so famous that the Subaru car company uses it as their design logo.

So grab a buddy, warm clothes and some hot cocoa and head outside to see these amazing events happening all month long.

MOCU reaches out to furloughed workers

Mid Oregon Credit Union is offering assistance to federal employees impacted by the budget-funding debate. Several offices here in Central Oregon are out on furlough; Deschutes, Ochoco, and Fremont-Winema National Forest staff, BLM (Bureau of Land Management) and U.S. Fish and Wildlife (Department of the Interior).

This situation can cause financial stress for the affected federal employees, and there is no clear time when it will be resolved. Mid Oregon can help bridge the gap with short-term loans and other financial options until the funding is restored.

Those who are impacted may contact Mid Oregon directly at offices in Sisters or call 541 382-1795.



Introducing Our New Packaging

Open 6am-6pm Coffee Roasted Daily 273 W Hood Ave. Sisters, OR



RESTORATION
ANYTIME - ANYDAY

WATER ★ MOLD ★ FIRE ★ RECONSTRUCTION

We remediate and restore property from almost any disastrous event. We work with **your insurance company for you.**

Visit Pioneer at bit.ly/water-damage-pros-sisters to learn more or call 541-604-7272 to schedule services today.
CCB# 196157



TASTY THURSDAY
Thurs., Jan. 3, 5-7 p.m.
LIVE MUSIC
Sat., Jan. 5, 6:30-8:30 p.m.
Dennis McGregor

391 W. Cascade Ave. | 541-549-2675
corkcellarswinebistro.com

TIME FOR INSIDE PROJECTS

Table Saw



Wallpaper Steamer



Carpet Cleaner



NEED IT, RENT IT!
SISTERS RENTAL
506 N. Pine St.
541-549-9631
Sales • Service
Rentals • Accessories
www.sistersrental.com



Smile, Sisters!
We’re committed to your dental health!

Exceptional Health, Prevention & Aesthetics For Your Family!

Trevor Frideres D.M.D.
p 541-549-9486 / 541-549-9110
410 E. Cascade Ave. ■ P.O. Box 1027 ■ Sisters
Hours: Mon., 9 a.m.-6 p.m.; Tues.-Wed., 8 a.m.-4 p.m.; Thurs., 7 a.m.-3 p.m.



Red Tag Savings!

Annual savings up to \$3,600 on select units

Offer expires Jan. 10, 2019

Exclusive limited-time offer on select apartments!

Unit #1 2 Bedroom Now \$4,249	Unit #103 1 Bedroom Now \$2,999
---	---

*Subject to availability. Offer valid on select units only; floor plans may vary. See management for complete details.

SCHEDULE YOUR VISIT TODAY! CALL 541-318-0450.



Stone Lodge
Independent Retirement Living
1460 NE 27th St., Bend • StoneLodgeRetirement.com

©2018 HARVEST MANAGEMENT SUB LLC & HOLIDAY AL HOLDINGS LP 19034