

Stars over Sisters

By Ramsey Schar
Correspondent

As spring 2019 continues to advance, it has already brought with it warmer and drier weather, fueling the hopes of stargazers for an inspiring and comfortable observing season going forward.

These changes are also being played out in the sky as more of the winter constellations continue to fall toward the western horizon, such as Orion, Auriga, Taurus, Canis Major and Gemini. The stage is now set for a new cast of characters, like a lion, virgin, crow, herdsman and strong man. Of course, there are a few familiar star patterns that never leave the sky, at least from our latitude, as they continually pivot about the North Star. Some of these include Ursa Minor, Ursa Major (at least the dipper part), Draco, Cassiopeia and Cepheus.

Though it never produces spectacular storms, the Eta Aquarids meteor shower, which peaks on May 6 this year, is a reliable one. It is caused when the earth crosses the orbit of Halley’s Comet, intercepting debris shed by the comet. More meteors can typically be seen from the Southern Hemisphere (30-40 per hour) than from the Northern Hemisphere (about 10 per hour). To observe these meteors find a dark location, lie back on a reclining lawn chair, face east and bundle up with blankets or a sleeping bag. More meteors flash across the sky between 1 a.m. and dawn than they do earlier in the evening; this year moonlight will not

interfere.

Winter skies are known for their bright constellations and impressive open star clusters, but when it comes to the dense balls of older stars that reside in the outer regions of our galaxy, there are very few. That, however, is about to change when two of the finest will come into view beginning in May.

The first is M3, which lies at the southern border of Canes Venatici. It is comprised of an estimated half a million stars and lies at a distance of about 34,000 light-years. The cluster is thought to be approximately eight billion years old, relatively young for this type of cluster.

Messier’s fifth entry in his catalog of non-stellar objects, found in the constellation of Serpens, is also a globular cluster similar in size and brightness to M3. Not quite as far away, M5 is about 25,000 light-years from the earth. But this cluster has been around considerably longer than M3, with an estimated age of 13 billion years. Both these celestial treasures are stunning sights through a medium-size telescope under dark skies.

Mars continues to hang



PHOTO BY ADAM BLOCK/MOUNT LEMMON SKY CENTER /UNIVERSITY OF ARIZONA

Globular cluster M5 is a massive ball of old stars located 25,000 light-years away in the constellation of Serpens.

tough as the only planet in the evening sky, until Jupiter rises at about 11 p.m. By mid-month the red orb can be seen near the western horizon for about two hours after dusk, but the sun is slowly gaining ground and by mid-July Mars will be overwhelmed by the sun’s glare. Late in May Mercury will also become an evening object.

The remaining naked-eye planets: Venus, Mercury and Saturn, populate the morning realm. A thin crescent moon and brilliant Venus will pose together on the morning of May 2, creating a picturesque

scene that will likely tempt many an astrophotographer.

A new moon on May 4 ensures a dark beginning to the month, after which it slowly begins to wax, causing the sky to brighten. This culminates in the Full Flower Moon on May 18. By last quarter on May 26 the moon is safely out of the way for evening dark-sky viewing. Our only natural satellite is closest to the earth on May 13 (perigee; 229,291 miles) and farthest away on May 26 (apogee; 251,119 miles).

CREATIVE: Ranch provides a refuge for creatives

Continued from page 3

is developing a sculptural artist book project that celebrates the Mt. Hood Wilderness by placing the mountain as a focal element to tell a story of the region.

Pine Meadow Ranch, a project of the Roundhouse Foundation, creates engagement with a historic working ranch and the community of Sisters. Artists and makers wanting to explore connections to the landscape, agriculture and the local area community are invited to Pine Meadow Ranch in Sisters. Residents are asked to contribute to the Ranch or the community through one or more program focus areas. At the same time, artists are given time and space for their own artistic practice.

The Roundhouse Foundation is working to establish Pine Meadow Ranch as a place of creative exchange with the local area community and between arts, agriculture, conservation and historic preservation.

Have a story
idea for
The Nugget?
We’d love
to hear it!
Send an email to
editor@nuggetnews.com

SISTERS
SALOON

& RANCH GRILL

DINING & TAKE-OUT
until midnight every night
Menu at SistersSaloon.net
541-549-RIBS
★ 190 E. Cascade Ave. ★

Gypsy Wind Clothing

CRAZY ABOUT DENIM?
WE ARE! COME SEE
WHAT WE HAVE!

351 W. HOOD AVE. New Winter Hours:
Open Wed.-Sat., 10 a.m. to 4 p.m.; Closed Sun.-Tues.

DAVIS TIRE

Our family can take care of your family of autos & trailers

Brakes • Axles • Ball Joints • Suspension • Shocks • Struts

TIRE INSTALLATION, ALIGNMENT, REPAIR,
BALANCING, ROTATION

Sisters Industrial Park
188 W. Sisters Park Dr. **541-549-1026**

Serving Sisters Since 1962

PIZZA • CALZONE • SALAD • BEER & WINE

NOW SERVING
Pizza by the Slice!

Pizza Delivery, too!
Made-from-scratch dough

SHULERS' PIZZERIA

www.shulerspizzeria.com

442 E. Hood Ave., Sisters • 541-549-1960

Hours: Tuesday-Saturday 11 a.m.-8 p.m. • Sunday 12-7 p.m.

Cloverdale Rural Fire Protection District NOTICE OF BUDGET HEARING

A public meeting of **Cloverdale Rural Fire Protection District**, Deschutes County, will be held on Wednesday, May 15, 2019 at 7 PM at Fire Station No. 2, 67433 Cloverdale Rd., Sisters, Oregon 97759. The purpose of this meeting is to discuss the budget for fiscal year beginning July 1, 2019, as approved by Cloverdale Rural Fire District budget committee. A summary of the budget is presented below. A copy of the budget may be inspected or obtained at Fire Station No. 2, located at 67433 Cloverdale Road, Sisters, Oregon 97759, between the hours of 1 PM and 5 PM. This budget is for an annual budget period. This budget was prepared on a basis of accounting that is the same as the preceding year.

Contact: Thad Olsen, Fire Chief Telephone: 541-389-2345 Email: tolsen@cloverdalefire.com

FINANCIAL SUMMARY - RESOURCES			
TOTAL OF ALL FUNDS	Actual Amount 2017-2018	Adopted Budget This Year 2018-2019	Approved Budget Next Year 2019-2020
Beginning Fund Balance/Net Working Capital	538,000	490,143	488,000
Fees, Licenses, Permits, Fines, Assessments & Other Service Charges	14,200	15,500	15,500
Revenue from Bonds and Other Debt	0	0	0
All Other Resources Except Current Year Property Taxes	8,800	28,700	6,700
Current Year Property Taxes Estimated to be Received	566,656	573,788	583,350
Total Resources	1,127,656	1,108,131	1,093,550
FINANCIAL SUMMARY - REQUIREMENTS BY OBJECT CLASSIFICATION			
Personnel Services	275,725	282,900	294,825
Materials and Services	154,250	174,267	174,150
Capital Outlay	255,500	214,843	157,600
Debt Service	186,015	189,100	192,000
Interfund Transfers	0	22,000	50,000
Contingencies	20,000	20,000	40,000
Total Requirements	891,490	903,110	908,575
FINANCIAL SUMMARY - REQUIREMENTS AND FULL-TIME EQUIVALENT EMPLOYEES (FTE) BY ORGANIZATIONAL UNIT OR PROGRAM *			
Name of Organizational Unit or Program FTE for that unit or program			
General Fund/Operations	267,137	277,700	294,825
FTE	2.38	2.38	2.28
Total Requirements	267,137	277,700	294,936
Total FTE	2.38	2.38	2.28
STATEMENT OF CHANGES IN ACTIVITIES and SOURCES OF FINANCING *			
On November 04, 2014, the electors of the Fire District approved by vote, the issuance of General Obligation Bonds be issued in compliance with Oregon Revised Statute section 478.410, and Board Resolution 2015-02, for paying capital costs for the replacement of fire engines and emergency vehicles, replacement of the Cloverdale Road fire station, the renovation of the George Cyrus Road fire station, replacement of emergency response equipment and paying the cost of issuance for the			
PROPERTY TAX LEVIES			
	Rate or Amount Imposed 2016-2017	Rate or Amount Imposed This Year 2017-2018	Rate or Amount Approved Next Year 2018-2019
Permanent Rate Levy (rate limit \$1.0924 per \$1,000)	\$1.0924 per \$1,000	\$1.0924 per \$1,000	\$1.0924 per \$1,000
Levy for General Obligation Bonds	\$173,000	\$169,000	\$168,000
STATEMENT OF INDEBTEDNESS			
LONG TERM DEBT	Estimated Debt Outstanding on July 1.		Estimated Debt Authorized, But Not Incurred on July 1
General Obligation Bonds	\$2,220,000		
Other Borrowings (SDAO FlexLease)	\$220,000		
Total	\$2,440,000		