

Astronomy Club talk confronts vastness of cosmos

Standing in a dark country meadow, staring up at a sky full of stars and the diaphanous glow of the Milky Way arching overhead, it is easy to feel small. Staring at pictures from the Hubble Space Telescope, it is easy to be stunned by the effortless beauty of the cosmos. Faced with the knowledge that our planet is only one small speck among a hundred billion galaxies and a billion-trillion stars, it is easy to feel insignificant.

Shane Larson understands the feeling. Larson is a research associate professor of physics at Northwestern University, where he is the Associate Director of CIERA (Center for Interdisciplinary Exploration and Research in Astrophysics). He works in the field of gravitational wave astrophysics, specializing in studies of compact stars, binaries, and the galaxy. He works in gravitational wave astronomy with both the ground-based LIGO project, and the future space-based detector LISA.

"...We live at a unique moment in human history," Larson says. "We are the first humans to ever see a picture of the Earth, hanging against the darkness of the night. We are the first humans to ever

know what lies on the surface of Mars, or behind the thick fog of Titan's clouds. We are the first humans to ever know that we are deeply connected to the stars themselves. It is easy to forget how hard it was to win that knowledge."

Sisters Astronomy Club will present a public lecture on this topic by Professor Larson in the Sisters Public Library meeting room at 2 p.m., Saturday, August 10.

Larson grew up in eastern Oregon, and was an undergraduate at Oregon State University where he received his B.S. in Physics in 1991. He received a Ph.D. in theoretical physics (1999) from Montana State University. He

is an award-winning teacher, and a Fellow of the American Physical Society.

He currently lives in the Chicago area with his wife, daughter and cats. He contributes regularly to a public science blog at writescience.wordpress.com, and tweets with the handle @sciencejedi.

"We are stardust, wrought into complex machines of atoms that are capable of pondering the Universe itself," Larson notes. "When faced with the cosmic vastness, it is easy to forget how awesome it is that we can understand — that is the hallmark of our relationship with the cosmos. In this chat, we'll talk about how our understanding of the



PHOTO PROVIDED

Professor Shane Larson will talk about how our understanding of the universe has expanded over time.

universe has expanded with time, and how we came to understand our place in it." For more information

on the program contact Jim Hammond at 541-617-1086 or drjhammond@oldshoepress.com

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<p>JUL 31 WED</p>	<p>Hardtails Bar & Grill Karaoke Night! 9 p.m. Every Wednesday, no cover! For additional information call 541-549-6114 or go to hardtailsoregon.com.</p> <p>Food Cart Garden at Eurosports Trivia Night 6:30 to 7:30 p.m. Sign up by 6:15 p.m. For additional information call Eurosports at 541-549-2471.</p> <p>Sisters Saloon Poker Night 7 p.m. Every Wednesday! \$20. For information call 541-549-7427 or go to sisterssaloon.net.</p>	<p>AUG 6 TUES</p>	<p>Sisters Saloon Trivia Night 6:30 to 7:30 p.m. Sign-up is at 6:15 p.m. Free, every Tuesday! For additional information call 541-549-7427 or go to sisterssaloon.net.</p>
<p>AUG 1 THUR</p>	<p>Fir Street Park Live Music with Town Mountain 6:30 p.m. Sisters Folk Festival Free Summer Concert Series. Bring a chair or blanket. Information: 541-549-4979.</p> <p>Cork Cellars Tasty Thursday Hosted Wine Tasting 5 to 7 p.m. For additional information call 541-549-2675 or go online to corkcellarswinebistro.com.</p> <p>The Suttle Lodge & Boathouse Wine Tasting 5 to 7 p.m. Free and open to everyone 21+. For additional info call 541-638-7001 or go to thesuttlelodge.com.</p> <p>Sisters Saloon Karaoke Night 9 p.m. to midnight. Every Thursday, no cover! For additional information call 541-549-7427 or go to sisterssaloon.net.</p>	<p>AUG 7 WED</p>	<p>Seed to Table Farm Community Pizza on the Farm 4 to 7 p.m. Boone Dog Pizza with farm fresh ingredients, Kids' farm olympics and live music. Visit seedtotableoregon.org for info.</p> <p>Hardtails Bar & Grill Karaoke Night! 9 p.m. Every Wednesday, no cover! For additional information call 541-549-6114 or go to hardtailsoregon.com.</p> <p>Food Cart Garden at Eurosports Trivia Night 6:30 to 7:30 p.m. Sign up by 6:15 p.m. For additional information call Eurosports at 541-549-2471.</p> <p>Sisters Saloon Poker Night 7 p.m. Every Wednesday! \$20. For information call 541-549-7427 or go to sisterssaloon.net.</p>
<p>AUG 2 FRI</p>	<p>The Suttle Lodge & Boathouse Live Music with Austin Miller & Kelli Schaefer 6 to 8 p.m. Big Lawn Music series with food & beverages for purchase. For additional info call 541-638-7001 or go to thesuttlelodge.com.</p> <p>Angeline's Live Music with Dennis McGregor and the Spoilers 7 p.m. Summer music in the backyard. \$5 cover. For additional information call 541-549-9122.</p> <p>Food Cart Garden at Eurosports Live Music with Paul Eddy Duo 5 to 7 p.m. Dogs, children & adults all welcome! For information call Eurosports at 541-549-2471.</p> <p>Hardtails Bar & Grill DJK9 Rawkstar Karaoke Night! 9 p.m. Every Friday, no cover! For additional information call 541-549-6114 or go to hardtailsoregon.com.</p>	<p>AUG 8 THUR</p>	<p>Village Green Park SPRD Hawaiian Luau 5:30 to 7:30 p.m. Full Hawaiian dinner menu and live music. \$15 for adults, \$5 for kids. For information call 541-549-2091 or email Shannon@sistersrecreation.com.</p> <p>Cork Cellars Tasty Thursday Hosted Wine Tasting 5 to 7 p.m. For additional information call 541-549-2675 or go online to corkcellarswinebistro.com.</p> <p>The Suttle Lodge & Boathouse Wine Tasting 5 to 7 p.m. Free and open to everyone 21+. For additional info call 541-638-7001 or go to thesuttlelodge.com.</p> <p>Sisters Saloon Karaoke Night 9 p.m. to midnight. Every Thursday, no cover! For additional information call 541-549-7427 or go to sisterssaloon.net.</p>
<p>AUG 3 SAT</p>	<p>Hardtails Bar & Grill Live Music with Appetite for Deception 9 p.m. Guns n' Roses tribute band. For additional information call 541-549-6114 or go to hardtailsoregon.com.</p> <p>Cork Cellars Live Music with Gabriel 6:30 to 8:30 p.m. No cover! For information call 541-549-2675 or go online to corkcellarswinebistro.com.</p>	<p>AUG 9 FRI</p>	<p>Episcopal Church of the Transfiguration Art Show & Artists' Reception 5 to 8 p.m. Many pieces are for sale! For information call 541-549-7087.</p> <p>Shepherd of the Hills Lutheran Church Live Music with Dennis McGregor and the Spoilers 7 p.m. On the lawn under the tent. Cash and food donations accepted for Sisters Kiwanis Food Bank. Call 541-549-5831 for more information.</p> <p>The Suttle Lodge & Boathouse Live Music with Bear Clouds & Lighters as Guns 6 to 8 p.m. Big Lawn Music series with food & beverages for purchase. For additional info call 541-638-7001 or go to thesuttlelodge.com.</p> <p>Food Cart Garden at Eurosports Live Music with NTT with Chris Brown 5 to 7 p.m. Dogs, children & adults all welcome! For information call Eurosports at 541-549-2471.</p> <p>Hardtails Bar & Grill DJK9 Rawkstar Karaoke Night! 9 p.m. Every Friday, no cover! For additional information call 541-549-6114 or go to hardtailsoregon.com.</p>
<p>AUG 4 SUN</p>	<p>Fir Street Park Sisters Farmers Market 11 a.m. to 2 p.m. Every Sunday: fresh local produce, lunch, live music, & yoga. Call 503-997-0301 or go to sistersfarmersmarket.com.</p> <p>Sisters Saloon Open Mic Night 8 to 11 p.m. For additional information call 541-549-7427 or go to sisterssaloon.net.</p>	<p>AUG 10 SAT</p>	<p>Episcopal Church of the Transfiguration Country Fair & Art Show 10 a.m. to 3 p.m. Music, food, games, book sale, country store, art sale and more! For info: 541-549-7087.</p> <p>Hardtails Bar & Grill Live Music with Syster 'Skin-Nerd' 8 p.m. All-female Skynyrd tribute band. For additional information call 541-549-6114 or go to hardtailsoregon.com.</p>
<p>AUG 5 MON</p>	<p>Hardtails Bar & Grill Open Mic & Jam Night 7 p.m. Every Monday, no cover! For information call 541-549-6114 or go to hardtailsoregon.com.</p> <p>Paulina Springs Books Music, Storytelling & Poetry Open Mic 6 p.m. First Monday of every month. For information call 541-549-0866.</p>		

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