



Mark Graves/The Oregonian, File

A partial lunar eclipse will take place early Friday, Nov. 19, 2021, according to NASA forecasts, coming after the Leonid meteor shower, which is expected to peak on Nov. 16 and Nov. 17.

# Lunar eclipse might include meteors

By JAMIE HALE  
The Oregonian

PORTLAND — Sky watchers will get a treat this week, with two astronomical events forecast for Pacific Northwest skies.

A partial lunar eclipse will take place early Nov. 19, according to NASA forecasts, coming on the heels of the Leonid meteor shower, which is expected to peak on the nights of Nov. 16 and Nov. 17.

Jim Todd, director of space science education at the Oregon Museum of Science and Industry, said that means there's a possibility of seeing meteors fly by during the lunar eclipse, which would be a truly remarkable sight.

All of this is contingent upon the weather, which could bring clouds that would obscure both events.

The partial lunar eclipse will shadow 97% of the moon's surface, turning it a deep shade of red. A lunar eclipse takes place when the Earth moves between the

sun and the moon, casting a shadow over the full moon. The red color is an effect of refracted sunlight.

Oregonians will be able to see the eclipse between 10 p.m. Thursday, Nov. 18, and 7 a.m. Nov. 19, Todd said. The best time to view it will be during its partial eclipse phase, between 11:19 p.m. and 2:47 a.m., with the maximum eclipse taking place just after 1 a.m.

The Leonid meteor shower is considered a minor meteor shower with occasional bursts of big activity. Oregonians might be able to see meteors anytime during the event, which started Nov. 6 and will continue until Nov. 30. The best time to look for meteors is just before dawn after the moon has set, Todd said, as the bright moon may drown out any meteors.

He said those who want to catch the meteor shower should get away from city lights and find a dark area to look skyward.

# Brown weighs special session

Oregon Legislature could consider extending legal protections for tenants

By PETER WONG  
Oregon Capital Bureau

SALEM — Gov. Kate Brown said Friday, Nov. 12, she is considering calling a special session of the Oregon Legislature to extend legal protections for tenants at risk of eviction while they wait for emergency rental assistance.

Brown also said lawmakers may be asked to consider approving additional state aid if more federal money does not come through.

"But it will be impossible to serve every Oregon family that is struggling with rent with state resources alone," Brown said in her statement. "Those conversations will continue, with the goal of bringing forward a proposal for the Legislature to consider in a special session in the upcoming weeks."

Brown didn't specify when she might call lawmakers back to Salem.

The Legislature met for a special session on legis-

lative and congressional redistricting Sept. 20-27. The 35-day session in 2022 is scheduled to start Feb. 1; lawmakers will conduct committee meetings Jan. 11-13.

Brown issued her statement after the Oregon Department of Housing and Community Services announced that pending applications are likely to claim the rest of Oregon's federal money for emergency rental assistance — and that new applications would be put on hold for at least six weeks, starting just before midnight on Wednesday, Dec. 1.

Department Director Margaret Salazar said her agency was on the verge of committing all of the \$289 million it has received from the U.S. Treasury, on top of the \$200 million that the Legislature approved in state funds back on Dec. 21. All of the state money was spent by the end of June.

"We want to make sure we are keeping our commitments to every Oregon renter who has applied

for assistance to date," Salazar told reporters during a conference call. "We do not yet know whether we will receive additional dollars from the Treasury."

Oregon was among the states that committed at least 65% of their first-round allocations of federal rental assistance by the initial deadline of Sept. 30. The Treasury will reallocate unused money, which Salazar said the agency should know in the next few weeks.

Brown said she has asked Deputy Secretary Wally Adeyemo, the No. 2 official at the Treasury, for direct help. "It is not likely, however, that the U.S. Treasury will be able to deploy additional resources for rental assistance immediately," she said.

Portland and Multnomah, Washington and Clackamas counties also received money from the Treasury for their own emergency rental assistance payments.

As of Nov. 10, according to the agency's dashboard, it has paid or obligated rental assistance for 23,409 households.

The agency has received more than 48,000 applications, 20,000 of which are still under review; both figures exclude 12,000 applications deemed incomplete because tenants or landlords have not supplied adequate information.

An estimated 13,000 households have exceeded the grace periods from evictions allowed for tenants who show proof they have applied for rental assistance. State law passed during the last days of the 2021 session set a deadline of 60 days; actions by commissioners in Multnomah and Washington counties, plus Beaverton, set 90 days. (The Washington County action applies only to areas outside cities, although Beaverton acted on its own.)

"There must be an immediate action to ensure no one who has applied for help gets evicted while their applications are being processed," Sybil Hebb, an attorney for the Oregon Law Center, said in a statement released by Stable Homes for Oregon Families.

# La Nina grows stronger as winter gets closer

By DON JENKINS  
Capital Press

SALEM — The La Nina expected to shape the West's winter has strengthened in the past month and almost certainly will stay through at least March, the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration said Thursday, Nov. 11.

Although weak now, the La Nina likely will qualify as a moderate La Nina in December and January at its peak, NOAA's Climate Prediction Center reported.

A La Nina generally brings cool and wet winters to the Northwest, particularly Washington and Northern Oregon. La Nina portends warm and dry winters farther south.

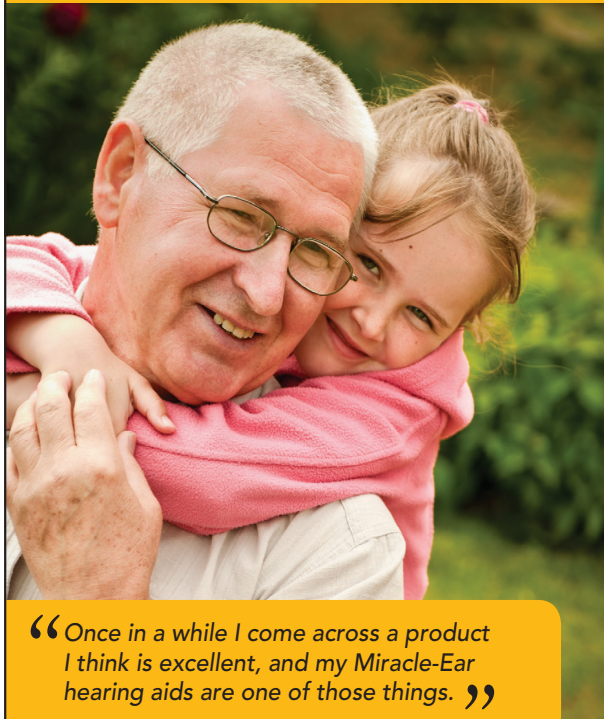
The La Nina could relieve drought in some places and deepen it in others.

The U.S. Drought Monitor reported Nov. 11 that almost the entire West is still in drought or at least abnormally dry. The only exceptions are most of Western Washington and Clatsop and Tillamook counties in Oregon.

Cool sea-surface temperatures along the equatorial Pacific trigger a La Nina. NOAA predicted a 66% chance that temperatures will cool enough to form a moderate La Nina at its peak.

There's a 14% chance that temperatures will cool to 1.5 degrees Celsius below normal, low enough for a strong La Nina, according to NOAA.

In the past week, sea-surface temperatures in the central Pacific were 1 degree below average, the line between a weak and moderate La Nina.



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