

# Days shorten as summer begins

## What's in the Sky

Jim White



**J**ULY, OUR FIRST FULL MONTH of summer, is here. Days are beginning to grow shorter, and nights longer, as the seasons progress. At the start of July, day length will be quite long, with sunset coming at about 9 p.m. and sunrise at about 5:20 a.m. By the end of the month, the Sun will set about 25 minutes earlier at 8:35 p.m., and sunrise will be about 27 minutes later at about 5:47 a.m. July (and August) can be excellent months for stargazing, as nights start to come earlier, but weather is pleasant for viewing the night sky.

An interesting sight to put on your calendar occurs on July 12. After sunset, look low in the west,

and look for bright Venus. The bright planet will be hard to miss, about 15 degrees above the horizon. If you have a pair of binoculars, see if you can spot Mars, located right next to Venus, below and to the right of the bright planet, at about the 7 o'clock position from Venus. Now look above and to the left of Venus, and find the faint crescent Moon, about the width of your extended fist from Venus.

The solar system's largest planets, Jupiter and Saturn, are moving back into the evening sky in July. They will be quite low at the start of the month, but by the end of July will be above the horizon by 10 p.m. Look for them low in the east after sunset. Early in July they will not rise until 11:30 p.m. or a bit later.

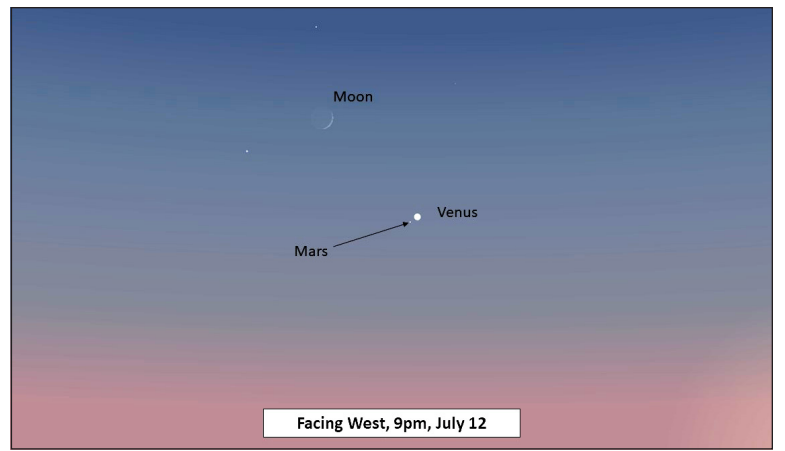
Our Moon will begin the month in the morning sky. On July 5, if you are up early, you may see a beautiful crescent Moon just to the right of the Pleiades star cluster. The Moon will be above the bright star Spica on July 16, and above Antares on July 19. The Moon will be to the right of Saturn on July 23, and

below Jupiter on July 26.

Some of you may have been able to visit the Goldendale Observatory in May and June, when the State Park held limited attendance, with afternoon solar viewing. I was able to attend in early June. I enjoyed a presentation about our Sun, and a view of our star through the facilities' 6-inch refractor. In July, evening presentations (Saturday and Sunday only, 9 p.m. to midnight) will also be started. As with the afternoon solar presentations, attendance is limited, and you must reserve a spot in advance, on the observatory's web page. Visit [www.goldendaleobservatory.com](http://www.goldendaleobservatory.com) for the latest.

If you are interested in supporting the observatory or one of the other Goldendale-area State Parks (Maryhill, Brooks Memorial, Columbia Hills), a group is being formed to provide volunteer assistance. If this piques your interest, let me know ([jwhite.stargazer@gmail.com](mailto:jwhite.stargazer@gmail.com)) and I can provide you with information.

An interesting bright star in the



Facing West, 9pm, July 12

July sky is Altair, the southernmost star of the "summer triangle" and the brightest star in the constellation Aquila, the Eagle. Look for Altair below the bright star Vega, and below the constellation Cygnus, also known as the northern cross. You can use the Milky Way to find Altair — Vega and Cygnus will be on one side of the Milky Way, with Altair on the other.

Altair is the 12th brightest star

in our sky, and one of the closest to our solar system, being only about 16.8 light-years distant. Altair is about twice the diameter and 1.7 times the mass of our Sun. Amazingly, the star rotates in about 10 hours, making it bulge at its equator, and thus has an oblate shape, bulging out at its equator. Check out the "eye" of the Eagle! Enjoy July's night skies!

# Three fawns reunited with mom

By Neita Cecil  
Columbia Gorge News

Last Tuesday was Hallie Clark's second day interning with the Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife (ODFW), and she spent part of it herding three spedy, skittish fawns to safety along a busy road.

The three fawns, likely a set of twins and a fawn from another doe, found themselves outside the fence surrounding the Bonneville Power Administration facility on West 10th Street while a doe wandered around inside the enclosure.

ODFW was quickly called to the scene, as one of the fawns squealed in distress.

Clark arrived with district wildlife biologist Andrew Meyers, whose sole objective was to get the fawns into the BPA enclosure with the doe and away from the busy road.

Clark said the doe and fawns would eventually figure out a way out of the enclosure once they weren't being stressed by people

hovering around. "It doesn't take much of a hole for them to be able to sneak out."

A call was placed to BPA for someone to open the locked gate to let the fawns in. But as luck would have it, a woman who lives across the street was heading to work — with the company that does lawn maintenance for the BPA site.

Dani Lawson, who works for FLI Landscaping, had seen people standing around and grew curious, so she headed across the street. Turns out she had a key to the gate, and she carefully approached it, as two of the three fawns cowered in a corner nearby.

Those two fawns quickly entered the enclosure after the gate opened, but a third fawn proved problematic and continually escaped after getting herded to the gate by Meyers, Clark, Lawson and a reporter.

Meyers told the bystanders to walk slowly, with arms wide, to herd the fawns.

This wasn't Meyers' first wildlife-herding rodeo, but

he did say it took a bit longer than his other efforts to herd wild animals to safety.

After one escape, the errant fawn briefly darted onto 10th Street, but all ended well on the third attempt to shoo it through the gate.

Meyers said a key message to the public is to not pick up seemingly abandoned fawns. They are just staying put while mom goes off to feed.

"This happens every year when fawns are dropping," he said. They are born between late May and mid-June. He estimated these fawns were about a week old.

When people pick up fawns, "their hearts are in the right place but the best bet for the fawn to have a normal life is to leave them there."

He said in a good year, which depends on a lot of factors, 60 percent of fawns make it through their first winter. "They are very susceptible at that time and a lot of them do die," he said. "And we don't see most of that. But it happens all the time in nature."



Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife (ODFW) district wildlife biologist Andrew Meyers and ODFW intern Hallie Clark attempt to herd a fawn through a gate as Dani Lawson, right, looks on.

Neita Cecil photo

Meyers said twins are not uncommon for deer, but "triplets are super rare. So it could've been that those belonged to a different mother that was nearby and she got spooked away. After the dust

settles and people clear out of the area, she'll come back and try to find them."

Clark, the intern, is a Portland resident who is entering her senior year at Oregon State University

where she is majoring in fish and wildlife.

After noting it was just her second day, Clark said, "It's been very eventful here."

## GOOGLE Details being worked out

Continued from page 1

also is continuing to move forward, Mays said.

In addition, developers and Mid-Columbia Fire and Rescue continue to work on the best way to provide fire protection for the new facilities. Although Mays is not directly involved with the work of the fire department, as he is with the SIP agreement, he said progress is being made and the work appears to be going well. "I'm fully confident things will get worked out," he said.

Design LLC is also working to obtain the necessary permits from a host of state and federal agencies, Mays added, and that has also slowed the process.

Mays said given the pace of current negotiations, he anticipates the completed SIP agreement will come again before the city and county in three months, if not sooner.

Tyler Stone, administrative officer with Wasco County, confirmed the county is continuing to work with both Google and Mid-Columbia Fire and Rescue to "bring the SIP agreement to conclusion."

The Strategic Investment Program (SIP) is a state program overseen by Business Oregon. It provides up to 15 years of partial tax abatement for a project and is similar to an Enterprise Zone, also a state program, under which previous data centers were built.

It involves agreements between the developers, city and county. Developers must also work out a fire protections strategy with the fire department.

In early march, Stone told Wasco County commissioners a final decision on the agreement would be delayed while details are worked out. "These things are complicated, especially once we start to get the details of the agreement," Stone said,

## NEWS IN BRIEF

### Mt. Hood Railroad lot purchased

In a foreclosure sale, the Mount Hood Capital Investments group came in and bought the lot that housed the Mt. Hood Railroad company.

Spokesperson and Fruit Company CEO Scott Webster said in a statement: "Our foremost priority is to pledge our ongoing full support to the Mt. Hood Railroad, its employees and the many customers it serves in our community."

The sale was finalized on June 16 at the Hood River Courthouse.

### CCA call to artists: 'Fever Dream'

Columbia Center for the Arts has announced the call to artists for "Fever Dream: Abstract Interpretations of Dreamscapes and Nightmares," happening this October. For this show, the focus will be on artwork that is inspired by the artists' abstract interpretations of their personal dreamscapes and nightmares. Work in all mediums will be accepted including painting, drawing, printmaking, fiber, photography, glass, ceramics, sculpture, and new media.

This show will be curated by Tom Lehmann of Blue Collar Agency in Hood River. Application deadline is Sept. 1. BIPOC, LGBTQ, and people with disabilities encouraged to apply.

For more information on how to apply, visit [feverdream.pages.ontraport.net/apply](http://feverdream.pages.ontraport.net/apply) or [www.columbiaarts.org/](http://www.columbiaarts.org/)

## Magazine celebrates summer in the Gorge

Hood River runner ultrarunner Mark Chamley and Columbia Hills State Park are featured on the cover of the newest issue of "Gorge Magazine."

The Summer 2021 issue of the magazine, which can be found at multiple venues throughout the Columbia River Gorge, features Chamley's "ultimate challenge" — running a 200-mile race in mid-September.

Additional articles look at summer exploration at Mount Hood Meadows Ski Resort on Mount Hood, the plain air regional outdoor landscape painting event and CultureSeek, a project helping underserved youth. A Goldendale sheep ranch is also featured.



The magazine is widely distributed, and can also be found at Columbia Gorge News offices in Hood River and The Dalles.

Call your locally owned independent mortgage broker today.

|                |              |              |
|----------------|--------------|--------------|
| Mike Ellsworth | 541-490-2832 | nmls 114033  |
| Lorena Salgado | 541-806-0107 | nmls 1216376 |
| Rachel Herman  | 541-380-1440 | nmls 1837820 |
| Ron Kurahara   | 541-490-4077 | nmls 38028   |

11 3rd Street, Suite 101, Hood River  
541-436-4706  
[hoodrivermortgage.com](http://hoodrivermortgage.com)

Company Nmls #1851593

# is Hiring

Mt Hood Forest Products lumber facility in Hood River, Oregon is expanding additional shift production. We are looking to fill multiple positions in our fast paced lumber mill for both day and night shifts. If interested in any of these positions please apply:

- DLI Operator
- Twin Horizontal Gang
- Gang Edger Operator
- Single Resaw
- Single Resaw Helper
- Tipple Operator
- Tipple Helper
- Hula Saw
- Planerman
- Planer Infeed Helper
- Sorter Bin Chaser
- Stacker
- Strapper
- Forklift Driver
- Log Yard Operator/
- Equipment Operator
- Millwright/Mechanic
- Chain Puller

Full job descriptions and required application can be obtained at the main office located at 4865 Hwy 35 Hood River, OR 97031.

Job postings can also be found on Indeed.com

Mt Hood Forest Products LLC is an Equal Opportunity Employer