

Supermoons on the rise this spring

By JAMIE HALE
The Oregonian

PORTLAND — Skies in the Pacific Northwest have finally started to clear, which should bode well for stargazers hoping to catch the supermoons coming this season.

There will be several big moons in 2021, according to astronomers, most notably the full moons on April 26 and May 26, the latter of which will take place during a total lunar eclipse.

The term “supermoon” is unofficial, though it is generally thought of as a full moon that is a little larger and brighter than normal as it reaches its closest point to Earth. Because the moon follows an elliptical path around the Earth, its distance from our planet (known as the perigee) varies throughout the year.

Scientists refer to the phenomenon as “perigee syzygy,” meaning the alignment of the Earth, moon and sun at the moon’s closest point in its orbit. It could occur during either a full moon or a new moon, though full moons naturally receive all the attention.

The term “supermoon” was coined not by an astronomer but by astrologer Richard Nolle, who in a 1979



Kathy Aney/East Oregonian, File

The moon rises on April 7, 2020, over a Pendleton wheat field. There will be several big moons in 2021, according to astronomers, most notably the full moons on April 26 and May 26, the latter of which will take place during a total lunar eclipse.

magazine article said he considered the moon to be “super” when it is within 90% of its closest approach to Earth in a given orbit. In 2000, Nolle published a chart listing every supermoon for the next 100 years, according to his calculations, posted online at astropro.com.

Over the years, differ-

ent organizations have used different calculations to determine what, exactly, counts as a supermoon, with most landing on a perigee of 223,000 to 225,000 miles. That difference occasionally invites disagreement about how many supermoons there are in a given year.

Two of this year’s full

moons are inarguably super. The April 26 full moon will come within 222,064 miles of Earth, and the May 26 full moon will be the closest of the year at 222,023 miles, according to timeanddate.com.

The April full moon is often called a “pink” moon, not because it will be pink,

but because it corresponds with certain early-blooming flowers in spring, according to the Old Farmer’s Almanac. The full moon will rise at 7:57 p.m. on April 26 in Portland, and those hoping to get a good photo will want to catch it as it just begins to rise over the southeast horizon, when it will appear even

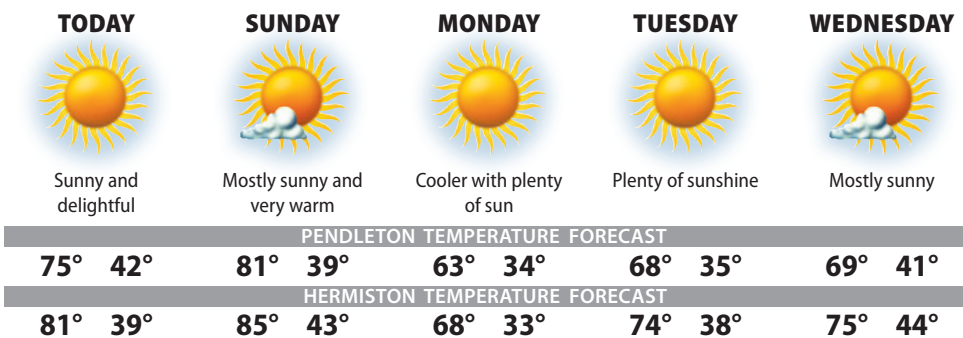
larger due to the “moon illusion” effect.

The May full moon, which is sometimes called a “flower” moon due to the abundance of spring flowers, will also take place during a total lunar eclipse, according to NASA, in what is perhaps the most anticipated astronomical event of the year. Those awake in the wee hours of the morning of May 26 will be able to see the eclipse begin at 1:47 a.m., reaching totality around 4:11 a.m.

Some may consider the March 29 and June 24 full moons to be supermoons, since both come within 224,000 miles of Earth, but Nolle’s charts don’t include them. His charts do, however, include the Nov. 4 and Dec. 4 new moons, which occur during the moon’s closest perigee all year, though, again, the new moon is practically impossible to see at night.

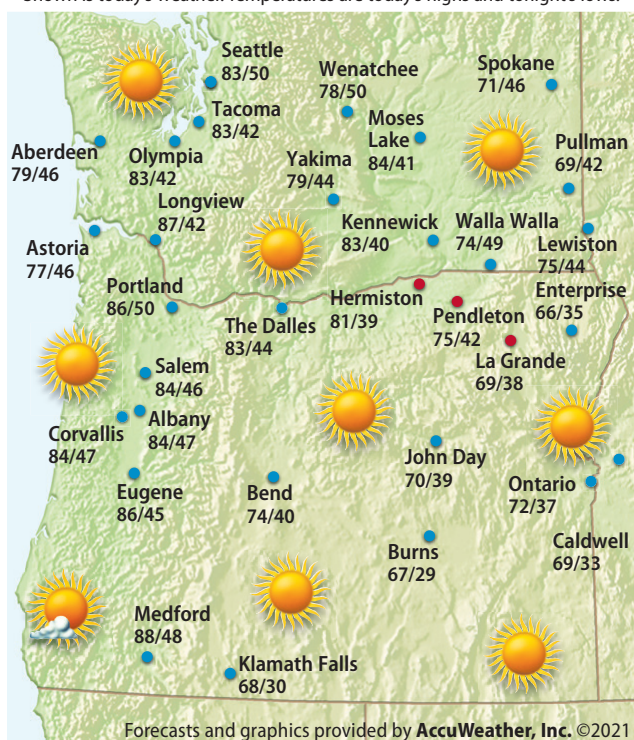
Regardless of how you define a supermoon, the full moons this spring truly will be a sight to behold, shining just brighter in the night. And while the increased size is small enough to be imperceptible to many, a supermoon is always a good excuse to go outside and appreciate the beauty of the night sky.

Forecast for Pendleton Area



OREGON FORECAST

Shown is today's weather. Temperatures are today's highs and tonight's lows.



ALMANAC

PENDLETON through 3 p.m. yest.

TEMP.	HIGH	LOW
Yesterday	70°	37°
Normals	62°	39°
Records	88° (1923)	24° (2013)

PRECIPITATION

24 hours ending 3 p.m.	0.00"
Month to date	Trace
Normal month to date	0.66"
Year to date	3.34"
Last year to date	4.98"
Normal year to date	4.62"

HERMISTON through 3 p.m. yest.

TEMP.	HIGH	LOW
Yesterday	75°	33°
Normals	65°	39°
Records	88° (1936)	26° (2013)

PRECIPITATION

24 hours ending 3 p.m.	0.00"
Month to date	Trace
Normal month to date	0.41"
Year to date	1.20"
Last year to date	0.48"
Normal year to date	3.52"

WINDS (in mph)

	Today	Sun.
Boardman	ENE 3-6	WSW 4-8
Pendleton	NNW 4-8	W 7-14

SUN AND MOON

Sunrise today	6:06 a.m.
Sunset tonight	7:44 p.m.
Moonrise today	9:11 a.m.
Moonset today	12:37 a.m.

First Full Last New

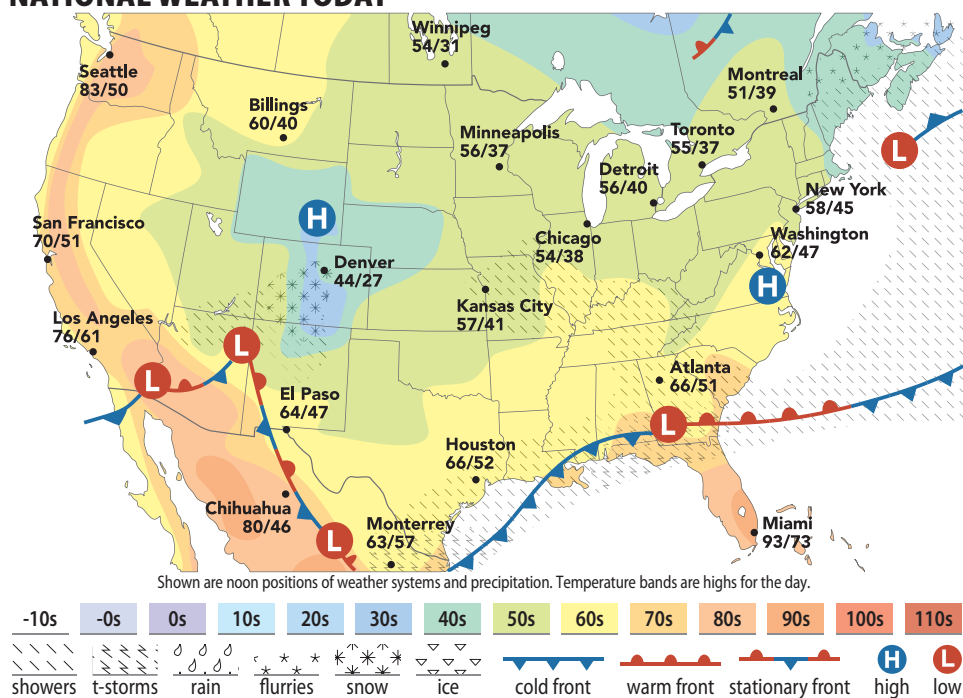
Apr 19	Apr 26	May 3	May 11
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NATIONAL EXTREMES

Yesterday's National Extremes: (for the 48 contiguous states)

High 99° in Zapata, Texas Low 7° in Dakota Hill, Colo.

NATIONAL WEATHER TODAY



Student-led program fights food insecurity among college students

East Oregonian

LA GRANDE — The “starving college student” is an image that lived too strongly in the mind of political science major Keegan Sanchez, so he worked to change the stigma.

Upon returning to college from military training for his junior year, Associated Students of Eastern Oregon University President Sanchez found himself in need of food swipes at EOU. He was financially unable to purchase swipes and realized that he had become one of the many college students who struggles to afford food while completing their post-secondary education.

Refusing to believe that he was the only one in the area facing this problem, he worked with ASEOU and Sodexo to bring the Swipe

Out Hunger program to EOU and provide support for many of the students who found themselves in similar situations.

“We’ve created a swipe bank, in which Sodexo will donate one swipe per mandatory meal swipe on campus to populate the bank initially,” Sanchez said.

Working with ASEOU, Sanchez and other committee members plan to hold events for the further collection of swipes. Noticing that many students had unused meal swipes when the terms ended, Sanchez found a way to utilize all swipes, so none went to waste.

“We will host swipe drives where we’ll ask students with meal plans to donate up to 10 swipes a term,” said Sanchez. “Then, we will use those meal swipes we collect and give

them out to students who are facing food insecurity so they have something to eat.”

He also felt it was important to include that all students are welcome to apply. As the case manager, it is his duty to see all of the students who apply. Upon first application, it is a no-questions-asked policy. Although Sanchez is aware that he will be unable to feed a student for a full term, he hopes he will be able to help those who need it most.

“It’s no questions asked. The first time you apply, I’m not even going to think twice, I’m just going to click approve and put your information down. Once you start requesting more, we’ll start requesting more information and providing additional resources. I don’t see a situation where I’ll ever say no to a student,” he said.

IN BRIEF

Ladd Marsh Bird Festival to take flight again

LA GRANDE — A popular bird watching event, which the COVID-19 pandemic grounded in 2020, takes flight again at the Ladd Marsh Wildlife Area.

The annual Ladd Marsh Bird Festival returns May 15-16. The event, which has drawn an average of 300 participants in recent years, will be a scaled down version of those in the past to allow for COVID-19 social distancing rules to be followed.

“It will not be traditional,” said the Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife’s Kyle Martin, manager of the Ladd Marsh Wildlife Area.

Past festivals included meals, field trips and presentations from experts. All of that will be missing this year, but there still is

plenty to offer for birders. Much of Ladd Marsh again will be open to the public during the two-day event, giving bird watchers the opportunity to see some of the more than 200 species of birds that live at Ladd Marsh year-round, nest there or make migration stops annually.

Everyone coming to the event on May 15 must check in at Ladd Marsh’s Tule Lake Access Area along Peach Road between 6 a.m. and noon. Volunteers at the access area will greet bird watchers and provide directions for reaching stations where experienced birders will be present to provide advice and help participants identify birds.

Additional information about the Ladd Marsh Bird Festival is available at the Friends of Ladd Marsh website, www.friendsofladdmarsh.org.

—EO Media Group

CORRECTIONS: The East Oregonian works hard to be accurate and sincerely regrets any errors. If you notice a mistake in the paper, please call 541-966-0818.

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