1
00:00:00,000 --> 00:00:02,000
Music.

2
00:00:02,000 --> 00:00:07,000
Jane Houston Jones: What's Up for March. A bright comet graces the sunset sky.

3
00:00:07,000 --> 00:00:13,000
Hello and welcome. I'm Jane Houston Jones at NASA's Jet Propulsion Laboratory in Pasadena, California.

4
00:00:13,000 --> 00:00:17,000
The first of this year's two potential bright comets is visible this month

5
00:00:17,000 --> 00:00:20,000
for those who can see low on the western horizon.

6
00:00:20,000 --> 00:00:26,000
Comet PanSTARRS will be the bright comet visible to those in the mid-northern latitudes.

7
00:00:26,000 --> 00:00:32,000
If you are at latitude 40 degrees north, which includes Salt Lake City, Lincoln, Nebraska and New York City,

8
00:00:32,000 --> 00:00:36,000
you'll see the comet about 10 degrees above the horizon.

9
00:00:36,000 --> 00:00:42,000
If you are observing from farther south, the comet will be a few degrees lower and closer to the horizon.

10
00:00:42,000 --> 00:00:47,000
On March 5 the comet sets only 15 minutes after sunset.

11
00:00:47,000 --> 00:00:51,000
But by the 10th, you'll have a full hour after sunset to spot it.

12
00:00:51,000 --> 00:00:56,000
On March 12 the slender crescent moon will be visible to the right of the comet.

13
00:00:56,000 --> 00:01:01,000

Look again on the 13th, when the moon will be above the comet.

14
00:01:01,000 --> 00:01:07,000
In April and May the comet fades a bit, but it will be visible higher in the sky then.

15
00:01:07,000 --> 00:01:10,000
PanSTARRS' total brightness should be about magnitude 3,

16
00:01:10,000 --> 00:01:14,000
which is a little different from the magnitude of a magnitude 3 star

17
00:01:14,000 --> 00:01:18,000
because the comet's light is spread over a larger area.

18
00:01:18,000 --> 00:01:24,000
Try to use binoculars first, even if you have a telescope, since the comet is so close to the horizon.

19
00:01:24,000 --> 00:01:31,000
If you do see the comet, keep looking after it sets and you might see its tail above the horizon.

20
00:01:31,000 --> 00:01:36,000
NASA's EPOXI mission captured some images of a different comet, ISON, in late January.

21
00:01:36,000 --> 00:01:42,000
This comet may offer spectacular views for viewers on Earth towards the end of the year.

22
00:01:42,000 --> 00:01:47,000
And Rosetta, an international mission with U.S. support and NASA instruments,

23
00:01:47,000 --> 00:01:56,000
is on a 10-year mission to catch up with comet 67 P Churyumov-Gerasimenko, or C-G for short.

24
00:01:56,000 --> 00:02:00,000
Rosetta will be the first spacecraft to soft-land on a comet and accompany it

25
00:02:00,000 --> 00:02:03,000
as it enters the inner solar system.

26
00:02:03,000 --> 00:02:10,000
This month Jupiter is still high in the sky at dusk, and Saturn rises in the late evening.

27
00:02:10,000 --> 00:02:16,000
To learn about all of NASA's missions, visit w w w dot NASA dot gov.