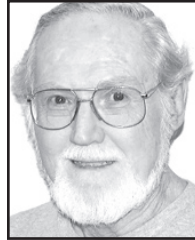


Sagittarius' Tea Party looms large in sky

Although this night sky region has nothing to do with current "tea party" politics, it does involve shameless deceit involving the two signature constellations of summer – Sagittarius and Scorpius.



Paul Derrick
● Stargazer

very low in the west southwest at dusk; all four will be seen within the same field of view of most binoculars and should be pretty awesome.

24 Friday: Neptune is at opposition – on the opposite side of Earth from the Sun.

24 Friday evening: The Moon is at first quarter.

31 Friday: The full Moon, being the second for the month, is called a Blue Moon although the name has nothing to do with its color.

Naked-eye Planets

The Sun, Moon and planets rise in the east and set in the west due to Earth's west-to-east rotation on its axis.

Evenings: Mars, Saturn
Mornings: Mercury, Venus, Jupiter

- Mercury starts the month in the glare of the rising Sun, quickly emerges low in the east, reaches it best by mid-month, and begins dipping back into the Sun's glare by month's end.
- Venus, the brilliant "morning star," is at its highest above the rising Sun in latter August.
- Mars, low in the west southwest in the early evening, now sets before midnight.
- Jupiter, rising in the wee hours, is well up in the east by morning, and further above the much brighter Venus.
- Saturn, in the west southwest in the evening, sets before midnight early in the month and soon after sunset by month's end; it is nearing the end of its 2012 evening appearance.

Perseid Meteor Shower

The Perseid meteor shower is predicted to peak in the early morning of Sunday, Aug. 12, thus there might be increased meteor activity either or both of two nights – Aug. 11/12 and 12/13. The best viewing will likely be from dark until the Moon rises an hour or two after midnight. Meteors are best seen with naked eyes from less light-polluted rural areas. In a reclined position, slowly pan the entire sky while focusing attention on the darkest part which is usually overhead.

month less than 5° above Virgo's alpha star Spica, passes closest tonight.

9 Thursday morning: The Moon is at third quarter.

10 Friday morning: The waning gibbous Moon passes within 4° to the upper right of the Pleiades star cluster although its glare will rather overpower the lovely cluster.

11 Saturday morning: The Moon has now moved just above Jupiter, Aldebaran and the Hyades star cluster.

11 Saturday all night: The Perseid meteor shower peaks with no Moon interference until after midnight.

13 Monday morning: The waning crescent Moon is 4° above Venus low in the east before dawn – and is 8° below the "morning star" the next morning.

13 Monday evening: Spica (bottom), Mars (middle), and Saturn align low in the west southwest; they are nearly equal in brightness and will fit within the same field of view of most binoculars.

14 Tuesday evening: Reddish Mars passes within 3° of creamy Saturn.

15 Wednesday morning: Venus is at greatest elongation 46° west of the rising Sun.

15 Wednesday morning: The thin waning crescent Moon is 8° to the upper right of Mercury low in the east as dawn begins to break.

16 Thursday morning: Mercury is at greatest elongation 19° from the rising Sun with an ever-thin crescent Moon to its lower right.

17 Friday: The Moon is new.

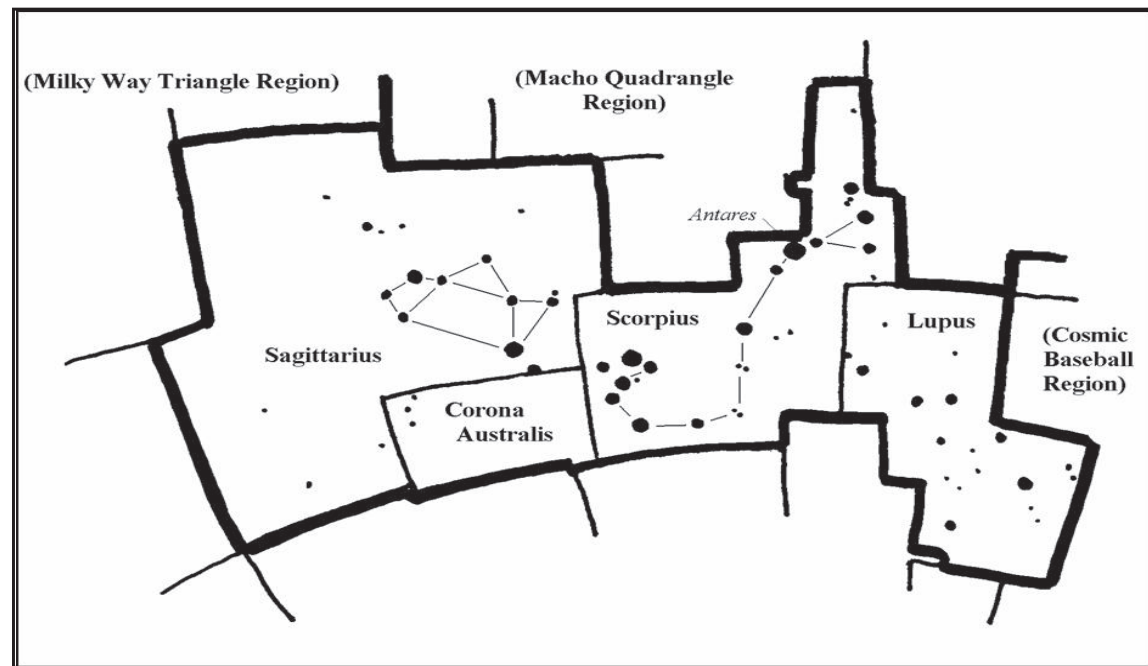
18 Saturday morning: Mercury passes 2° to the right of the Beehive star cluster near the east northeastern horizon about an hour before sunset; binoculars will help with the lovely but faint star cluster.

21 Tuesday early evening: The waxing crescent Moon, the star Spica (lower right), Saturn (upper right), and Mars (upper left) form a tight lumpy-jawed square



19th century painting

The Trojan Horse made famous by Greek mythology.



Looking south, Sagittarius' Tea Party Region is prominent in the evenings of late summer.

Inmate calls a taxi in escape attempt

BEAVER, Pa. (AP) – Sheriff's deputies say a western Pennsylvania county jail inmate wearing an orange-and-white striped uniform tried to hail a taxi to escape from a hospital where he was taken for medical treatment.

The *Beaver County Times* (bit.ly/OipJ1g) reports Tuesday that 23-year-old Holden Wooley was taken to Heritage Valley Beaver Hospital on Saturday night after a reported seizure. Deputies say at one point during his four-hour hospital visit, Wooley went outside to hail a cab – but the driver refused to pick up Wooley.

When hospital security officers tried to grab him, Wooley ran into the woods and was arrested a couple hours later when police used a K-9 officer and a stun gun to sub-

due him. He was treated for a dog bite at the hospital and returned to jail.

Online court records don't list an attorney for Wooley.

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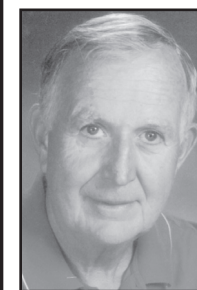
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- Making an amendment to the Governor's Tech Ed bill that allowed NW Kansas Technical College to expand.
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Ad paid for by Cassidy for Representative, Mike Day Treasurer

Thomas County 4-H/FFA Livestock Judging Contest Friday, August 3rd

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Contest Starts at 1:00 p.m.

Questions Contact:

Tom Rundel
Colby FFA Advisor
785-899-4203
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