

April show: meteor shower, Mercury

APRIL has 1989's most favorable opportunity of 1989 to see Mercury in the evening sky and a meteor shower. Three planets will be visible after sunset — Mercury, Mars and Jupiter. Saturn will be visible in the pre-dawn sky. Venus is too close to the sun to be seen this month.

The amount of sunlight we receive increases by one hour and 17 minutes in April. On April 1 the sun rises at 6:14 a.m. and sets at 6:50 p.m. Eastern Standard Time. This gives us a potential 12 hours and 44 minutes of sunshine.

By the end of the month sunrise is at 6:29 a.m. and sunset at 8:30 p.m. Eastern Daylight Time, allowing for 14 hours and one minute of sun.

LOOK AT THE western evening sky on April 1. You will see a triangle formed by two planets and a star. The brightest object is Jupiter. Above Jupiter, and not as bright, is the red planet, Mars. To the left of Jupiter is Aldebaran (al DEE a ran), the orange-red "eye" of Taurus the bull.

Notice the color of Aldebaran and compare it with Mars. The two objects are often confused when they are near each other because of the similarity in brightness and color.

There is a big difference: Aldebaran is a star; it produces its own light and is very far away. Mars is a planet: it orbits a star, reflects light and is fairly close.

Watch the position of Mars change this month with respect to Aldebaran and Jupiter. Mars will slowly drift eastward (toward the left).

DAYLIGHT SAVING Time begins at 2 a.m. on April 2.

Daylight time, when we set our clocks forward one hour, always begins on the first Sunday in April. We do not alter the speed of Earth's rotation or the length of the day; we merely alter the device by which time is measured.

A little more than 100 years ago, there were no standardized time zones. Everyone kept "local" time. "Noontime" was when the sun was due south.

Of course, local noon in Detroit was different from noon in Lansing,



skywatch
Raymond E. Bullock

which was different from Grand Rapids, and so on. At one time Michigan had 27 local time zones.

Railroads were having an impossible time scheduling their arrivals and departures. In 1883 the railroads divided the country into four main time zones. These standard time zones were not immediately accepted by all the public, but over the course of years standard time, became the norm.

Not until 35 years later did Congress, acting in its usual hasty manner, make the standard time zones the law of the land.

ORIGINALLY Michigan was in the Central Time Zone because we are geographically closer to the Central Time longitude line, in Chicago, than to the Eastern Time line in Philadelphia.

A vote of the people of Michigan placed our state in the Eastern zone so it would share the same time with businesses on the east coast.

If we stayed on Eastern Standard Time, sunrise at the end of this month would be at 5:29 a.m. and sunset would occur at 7:30 p.m. On Eastern Daylight Time, sunrise is at 6:29 a.m. and sunset is at 8:30 p.m. (Either way you look at it, it adds up to 14 hours and one minute of sunshine.)


We gain our later sunset and extra hour of daylight in the evening at the expense of a later sunrise and extra hour of darkness in the morning.

BOTH MERCURY and Venus are at superior conjunction on April 4. They are located behind the sun, as seen from Earth, and are not visible. Don't worry about a risk of a collision between the two. They may both be behind the sun at the same time, but they are separated by millions of miles.

Mercury moves much faster than Venus. By the end of this month, Mercury will be easily visible. We won't see Venus for a few more months, and even then it will be with difficulty.

New Moon occurs at 11:33 p.m. on April 5. The moon is in conjunction with the sun. It's located between the earth and the sun and is not visible.

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Accidental Discovery May End Obesity

Blocks calorie absorption

SWEDEN—Medical researchers at the University of Kuopio, in Finland, have discovered (accidentally) a new weight-loss formula. The new discovery enables an overweight individual to lose pounds and fatty tissue without dieting or exercise.

Scientists made the discovery while searching for a formula to lower cholesterol. In a controlled study of a test group of people, cholesterol levels remained unchanged but the doctors were astounded to find that every patient who used the formula lost weight. The published report of this study stated, "A highly significant decrease in body weight was seen" in patients who received the formula.

The formula was then tested in Sweden at Sahlgren Hospital, University of Gothenburg. Again, all patients lost a substantial amount of weight even though they did not change their eating habits. The report detailing this study, published in the British Journal of Nutrition, stated: "Body weight was significantly reduced even though the patients were specifically asked not to alter their dietary habits." One patient in this study lost more than 30 pounds.

According to one informed source, the active ingredient comes from a 100% natural botanical source and contains no drugs or stimulants. When taken before mealtime it bonds with the food you eat and "ties up" calories, preventing their absorption.

A substantial portion of the calories ingested therefore pass through the digestive system unabsorbed. The body has to get energy to replace the lost calories, so it starts to burn stored fat. The result is rapid body weight loss. Extensive clinical tests have verified the safety of this formula for long-term use.

The formula is marketed in tablet form in the United States under the trade name Cal-Ban 3000. A firm located in Tampa, Florida, has exclusive North American distribution rights. A review of the customer files of this company revealed the names of hundreds of people who have lost up to 10 pounds the first week and as much as 20, 40 or 60 or more pounds overall with Cal-Ban 3000. This is a golden opportunity for people who are plagued by fat and cellulite that they can't seem to lose by conventional methods.

Cal-Ban 3000 is reasonably priced at \$19.95 for a 3-week supply and \$39.95 for a 6-week supply. Postage and handling is \$3. VISA, M/C, AMEX and C.O.D.s are accepted. To order call TOLL FREE 1-800-637-3723 or purchase locally at Devon Drugs, 4101 Telegraph Rd., Bloomfield Hills, MI.

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