

Look for meteor spectacular

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There's at least a month of camping, picnicking and stargazing left before the early bottomless of the school year. And, August night skies will provide one of the strongest meteor showers of the year.

The Perseids meteor shower will reach its peak Aug. 11. Up to 50 meteors per hour have been spotted from this shower, but fewer will probably be seen this month.

because the moon will be very bright on the 11th. It's best to watch for the Perseids with the naked eye after midnight and away from city lights.

As for the planets, although Mars has been daily in the news, it is not so accommodating to skygazers. But, although it is fairly close to the sun, it can still be found using binoculars to the upper left of Venus.

VENUS, IF YOU carefully scan the western horizon just after sunset, has just returned to the evening sky. Often referred to as the "evening" or "morning star," depending on when it is seen, Venus is actually a planet about the size of earth. It shines by reflected sunlight.

Lower than Mars but more difficult to see is the planet Mercury. Jupiter, the largest planet of our solar system, can easily be seen in the eastern morning sky, just south of the famous star cluster called the Pleiades, or the Seven Sisters.

And, during the last half of August, the ringed planet Saturn will return to the morning sky, rising just before the sun.

AS FOR summer constellations, they still dominate the evening sky in August, but a few of the autumn groups are creeping up over the eastern horizon.

The "hook" shape of Scorpius (the scorpion) and the "teapot" pattern of Sagittarius (the archer) can still be found low in the southern sky. High in the west, near the Big Dipper, will be the kite-shaped group called Bootes (the herdsman) with its bright star, Arcturus.

Almost overhead is the bright, blue-white star Vega, in the constellation Lyra (the harp). East of Lyra will be the cross-shaped pattern of stars called Cygnus (the swan). The brightest star in this group is called Deneb.

SOUTH OF DENEB lies another bright star called Altair in the constellation Aquila (the eagle). Cassiopeia (the queen) is shaped like the letter "W" and will be found in the northeast during the early evening.

The autumn constellation Pegasus (the flying horse) makes its first appearance this month, low in the east. The four principle stars in Pegasus form a rectangle or diamond shape. The double line of stars to the north of the square of Pegasus is the constellation Andromeda (the princess).

If you have any questions or problems finding these planets and constellations, telephone the Cranbrook Institute of Science at 645-3210.

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ARCADE CLOSING

The Oakland County prosecutor's office has been successful in its efforts to close down a controversial pool hall and arcade in Avon Township.

The Village Billiards, 800 S. Rochester, became the target of a year-long investigation after several arrests and repeated complaints led the sheriff's department to suspect illegal drug trafficking was taking place at the facility. A prodecree order was issued July 22 by Circuit Court Judge Steven N. Andrews, and the owners, Simon and Robert Rosenberg, decided not to appeal the case.

Prosecutor L. Brooks Peterson said Friday the Rosenbergs have 30 days to sell their equipment and vacate the premises. In addition, they must pay a \$500 lien on the property and forfeit a \$3,000 security deposit to the building's owner.

FLOOD SURVIVORS

For more than a day, parents of five Troy youths attending a wrestling camp in Colorado worried that their sons might be victims of the flash flood which swept the Big Thompson Canyon. But word came late Monday that the five youths and their coach were safe at the camp in Estes Park. Communications with the camp were wiped out by the flood but Coach Dan Hill was able to get to Boulder to contact the frantic parents of Arnold Geiger, Mike Johnson, Jeff Petroff, Mark Slough and Joe Kuchojda.

PRIVATE GARBAGE COLLECTION?

Birmingham officials are eyeing a proposal which calls for cutting back on the city's department of public works (DPW) crews and hiring a private contractor to collect garbage from commercial buildings.

Currently, residential refuse collection in Birmingham is handled by a contractor. Commercial collection is a city job. Birmingham commissioners said Monday they would wait until Aug. 30 to decide how commercial trash will be picked up in the future.

FAMILIAR FACES

West Bloomfield Township Supervisor John N. Doherty and Treasurer Lillian S. Warner held onto their seats Tuesday, beating a field of Republican challengers.

Since no Democrats filed for the positions, Doherty and Warner will be unopposed in November.

November will find incumbent Trustee Raymond Holland and Thomas A. Law, Republicans, facing Democrats Irving H. Warner and Anthony J. Baginski.

Law defeated incumbent Richard Eyler in a close race.

Township residents also narrowly approved a three-mail renewal for operating local government.

NEW COUNCIL

Tuesday's election resulted in Orchard Lake's having a full council for the first time since its May 18 recall.

Ballots voted Betty Macleod, Loren R. Pappas, H. Keith Miller and Willard R. Skyles to fill unexpired terms of the four recalled council members.

OMINOUS INTERSECTION

Thanks to the persistence and unity of a grass roots effort, a traffic signal is scheduled to be installed and in operation later this month at a dangerous Avon Township intersection.

Residents of nearby Juniper Orchards Subdivision and their neighbors met with

Why those weeds are hard to kill

The battle against lawn and garden weeds is never ending. And the reason for it is in the nature of weeds and weed seeds.

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