

'Grain Moon' shineth today

Monday's heat wave hard on animals

The Michigan Humane Society encountered its first 1992 fatality due to heat stroke during Monday's 90-plus degree temperatures.

A Doberman pinscher tied in his backyard without access to water or shade registered a body temperature of 107 degrees when MHS rescue personnel arrived. Despite every effort, the dog did not survive and the case has been turned over to the humane society's Cruelty Investigation Division.

The MHS received many telephone calls Monday made by citizens

concerned about animals in heat distress. The MHS recommends pet owners take extra care of their pets during hot weather:

- If the pet stays outdoors, be sure the animal has shade. A doghouse in hot sun does not provide adequate shade for the animal. The Doberman described above could have survived if shade was provided.

- Fresh, clean water must be available at all times. Water in a bowl evaporates quickly in hot weather, so be sure to provide an

ample supply regularly.

- Do not exercise pets in the heat of the day. Exercise for pets is best done in the early morning or late evening. Pets are susceptible to heat exhaustion just like humans. Wait until temperatures are lower and the pavement is cooler.

- When exercising a puppy or kitten, do not overexert them. Young pets often do not know when to stop. It is the pet owner's responsibility to know when enough is enough.

- Never leave a pet in a parked

vehicle with the windows closed. Temperatures can rise to life-threatening levels for pets in less than 15 minutes. Pets cannot perspire like humans and must pant to cool themselves. Without proper air exchange, pets can suffer irreparable brain damage or even death. The MHS advises pet owners leave their pets at home during the summer months.

The Michigan Humane Society is a non-profit organization serving animals since 1877.

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SKY WATCH



RAYMOND E. BULLOCK

Full Moon shines officially at 6:27 a.m. today. The August full moon had various names to native Americans; two of which were "Grain Moon" and "Corn Moon." When the moon is full it can be said to be at opposition and, just as in the case of Saturn's opposition the previous week, rises at sunset, is visible all night, and sets at sunrise.

Mercury will be visible on the morning of the 16th, six degrees above the east northeastern horizon. Look 45 minutes before sunrise. If you can't spot it, look due east and locate the star Procyon (PRO see on). It is rising due east, eight degrees above the horizon. It's brighter than Mercury and will be easier to find. Mercury is 18 degrees to the left of Procyon.

About 26 degrees to the right of Procyon is an even brighter object: Sirius (SEER ee us) the "dog" star, the brightest star in the night sky. Procyon means "before the dog" because it rises before Sirius. Sure enough, you'll find Procyon's altitude is five degrees greater than that of Sirius.

Use binoculars and try for Venus and Jupiter again on the evening of the 17th. Look toward the west, 20 minutes after sunset. The two objects are now five degrees apart; Venus is still just three degrees above the horizon.

Mercury is at maximum elongation on the morning of the 20th. It is 18 degrees to the west (right) of the sun, and is seven degrees above the east northeast horizon 45 minutes before sunrise.

The moon is at last quarter phase at 6:01 a.m. on Aug. 21. It is beginning the last-quarter of this particular orbit around the earth. On this morning the moon is just one degree from the Pleiades (PLEE a dees) star cluster, the "shoulder" of Taurus. On the 22nd the moon forms a triangle with Mars (to the lower left) and Aldebaran (to the lower right).

Venus and Jupiter are 0.3 degrees apart on the evening of the 22nd. The next conjunction between these two planets, which are among the brightest objects in the sky, occurs on Nov. 8, 1993, but the apparent distance between the two will be slightly greater. Look 30 minutes after sunset and use binoculars for a better view.

The twin stars Castor and Pollux (PAWL lot) form nearly a straight line with the moon on the morning of the 25th. Castor is five degrees above Pollux, the moon is about twice that distance below Pollux. On the next morning an alignment occurs between Mercury, the moon and Procyon; the moon is about 20 degrees to the left of Procyon, and Mercury is six degrees to the left of the moon. Drawing a line from Procyon through the moon will make it easier to locate Mercury.

New moon is at 10:42 p.m. on Aug. 27. This is the closest new moon of the year. The moon's orbit around the earth is elliptical (oval), and this month's closest point coincides with the new moon phase. The new moon is located between the earth and the sun, so it is not visible.

The moon returns to the evening sky on Aug. 30. It is five degrees below and to the right of Spica, just a few degrees from where it was at the beginning of the month. Notice, however, that where Spica was over 20 degrees above the horizon on Aug. 3, it is now only nine degrees above it.

An excellent aid for learning constellations and keeping up to date with the sky is the monthly 'Sky Calendar.' A one year subscription is \$6.00 and is available from the Abrams Planetarium, Michigan State University, East Lansing, 48824.

Raymond Bullock is former coordinator of the Cranbrook Institute of Science planetarium and observatory. He now works for a Troy-based firm specializing in laser displays and effects.

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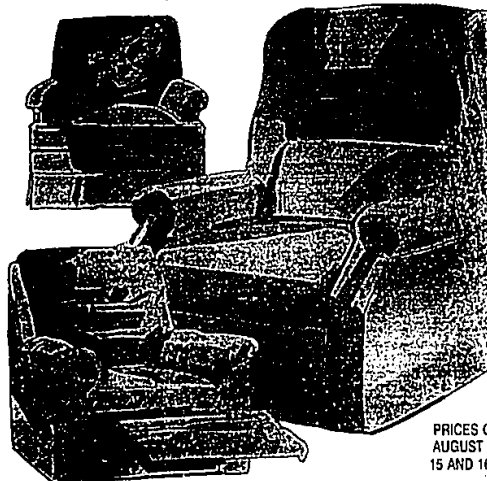
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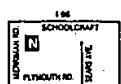
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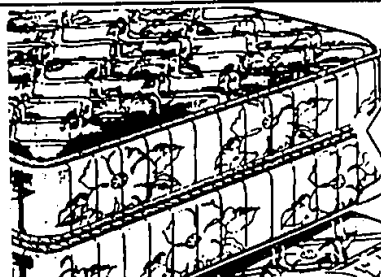
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