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SKY CALENDAR APRIL 2024

Use this scale to measure angular distances between objects on diagrams below.

\$12.00 per year, starting anytime, from Sky Calendar, Abrams Planetarium, Michigan State University,

Planetarium business office:

(517) 355-4676

Evening Planets: Jupiter is easily visible all month long. Look for Jupiter in the west to WNW after sunset. On April 1, Jupiter sets about three hours after sunset. By the end of April, Jupiter sets about one hour after sunset. Jupiter passes 0.5° south of **Uranus** on April 20. But the pair will be close to the horizon, making it a challenge to see Uranus in the eyepiece of the telescope. Mercury disappears from view in the

first few days of the month. **Morning Planets: Saturn** and Mars are both close to the east-southeast horizon at dawn. Both planets are shining at just +1 magnitude. Binoculars will help in spotting the pair. Mars passes 0.5° north of Saturn on April 10. Saturn climbs higher into the morning sky faster than Mars but not by much. By the end of April, Saturn rises two hours before the Sun while Mars rises an hour and a half before sunrise.

The astronomical highlight of this month and this year is the Total Solar Eclipse on April 8. While all of the contiguous USA will be able to see a partial eclipse, only viewers in the path of totality will see the spectacular Total Solar Eclipse. We urge you to travel into the path to see one of nature's most amazing sights. Some of the cities in the path include: Dallas 1:43 p.m. CDT, Indianapolis 3:08 p.m. EDT, Cleveland 3:15 p.m. EDT,

Buffalo 3:20 p.m. EDT. The next total solar eclipse to touch a US state will be in 2033 in northwest Alaska. Then in 2044, parts of Montana and North Dakota see a total eclipse. The next total eclipse to cover a large populated part of the USA will be in 2045. As with any solar eclipse, proper eye safety equipment will be

needed during the partial phases. Comet Pons-Brooks 6° upper left of Moon on Apr. 9, and 3° below Jupiter on Apr.

13. Use binoculars. Sat. Apr. 20: In its 71-year orbit, Comet Pons-Brooks at perihelion, 0.78 AU from Sun, but sets in twilight.

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An aid to enjoying the changing sky http://abramsplanetarium.org/

THURSDAY FRIDAY SUNDAY MONDAY TUESDAY WEDNESDAY SATURDAY Sat Apr 6, Apr 1-3, Wed Apr 3, Mon Apr 1 Fri.Apr 5, Mon Apr 1, Uranus + Last Quarter Moon (40 minutes before sunrise one hou 40 minutes before sunrise 40 minutes before sunrise 40 minutes before sunrise 11:15 p.m. EDT after sunset Jupiter S'most Sunday Apr 7 TERRITOR' Delta Cap OF DOGS Moon Moon at perigee **AQUARIUS** Mercury fades Sa-Ma 5.0° **AQUARIUS T**EAPOT Mon 1 2 p.m. EDT quickly this week. Sa-Ma 3.6° 222,979 miles Moon Sa-Ma 3.0° On what day can **AQUARIUS** Tues 2 Mars Mars .* Mars you last spot it? Mon Apr 8 **SAGITTARIUS** Wed 3 New Moon **ESE** ESE Scorpion's Tail Saturn Mercury 2:21 p.m. EDT Moon Saturn SSE Tues Apr 9, Wed Apr 10, Thurs Apr 11, Fri Apr 12, Sat Apr 13, Hamal **Jupiter** Mon Apr 8, 40 minutes 40 minutes 40 minutes 40 minutes 40 minutes at Totality before sunrise before sunrise before sunrise ARIES before sunrise before sunrise All 50 states will see a partial Mon Apr 8, mag - 2.0**AQUARIUS AQUARIUS AQUARIUS AQUARIUS Total Solar Eclipse!** eclipse of the sun. **AQUARIUS** 30° E of Sun Sa-Ma 1.8° The last total solar eclipse to Sa-Ma 0.5° Sa-Ma 0.6° Sa-Ma 1.0° Sa-Ma 1.1° cross the USA was in 2017. The min dist Mercury next total solar eclipse to cross Alpha . Saturn ** Saturn mag +4.8 Mars Mars **∦** Mars the USA coast to coast will be 6° E of Sun * Saturn * Eclipsed August 12, 2045. Mars Mars Saturn **CETUS** ESE ESE Saturn ESE FSF ESE. Sun **PISCES** The width of the path ranges from 124 miles in Mexico to Saturn and Mars are Aldebaran Apr 9-11, Aldebaran Sat Apr 20, Mon Apr 15 Venus **101 miles** in Newfoundland. 1.5° apart at mag +1.1 one hour one hour First Quarter Moon Thurs 11 mag -3.8 after sunset and +1.2 and are 3:13 p.m. EDT after sunset 15° W of Sun 35°-36° W of Sun. Hyades ☼ Pleiades Hyades Pleiades Pollux • Apr 11-14, Apr 15-18, Thurs Apr 18, **TAURUS** Pollux Castor Ju-Ur 0.5° one hour 40 minutes one hour **Wed 10** Mon 15 min dist Uranus after sunset before sunrise after sunset Uranus **GEMINI** Sunday 14 Ju-Ur 1.8° WNW Tues 16 Delta Ari Delta Ari **AQUARIUS** ARIES \bigcirc **Jupiter GEMINI** Apr 19-20, Sa-Ma 5.1° Hamal Beehive one hour after sunset **Sat 13** Tues 9 * Saturn **CANIS** Capella **Wed 17** Young WNW LEO **LEO MINOR** Mars N'most Moon AURIGA Denebola **ESE** Moon Regulus Fri 19 **AQUARIUS** Mon Apr 29, Procyon BetaTauri Thurs 18 40 minutes * Saturn Zeta Tauri Fri Apr 19 before sunrise Apr 21-23, Ma-Sa 9.8° Mon Apr 22 Earth Day Betelgeuse Moon at apogee Mars one hour 10 p.m. EDT Ma-Ne 2.8° Fri 12 Neptune Tues Apr 23 after sunset 252,042 miles **Sat 20 ESE** Full Moon VIRGO Sunday 21 **ORION** 7:49 p.m. EDT **TAURUS VIRGO** S'most Moon Beta Lib Apr 22-28, Tues Apr 30, Sunday 28 40 minutes Orion's one hour before sunrise **Sat 27** LIBRA Antares Delta Sco Aldebaran • after sunset belt Mon 22 Thurs 11 • Spica Thurs 25 Aldebaran Alpha Lib **AQUARIUS** Gamma Sgr Mon Apr 29, Fri 26 \bigcirc Saturn * 40 minutes Wed 24 **Pleiades** before sunrise Neptune **SCORPIUS** Tues 23 **VIRGO** Tues 23 Hyades Ma-Sa 12.6° Mercury Mars Ma-Ne 0.2° **Mon 22** WNW SW SSW WSW Spica **ESE** ESE Jupiter ★

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