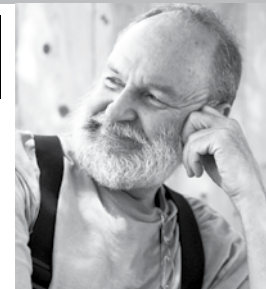


# THE STARRY SIDE

## A solar eclipse right here at home!

BY GREELEY WELLS



Greeley Wells

The most important event this fall is the annular solar eclipse around 9 am October 14. Northwest Medford is right on the edge of it! A shadow will go across the land approximately west to east—from Oregon to Texas—and the sun will disappear behind the dark moon as a brilliant thin ring. It will dazzle millions.

A full eclipse completely blackens the sun, but this is an annular eclipse, where the black ring of the moon leaves a tiny ring of sunlight around it. The moon is a little farther away from us and therefore smaller, so it doesn't completely match the size of the sun. The whole experience is very fast—just a few minutes, so plan ahead. I'm going to Crater Lake to be in the middle of it with my cameras and friends! For an animation of its path, visit [greeleyandfriends.com/eclipse](http://greeleyandfriends.com/eclipse).

September is my 80th birthday month and the beginning of fall. As usual my head still lifts each night to the starry sky, but now my mind turns to a perspective I would never have

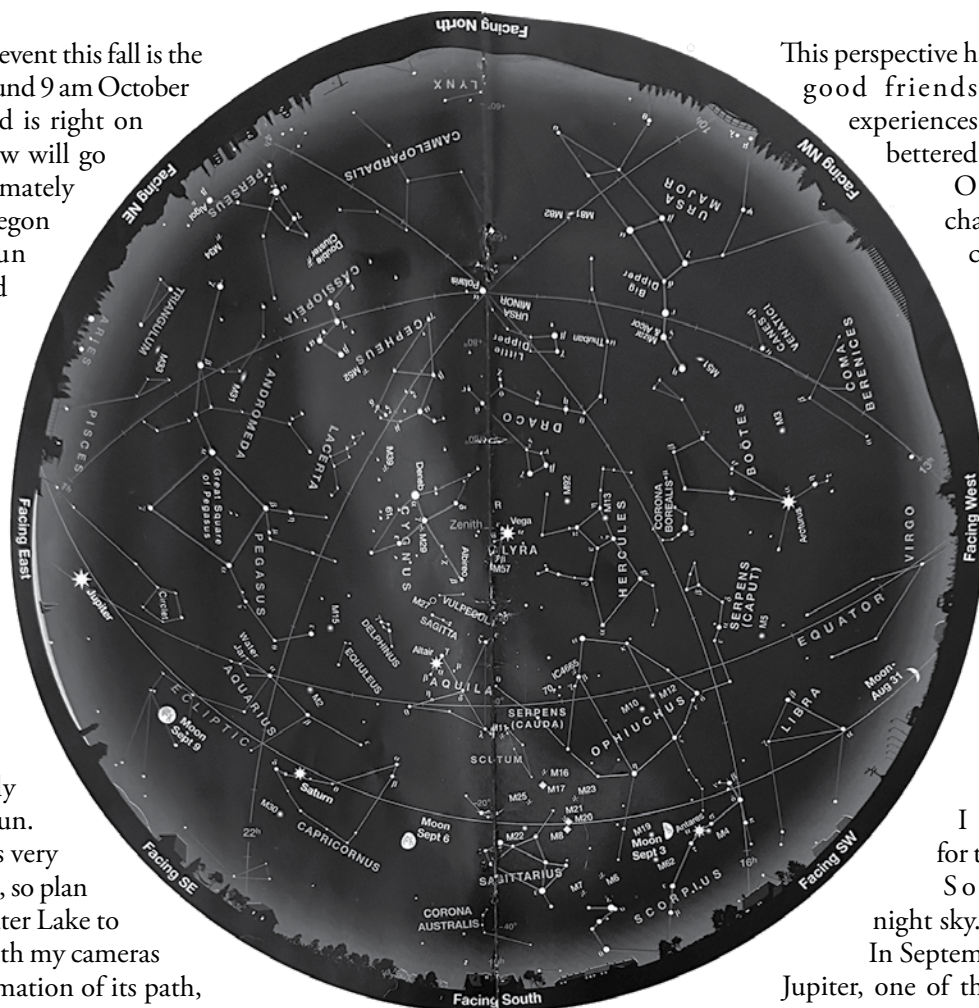


Image: Sky & Telescope ([skyandtelescope.org](http://skyandtelescope.org)).

guessed before: what I see from being 80! The perspective is amazing.

This perspective has me remembering good friends and important experiences that changed and bettered my life.

One of the life-changing memories I cherish is of a gift from Grandma Donna when I was a child on an island off Nassau. We were on her beach with a small group of children to whom she was showing the night sky. This moment changed many of our lives and is one of the reasons I write this column for the *Applegater* today. So back to the night sky.

In September, at about 9 pm, Jupiter, one of the brightest planets (outshone only by Venus, who recently went down in the west at sunset), is now up low in the east (and can be seen rising in the early morning). Above him is the clear square of Pegasus, the great horse. Jupiter is a fellow planet and, like us, swings around

the sun. We have a wonderful relationship with him as we each get closer and farther, brighter and fainter.

The summer triangle is farther up and now overhead, continuing her summer ride with our home galaxy inside her. Notice how big our galaxy is, spilling out either side of the triangle, both north and south. To the north I always think of the galaxy as coming out of Cassiopeia, the “W,” though it actually surrounds us completely. This observation brings up an interesting scientific fact: We and the whole galaxy are moving through space in the direction of Vega, the brightest star in the triangle. How do scientists know that? By measuring the stars' movements in the sky, they found the least movement in the direction toward Vega.

All the stars will keep swinging counterclockwise together around the North Star as the season moves on. On the west of the North Star is the Big Dipper, Ursa Major, dropping to swing below the North Star. Bootes, with the very bright star, Arcturus (follow the arch of the Big Dipper's handle to Arcturus), is sinking into the west. It's a beautiful show, whether you're 80 or eight.

Another 80s' perspective: Being born in the middle of World War II allowed me to see peace and the 1950s, when only the husband had a job, most families owned their own house, and retirement funds were enough to live on comfortably. Do you know that the 60s and 70s were still close to that picture despite the hippies coming along? We could get good jobs and have families and houses too! Today the wealthy one percent owns more than half of what all of us other folks own added together, and you know the trouble many of us are in.

Let's change this back to an 80-year-old's earlier life experience—that worked better!

Greeley Wells  
[greeley@greeley.me](mailto:greeley@greeley.me)

### — Of Note —

#### Planets

**Mercury** is in our September dawn, then gone in October. He returns in the dusk for November-December. Mercury is closest to the sun and bright, but fast-moving and never far from the sun.

**Venus** is up in the morning all season. She's the brightest “star” (planet) we've got, visible even though she is farther from the sun than Mercury! She's also

closer to us and appears larger. I'm in love with Venus when she shows her face.

**Mars** is up at dusk in September and will disappear till January next year when he's in our dawn.

**Jupiter**, bright and handsome, will be seen in September and October in the mornings, then disappears till next year.

**Saturn** graces our evenings all season.

#### Meteor Showers

**Orionids** are best on October 21 with a low-in-the-west quarter-moon. There are about 20 meteors an hour, so stay out longer to see more. Some can be seen from October 2-November 7.

**Leonids'** maximum time is November 18, with no moon problems. There'll be about 10-15 an hour. This show is active between November 6-30.

**Bradley Realty**  
Broker  
**Julia McCue**  
Cell: 541.291.6624  
Office: 541.582.0111  
114 E. Main St. P.O. Box 1887  
Rogue River, OR 97537  
Email: [jmccuerealtor@gmail.com](mailto:jmccuerealtor@gmail.com)  
[www.bradleyrealty.biz](http://www.bradleyrealty.biz)

When the pain of loss becomes too great...write it/move it/clear it/calm it.  
**BLACK SWAN**  
Creative Writing  
transform trauma into a new narrative  
GABRIELLE PULLEN@GMAIL.COM  
541 777-0124  
[www.theresiliencezone.com](http://www.theresiliencezone.com)  
235 W. MAIN ST. JACKSONVILLE, OR

**CECE SHOOP HOUSE KEEPING**  
**CT Shoop Incorporated**  
P.O. BOX 5557  
Central Point, OR 97502  
(541) 930-2437  
[ctshoop15@gmail.com](mailto:ctshoop15@gmail.com)

**RISE UP!**  
- ARTISAN BREAD -  
“Thanks for loving the bread, Applegate!”

**Jeanne Schattler**  
(541) 621-2480  
Principal Broker, PSA, GRI  
Windermere Van Vleet Jacksonville  
505 N 5th St, Jacksonville, OR 97530  
[jvillejeanne@gmail.com](mailto:jvillejeanne@gmail.com)  
[www.jeanne4land.com](http://www.jeanne4land.com)  
Specializing in Farms & Ranches / Eco-Friendly Lifestyle

**Grants Pass Water Lab**  
Accredited in accordance with NELAP  
ORELAP # OR100033 ISO 17025:2005  
**Eric Schaafsma**  
Technical Director  
[eric@gpwaterlab.com](mailto:eric@gpwaterlab.com)  
541-476-0733  
Fax 541-476-8132  
964 SE “M” Street  
Grants Pass, OR 97526

**EL ARRIERO**  
MEXICAN FAMILY RESTAURANT  
2366 WEST MAIN ST. MEDFORD, OR 97501 (541) 245-5872  
235 BARNETT ROAD MEDFORD, OR 97504 (541) 245-6778

**Visit the A-Frame Bookstore @ Ruch Library**  
Used books from \$1 to \$3  
Open 1 - 3 pm  
Tuesday, Thursday, and Saturday  
Managed by Friends of Ruch Library. Join us!  
**The Book Barn**  
Now open the first Saturday of each month  
**Sale by donation**  
12 - 4 pm  
Located next to the A-Frame Bookstore