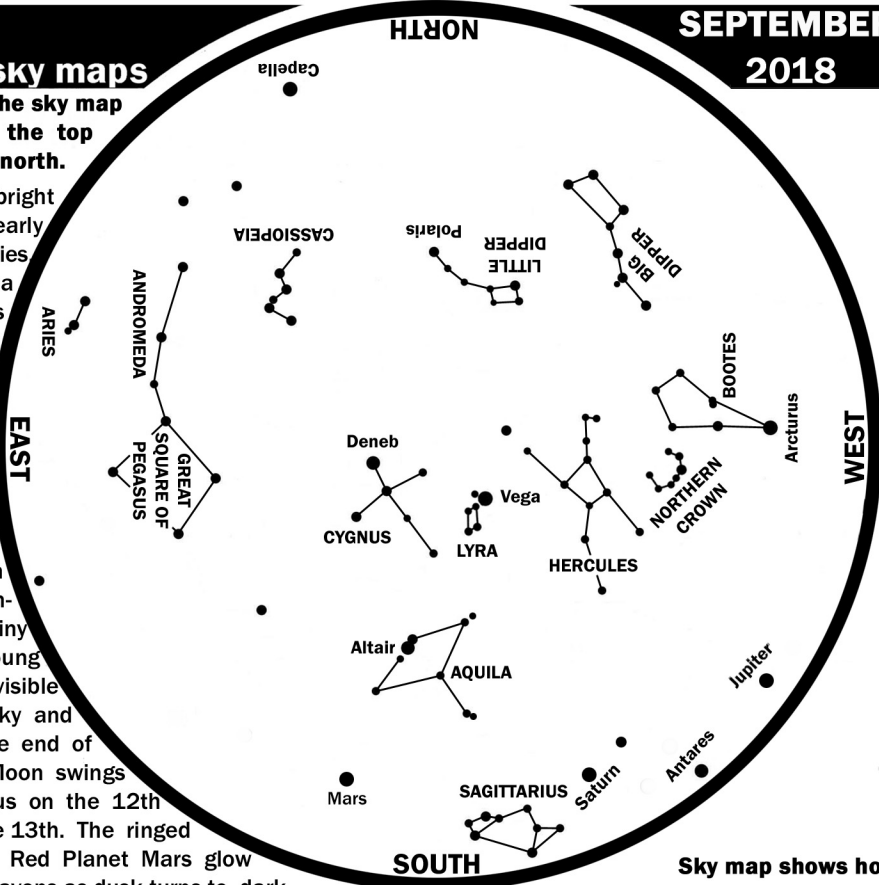


Prairiesky maps

Instructions : Hold the sky map over your head with the top of the map facing north.

A nice collection of bright planets adorn the early evening September skies. Venus will shine like a cosmic searchlight as it hangs quite low in the southwest after the setting Sun. On the 1st Venus will have an eye-catching close encounter with blue-white star Spica. If you look low toward the western horizon on the 10th just after sun-down you may see a tiny sliver of a beautiful young Moon. Big Jupiter is visible in the bright western sky and sets an hour after the end of evening twilight. The Moon swings by for a visit with Venus on the 12th and with Jupiter on the 13th. The ringed planet Saturn and The Red Planet Mars glow low in the southern heavens as dusk turns to dark. Venus blazes low the southwest first thing at dusk on the 21st as it hits peak brightness. The first day of fall in the Northern Hemisphere arrives on the 23rd when the Sun shines directly on the equator and the length of day and night are nearly equal. The Full Harvest Moon rises on the 24th and spills its light over us from dusk until dawn.

Jeffrey Britton



Sky map shows how the night sky looks
Early Sept. 10 P.M.
Late Sept. 9 P.M.