

OUTDOORS

CALL OF THE WILD

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February: Orion’s glowing sword

BY DEANE MORRISON
University of Minnesota

The knot of bright winter constellations reaches its highest point in the south during the mid-evening hours of February. Most recognizable is Orion, with his glowing sword hanging below the three stars of his belt.

Orion’s two brightest stars are among the most famous: Betelgeuse and Rigel. Both are gigantic stars classified as supergiants. Ruddy Betelgeuse and blue-white Rigel are believed to be less than 10 million years old — much younger than the sun’s 4.5 billion years—and are burning their nuclear fuel much faster than the sun.

Light from Rigel illuminates the Witch Head Nebula, a neighboring dust cloud that’s eerily reminiscent of a human profile. Rigel shines at Orion’s southwest

ern foot, Betelgeuse at his opposite shoulder. Northeast of Orion, Jupiter is still a big, bright ornament in Gemini. And below Orion, Sirius, the brightest star in the night sky, is now at its finest.

In the last week of February, try to catch the faint, lovely zodiacal light an hour or two after sunset. It glows from sunlight reflecting off dust in the plane of the solar system, and appears as a broad band of light extending up from the western horizon along the sun’s path, dimming with distance from the sun.

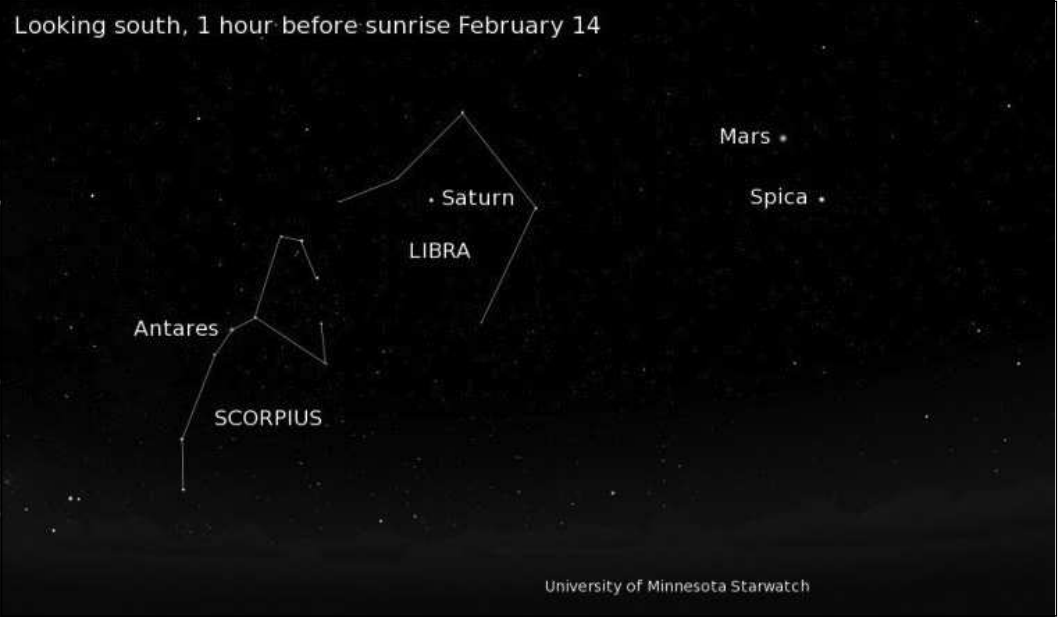
In the morning sky, Mars is in the south to southwest in the hour before sunrise, above the bright star Spica, in Virgo. To the east, Saturn glows between Mars and its stellar rival: red Antares, in Scorpius, whose sinu- ous form rears up from the southern horizon. And east of Scorpius, Venus makes a lovely, if somewhat low,

morning star.

Earth will lap Mars in the orbital race in just two months, so the Red Planet is brightening steadily. It’s also rising earlier every night, and ends the month appearing about two hours before midnight. Saturn, too, is no slouch. On the 11th it will be 90 degrees from the sun, a position that brings the planet’s shadow on the rings into sharp contrast and gives Saturn a striking 3-D appearance.

February’s full moon was known to Algonquin Indians as the full snow moon or the hunger moon, because hunting was difficult. It rises very close to perfectly full the evening of the 14th, so this moonrise will make a round and lovely accessory for Valentine’s Day.

And then there’s Groundhog Day, which has astronomical roots. One of four “cross-quarter” days falling midway between a solstice



and an equinox, it was seen by the ancient Celts as a day for forecasting the start of the planting season. The belief was that a cloudy day portended rain that would soon come to soften up the earth. But clear weather meant cold and a longer wait till spring, as well as visible shadows for any creatures astir on that day.

The University of Minnesota offers public viewings of the night sky at its Duluth and Twin Cities campuses. For more information and viewing schedules, see: ■Duluth, Marshall W. Alworth Planetarium: www.d.umn.edu/planet ■Twin Cities, Minnesota Institute for Astrophysics (during fall and spring

semesters):www.astro.umn.edu/outreach/pubnight Check out the astronomy programs at the University of Minnesota’s Bell Museum ExploraDome: www.bellmuseum.umn.edu/ForGroups/ExploraDome/index.htm Find U of M astronomers and links to the world of astronomy athttp://www.astro.umn.edu.

Winter severity index is 67

JOURNAL STAFF REPORT

The winter severity index for the International Falls area was 67 on Wednesday, reports Larry Petersen, Minnesota Department of Natural Resources area wildlife manager.

It was 33 last year at this date, and 16 two years ago, according to Petersen.

The average WSI for this date is about 41. Borderland’s harshest winter in the mid 1990s had an index of 88 on this date.

The snow depth is around 18-20 inches in the International Falls vicinity. Deeper snow can be found south and east of here, said Petersen.

The winter severity index

is a standardized number the DNR uses when considering impacts of the winter on deer. It is calculated using temperature and snow depth in the period from Nov. 1 through April 30 or whenever winter ends.

Every day the daily low temperature is zero or below is one point, and every day the snow depth is 15 inches or deeper in an open aspen woods is one point. The points are added each week until winter ends, explained Petersen.



Larry Petersen

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- Deliver your free ad to The Journal Drop Box before noon Thursday, or **Fax** it to (218) 285-7206 or mail it to: The Journal, 1602 Hwy. 71, International Falls, MN 56649.
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Public Notices

Public Notice

STATE OF MINNESOTA
COUNTY OF KOOCHICHING

NINTH JUDICIAL DISTRICT
DISTRICT COURT
PROBATE DIVISION

Court File No. 36-PR-14-23

NOTICE AND ORDER FOR HEARING ON PETITION FOR DESCENT OF PROPERTY

Estate of Kenneth Charles Hasbargen, a/k/a/ Kenneth C. Hasbargen, a/k/a/ Kenneth Hasbargen Decedent

A petition for Determination of Descent has been filed with this Court. The Petition represents that the Decedent died more than three years ago, leaving property in Minnesota and requests the descent of such property be determined and assigned by this Court to the persons entitled to the property.

Any objections to the Petition must be filed with the Court prior to or raised at the hearing. If proper, and no objections are filed or raised, the Petition may be granted.

IT IS ORDERED and Notice is further given, that the Petition will be heard on February 13, 2014 at 11:00 a.m. by this Court at 715 Fourth Street, International Falls, Minnesota.

1. Notice shall be given to all interested persons (Minn. Stat. 524.1-401) and persons who have filed a demand for notice pursuant to Minn. Stat. 524.3-204.

2. Notice shall be given by publishing this Notice and Order as provided by law and by: Mailing a copy of this Notice and Order at least 14 days prior to the hearing date.

Dated: 1-10-14

(COURT SEAL)

BY THE COURT

/s/ Charles H. LeDuc
Judge of District Court

Dated: 1-10-14

/s/ Sara Thompson, Deputy
Court Administrator

Attorney for Petitioner
Name: Kimberly A. Liferovich
Firm: Shermoen & Jaska, PLLP
Street: 345-6th Avenue, P.O. Box 1072
City, State, ZIP: International Falls, MN 56649
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The Journal
January 18th & 25th, 2014

Public Notice

STATE OF MINNESOTA
COUNTY OF KOOCHICHING

NINTH JUDICIAL DISTRICT
DISTRICT COURT
PROBATE DIVISION
Court File No. 36-PR-14-24

NOTICE AND ORDER OF HEARING ON PETITION FOR PROBATE OF WILL AND APPOINTMENT OF PERSONAL REPRESENTATIVE AND NOTICE TO CREDITORS

Estate of: Marie Claire Dunbar, a/k/a Marie C. Dunbar Decedent

It is Ordered and Notice is given that on February 13, 2014 at 11:00 a.m. A hearing will be held in this Court at 715 Fourth Street, International Falls, Minnesota, for the formal probate of an instrument purporting to be the Will of the Decedent, dated January 18, 1973, and for the appointment of Melody Joy Hensel, whose address is 6985 County Road 77, Littlefork, MN 56653 as Personal Representative of the Estate of the Decedent in an UNSUPERVISED administration.

Any objections to the petition must be filed with the Court prior to or raised at the hearing. If proper and if no objections are filed or raised, the Personal Representative will be appointed with full power to administer the Estate including the power to collect all assets, to pay all legal debts, claims, taxes and expenses, to sell real and personal property, and to do all necessary acts for the

Estate.

Notice is also given that (subject to Minn. Stat. 524.3-801) all creditors having claims against the Estate are required to present the claims to the Personal Representative or to the Court Administrator within four months after the date of this Notice or the claims will be barred.

A charitable beneficiary may request notice of the probate proceedings to be given to the Attorney General pursuant to Minn. Stat. 501B.41, subd. 5.

Dated: 1-10-14

(COURT SEAL)

BY THE COURT

/s/ Charles H. LeDuc
Judge of District Court

Dated: 1-10-14

/s/ Sara Thompson, Deputy
Court Administrator

Attorney for Petitioner
Name: Kimberly A. Liferovich
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The Journal
January 18th & 25th, 2014

Public Notice

STATE OF MINNESOTA
COUNTY OF KOOCHICHING

NINTH JUDICIAL DISTRICT
DISTRICT COURT
PROBATE DIVISION

Court File No. 36-PR-14-21

NOTICE AND ORDER OF HEARING ON PETITION FOR FORMAL ADJUDICATION OF TESTACY, DETERMINATION OF HEIRSHIP, APPOINTMENT OF PERSONAL REPRESENTATIVE AND NOTICE TO CREDITORS.

Estate of Winnifred Eunice Hasbargen, a/k/a Winnifred E. Hasbargen,

a/k/a Winnifred H. Hasbargen Decedent

It is ordered and Notice is given that on February 13, 2014 at 11:00 a.m., a hearing will be held in this Court at 715 Fourth Street, International Falls, Minnesota, for the adjudication of heirship of the Decedent, and for the appointment of Kathleen A. Cina, whose address is 7937 Wuori Road, Virginia, MN 55792 as Personal Representative of the Estate of the Decedent in an UNSUPERVISED administration. Any objections to the petition must be filed with the Court prior to or raised at the hearing. If proper and if no objections are filed or raised, the Personal Representative will be appointed with full power to administer the Estate, including the power to collect all assets, to pay all legal debts, claims, taxes and expenses, to sell real and personal property, and to do all necessary acts for the Estate.

Notice is given that (subject to Minn. Stat. 524.3-801) all creditors having claims against the Estate are required to present the claims to the Personal Representative or to the Court Administrator within four months after the date of this Notice or the claims will be barred.

Dated: 1-10-14

(COURT SEAL)

BY THE COURT

/s/ Charles H. LeDuc
Judge of District Court

Dated: 1-10-14

/s/ Sara Thompson, Deputy
Court Administrator

Attorney for Petitioner
Name: Kimberly A. Liferovich
Firm: Shermoen & Jaska, PLLP
Street: 345-6th Avenue, P.O. Box 1072
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The Journal
January 18th & 25th, 2014

Public Notice

MINUTE SUMMARY

REGULAR MEETING OF THE
KOOCHICHING COUNTY BOARD
OF COMMISSIONERS
Held on Tuesday,
January 14, 2014; 11:20 a.m.

MEMBERS PRESENT: Commissioners Ecklund, McBride, Skoe, Adee, Pavleck
MEMBERS ABSENT: None

The County Board approved the January 14th meeting agenda; approved the minutes from the January 7, 2014 meeting; reviewed the December 2013 Vendor Payment Listing; adopted a resolution in support of the “MOVE MN CAMPAIGN” for increased state transportation funding; as Fiscal Agent and member of the Highway 53 Four-Lane Task Force approved a contract with Federal Advocates, Inc. on behalf of the Task Force for lobbyist services on the Highway 53 Four-Lane Project; authorized the Sheriff to call for bids for replacement of two squad trucks.

2014/01-19 Motion by McBride, seconded by Adee to close session at 11:25 a.m. under attorney-client privilege to review pending litigation in the case of Nelson versus Koochiching County for payment of court appointed attorney fee. Voting yes: Ecklund, McBride, Skoe, Adee, Pavleck. Motion carried. Opened session at 11:40 a.m.

2014/01-21 Motion by Pavleck, seconded by McBride authorizing the Land Commissioner to obtain quotes and contracts for a three-year period for summer maintenance of County Parks and to obtain quotes and contracts for park attendants to provide site management at County administered river access points for the 2014 Rainy River early fishing season. Voting yes: Ecklund, McBride, Skoe, Adee, Pavleck. Motion carried.

2014/01-22 Motion by Adee, seconded by Skoe to renew a Joint Powers Agreement with the MndNR for the purpose of including County Forest Development Projects in State contracts with no change in terms. Voting yes: Ecklund, McBride, Skoe, Adee, Pavleck. Motion carried.

000 The Land Commissioner informed the Board that the Department received a \$2,000 grant from the Deer Hunters Association for the purpose of improving grass openings for spring deer forage benefit

as well as benefiting the other wildlife.

000 The Environmental Service Director updated the Board on the rezoning and conditional use permit application from Wagner Construction for a rock quarry operation near the end of County Road 144 (Moonlight Rock Road) after it was referred back to the Planning Commission by the County Board for additional review.

2014/01-23 Motion by Pavleck, seconded by McBride to defer the Rezoning and Conditional Use Permit Application of Wagner Construction for a rock quarry operation in the Moonlight Rock area to the January 21, 2014 Board meeting with the Board Chair to appoint up to two Board members and with the Engineer set a meeting with Company officials to request authorization for Wagner Construction to use the Boise Road for access and hauling of materials for their rock quarry operation due to the County’s concerns with public safety in utilization of County Road 144 for the operation. Voting yes: Ecklund, McBride, Skoe, Adee, Pavleck. Motion carried.

2014/01-24 Motion by Pavleck, seconded by Adee to set a public hearing under MN Statute 375.51 for adoption of an ordinance for the purpose of reviewing changes and receiving public comment on a proposed revision of the County Solid Waste Ordinance with the hearing to be held on Tuesday, February 11, 2014 at 11:00 a.m. Voting yes: Ecklund, McBride, Skoe, Adee, Pavleck. Motion carried.

2014/01-25 Motion by Adee, seconded by Pavleck that due to condition issues authorizing the Complex Superintendent to replace the Boardroom chairs with funding from the 2014 Budget Contingency. Voting yes: Ecklund, McBride, Adee, Pavleck; voting no: Skoe. Motion carried.

The meeting adjourned at 12:25 p.m. A full copy of the minutes is available on the County website at www.co.koochiching.mn.us and for public inspection at the County Administration Office during regular business hours.

The Journal
January 25th, 2014