

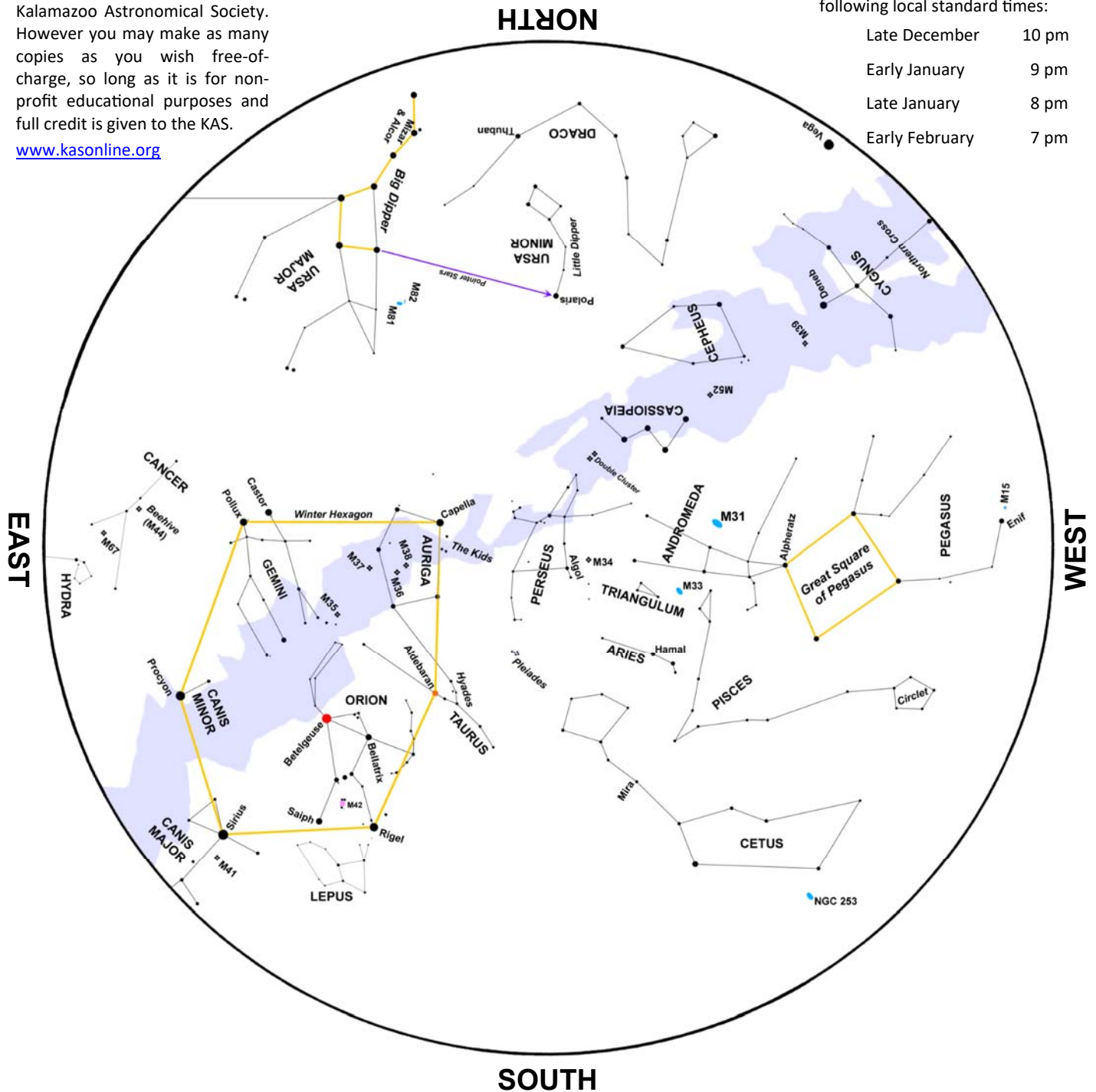
– January Night Sky –

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This map represents the sky at the following local standard times:

Late December	10 pm
Early January	9 pm
Late January	8 pm
Early February	7 pm



Lunatics rejoice! The New Year begins with a Full Moon. This New Years Day Full Moon is also the largest our nearest celestial neighbor will appear to Earthbound observers in 2018, since it takes place within 4 hours of perigee. Astronomers refer to this common occurrence as a Perigee Moon, but the media has come to inaccurately

refer to it as a “supermoon.” Another Full Moon occurs on January 31st. In addition to being another “supermoon,” it is also a “Blue Moon,” another inaccurate but widely used term for the second Full Moon in one calendar month. As a result, for the first time since 1999, there will be no Full Moon in February. This won’t happen again until 2037.

Mars and Saturn shine within $\frac{1}{3}^\circ$ of one another before dawn on January 6th. The star Zubenelgenubi (Alpha Librae) can be found just 2° to the pair’s upper right.

Mercury and Saturn will be $\frac{1}{2}^\circ$ apart in the southeast before sunrise on January 13th. The Moon is about 6° to the upper right of Saturn.