

EXPECTED AND OBSERVED FOR 2022

January - August

The Pluto Return for Declaration of Independence Charts

For the July 2, 1776, Declaration of Independence chart, transiting Pluto will, from a geocentric perspective, be conjunct natal Pluto three times throughout 2022. From the heliocentric perspective, transiting Pluto is conjunct natal Pluto just once on June 6, 2022.

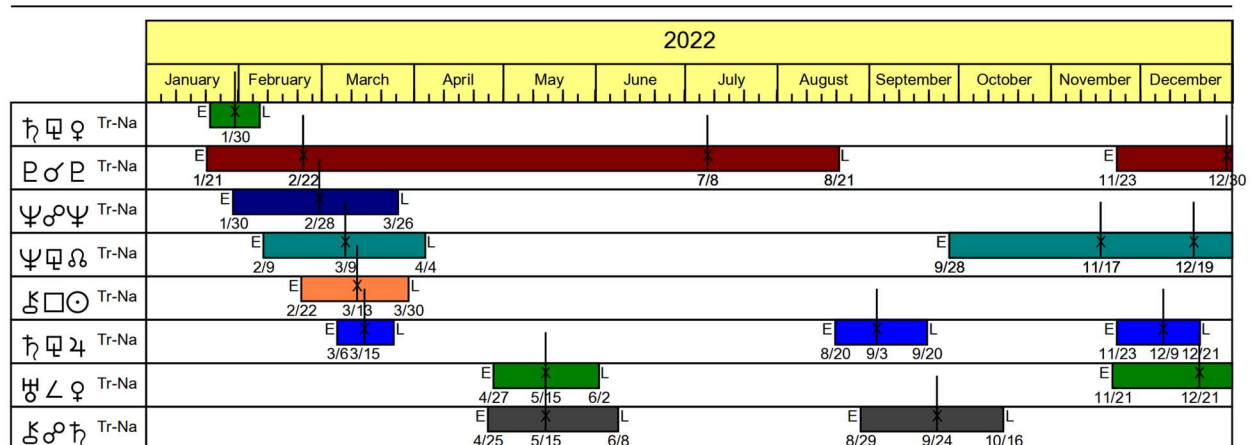
Expected: Death and transformation, turning points, extreme changes, secrets uncovered.

Observed: The January 6 Committee has uncovered things Trump wanted to keep hidden along with details of a coup that came perilously close to being successful. The Supreme Court overturned Roe v. Wade and Justice Thomas has suggested that other landmark decisions should be revisited.

Geocentric

USA Libra: Jan 01, 2022 - Jan 01, 2023

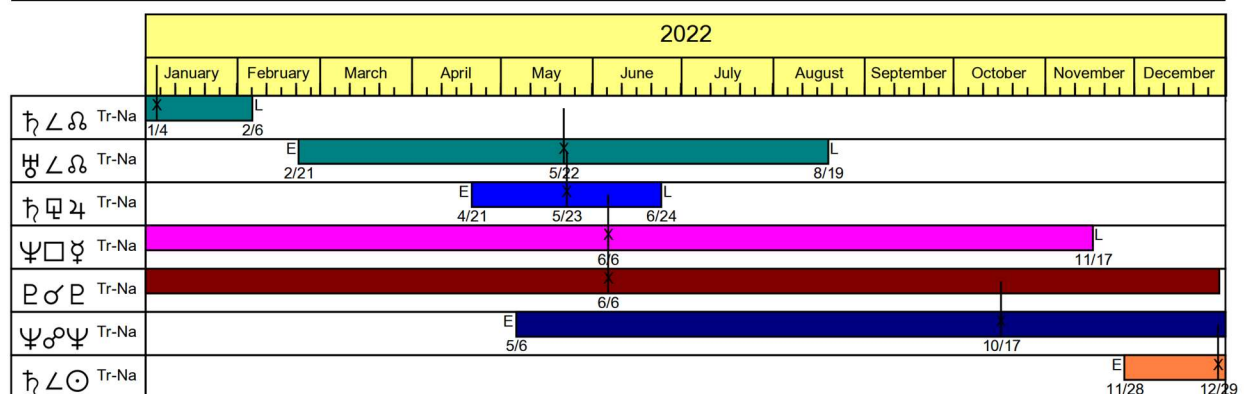
Page 1



Heliocentric

USA Libra: Jan 01, 2022 - Jan 01, 2023

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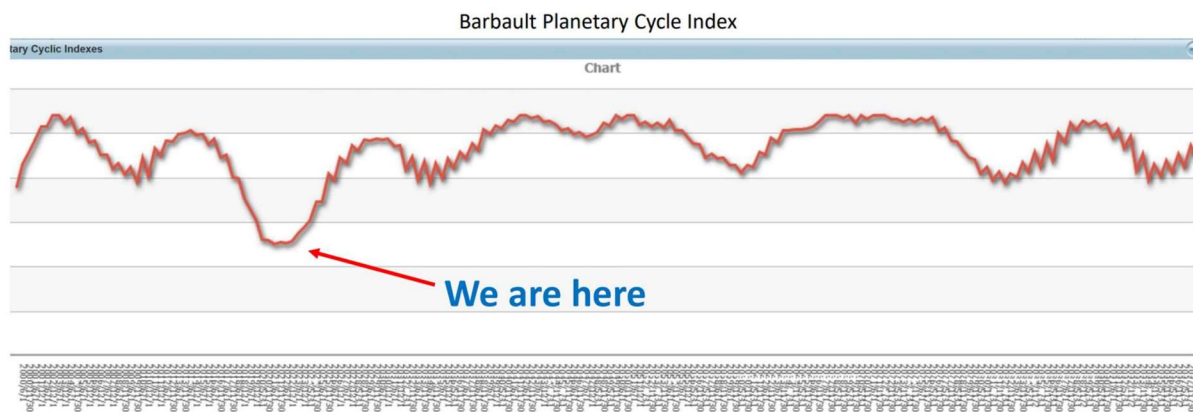
The Barbault Planetary Cycle Index and Kala Sarpa Yoga

The Barbault Planetary Cycle Index is a cumulative sum of the distance between the planets from Jupiter to Neptune, and when the outer planets are bunched together, the cycle index is low and things are out of balance. Also, if we exclude Chiron, then the low for the century was achieved in late March, and if Chiron is included, then the low for the century occurred in early April. Either way, the index was at or almost at its lowest point from the beginning of 2020 through early April of 2022.

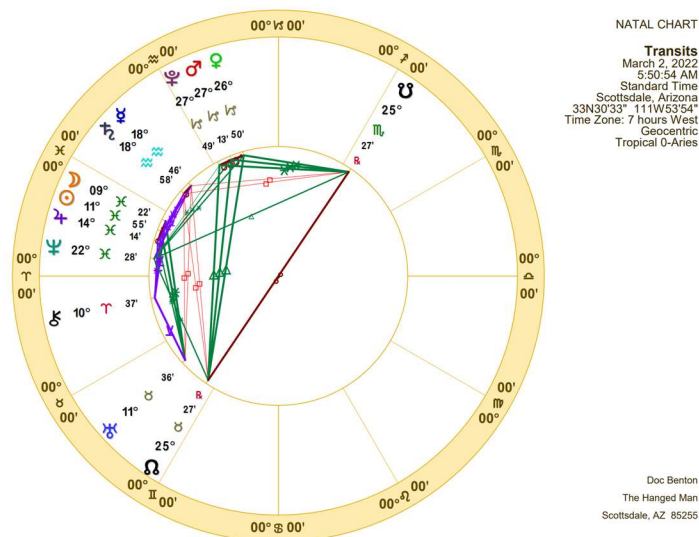
Kala Sarpa Yoga occurs when all the planets, with the exception of the Moon are in the same hemisphere as defined by the opposition of the Lunar Nodes. We were in Kala Sarpa Yoga from about December 15, 2021, through April 23, 2022.

Expected: A great imbalance as a result of the outer planetary energies being too concentrated in one part of the zodiac and also as a result of the flow of energies being hemmed in by the Lunar Nodes. Wars and pandemics are more likely during such a period.

Observed: Putin began his war against Ukraine in late February, and the energies in March and April felt more constricted and confined and less filled with hope than I have ever experienced in my lifetime.



Kala Sarpa Yoga

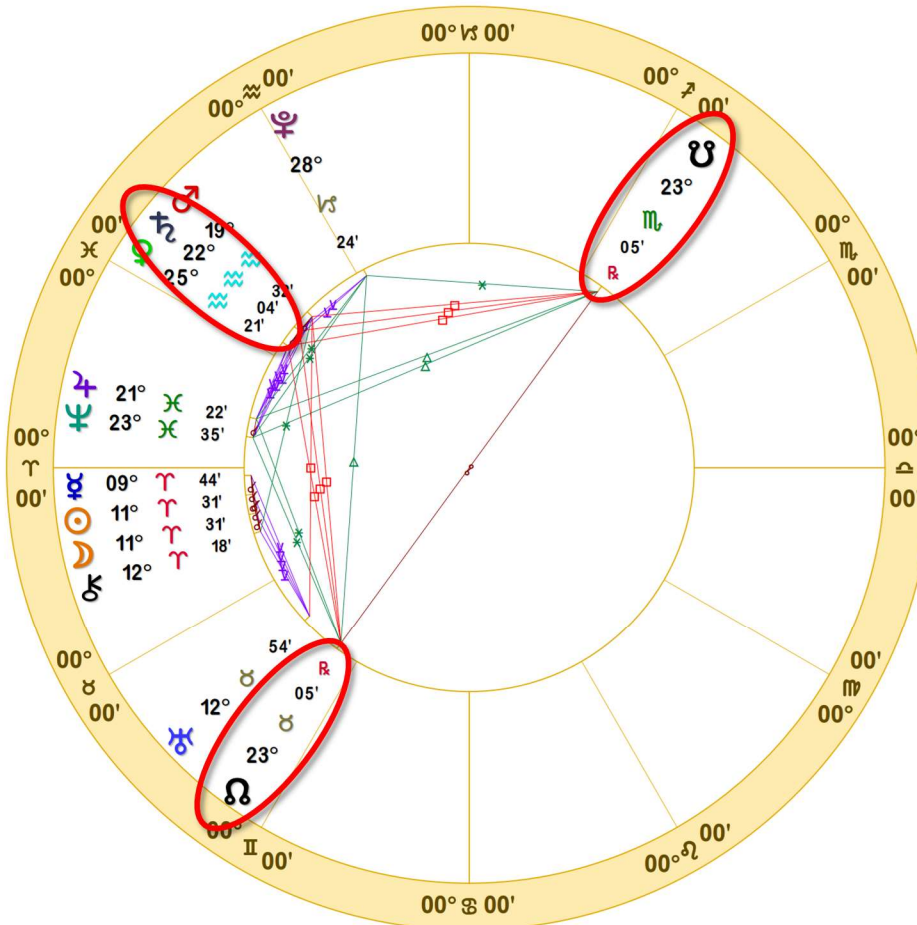


Saturn in Aquarius Square the Lunar Nodes

Saturn represents control and Aquarius represents group creativity or action, and the square to the Lunar Nodes intensifies the influence of Saturn, for good or ill.

Expected: Group discipline exercised for either good or bad.

Observed: NATO has been revitalized and has established economic sanctions against Russia. Also, the Supreme Court established a cohesive conservative block and reversed its ruling on Roe v. Wade while expressing the desire to revisit other progressive victories such as same-sex marriage.



New Moon (astrological)

New Moon Mar 31 2022

March 31, 2022
11:24:14 PM
Standard Time
Scottsdale, Arizona
33N30'33" 111W53'54"
Time Zone: 7 hours West
Geocentric
Tropical 0-Aries

Doc Benton
The Hanged Man
Scottsdale, AZ 85255

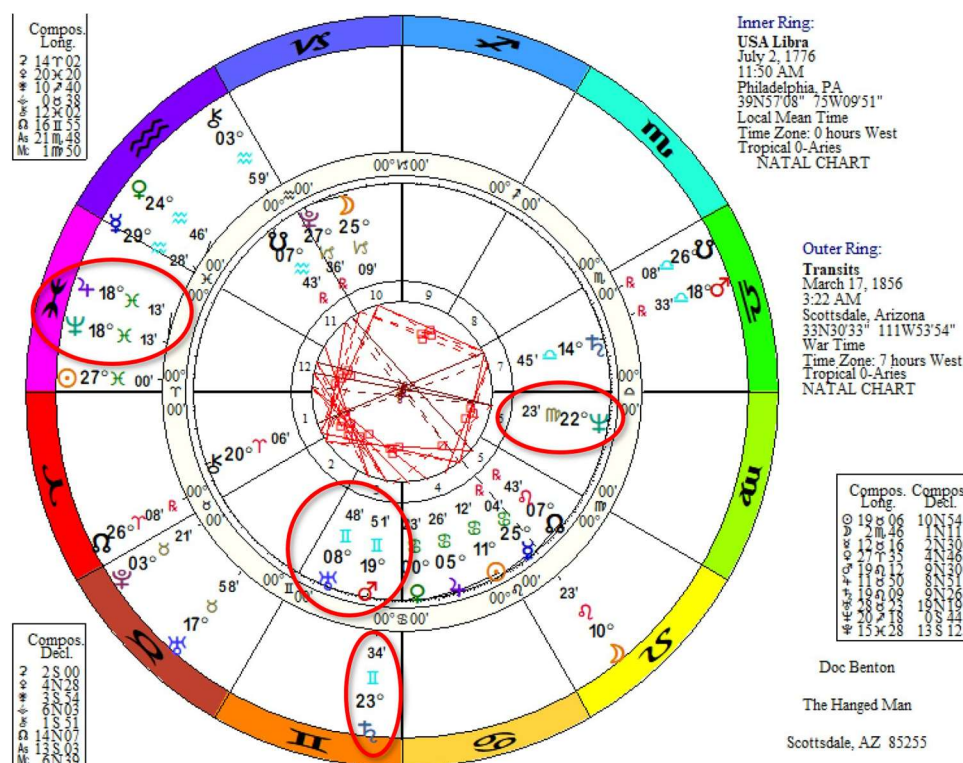
Prelude to Another American Civil War

In the Declaration of Independence charts for America, Neptune is in Virgo squaring Mars in Gemini. Consequently, this results in a tendency for faulty logic (Neptune in Virgo) to trigger violence and extreme rhetoric (Mars in Gemini). Jupiter and Neptune were conjunct in Pisces on April 12, 2022, and this conjunction was in opposition to natal Neptune and square natal Mars in the Declaration of Independence charts. The last time this conjunction occurred in Pisces was in 1856, and the natal Neptune/Mars square was stimulated at that time, too. The year 1856 saw a series of battles between pro- and anti-slavery forces known historically as "Bleeding Kansas," and these battles were a prelude to the 1861 American Civil War.

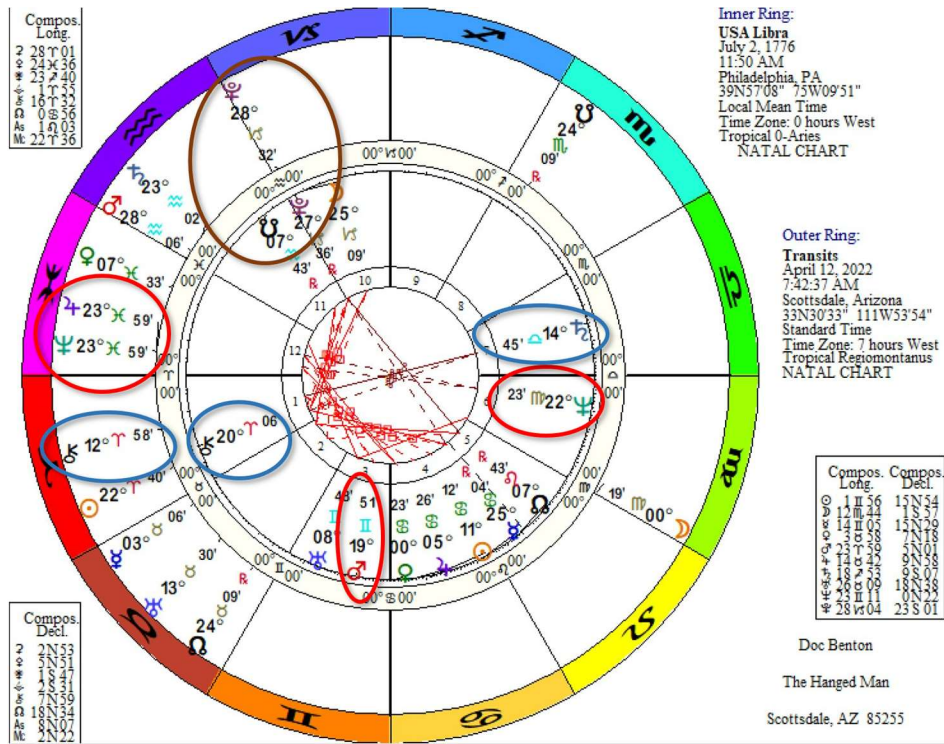
Expected: Delusional ideologies and competing narratives resulting in political separation and angry rhetoric if not blatant violence.

Observed: More and more historians and pundits have mentioned that we seem to be repeating the divisions that brought about the first American Civil War, and former Robert Reich, former Secretary of Labor, believes that the next American Civil War has already begun. However, this time it is a battle between the Blue and the Red instead of the Blue and the Grey. Also, polls have long indicated that America's political center has shrunk considerably as people have increasingly aligned themselves with either the far left or the far right. Additionally, the first American Civil War began in 1861 right before Neptune moved into Aries, and Neptune will do this again in 2025 and 2026. What will happen then is anybody's guess. Particularly worrisome to me, though, is February 19, 2026, when Neptune, Saturn, and the Moon will all be conjunct at 0 degrees Aries and square natal Venus at 0 degrees Cancer in the July 2 Declaration of Independence chart.

March 17, 1856



April 12, 2022

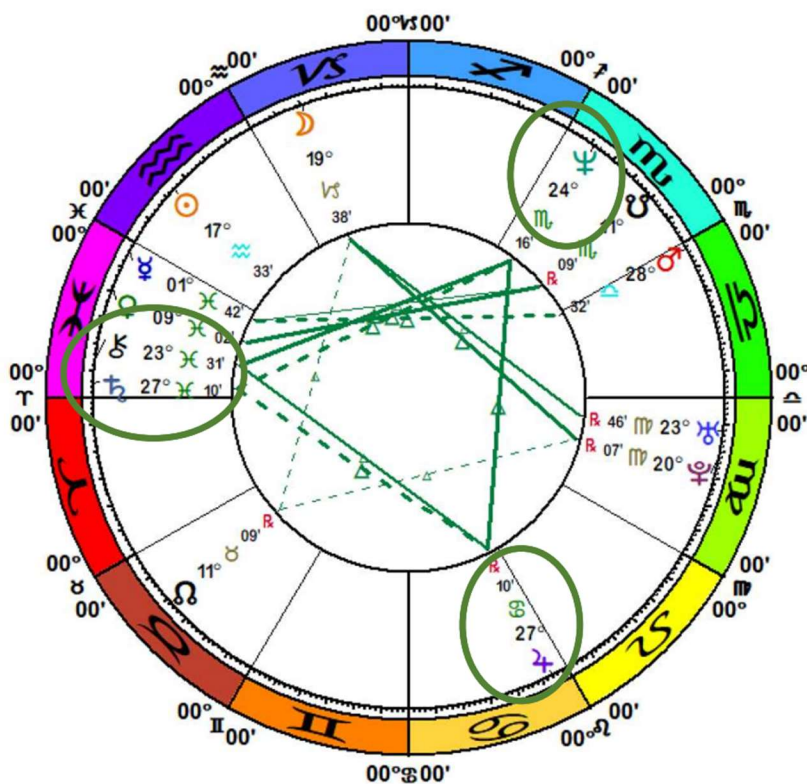


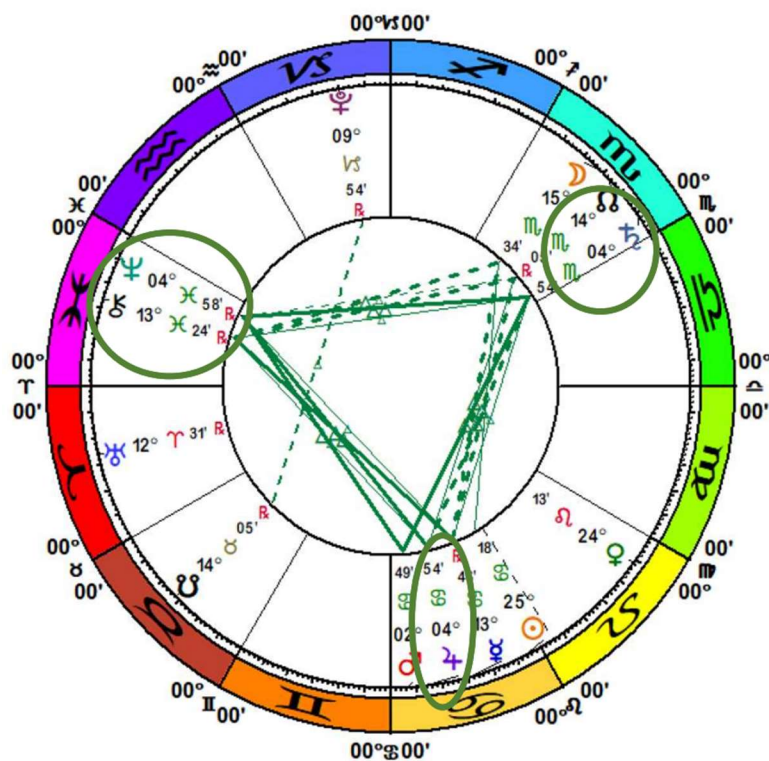
Cannabis Reform

In 1967, there was a grand trine involving Jupiter in Cancer, Neptune in Scorpio (If it feels good, do it!), and Saturn in Pisces (a loosening of social restrictions), and marijuana suddenly became very popular. In 2013, a similar grand trine occurred with Jupiter in Cancer, Saturn in Scorpio (Legalization with regulation), and Neptune in Pisces (Medicinal uses of cannabis), and suddenly marijuana began to become very popular again with Colorado and Washington leading the way with legalization for recreational use passing in late 2012. Since then, I have anticipated that legalization nationwide might happen by the time Jupiter and Neptune complete their cycle by coming into conjunction again in 2022.

Expected: Federal legalization or decriminalization of cannabis.

Observed: The House of Representatives has passed a cannabis banking reform measure more than six times, but it has yet to make it to a vote in the Senate. Apparently, planets aren't the only things that can move retrograde. Many politicians also frequently move backward, too. However, recently Senator Schumer has introduced a comprehensive bill in the Senate to reform marijuana laws and to decriminalize it at the federal level, thus leaving legalization up to each individual state. Polls in all fifty states show that a majority favor legalization of recreational cannabis, but passage of the bill still requires a two-thirds majority and we have some senators who may never move direct on anything ever again.



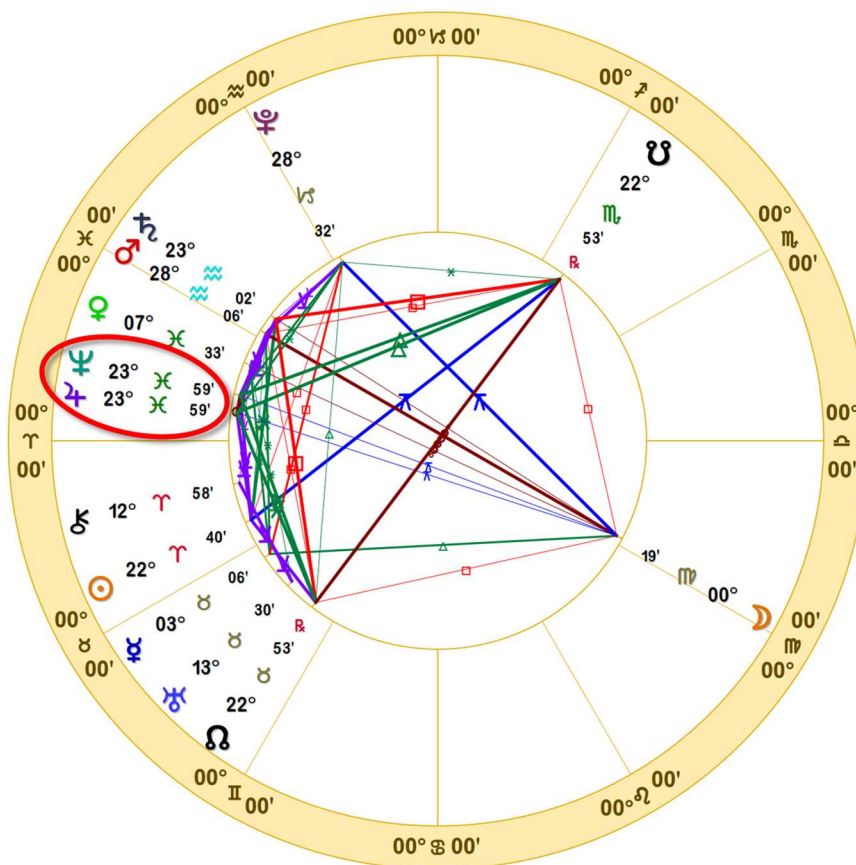


NATAL CHART

Transits

July 17, 2013
10:31:43 AM
Standard Time
Scottsdale, Arizona
33N30'33" 111W53'54"
Time Zone: 7 hours West
Geocentric
Tropical 0-Aries

Doc Benton
The Hanged Man
Scottsdale, AZ 85255



NATAL CHART

Transits

April 12, 2022
7:42:41 AM
Standard Time
Scottsdale, Arizona
33N30'33" 111W53'54"
Time Zone: 7 hours West
Geocentric
Tropical 0-Aries

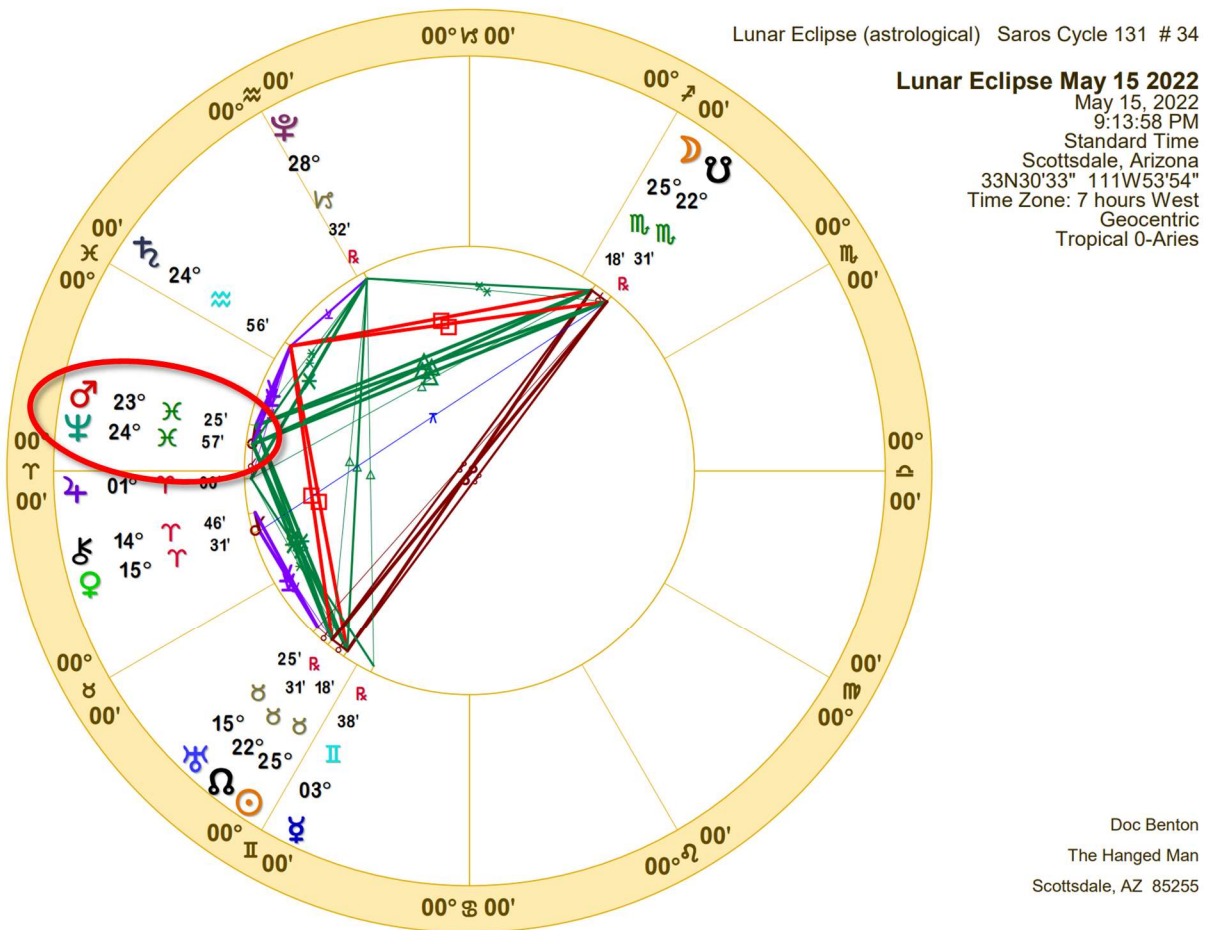
Doc Benton
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The May 15 Lunar Eclipse and the Mars/Neptune Conjunction on May 17

On both May 15 and May 17, the transiting Mars/Neptune conjunction was in strong opposition to natal Neptune and square natal Mars in the Declaration of Independence charts.

Expected: A heightened potential for violence in America.

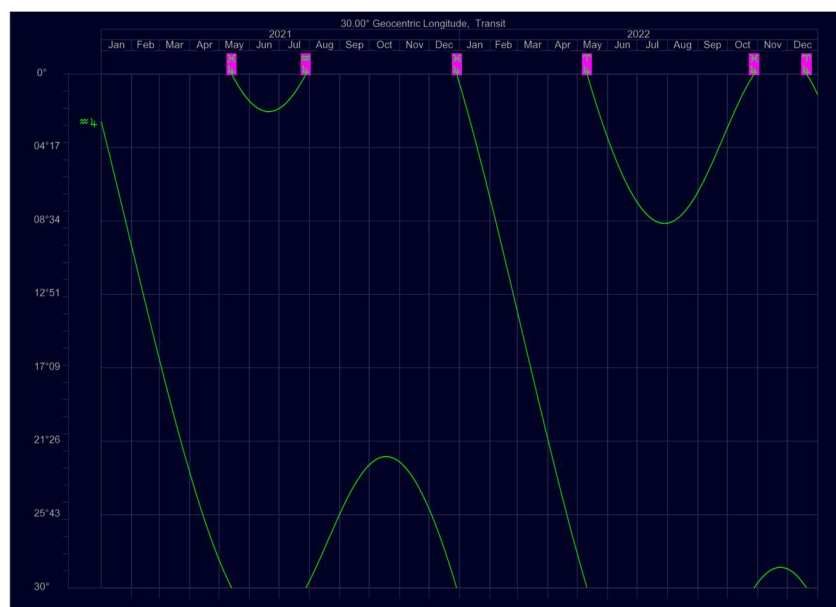
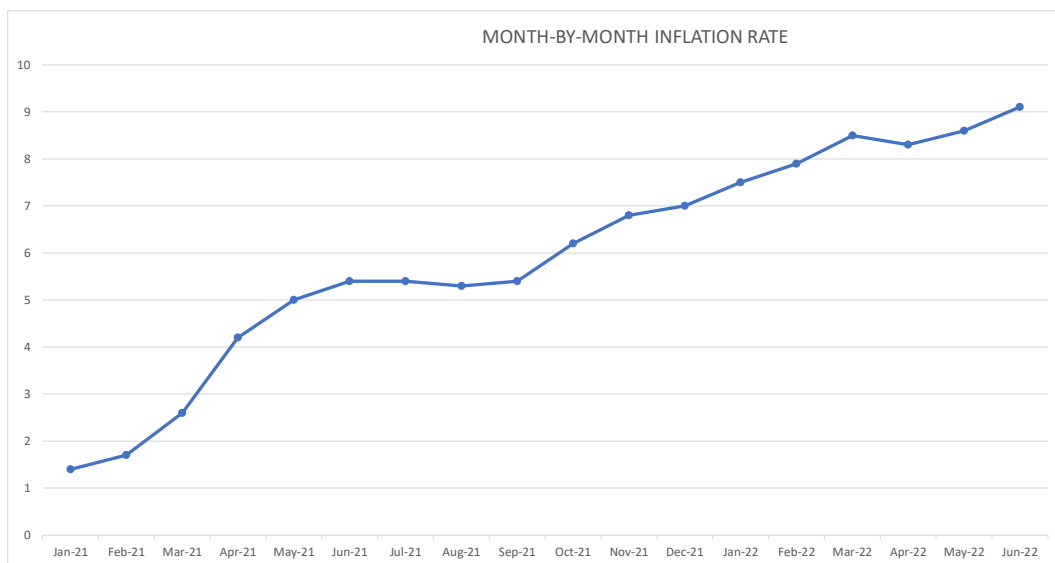
Observed: Between May 14 and June 1 there were mass shootings in Buffalo NY, Laguna Woods CA, Chicago IL, Uvalde TX, and Tulsa OK. The shootings in Buffalo and Uvalde were particularly high in casualties.



Inflation

Expected: Financial astrologers such as Ray Merriman have long associated the passage of Jupiter through Pisces with inflation. From a geocentric perspective, Jupiter entered that sign briefly from May through July of 2021 and on December 28, 2021, and it left the sign of Pisces on May 10, 2022. From a heliocentric perspective, Jupiter entered Pisces on September 18, 2022, and it will leave Pisces on August 17, 2022. In theory, Jupiter in Pisces can result in unfounded optimism that can lead to increased spending that results in inflation. However, the association between Jupiter in Pisces and historical inflation is not a perfect one, and that suggests that other factors also have an impact.

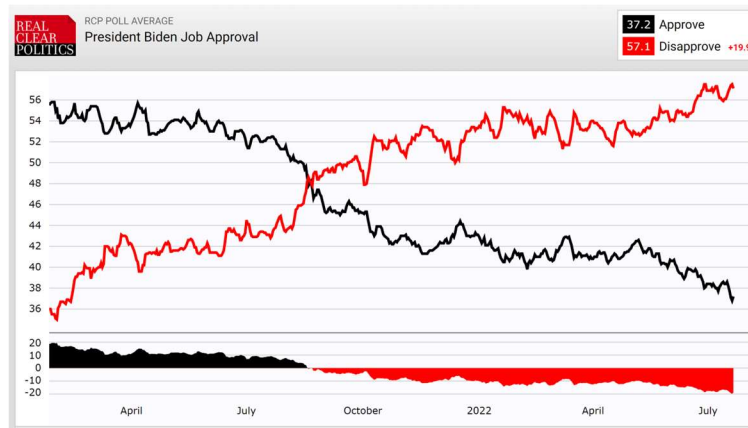
Observed: Month-by-month annual inflation in the USA rose sharply from February through May of 2021, leveled off through September, and then has risen fairly consistently from October, 2021, through June, 2022 (Source: <https://www.usinflationcalculator.com/inflation/current-inflation-rates/>). It currently remains to be seen if inflation will subside after August 2022.



Transiting Neptune Trine Biden's Natal Jupiter

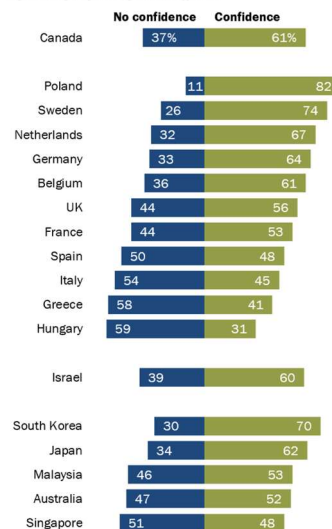
Expected: A surge in Biden's popularity.

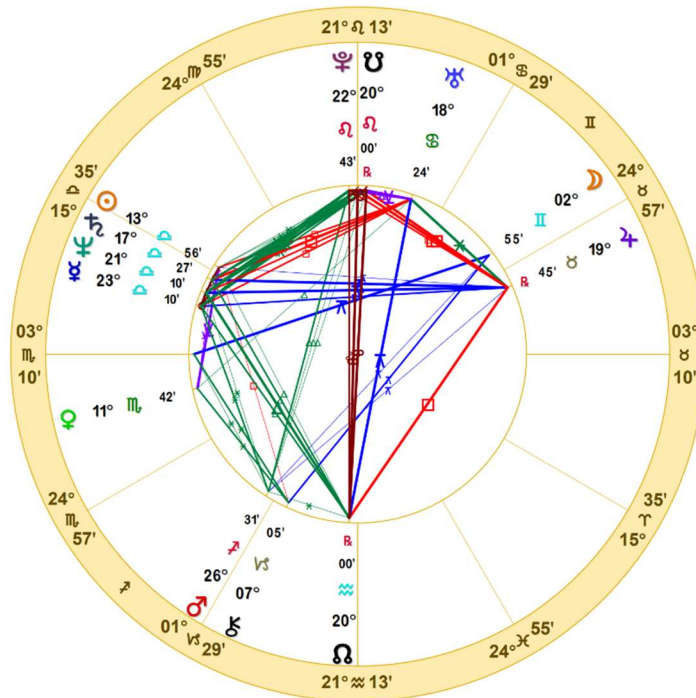
Observed: New lows in Biden's popularity. Why did things move in the opposite direction? Possibly as a result of transiting Saturn being inconjunct to Biden's Jupiter in June or as a consequence of transiting Pluto being within 2 degrees of opposition to Biden's Jupiter in July. However, I suspect that this result is also a reminder that we also have to take the external environment and its influences into account, too. For example, a billionaire in America will probably experience a different outcome from a favorable Jupiter transit than someone in Nazi Germany on their way to a concentration camp. In other words, context is important, and a single positive transit in Biden's chart is not necessarily going to override the impact of rising inflation on his popularity. However, at its core this Neptune/Jupiter trine is indicative of the progressive and visionary agenda that Biden has tried to pass in Congress. The bottom line, perhaps, is that transits impact us internally even if circumstances don't permit them to be actualized externally. Also, I should point out that outside of the United States, Biden is quite popular, and his charisma has worked to bring together the NATO alliance to stand up to Putin. Hence, different external environment, different manifestation of the trine between transiting Neptune and natal Jupiter.



Majorities in many places surveyed are confident in Biden's global leadership

% who have ___ in U.S. President Joe Biden to do the right thing regarding world affairs





NATAL CHART
Vladimir Putin
 October 7, 1952
 9:30 AM
 Standard Time
 Saint Petersburg, Russia
 59 N 55 30 E 15
 Time Zone: 3 hours East
 Geocentric
 Tropical Regiomontanus

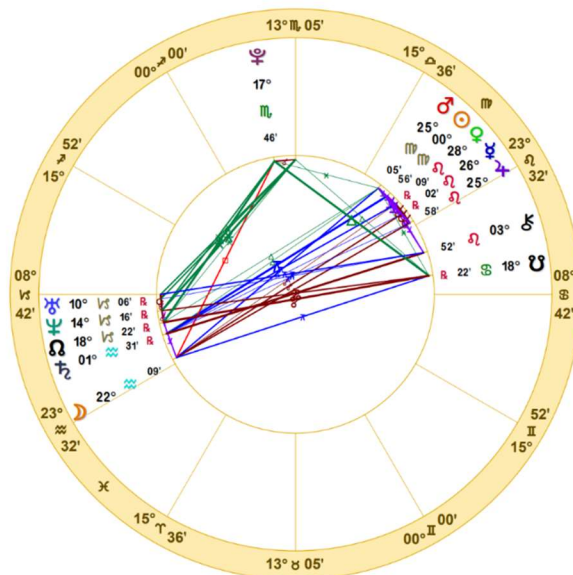
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Ukraine

Clearly, Ukraine is under duress this year. However, the natal chart for Ukraine and its transits for 2022 pretty much speak for themselves.

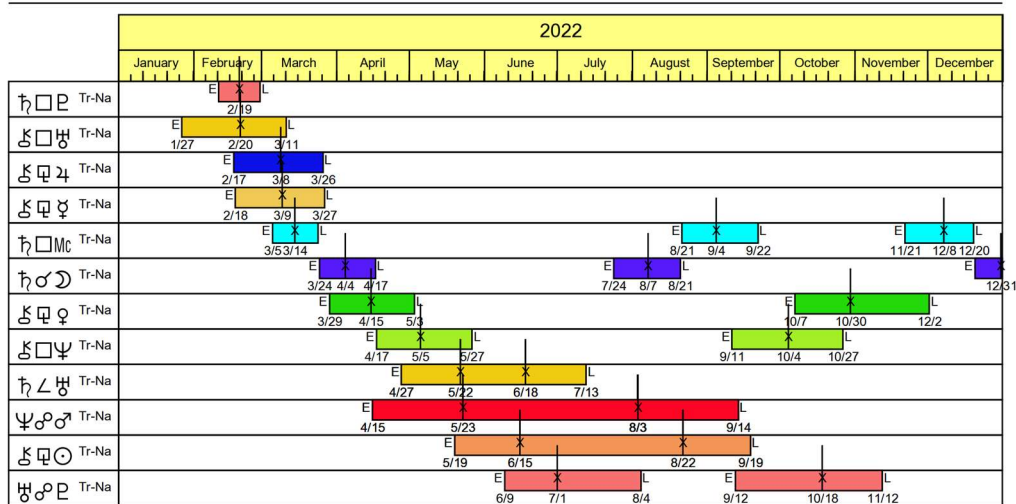
Expected: The oppositions, inconjuncts, and 8th house emphasis in Ukraine's natal chart suggest by themselves a difficult existence, and the multiple hard aspects to Ukraine in 2022 suggest a very difficult year.

Observed: All that was to be expected has manifested in perhaps the worst possible way.



NATAL CHART
Ukraine Independence
 August 24, 1991
 5:31 PM
 Daylight Saving Time
 Kiev, Kiev, Ukraine
 50 N 26 30 E 31
 Time Zone: 2 hours East
 Geocentric
 Tropical Regiomontanus

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The July 31 – August 1 Conjunction of Mars, Uranus, and North Node in Taurus

On July 31 – August 1 there was a rare conjunction of Mars, Uranus, and the true Lunar North Node at 18 degrees Taurus. Mars energizes, the North Node intensifies and leads us in new directions, and Uranus breaks up the existing pattern and causes extremes. Below is what I expected according to standard astrological theory and also what I observed.

Expected: A heightened risk of sudden violence or violent rhetoric, and reversals in essential goods, the stock market, or other parts of the financial sector and the economy. However, since Uranus is involved, there is also a potential for great creativity. The last time that Uranus was conjunct the North Node in Taurus was in 1855 which was the year of publication for both Longfellow's "Song of Hiawatha" and Walt Whitman's "Leaves of Grass." Nothing says Uranus quite like a poem titled, "I Sing the Body Electric." Nonetheless, 1855 was also a time of political and racial strife in America and attempts to manipulate the vote in Kansas Territory in order to make it pro-slavery. Thus, let's take a closer look at Kansas and why it might be the epicenter for revolutionary events.

Uranus is exactly conjunct the true North Node at 18° Taurus on July 31, 2022, and the last time this conjunction occurred was on March 16, 1855, at 13° Taurus. When Kansas officially became a U.S. territory on May 30, 1854, the planet Uranus was at 14° Taurus and only 9 minutes of arc away from its position on March 16, 1855. Additionally, when the first territorial legislature was elected on March 30, 1855, Uranus was again at 14° Taurus, and when Kansas became a state on January 29, 1856, Uranus was at 8° Gemini, the same degree position that one finds in the various Declaration of Independence charts for America. Hence, the spirit of the American revolution is embodied within the soul of Kansas, and thus, Kansas is sometimes like the canary in the coal mine.

Taurus is the second sign in the zodiac and as such its mission is to maintain the initiative of individual existence begun by the first sign, Aries. Its focus is on survival and in modern terms that usually translates into money and finances. However, Taurus is also ruled by Venus which is the Freudian pleasure principle, our drive to reduce tension. Additionally, the pursuit of pleasure results in a classification of what we like and what we don't like, and that eventually transforms into our right brain values of what we consider good and bad. Uranus, on the other hand, always breaks up the existing pattern and through that it can

lead us to extremes, and when it is in Taurus, we can wind up with an extreme polarization between competing values. Furthermore, when Uranus is conjunct the true North Node in Taurus, this polarization can be intensified. That is the situation that occurred on March 16, 1855, and the situation that repeats itself on July 31, 2022.

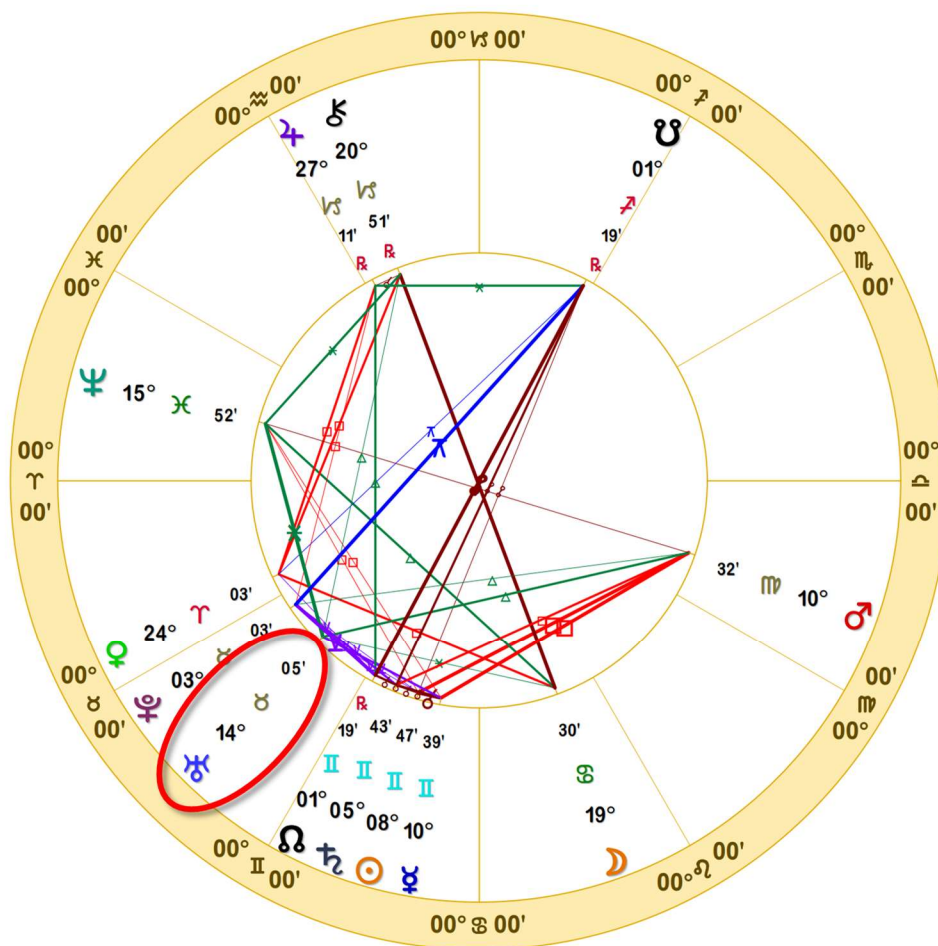
But why specifically did Kansas become the center for this polarization in 1855? Here is where the astrology makes things very clear. Kansas was the epicenter for those pre-Civil War tensions because Uranus was at 14° Taurus when it became a territory, 13° Taurus when Uranus and the North Node came into conjunction in 1855, and 14° Taurus when the first legislature for the territory was elected. Hence, 13° – 14° Taurus became a sensitive point for that geographic region, and as one might expect, Kansas became very polarized on the issue of slavery in 1855 – 1856. To make the Kansas legislature pro-slavery, large numbers of pro-slavery people from Missouri moved across the border into Kansas to vote in the 1855 election. These people became known as “border ruffians,” and their efforts were rewarded with the election of a strongly pro-slavery slate of legislators. Nonetheless, on January 19, 1861, voters in Kansas renounced slavery and entered the union as a “free state.”

In 2022, Kansas is once again in at the center of the cyclone as voters go to the polls to make a decision on abortion in their state constitution, and this vote occurs just a couple of days after the July 31 conjunction of Uranus and the North Node in Taurus. Furthermore, as before, one side is doing its best to stack the deck. First, many people have acknowledged that the language of the proposed constitutional amendment is confusing. If you are for a woman’s right to choose, then you should vote “no,” and if you are against a women’s right to choose, then you should vote “yes.” Additionally, the legislature has implemented reforms that can make it more difficult for people to get registered to vote. For example, it is now a felony in Kansas to impersonate an election official, and consequently, the League of Women Voters is no longer helping people register to vote in Kansas lest they be seen as being in violation of this law. Also, the vote is being held on the same day as the Republican and Democratic primaries instead of on the date for the general election, and as a result many people without a party affiliation may be unaware that they, too, can vote on this day.

In fall of 2022, the planet Mars will begin a very long retrograde period that will start with Mars at 8° Gemini, the same degree that Uranus is at in both the Declaration of Independence charts and the chart for the day that Kansas became a state. Hence, whatever is happening in Kansas might be a barometer for the rest of the country. Also, many of the celestial patterns that existed prior to and on the day of the American Civil War are being repeated right now. However, it now appears to be a conflict between the Blue and the Red instead of the Blue and the grey. At this point, I can’t imagine a full-fledged military conflict such as occurred in the 1860s, but there are many scenarios in addition to the inevitable court battles that I can imagine that can lead to escalating tensions. For example, with the overturn of *Roe v. Wade*, we are now in the process of dividing ourselves into Red states and Blue states. Additionally, in response to about 22 states that have passed measures that discriminate against LGBTQ people, Governor Newsome of California has banned state-funded travel to those places. However, while I share his outrage over that discrimination, I am also concerned about how much more divisive the country may become if too many states engage in this kind of tit-for-tat. The reality is that we all need one another, and we cannot hurt others without also hurting ourselves. Thus, if several states start sanctioning one another, then we will all feel the economic pain as the country loses its cohesion. And if that happens, then we might also see the rise of various vigilante militias as well as more random mass shootings. Hence, there

is a possibility that some very serious things will happen in America over the next four or more years, and so, again, I'm going to keep an eye on Kansas and violence in America as we approach this fall.

Observed: In America, the Federal Reserve sharply raised interest rates to help curb inflation, the economy contracted by 0.9%, and Congress passed a bill to increase the production of computer chips. In the Philippines, there was a 7.0 earthquake and a 6.2 quake in Chile. Meanwhile, wildfires continued throughout North America and Europe, and many people died in floods in Kentucky. Extreme weather related, perhaps, to Uranus which is known for its extremes. Meanwhile, on August 3 a bill in Congress to assist veterans was passed after first being supported and then opposed and then supported again by some Republicans, More Uranian reversals. Also, Nancy Pelosi stirred the international political pot by making a very public visit to Taiwan over the stern objections of China, the citizens of Kansas overwhelmingly reaffirmed the right of a woman to have control over her own body, and Republican candidates who supported the "Big Lie" that ex-President Trump won the 2020 election won handily in Arizona Republican primaries and some won with support from the Democratic Party that has assumed that extreme Republican candidates will be easier to beat in the general election. Furthermore, the stock market has been flip-flopping a bit (up then down), and Britney Griner was just sentenced to 9 years in Russia for having a marijuana vape cartridge in her possession. Again, the conjunction of Uranus, Mars, and the true North Node occurred at 18 degrees Taurus, and Uranus will remain at 18 degrees Taurus through October at which time it will square Saturn at 18 degrees Aquarius. Thus, I expect that those issues that came up around the time of this triple conjunction on July 31 – August 1 will remain with us and affect American politics for quite a while, i.e. the abortion issue, the sad state, in many ways, of both political parties that is resulting in a weakening of American democracy, our relationship with China, possible prisoner swaps with Russia, the often extraordinary difficulty in getting meaningful legislation passed by Congress, and at the same time, the tendency of many Americans to rise to the occasion when necessary. Interesting times lie ahead. Nonetheless, things did not turn out as bad as they could have, and I believe that some minor beneficial aspects to this conjunction such as a novile from Jupiter, a binovile from the Sun, a sextile to Venus in Cancer, a trine from the Moon, and a strong trine between Jupiter and the Sun were mitigating factors.

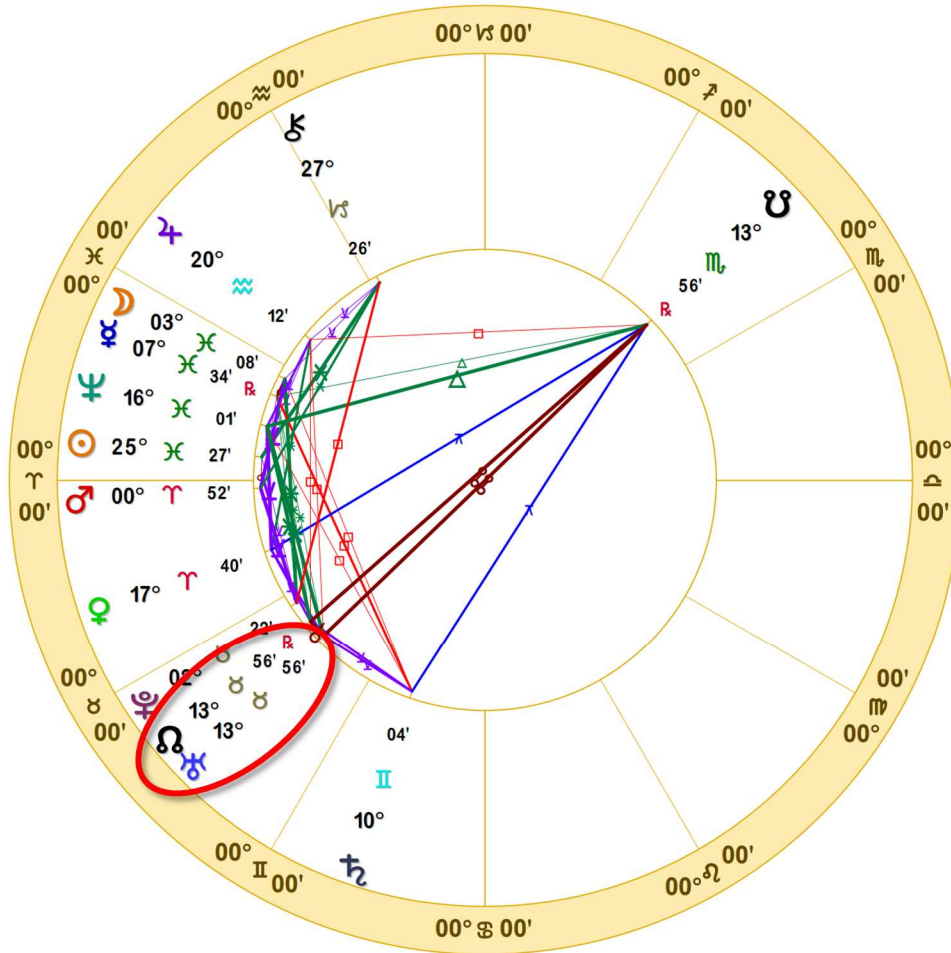


NATAL CHART

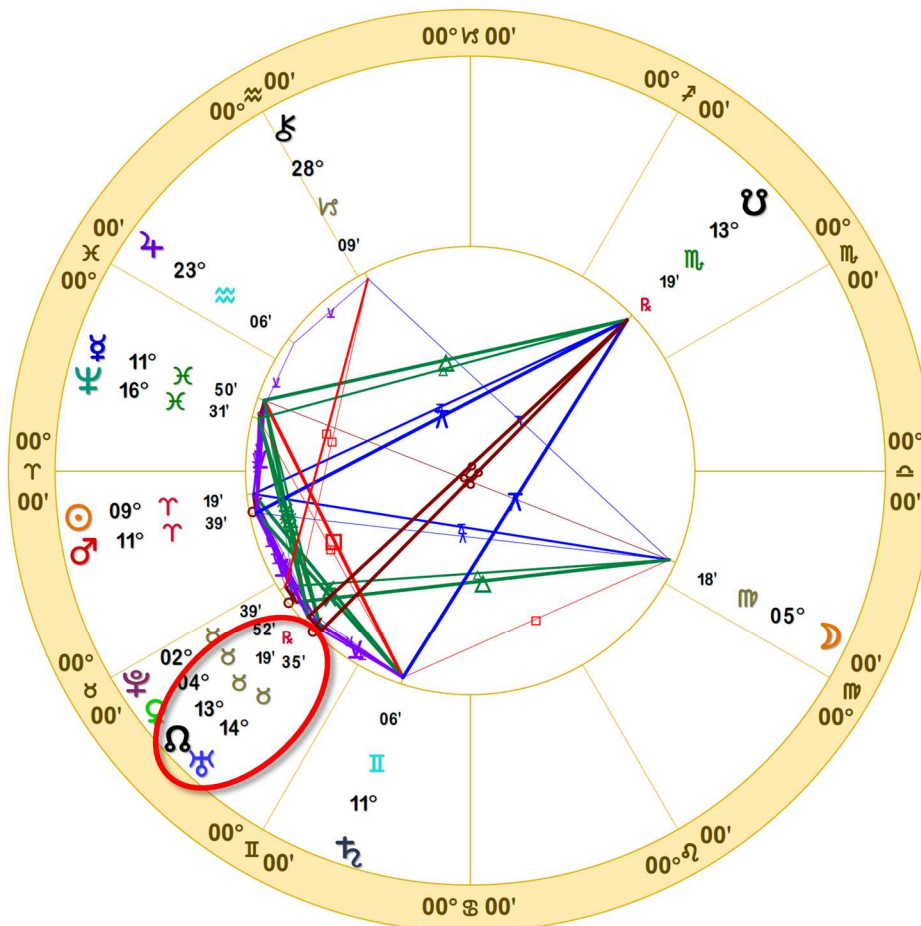
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 Scottsdale, Arizona
 33N30'33" 111W53'54"
 Time Zone: 0 hours West
 Geocentric
 Tropical 0-Aries

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Tropical 0-Aries

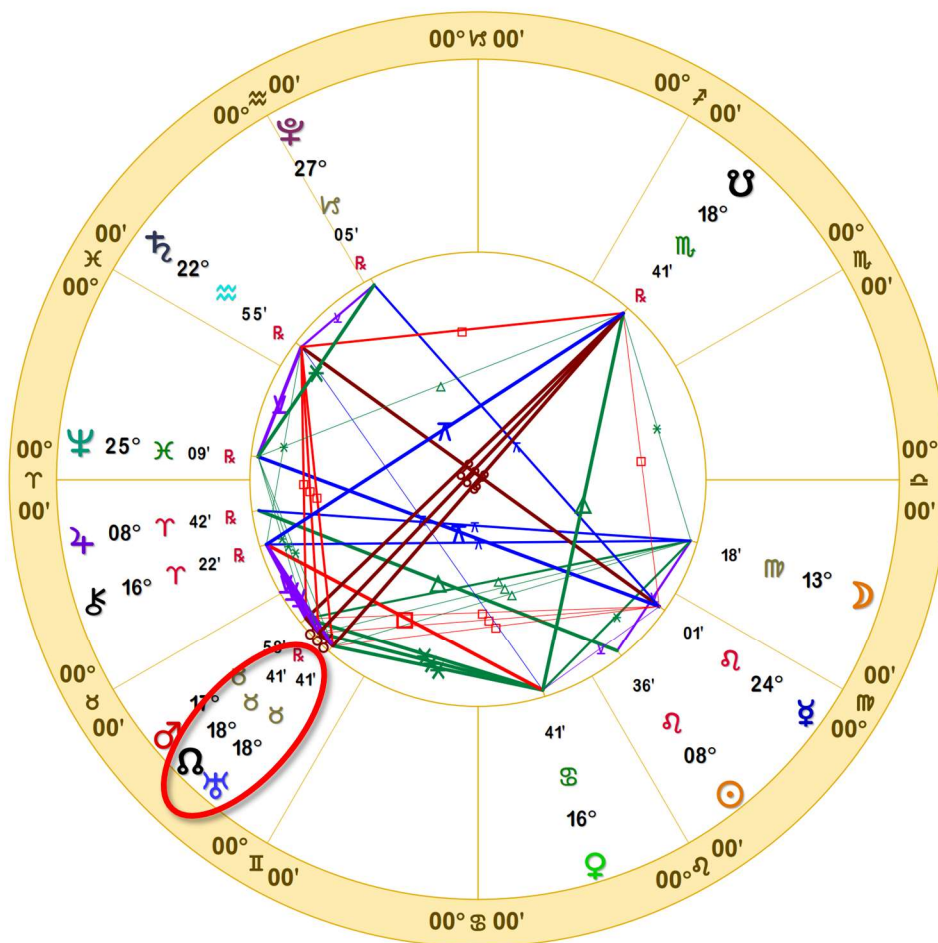


Scottsdale, AZ 85255



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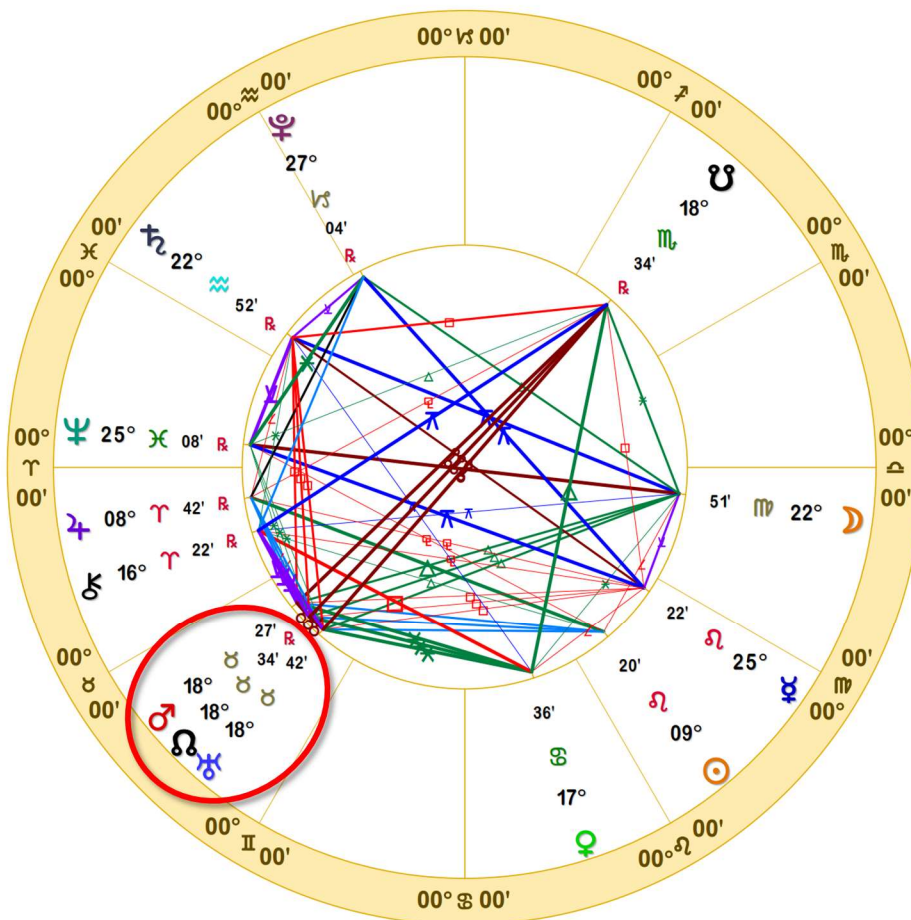
Doc Benton
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Scottsdale, AZ 85255



NATAL CHART

Transits
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 1:05:04 PM
 Standard Time
 Scottsdale, Arizona
 33N30'33" 111W53'54"
 Time Zone: 7 hours West
 Geocentric
 Tropical 0-Aries

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