

The Night Sky

By David Leake

Retired Planetarium Director of Staerkel Planetarium at Parkland College, Co-Founder of the Champaign-Urbana Astronomical Society, Inc

June 29 - July 5

A New Moon yesterday means a dark sky for some stargazing. As the sky darkens this week, you can catch a glimpse of the backwards question mark shape of Leo in the west, near the horizon. The familiar Big Dipper is above it and to the right. Look for the reddish star Antares in the southeast. This is the heart of our celestial scorpion and signals our oncoming summer constellations. Even if you're around a lot of exterior lights, you should be able to see our large "summer triangle" in the east. The three stars are Deneb, Vega, and Altair, each a part of their own constellation. It's certainly easier to find a triangle, though, eh? As the sky darkens, there's an orange star nearly due south and about 2/3 of the way from the horizon to straight up. This is Arcturus, the fourth brightest star we can see from Earth.

Weather permitting, the CU Astronomical Society will hold another open house at their observatory southwest of Willard Airport Saturday beginning at dusk. If you're unsure, call 217-351-2567 or see cuas.org.



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103 E. Main Street
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253-2394
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Or by appointment by calling the
church office: 217.253.4412
Week-day Mass Times:
8:00 am Monday, Thursday &
Friday
Weekend Masses:
5:30 pm Saturday
8:00 am Sunday

Immanuel Lutheran Church

600 E Northline Rd.
Tuscola, IL 61953
217-253-4341
Services: Saturday 5:30 pm
Sunday 9:00 am

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Catholic Church
208 N. Pine Stret, Villa Grove
Pastor -Rev. Aloy Ndeanafo
Office: 832-8352
Hours: M-F 8:30am-1:30pm
Email: villagrove.hume@gmail.com
website: sacredheartandstmichael.com
Mass Times: Saturday: 4pm
Sunday 10:00am
Sunday @ St. Michaels in Hume
8:00am
PSR:
Sunday 9:00-9:45 am

Tuscola United Methodist Church

901 N. Prairie Ave.
253-4232
Sunday Worship Services:
8:45 a.m. & 11:00 a.m.
Sunday School: 10:00 a.m.

Obituaries

Helen L. Dallas

Helen L. Dallas, 87, of Tuscola, IL, passed away early Sunday morning, June 26, 2022 at her home surrounded by her loving family members.

Funeral Services will be held at 11:00 a.m., Wednesday, June 29, 2022 at the Hilligoss Shrader Funeral Home, 705 South Main Street, Tuscola, IL. Burial will follow in the Cartwright Cemetery, rural Tuscola, IL. Visitation will be held from 4 to 7 p.m., Tuesday, June 28, 2022 at the funeral home.

Helen was born on April 27, 1935 in rural Tuscola, IL, the daughter of Arlia J. and Genievie Rose Hackett Eastin. She married the love of her life, James H. "Jim" Dallas on February 2, 1951 in Tuscola. He preceded her in death on May 25, 2019.

Survivors include her children: Debbie (Steve) Harris, Rick Dallas and special friend: Vicki, Jack (Jane) Dallas and Pam (Mark) Maxey, 12 grandchildren: Josh Harris, Kim Harris Hacker, Cody Dallas, Chelsea Dallas Cravens, Misty Mumma Nelson, Robin Mumma Duitsman, Kristin Mumma Zajicek, Travis Dallas, Austin Dallas, Kylee Dallas, Matt Dean and Wil Maxey, 18 great-grandchildren and her brother: Elrah (Myrtie) Eastin.

She was preceded in death by her parents, husband, daughter and son-in-law: Brenda and John Mumma, sister: Rose Marie Eastin and daughter-in-law: Linda Dallas.

Helen was a homemaker and she helped her husband farm for 42 years before their retirement. She loved bowling. Helen bowled for over 60 years and was inducted into the Champaign Area USBC Hall of Fame 2007-2008.

She was a member of the ITPA Tractor Pulling Association, Douglas County Farm Bureau and Tuscola Moose Lodge. Helen attended the Worship and Word Ministry in Tuscola.

Helen was known as "Nena" to her grandchildren and great-grandchildren. She was the greatest Mom, Grandma, Great-Grandma and Mother-In-Law anyone could hope for.

She was very much loved by her family and friends and will be greatly missed by all who knew her.

Memorials are suggested to the Tuscola Pow-Wow's or St. Jude Children's Hospital.

Online condolences may be shared via hilligossshraderfh.com



IFB Farm Bureau District 12 Director Douglas County Agriculture update

By Larry Dallas

Douglas County is hot and dry as I type this on June 17. The U.S. drought monitor shows Eastern Illinois as being abnormally dry. It was tough to watch the rain run south of us on Friday, although we did not need the flood they had in Effingham. The corn rolls up tightly in the heat of the day, protecting itself by reducing leaf surface. The soybeans are doubtless under stress as well but that is less obvious.

A drainage contractor told us that there was still moisture in the ground where he was installing tile and the corn roots were 18 inches deep. The plants can't pull water out of the ground fast enough when the temperature is 100 degrees. Compacted corners and ends roll up first because the roots are usually shallow in those areas. I have seen complete fields rolled up this year.

One agriculture supplier used to say you don't want your corn to have a bad day. 100-degree temperatures and no substantial rain might qualify as a bad day. It is said that a dry June is good for yields because the plants must root deeply looking for water. We should get a test for that this year.

There is evidence that stressing soybeans may improve those yields. A Missouri farmer known for very high yields purposely burned his yield trials with herbicide to make them branch out. He had irrigation to help the plants through that stress. A friend of mine heard this farmer speak several years ago. He said there was an audible gasp from the crowd when the Missouri farmer told the rate of this herbicide he used.

The heat and moisture stress can make it harder to control weeds. The plants will grow more slowly and take up less herbicide because of that slow growth. Some protect themselves with a waxy layer the herbicide has trouble penetrating. Sprayers have still been running around here and the herbicides appear to be working. The extended dry weather made it easier to complete our nitrogen applications. About half of our corn needed the greater part of its nitrogen after planting. We ran out of time to put it on beforehand and still plant in a timely manner. Some years that operation is difficult to complete because of rain. We did it in three straight days this spring.

With planting complete, we have gone on to mowing and cleaning up equipment. Effective herbicides have relieved us of the row cultiva-

tion we spent many hours at in the past. The only method of weed control was physical removal with tillage until modern herbicides came into use. Most farmers do not miss that trip over the field. I did not mind cultivating corn and soybeans if I had a good radio to listen to and I felt like I was doing a good job.

We found several broken drainage tiles when we were in the field this spring and have fixed some of those. Many of the original clay tiles in our fields are 100 years old. Freezing and thawing, heavy rain, and heavy equipment take their toll on the tile. Sometimes a tile break shows up as a six-inch wide hole in the ground. Other times the hole is large enough to put a car in. Some of the shallow small tiles we fix by hand. The large holes require a backhoe and a lot of effort.

Fixing broken tile in dry weather is easier because the water flow is minimal. Trying to fix a big tile hole full of cold water is not fun. Many times, a hole will need to be repaired before a spot in a field will dry up enough to run tillage equipment. It is not uncommon to shut down the field cultivator and go fix a tile to get a wet place dried out.

Grain prices continue to stay near record highs. A few things are coming into better focus as far as what the harvest might look like this fall. Ukraine is supposed to have planted about 70 percent of its crop area. What they will do with that harvest remains a big question since they still have most of the 2021 crop on hand.

The upper Midwest stayed wet, and they were very late completing planting this spring. Western Europe is dry and France's wheat ratings have declined 5 weeks in a row. The hard red winter wheat areas of the U.S. have been dry for three years. Kansas is the number one wheat-producing state. The state is projected to produce 80 percent of the crop it raised a year ago.

There is genuine concern around the world about food shortages if the U.S. crops don't turn out well. We are fortunate to produce most of our food and still be able to export our surplus. Many countries do not have that luxury, unable to feed themselves. The Middle East and much of the African continent depend on imported food.

The Securities and Exchange Commission of the federal government has proposed forcing companies that sell stock to report on cli-

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Peace Meal Menu July 4-8

Monday, July 4 - Closed for Independence Day Holiday

Tuesday, July 5 - Mushroom crusted chicken breast, mashed potatoes, peas and pearl onions, mandarin oranges, whole grain bread

Wednesday, July 6 - Goulash, hot greens, corn, peaches

Thursday, July 7 - Chicken, broccoli rice bake, tomatoes and zucchini, green beans, banana pudding

Friday, July 8 - Southern breaded fish with tartar sauce, brussels sprouts, chunky applesauce, black-eyed pea salad, bun

Call 800-543-1770 for reservation information. Skim milk and desserts with no sugar added are available in many locations. Ask the site supervisor for information. Sometimes we need to substitute on our menus. We still guarantee a nutritious meal. The Peace Meal Senior Nutrition Program suggests a donation of \$3.50 for each congregate and home delivered meal. No older person shall be denied a meal because of their failure to contribute all or part of the cost of the meal. We accept the Illinois Link Card.

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hidden under their pillow, or saw who started the pillow fight.

And don't even get me started about voting. As if there are any politicians left that aren't liars, but what if Bowser could sniff out the best candidate just by looking at him? Or even give us a clue who to avoid voting in. Wouldn't that be something? We just might have a chance to turn this country around! Gee, dogs really are man's best friend.

I read once that dogs do speak, but only to those who know how to listen. If you have never looked into the eyes of a dog and seen a loving soul, I am

sad for you. A dog offers everything to please you; a true teacher of humility and humbleness, faithfulness, devotion, love.

Somewhere the grass is always green, and good dogs romp and play, and listen for that familiar whistle or voice in the distance. Yes, I do believe in Doggy Heaven, for there is nothing I have found on this earth that is as close to perfect as the love between a dog and its human. That kind of love can only come from

God, and what God makes, He keeps. God bless all the dogs, here and in the great beyond. And comfort the hearts of those who have lost their tail-wagging best friends. Until we meet again.

If you would like your church featured in our directory, please call Jamie at (217) 369-1398.