



# The Night Sky

By David Leake

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

April 20-26  
The Lyrids are the first notable shower of the year. They result from the Earth crossing the path of Comet Thatcher, a comet taking over 400 years to orbit the Sun. Even on a clear, dark night, you may only see a dozen meteors per hour.  
Next week is International Dark Sky week and a chance to celebrate a vanishing natural resource – our prairie skies.

You can help! Go outside some evening and evaluate your own exterior lighting. Are you shining light upwards? That's wasted energy! If you add a reflector, you'll achieve the same illumination on the ground with a lower wattage bulb and save money! Are you creating shadows where potential criminals might hide? The key is you should be able to see what you

are trying to light and not the light source itself. Look up and see how many stars you can see in your sky, then join the CU Astro Society on April 29 (if clear) at the Middle Fork River Forest Preserve and compare. We'll have a couple of telescopes handy to show you the sights. Call 217-351-2567 if the weather is iffy.

# THE SIDNEY SCOOP



by Ann Rhoton, 688-2812

The Sidney Improvement Group decided to reschedule the Saturday, April 16 rain date for their Witt Park Easter Egg Hunt to Sunday, April 24 beginning at 1:00 p.m.

The Sidney American Legion Post 433 regular monthly meeting should have taken place on Monday, April 18. Look for a report from your correspondent in next week's edition of the Southern Champaign County Today Paper.

The Village of Sidney Board of Trustees will hold a special meeting to discuss appropriations for the next fiscal year on Thursday, April 21 at 6:30 p.m. in the Sidney Community

Building located at 211 East Main Street in Sidney.

This year's Village of Sidney Dumpster Day will take place on Saturday, April 30 from 7:00 – 11:00 a.m. at Witt Park according to the Village of Sidney Facebook page. Additionally, "Some of the prohibited items are: tires, yard waste, paints, oils, chemicals, batteries, or electronics of any kind (televisions, computers, monitors, microwaves, etc.) You must be a Sidney resident to participate." Village of Sidney Clerk Maggie Fish will be on hand to verify the residency of folks wishing to participate and will ask for IDs of those she doesn't know.

The Village of Sidney Board of Trustees additionally decided at their April 4 meeting that folks with special needs

needing help with getting items to dumpster day could call Village of Sidney Clerk Maggie Fish at (217) 688-2225 to have their name put on a list for the Village of Sidney to pick up items for them to take to dumpster day.

The following has been posted at the Village of Sidney Facebook page since the meeting: "The Village of Sidney would like to offer anyone with a disability help to dispose of their items for Dumpster Day. If you need assistance with picking items up, please call Maggie Fish at 217-688-2225 to arrange. Thank you."

The next regular monthly meeting of the Village of Sidney Board of Trustees will take place on Monday, May 2 at 7:00 p.m. in

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## Tolono Library Weekly Update: The End of Virtual After School Bingo

Tolono Public Library News for April 21-28, 2022

Virtual after school Bingo has been canceled. We apologize for the short notice and encourage anyone who has prizes from previous after-school Bingo sessions to stop by the Library and pick up your prizes.

Pleasant weather brings more time outdoors. You can listen to books and music using the Hoopla app, or you can also find audiobooks on the

Libby App. Need help installing one of our new apps? Call or stop by the Library with your device, and we will be glad to help you!

Time to dust off the grill! We have a selection of cookbooks that can give you new grilling ideas. In addition, we just added a Blackstone Griddle cookbook to our collection.

Program Events this Week  
Family Backyard Bingo; Friday, April 22, 6-6:30 pm. Bring a blanket, and join us for some

Bingo fun in the Library's backyard. Dianne and Janet will be making fresh popcorn for this event.

Outdoor Preschool Storytime: Mondays 10-10:30 am. Themed stories and activities. Outside event. Bring something to sit on. Dress for the weather. Please register online or by calling the Library

ILP: An Evening with Nick Offerman (via ZOOM) Wednesday, April 27; 7-8 pm Actor, author, and humorist.

Register online or by calling the Library.

Check our mobile app, Facebook page, or website for our calendar of events and see the new books available at the Library.

Pick up the latest edition of BookPage, the monthly publication with book reviews, Q&As, feature articles, interviews, etc. Free copies are located on the round table in our lobby.

## Philo Library Numerous New Large Print Books Now Available to Check Out

Five ...yes 5....new LARGE print books have arrived at Philo Library. I'll start off telling you about these and see if there's any space left at the end of the column for other information, if not there's always next week! James Patterson's newest is "Death of the Black Widow". The most dangerous killer James Patterson has ever created is also his most seductive. A rookie police officer is called to a murder scene where a terrified young woman has bludgeoned her kidnapper with skill that shocks even a veteran police officer. Years later, the rookie, who is now a detective, is still searching for the young lady who mysteriously disappeared from

police custody all those years ago. One thing the detective is certain about is the deadly string of secrets didn't begin in his home city but he's going to make sure it ends there. It's a good day for mysteries, there are two others just received. David Baldacci's "Dream Town" featuring Aloysius Archer heading to Los Angeles where dreams are made and shattered and John Sandford's "The Investigator" a Letty Davenport novel. Letty Davenport has been stuck at a desk job for a Senator and she's just been offered a task she can't refuse - investigative work with the Department of Homeland Security. Crude oil has been stolen from several oil companies in Texas

and Letty must uncover not only who is selling the oil but what they are doing with the profits. "Fear Thy Neighbor" by Fern Michaels is the story of Alison Marshall looking for a place to call home. She thinks she may have found it on Palmetto Island. At first, her new home is everything she hoped it would be but as days turn into weeks, she uncovers a dark side of this peaceful haven. The locals have a secret and once Alison discovers what it is, she has to make a choice - stay and join them or escape. But leaving has its own risks and Alison is beginning to wonder if coming to Palmetto Island is the last mistake she'll ever make. (I think I'll take this home for

the weekend, it has tickled my curiosity. Lastly, "Lessons in Chemistry" is not a textbook by any means. A chemist, not your average woman, working in a man's world in the early 1960's, meets a Nobel Prize co-worker and true chemistry results. Like science, life is unpredictable so in a few years, Elizabeth finds herself not only a single mother, but the reluctant star of America's most watched cooking show. Elizabeth is not only teaching women to cook, but daring them to change the status quo. The story is funny with a great cast of characters. Well this went way longer than planned, hope you'll check next week to see what I didn't get in today.

## Homer Community Library: Fine Forgiveness

Fine Forgiveness at the Homer Community Library

As usual, we will be holding our annual Fine Forgiveness during the month of April. Do you have REALLY overdue materials that you've been afraid to return to the Library? NOW IS THE TIME! During the entire month of April we will forgive late fines for all

materials that are returned in good, useable condition. We can not forgive fines for lost or damaged materials (however, we are always happy to work with you on a payment plan or finding the least expensive way for you to replace those items). And if you don't want to have to face the librarians (although we really aren't very

scary) you can return your items in our outside book/dvd return boxes

If you are coming to the library to find a book, we still have a lot of those! We purchase new books and DVDs every month, and remember, as a member of the Illinois Heartland Library System, if we don't have what you are

looking for, chances are we can borrow it from another library for you.

If you have questions, contact us at 217/896-2121, homerlibrarian@gmail.com, www.homercommunitylibrary.com, or check out our Facebook page.

## Public Health Officials Announce 14,049 New Cases of Coronavirus Disease Over the Past Week

The Illinois Department of Public Health (IDPH) today reported 14,049 new confirmed and probable cases of coronavirus disease (COVID-19) in Illinois, including 45 deaths since April 8, 2022.

Currently, IDPH is reporting a total of 3,094,485 cases, including 33,510 deaths, in 102 counties in Illinois since the beginning of the pandemic. The age of cases ranges from younger than one to older than 100 years.

As of last night, 464 individuals in Illinois were reported to be in the hospital with COVID-19. Of those, 70 patients were in the ICU and 32 patients with COVID-19 were on ventilators. The preliminary seven-day statewide case rate is 110 COVID-19 cases per 100,000 Illinoisans.

A total of 21,648,058 vaccines have been administered in Illinois. The seven-day rolling average of vaccines administered daily is 19,799

doses. Since April 8, 2022, 138,595 doses were reported administered in Illinois. Of Illinois' total population, more than 76% has received at least one COVID-19 vaccine dose, more than 68% of Illinois' total population is fully vaccinated, and more than 50% is boosted according to data from the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention. Data indicates that the risk of hospitalization and severe outcomes from COVID-19 is much higher for unvaccinated people than for those who are up to date on their vaccinations.

On April 12, IDPH announced it is using new federal guidelines for tracking

COVID-19 at the community level. The new CDC guidelines emphasize the case rate and hospitalizations in order to better track the impact of COVID-19 in communities. In addition, as a result of HHS announcing that testing providers are no longer required to report some negative test results, IDPH will no longer know how many tests are being done and will therefore no longer report test and case positivity.

All data are provisional and are subject to change. Additional information and COVID-19 data can be found at <https://dph.illinois.gov/covid19.html>.

He Is Risen!

"The dripping blood our only drink,

The bloody flesh our only food:

In spite of which we like to think

That we are sound, substantial flesh and blood--

Again, in spite of that, we call this Friday good."

— T.S. Eliot

"The cross of Christ justifies God; He remains holy because He has punished sin in the death, the shed blood, of His Son."

— D. Martyn Lloyd-Jones

"His crucifixion is the key; His resurrection is the door... it is only by his death that we have the mandate to enter into the gates of eternal life. His doors are open always. Christ is king!"

— Israelmore Ayivor

The Giving Place is a Christian ministry serving families in need in the Unit 7 School District. If you know of any families in Unit Seven that are in need, please encourage them to visit TGP on Wednesday from 4:00 – 6:00. Thanks to all that donate to this ministry. We wouldn't be able to do what we do without your

continued support.

The Giving Place in Tolono has started having the Free Clothing Giveaways for anyone living in the Unit Seven School District once again. The next Giveaway will be Saturday May 7th from 9AM - 12NOON. Guidelines will be posted as you enter the WEST ENTRANCE.

The Giving Place today served 5 families (1 new) / 14 people / 5 children in the Food Pantry. Thanks to Karen, Roberta, Donna, Jo Ellen, Marcia, Tom, Dale & Mike for the efforts today.

Mike Williams

To God: "Father, forgive them, for they know not what they do."

To the "good thief": "Truly, I say to you, today you will be with me in paradise."

To Mary, his mother: "Woman, behold your son" ... and to John: "Behold your mother."

To God, his Father: "My God, my God, why have you forsaken me?"

To all: "I thirst."

To the world: "It is finished."

To God: "Father, into your hands I commend my spirit."

# Jonah Fish Fry

APRIL 23, 2022  
4PM-7PM  
\$10.00

3 PIECES OF JONAH FISH AND 2 SIDES  
NEWMAN CITY PARK

DRIVE-THRU - DINE IN - CARRY OUT

The Catholic Charities Community Advisory Board of Champaign & Piatt Counties invites you to attend the

## 19th Annual Steak Dinner

May 1st at Philo Tavern in Philo

Cash bar opens at 4pm Dinner served at 5pm

This annual fundraiser benefits several important charitable programs in Champaign & Piatt Counties

Tickets are \$35/person

To purchase tickets, please contact Mike Crosby at: 217/398-5978 or [mlcrosby1@comcast.net](mailto:mlcrosby1@comcast.net)

We look forward to seeing you at the dinner!

Why preplanning a funeral is so important

## Pathway

from Pekin Life Insurance Company

When the reality of the loss of a loved one invades our lives, we need time to adjust. If funeral arrangements are being considered for the first time under the pressures of bereavement, many wishes of the deceased and survivors may be overlooked.

Let us explain the details of Pathway, a Pre-arranged funeral plan from Pekin Life Insurance Company. You'll understand why preplanning a funeral is so important.

**Freese Funeral Home**  
Sidney, 688-2014 • St. Joseph, 469-2331  
Tolono, 486-7555