



The Night Sky

By David Leake

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

May 18-24
The action this week and next is back in the morning sky as the waning Moon glides by all of our morning planets as it moves eastward each day in its orbit. Look at about 4:30am, low in the eastern sky. Tuesday morning, a crescent Moon is to the lower

right of Jupiter and Mars. The next morning (May 25) it is to the lower left of these two planets. Friday morning (May 27) a very thin Moon is to the lower left of brilliant Venus. Sunday morning (May 29) the Moon is out of the picture, but Jupiter and Mars appear to be at their closest at a half degree

separation. Jupiter is 15 times brighter than Mars and 3.5 times farther away from us. Mark em down on a calendar and set an alarm. Maybe you can take the family dog for an early walk. If you don't own a dog, well, pretend like you do. Make the neighbors wonder what's going on.

Public Health Officials Announce 30,633 New Cases of Coronavirus Disease

CDC is Reporting 23 Illinois Counties are Now Rated at Medium Level; Public Health Officials Stress Importance of Being Updated on Vaccinations and Boosters; Vulnerable People Should Exercise Caution in Indoor Spaces
SPRINGFIELD – The Illinois Department of Public Health (IDPH) today reported 40,026 new confirmed and probable cases of coronavirus disease (COVID-19) in Illinois, including 45 deaths since May 6, 2022.

According to the CDC, 23 counties in Illinois are now rated at the Medium Community Level, including 14 counties in the northern part of the state, eight in the central part and one in Southern Illinois. At the Medium Community Level, people at risk of severe health outcomes are advised to take additional precautions to protect themselves from the virus, including masking up in indoor spaces.

Currently, IDPH is reporting a total of 3,209,341 cases, including 33,705 deaths, in 102 counties in Illinois since the beginning of the pandemic.

As of last night, 909 individuals in Illinois were reported to be in the hospital with COVID-19. Of those, 87 patients were in the ICU and 25 patients with COVID-19 were on ventilators. The preliminary seven-day statewide case rate is 314 COVID-19 cases per 100,000 Illinoisans.

The CDC reported that 23

Illinois counties are now listed at the Medium Community Level: Cook, DeKalb, DuPage, Grundy, Kane, Kendall, Lake, LaSalle, Lee, McHenry, Ogle, Whiteside, Will and Winnebago in northeastern Illinois; and Sangamon, Champaign, DeWitt, Ford, Logan, Mason, McLean and Peoria in the center of the state; and Johnson in Southern Illinois. At the Medium Community Level, persons who are elderly or immunocompromised (at risk of severe outcomes) are advised to wear a mask in indoor public places. In addition, they should make sure to get up to date on their COVID-19 vaccines or get their 2nd booster, if eligible.

"While case counts are rising, we would urge the public not to be alarmed, but to be aware of this trend and to take action by making sure they are up-to-date with vaccinations and booster shots," said IDPH Acting Director Amaal Tokars. "In addition, in areas that are rated at a Medium Community Level, people who are elderly or immunocompromised are strongly advised to mask up in indoor places. And if you test positive, you should consult with a healthcare provider about obtaining a prescription for one of the therapeutic treatments that are widely available. The treatments are much more effective at preventing hospitalizations and deaths when they are taken early in the course of the illness."

IDPH has been supporting pharmacies and healthcare providers in efforts to increase their inventories of the various FDA-authorized treatments. There are over 1,200 treatment locations in Illinois - including all the major retail pharmacies. More than 96.7% of the state's population is within a 10-mile radius of one of these locations.

A total of 22,099,637 vaccines have been administered in Illinois. The seven-day rolling average of vaccines administered daily is 11,586 doses. Since May 6, 2022, 81,101 doses were reported administered in Illinois. Of Illinois' total population, more than 76% has received at least one COVID-19 vaccine dose, more than 69% of Illinois' total population is fully vaccinated, and more than 51% of the vaccinated population 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.

State health officials are stressing the following precautions for those who are at high risk for serious illness:

Get vaccinated and stay up-to-date on recommended booster shots to protect yourself, your loved ones and friends.

If you are in an area with

Local Families Have Local Alternative Education Options cont'd from pg .1

into the classroom. We just encourage them, and we've seen phenomenal results from our efforts, and I think that just keeps us going.

What are the age ranges of your students?

We do pre-school through 12th grade.

Do you develop independent curricula for each age group?

We develop curricula for our preschoolers, for sure. We adapt and use the ABEKA curriculum, and we are what is know as a master video school, so our kids can watch videos online, put out by the Pensacola Christian College and then we also get their materials and we'll let them watch a video in a class and then we'll teach another class. Our electives are pretty much designed by myself or by my daughter, who works in elementary. We have culinary classes and choral classes. We have singing and art classes, different things like that. I create the content

for our Psychology class, so it's a bit of both, actually. That's how we roll around here! <laughs> Because we're a video school, on a day that's a snow day or back when we were being quarantined, they were able to just log in and never miss a beat.

How many students do you have?

We have 18 students this year.

Is that a target number, or do you envision it growing larger?

No, no. We started off with 10 kids and now we're at 18 and I've already got people telling me that they're coming next year so we see that potential growth. The church that we're in now has been added on to a couple of times. We just purchased some land next to us, thinking we might build a school, but instead, we're going to take over the church where we're at, and our church is going to build a new church. We're really ex-

cited that we feel that growth and that we're solid enough, now. We've got 4 years into this and we're not going anywhere. It's working and being successful and we're offering something to our community where they don't feel like they have to drive 40 minutes to find a private school.

What do you think the limit is? Can you envision a time when you're accommodating 250 students?

We're going to grow with it! <laughs> We know what our limit is in the building that we have, but we're not going to limit God and we're not going to limit what we're able to do if this thing grows. I know a lot of people don't know we're here. We don't do a lot of advertising. We don't have a big budget, but I talk to people all the time and they say, "You have a school in Sidell?" It's amazing. We have the biggest church in town and now we have a private school in town! We all grew up around

THE SIDNEY SCOOP

by Ann Rhoton, 688-2812



The Sidney American Legion Post 433 regular monthly meeting should have taken place on Monday, May 16. Look for a report from your correspondent in next week's edition of the Southern Champaign County Today Paper.

Sidney American Legion Post 433 poppy distribution days are set for May 20 and May 21. Locations include Casey's General Store locations in Philo and Sidney, the Dollar General in Philo, the Urbana Walmart (north and

south doors), Champaign Lowes (north and south doors), and Winston's Old Bank in Sidney on Wednesday, May 25.

The next "The Mid Central Woman's Christian Temperance Union" meeting will take place on Saturday, May 21 at 10:00 a.m. at Rich's Restaurant in Ogden. Senator Chapin Rose is the guest speaker for the meeting. Meeting attendees are asked to bring food/ money donations to the meeting to be donated to the Sidell Food Pantry. Call Vice President Marjorie Miller at (217) 202-4397 to join the group or to find out more information.

The Sidney American Legion Post 433 will be at the WDWS / WHMS / WKIO Multimedia Group Champaign County American Legion Posts Poppy Distribution Day Drive Through that takes place on Thursday, May 26 from 6:00 a.m. - 6:00 p.m. at 2101 Fox Drive, Champaign from 6:00 - 7:30 a.m.

The Sidney American Legion Post 433 Memorial Day Service will take place on Monday, May 30 at 10:00 a.m.

at the Mt. Hope Cemetery in Sidney. Minister Doug Krukewitt of the Sidney Christian Church is the guest speaker and a 21-gun salute will be fired by the Sidney American Legion Post 433 Honor/ Color Guard followed by the playing of Taps.

The next regular monthly meeting of the Village of Sidney Board of Trustees will take place on Monday, June 6 at 7:00 p.m. in the Sidney Community Building located at 211 East Main Street in Sidney. All monthly meetings, unless otherwise posted, are held in the Sidney Community Building meeting room.

Have a great week!

If you or your organization have news items you want published drop a line to Ann Rhoton at P. O. Box 491, Sidney, IL 61877 or call (217) 688-2812; don't hesitate to leave a message if there's no answer.

News items must be turned in by 10:00 a.m. each Friday to be published in the following week's paper. Items submitted after the deadline will be published in the following week's column.

PEACE MEAL MENU

Sidney, Homer, Philo, Tolono, Sadorus, and Pesotum Peace Meal menu for Thursday, May 19 through Wednesday, May 25.

Thursday, 5/19/22 – Meatloaf, mashed potatoes with gravy, whole grain wheat bread served with butter or margarine, Scandinavian veggie blend, fresh fruit, and a half pint of milk.

Friday, 5/20/22 – White chicken chili, whole grain crackers, broccoli salad, celery sticks, fruit cocktail, and a half pint of milk.

Monday, 5/23/22 – Lasagna, Italian green beans, cauliflower, pineapple, whole grain wheat bread served with butter or margarine, and a half pint of milk.

Tuesday, 5/24/22 – Chicken pot pie, biscuit served with butter or margarine, broccoli, melon salad, and a half pint of milk.

Wednesday, 5/25/22 – Sub sandwich served on a bun, cucumber salad, overnight fruit salad, and a half pint of milk.

OSF Peace Meal provides seniors, age 60 and older

who qualify, with a nutritious lunch Monday through Friday. There is a suggested donation of \$3.50 for each meal, however, no senior will be denied a meal because of an inability to financially contribute. The Illinois Link Card is an accepted form of payment. For more information, please go to <https://www.osfhealthcare.org/osf-peace-meal/> or call 1-833-923-3905.

The Homer Peace Meal congregare site is at the Homer Village Hall located at 500 East Second Street. It is currently carry-out only. For reservations, please call 1-833-923-3905 by 12:00 p.m. the day before you want a meal. Home delivery in southern Champaign County is currently available in Sidney, Homer, Philo, Tolono, Sadorus, and Pesotum.

Menu substitutions may occur due to global supply chain shortages, but a nutritious meal is still guaranteed.

The OSF Peace Meal menu is submitted for the OSF Peace Meal Senior Nutrition Program by Ann Rhoton.

Poets Corner

If—
BY Rudyard Kipling
If you can keep your head
When all about you
Are losing theirs and
blaming it on you,
If you can trust yourself
When all men doubt you,
But make allowance for
their doubting too;
If you can wait and not be
tired by waiting,
Or being lied about, don't
deal in lies,
Or being hated, don't give
way to hating,
And yet don't look too
good, nor talk too wise:
If you can dream—and not
make dreams your master;
If you can think—and not
make thoughts your aim;
If you can meet with
Triumph and Disaster
And treat those two
impostors just the same;
If you can bear to hear the
truth you've spoken
Twisted by knaves to make
a trap for fools,
Or watch the things you
gave your life to, broken,
And stoop and build 'em

up with worn-out tools:
If you can make one heap
of all your winnings
And risk it on one turn of
pitch-and-toss,
And lose, and start again
at your beginnings
And never breathe a word
about your loss;
If you can force your heart
and nerve and sinew
To serve your turn long
after they are gone,
And so hold on when there
is nothing in you
Except the Will which says
to them: 'Hold on!'
If you can talk with crowds
and keep your virtue,
Or walk with Kings—nor
lose the common touch,
If neither foes nor loving
friends can hurt you,
If all men count with you,
but none too much;
If you can fill the
unforgiving minute
With sixty seconds' worth
of distance run,
Yours is the Earth and
everything that's in it,
And—which is more—
you'll be a Man, my son!

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 Prearranged 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



Philo Library Update

How about the blood moon eclipse the other night! Was anyone here lucky enough to see it, from my back porch there were clouds and rain but no moon to be seen. I did go on line and look at what people around the world saw, and it was pretty amazing. I also saw pictures from a space telescope showing the black hole in the Milky Way galaxy and other pictures. Does this tweak your interest in outer space or space travel? If it does, we have books! Books about planets, books about outer space and space travel and science fiction books, some of which don't sound so far fetched these days. I'm not a big science fiction fan but another person who

works behind the desk is and he has helped up-date our SciFi collection. If you haven't looked in this area recently, I'd recommend you give it a try. We have a new beach read by Jennifer Weiner, "The Summer Place" which takes place on Cape Cod at the family's summer home. It is, as the cover promises a "heartfelt and unputdownable novel of family secrets and the ties that bind". If you like the other Jennifer Weiner books, you won't be disappointed by this one. We're in the process of ordering new novels for those who plan to read this summer and enter our drawings, keep reading this column to see what new ones arrive in the coming weeks.

Poets Corner:

If you would like to see your poems/short stories published in the SCC Today "Poets Corner" please e-mail your work to:

jamiethetuscotajournal.com