



# 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 25-31  
Last Monday's New Moon means we'll see a lovely crescent Moon in the evening sky later in the week. Tomorrow evening, the crescent Moon is in the northwest beneath the two stars marking the heads of the Gemini Twins. The bright star to the far right is Capella and the one to the lower left is Procyon, the Little Dog

Star. We say goodbye to these "winter stars" as our spring stars take center stage. The Big Dipper is nearly straight up at sunset with the backwards question mark shape of Leo the Lion far below the bowl. Pretend you poke a hole in the dipper's bowl and the water would fall onto the Lion. Then follow the curve of the dippers handle to the

orange star Arcturus, the second brightest star we can see in our sky. Arcturus is part of a kite-shaped constellation called Bootes (pronounced "Boo-OH-teez"), who is our celestial herdsman. Hopefully the weather is warming and you can take a look up outside this week.

# THE SIDNEY SCOOP

by Ann Rhoton, 688-2812



Look for your correspondent's Monday, May 16 Sidney American Legion Post 433 Meeting Coverage and Memorial Day Services and Ceremonies for 2022 SCCTP Feature Article published in this week's edition of the Southern Champaign County Today Paper.

Brenda Roy gave your correspondent a heads up that this year's Illinois Fallen Firefighter Memorial and Medal of Honor Ceremony took place on Tuesday, May 10 and that Mike Brann and Cory Lilly from the Sidney Fire Protection District Fire Department and Jeremy Richards from the Homer Fire Protection District Fire Department were recipients of the medal of honor from the Office of the Illinois State Fire Marshal.

They received their medals of honor from a rescue that took place on August 19, 2021. Jeremy Richards from the Homer Fire Protection District Fire Department responded to a working house fire and, after conducting a primary search, discovered an unconscious victim in the living room of the structure.

Jeremy removed the victim from the living room and was subsequently assisted by Mike Brann and Cory Lilly of the Sidney Fire Protection District Fire Department in removing the victim from the structure. The victim has since recovered from her injuries.

Your correspondent's Sidney & Homer Firefighters Honored For August Burning Home Rescue SCCTP Feature Article was published in the September 9, 2021 edition



Left to right Mike Brann of the Sidney Fire Protection District Fire Department, Jeremy Richards of the Homer Fire Protection District Fire Department, and Cory Lilly of the Sidney Fire Protection District Fire Department with medal of honor plaques they received at the 2022 Illinois Fallen Firefighter Memorial and Medal of Honor Ceremony. Photo by Ann Rhoton.

of the Southern Champaign County Today Paper.

I hope readers enjoy a photo your correspondent snapped of Mike, Jeremy, and Cory with their award plaques (they also received medals) from the Office of the Illinois State Fire Marshal published in this week's edition of the Southern Champaign County Today Paper.

If you missed Sidney American Legion Post 433's local poppy distribution you can catch up with them during their 6:00 - 7:30 a.m. time slot 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.

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 Sid-

ney. All monthly meetings, unless otherwise posted, are held in the Sidney Community Building meeting room.

The Sidney American Legion Post 433 will hold their next monthly meeting at the Post Home located at 221 South David Street in downtown Sidney on Monday, June 20 at 6:00 p.m. Prospective new members are always welcome and encouraged to attend and all monthly meetings, unless otherwise posted, are held at the Post Home.

Happy Memorial Day Weekend!

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.

## Tolono Library Weekly Update

The Tolono Public Library District will be closed Monday, May 30th for Memorial Day.

The Summer Reading Program is quickly approaching! This year's theme is "Read Beyond the Beaten Path" and will run from Saturday, June 4th through Saturday, July 16th. More information about this year's program will be

available soon. PROGRAMS & EVENTS THIS WEEK

Summer Bingo at the Library will be held on Wednesdays from 2:30-3:00 p.m. Play this ever-popular game, earn prizes, and enjoy some great company each Wednesday. No registration necessary! Recommended Ages: 5-18.

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

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

## Philo Library Weekly Update

Memorial Day weekend is finally here, time for cookouts, ballgames and car races.. We will

be closed on Monday the 30th, so if you need something to read over the long weekend, or a movie to watch in case your plans get rained out, remember to plan ahead. On Wednesday, June 1, we will have our Summer Reading Kickoff. Miss Lizz and Miss Sue will be available from 9-noon and 3-6 to answer any questions you might

have about "Read Beyond the Beaten Path". If you sign your child up on June 1, you will receive an exclusive "goodie bag" to take home. Programs for elementary age children will be on Mondays at 1 p.m. beginning June 6 and continuing June 13, 20 and 27. Pre-School (Ages 3-5) Programs will be 11:00 a.m. Fridays beginning on June 10, continuing on June 17, and 24. We always have a lot of fun with these programs and hope our first post

co-view program will be well attended. And, we haven't forgotten about Teens and Adults. There will be opportunities for these age groups to read and enter a drawing for prizes each week in June. If you are interested, stop in and see what we have to offer. I was going to tell you about a new area of books - Amish and Cozy Mysteries, but will save that for the next column since I've used up my space for this week. Happy Memorial Day to everyone!

## Public Health Officials Announce 40,193 New Cases of COVID-19 Champaign Rated High Community Level

CDC is Reporting 8 Illinois Counties are Rated at High Community Level; and 39 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

The Illinois Department of Public Health (IDPH) today reported 40,193 new confirmed and probable cases of coronavirus disease (COVID-19) in Illinois, including 56 deaths since May 13, 2022.

According to the CDC, eight Illinois Counties are now rated at the High Community Level for COVID-19 cases and 39 counties are rated at the Medium Community Level.

Currently, IDPH is reporting a total of 3,249,534 cases, including 33,761 deaths, in 102 counties in Illinois since the beginning of the pandemic.

As of last night, 1,060 individuals in Illinois were reported to be in the hospital with COVID-19. Of those, 116 patients were in the ICU and 43 patients with COVID-19

were on ventilators. The preliminary seven-day statewide case rate is 315 COVID-19 cases per 100,000 Illinoisans.

"With COVID-19 case counts rising across the state, the public should understand that they can take action to protect themselves, their loved ones, and friends," said IDPH Acting Director Amaal Tokars. As we see movement into higher community risk levels, masking up in indoor public places and avoiding crowded indoor spaces as much as possible will also make a difference. And if you test positive, promptly contact a healthcare provider to discuss which treatment is right for you.

The CDC reported that following eight Illinois counties are now listed at the High Community Level; Boone, Lee, Stephenson and Winnebago in the northern part of the state; and Champaign, Ford, Peoria and Tazewell in the Center.

In addition, the following are in the Medium Community Level: Cook, DeKalb,

DuPage, Grundy, Jo Daviess, Henry, Kane, Kankakee, Kendall, Lake, LaSalle, Livingston, Marshall, McHenry, Mercer, Ogle, Putnam, Rock Island, Stark, Warren, Whiteside, Will and Woodford in the northern tier of the state; and Calhoun, Coles, Cumberland, DeWitt, Douglas, Fulton, Jackson, Johnson, Logan, Madison, Mason, Massac, McLean, Menard, Sangamon and Wabash, in the central and southern parts of the state. At the High Community Level, the CDC recommends that all people wear a well-fitting mask in indoor spaces regardless of vaccination status. For those at risk of severe outcomes, they should consider avoiding non-essential indoor activities in public places, have a plan for rapid testing if needed, and talk to their healthcare provider about other precautions they can take.

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 booster, if eligible.

A total of 22,200,483 vaccines have been administered in Illinois. The seven-day rolling average of vaccines administered daily is 13,167 doses. Since May 13, 2022,

92,168 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 52% of the vaccinated population has an initial booster according to data from the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention.

If you are in an area with rising COVID-19 infections, wear a mask if entering indoor spaces with other people present and consider avoiding large gatherings.

Stick to well-ventilated areas if you are not wearing a mask indoors around other people.

If you feel flu-like symptoms, self-isolate and stay home from work as well as social gatherings; and obtain a test as quickly as possible.

Continue to frequently wash your hands and cover coughs and sneezes.

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>.

The federal government has established a new website that provides an all-purpose toolkit with information on how to obtain masks, treatment, vaccines and testing resources for all areas of the country at: <https://www.covid.gov/>.

## PEACE MEAL MENU

Sidney, Homer, Philo, Tolono, Sadorus, and Pesotum Peace Meal menu for Thursday, May 26 through Wednesday, June 1.

Thursday, 5/26/22 - Ham and beans, corn bread served with butter or margarine, copper carrots, cantaloupe, apple slices, and a half pint of milk.

Friday, 5/27/22 - Country fried steak, mashed potatoes with gravy, whole grain wheat bread served with butter or margarine, mixed veggies, apricots, and a half pint of milk.

Monday, 5/30/22 - Closed for Memorial Day.

Tuesday, 5/31/22 - Baked chicken, mashed potatoes with gravy, California veggie blend, peaches, whole grain bread served with butter or margarine, and a half pint of milk.

Wednesday, 6/1/22 - Chef's salad with meat, cheese, and veggies, whole-grain crackers, applesauce, pudding, 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 congregate 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.

**Remember And Honor**

# MEMORIAL DAY

**We will be CLOSED Monday, May 30th In Honor of MEMORIAL DAY**

*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

**Villa Grove BINGO**

Every Friday Night VFW post 2876

6:30 pm- Early Bird  
7:00 pm- Regular Bingo

**Jackpots:**

Bingo Lic# B1934  
Pull Tab Lic# P-48

Egg in a Basket Raffle Chance **up to \$2000**  
Blackout Jackpot Chance **up to \$1000**

## Hearing Aid Service

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### Homer Community Building

500 E. Second St., Homer, Illinois

**Wed., June 1, from 8 - 9 a.m.**

- Free Electronic Hearing Test
- Free Cleaning on ALL Makes and Models
- Battery Sales
- In Home Service on Request

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