



The Night Sky

By David Leake

Retired Planetarium Director of Staerker 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 4th 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.

Champaign County Freedom Celebration with "Renewing the Spirit of America" Theme set for July 4

By Diane Ducey
Staff Writer
The Champaign County Freedom Celebration has great plans for the 4th of July. For decades, those interested in exercising in the morning gather on 4th St. on the east side of the State Farm Center for the 5K (\$30 fee, register at July4th.net) that starts at 9:05am. The youth run is at 8:30 (free). When that wraps up, on the west side of the State Farm Center, volunteers from the Jaycees start coordinating the parade! This years theme is "Renewing the Spirit of America" and so far about 70 entries are signed up with more music options requested. The

"GiveAkidAflagToWave" program from the Exchange Club (established in C-U in 1926) has become a 4th of the July tradition as volunteers start handing out free flags to little kids about 15 minutes before the parade. John Hummel reported at the meeting, they usually have 3500 ready to give out, but the price has gone up from .25 to .85 cents each! Plus, with members starting to age out they'd love some younger volunteers and donations. That message continues as preparations are being made in different areas of the patriotic event, in case you would like to contribute in any shift for a few hours, even on the 3rd & 5th with set

up and take down options. In lot 31 caddie corner from the marquee, participants will find food trucks, popcorn & ice cream treats as well as inflatables & face painting (\$5 a kid suggested donation) after 7pm. Music from "Crazy Johnny & his 11th hour band" will take place until the flag is retired at dusk and National Anthem sung by Chrystal McCullough. The fireworks shot off across from the State Farm Center by "Pyrotechnic" will begin at 9:15 with the synchronized patriotic soundtrack on Newstalk 1400am/93.9 (97.5 & 107.9 also in that Champaign Media Group cluster of radio stations) For more details visit July4th.net

Public Health Officials Announce 27,094 New Cases of COVID-19 Over the Past Week

The Illinois Department of Public Health (IDPH) today reported 27,094 new confirmed and probable cases of coronavirus disease (COVID-19) in Illinois, including 82 deaths since June 17, 2022. According to the CDC, 20 Illinois counties are now rated at High Community Level for COVID-19, an area that includes some of the counties around the Chicago metropolitan area, counties around Peoria and Champaign in central Illinois, and counties in Southern Illinois. An additional 47 counties throughout the state are now rated at Medium Community Level. Currently, IDPH is reporting a total of 3,407,189 cases, including 34,076 deaths, in 102 counties in Illinois since the beginning of the pandemic. As of last night, 1,099 individuals in Illinois were reported to be in the hospital with COVID-19. Of those, 114 patients were in the ICU and 32 patients with COVID-19 were on ventilators. The preliminary seven-day statewide case rate is 213 COVID-19 cases per 100,000 Illinoisans.

"With 67 counties at the Medium or High Community Level across Illinois, more than half of the counties in the state remain at an elevated level for community risk," said IDPH Acting Director Amaal Tokars. "In areas with elevated community levels, we are all wise to put on our masks in indoor public spaces and avoid indoor crowded spaces as much as possible. If needed, contact a healthcare provider promptly to discuss what treatment is right for you." The counties listed at High Community Level are Cook, DuPage and Lake in north-eastern Illinois; Adams, Champaign, Douglas, Ford, Fulton, Knox, Macon, Marshall, Montgomery, Peoria, Pike and Tazewell in central Illinois; and Johnson, Marion, Massac, Washington and Wayne in Southern Illinois. The CDC recommends the people in areas that are rated at High Community Level for COVID-19 transmission: Wear a well-fitting mask indoors in public, regardless of vaccination status (includ-

ing in K-12 schools and other indoor community settings) If you are immunocompromised or high risk for severe disease wear a mask or respirator that provides you with greater protection. Consider avoiding non-essential indoor activities in public where you could be exposed. If you have household or social contact with someone at high risk for severe disease consider self-testing to detect infection before contact consider wearing a mask when indoors with them Follow CDC recommendations for isolation and quarantine, including getting tested if you are exposed to COVID-19 or have symptoms of COVID-19 At the Medium Community Level, persons who are elderly or immunocompromised are advised to wear a mask in indoor public places. A total of 22,604,803 vaccines have been administered in Illinois. The seven-day rolling average of vaccines administered daily is 8,727 doses. Since June 17, 61,088 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 53% of the vaccinated population has an initial booster.

THE SIDNEY SCOOP



by Ann Rhoton, 688-2812

Look for your correspondent's Monday, June 20 Sidney American Legion Post 433 Meeting Coverage published in this week's edition of the Southern Champaign County Today Paper.

NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING Notice is hereby given that a public hearing by the Village of Sidney Board of Trustees sitting as the de facto Planning Commission and as the Board of Trustees will be held by the Village of Sidney during a Village Board of Trustees meeting on Tuesday, July 5, 2022 at 7:00 pm at the Community Building located at 211 E. Main Street, Sidney, Illinois. The hearing shall consider the rezoning of the following tracts of land:
Tract 1: The South 250 feet of the North 575 feet of the East 268.06 feet of the Northwest Quarter of Section 16, Township 18 North, Range 10 East of the Third Principal Meridian, in Champaign County, Illinois;

Tract 2:
The South 150 feet of the North 725 feet of the East 268.06 feet of the Southwest Quarter of Section 16, Township 18 North, Range 10 East of the Third Principal Meridian, in Champaign County, Illinois.
PIN # 24-28-16-300-008 & 24-28-16-300-009 Commonly known as 712, 714, 716, 718, 720 & 722 S. Sunset Road, Sidney, IL
The foregoing properties are currently zoned R-1 Residential under the Village of Sidney Zoning Ordinance. The request to be considered at the Public Hearing is to rezone the properties as R-2 Residential under the Village of Sidney Zoning Ordinance.
The next regular monthly meeting of the Village of Sidney Board of Trustees will take place on Tuesday, July 5 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, July 18 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 Independence Day! 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, June 30 through Wednesday, July 6.
Thursday, 6/30/22 – Sloppy Joe sandwich served on a bun, baked beans, broccoli, pears, and a half pint of milk.
Friday, 7/1/22 – Chef's choice. Regional favorites will be served, and a half pint of milk.
Monday, 7/4/22 – Closed for Independence Day.
Tuesday, 7/5/22 – Spaghetti with meat sauce, Italian seasoned green beans, beets, peaches, dinner roll served with butter or margarine, and a half pint of milk.

Wednesday, 7/6/22 – Stuffed chicken breast, whole-grain wheat bread served with butter or margarine, Nantucket veggie blend, corn, apricots, 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. The OSF Peace Meal menu is submitted for the OSF Peace Meal Senior Nutrition Program by Ann Rhoton.

The Giving Place Weekly Newsletter

Love
The Giving Place today served 10 families (0 new) / 30 people / 16 children in the Food Pantry. Thanks to Donna, Karen, Dale & Mike for the efforts today.
Upcoming events to benefit The Giving Place: The Trail Life boys will be pushing carts for The Giving Place during the Tolono Fun Day Parade on June 25th.
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 is accepting gently used, clean spring and summer clothes for our clothing area, (especially children's clothing!).

We will be accepting donations of school supplies to give to children from K-12 for the upcoming school year.
The next Free Clothing Giveaway will be Saturday July 2nd from 9AM - 12NOON. Guidelines will be posted as you enter the WEST ENTRANCE.
Mike Williams
1 Corinthians 13:13 So now faith, hope, and love abide, these three; but the greatest of these is love.

Tolono Library: Weekly Update

JULY 1—7, 2022
The Tolono Public Library District's Summer Reading Program is halfway over! Anyone from ages 0—18 can still sign up for this year's program. The program ends

on Saturday, July 16th, so be sure to redeem any prizes before then!
PROGRAMS & EVENTS THIS WEEK
Summer Bingo @ the Library: Wednesdays, 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.

Philo Library: A New Series of Programs to Begin Soon

Last week saw the end of the summer Reading Programs. The pre-school Summer Reading Program kids heard butterfly stories then made a butterfly feeder to take home. We would like to thank the parents who brought their children to the 2022 Summer Reading Programs, and we hope to see more of you throughout the coming year. The older Summer Reading group ended their programs with camp games, some of which turned out to be a bit damp. We hope all had fun.

Philo Library will be closed on July 4th - open again on Tuesday, July 5th, and starting a new series of programs - arts, crafts and fun for ages 5-high school. We believe that having programs that are geared to the age of participants will be more fun for everyone. Kids ages 11 and up can sign up for July 7, 14 and 22 from 1 – 2 p.m.. Ages 5-10 are invited to sign up for July 8, 15, and 22. If needed, there will be two sessions of the younger group - 1 - 1:30 and 2-2:30 p.m. - this depends on the number of interested people. To sign your child up for either program, please call Philo Library at 217-684-2896.
We added new DVDs to the collection this week. "Ambulance", a heist gone wrong action movie, "Morbis" with Jared Leto, Animated hit "The

Bad Guys", Mark Wahlberg's "Father Stu" are among the new movies you can check out at Philo Library. Next week a new "Fantastic Beasts" DVD will be released and on our shelves. Summer is going by quickly and for me it always seems that once July 4 has come and gone the rest of the summer is a whirlwind of activities. You might want to take time and check out one of our new (or older) books - we have a good collection of "beach reads" for those who enjoy that genre and there are lots of mysteries as well. Our Large Print co-op collection just changed, so we have new titles on the shelf, as is the case for the audio book co-op collection as well. And there should be new fiction books arriving soon. Thanks for reading - until next week

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