

## The Night Sky

By David Leake

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

January 7-13  
Word Count: 185

This weekend, the planet Jupiter reaches opposition. This means Jupiter is opposite the Sun so it will rise in the northeast as the Sun sets. It also means Jupiter and our Earth are on the same side of the Sun together so the separation is at a minimum. Of course, anything that's close will ap-

pear large and bright. Those with binoculars should check-out Jupiter. If you can hold them still enough, you may glimpse the four large moons: Io, Europa, Ganymede & Callisto. Two are the size of our Moon and two rival the planet Mercury in diameter. And you can watch them change positions night to night as they orbit the planet. When I was growing up, Jupiter had 12

moons – today the number is 95! A telescope should show a few cloud bands across the planet. These are similar to the jet streams you see on the weather maps on your local news. Also, look at the planet itself. Jupiter only requires ten hours to rotate once, so it bulges at its equator. I guess that gives me something in common with Jupiter!!

something, so we might be able to get your material in a day or two or three.

The Large Print Co-op books will be rotating this month, so we will have a new selection for you to choose from if you like large prints. We have withdrawn some older books from the collections and replaced them with recently published books, or books that add to or complete a series. We should have the new collection on the shelf by Thursday.

I'm not promising, but hoping to tell you I succeeded with my order next week. Until then, thank you for reading.

## Philo Library Weekly Newsletter

Hope you had a safe and Happy New Year. As usual, we went to bed about an hour before the ball dropped in New York City. It's not that I don't look forward to a new year, especially after 2025, but I prefer a good night's rest to watching a glass ball slowly descend into a crowd of people. I also don't do New Year's Resolutions, some time ago, I tried and it lasted about a month, before I realized that resolutions should start small and if you succeed, next year increase them a bit and so on. I admire anyone who makes resolutions and sticks to them, you're to be congratulated.

I sat down this morning to order some new books for the New Year, but have not succeeded in mastering the process so please have patience and in another week or so, hopefully I'll be busy with boxes of new books. In the meantime if there is something you want or need, call or, stop in, ask about it and we'll help you get "it". There's always the e-book possibility, depending on the popularity of what you're looking for, or there's the interlibrary loan option, again depending on popularity, but there are over 400 libraries to take into consideration when requesting

## This Week at Tolono Library

2026 is in full swing here at the Tolono Public Library! We have a full calendar of events planned for January! On Thursday 1/8 from 4:00pm-5:00pm we have Youth D&D and from 5:30pm-7:30pm we have Adult D&D. Saturday 1/10 from 10:30am-12:00pm we have Youth/Teen puzzle races. Kids will go head to head racing to finish similar puzzles. Ran in a Round Robin tournament. Then from

1:00pm-5:00pm we have an all ages jigsaw puzzle tournament. Participants will be divided into 4 groups. Each group will work on their assigned 1000 piece puzzle. First team to finish wins! Monday 1/12 we have TEEN D&D from 5:30pm-7:30pm. Join us on Wednesday 1/14 from 3:30pm-5:00pm for our TEEN "free make" event. Various maker materials will be available for you to come and

create to your hearts desire. We will have Cricut machine, Perler Beads, Origami paper, a button maker and much more. Teens are encouraged to come and have some fun using their imagination! We have a lot more in store for January, so, as always, please visit or IG and Facebook pages plus our website for all the details on upcoming events.

## The Giving Place Weekly Newsletter & Upcoming Events

Watch Night is a Christian tradition, especially significant in Black churches, involving late-night New Year's Eve services to reflect, pray, and welcome the new year, originating from enslaved people gathering on December 31, 1862, to await the Emancipation Proclamation's effect on January 1, 1863, making it a powerful symbol of hope, freedom, and perseverance.

The TGP News Section  
It was a very slow day Wednesday. The Giving Place served 1 family (0 new), 5 people and 2 children. Food totaled \$100.00 (2 boxes at ~\$50.00 per box). I have a feeling clients thought we were closed for the holiday.

All food is donated or pur-

chased through cash donations from our very generous commUNITY!

A belated thank you to Girl Scout Troop 2669 for a large donation of food collected. The kids in our community are the best!

Thanks to Linda, Kaare, Sharon J, Ernie, Henry, Dale, and Mike for serving our clients Wednesday night.

Volunteering and why we are here.

Feel free to visit some Wednesday and see all the blessings that are happening and maybe become a part of it.

The Giving Place continues as a way for our church and other community churches to minister to the Unit 7 School District and help those in

need.

Mike Williams

The verses section!

2 Corinthians 5:17 - Therefore, if anyone is in Christ, he is a new creation. The old has passed away; behold, the new has come.

Jeremiah 29:11 - For I know the plans I have for you, declares the Lord, plans for welfare and not for evil, to give you a future and a hope.

Ephesians 4:22-24 - To put off your old self, which belongs to your former manner of life and is corrupt through deceitful desires, and to be renewed in the spirit of your minds, and to put on the new self, created after the likeness of God in true righteousness and holiness.

desire, love's fervency.

Out of the space around me, standing here,  
I shape your absent body against mine.

You touch me as the giving air.

Most far, most near, your arms are darkness, holding me,

so I lean back, lip-read the heavens talking on in light, syllabic stars.

I see, at last, they pray at us. Your breath is midnight's, living, on my skin, across the miles between us,

fields and motorways and towns, the million lit-up little homes.

This love we have, grief in reverse, full rhyme, wrong place, wrong time, sweet work for hands,

the heart's vocation, flares to guide the new year in, the days and nights far out upon the sky's dark sea.

Your mouth is snow now on my lips, cool, intimate, first kiss,

a vow.

Time falls and falls through endless space, to when we are.

## THE SIDNEY SCOOP

by Ann Rhoton, 688-2812



Happy New Year everyone!

The Village of Sidney Board of Trustees regular monthly meeting should have taken place on Monday, January 5. Look for a report from your correspondent in next week's edition of the Southern Champaign County Today Paper.

The next "The Mid Central Woman's Christian Temperance Union" meeting will take place on Saturday, January 17 at 11:30 a.m. at Monical's Pizza in Villa Grove. Tim Black will be the guest speaker giving a testimony

about his life.

New members (men and women) are welcome and folks can call Vice President Marjorie Miller at (217) 202-4397 for more information.

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, January 19 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.

Have a wonderful 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 between 8:00 a.m. - 5:00 p.m. 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 WEEKLY MENU

Sidney, Homer, Philo, Tolono, Sadorus, and Pesotom Peace Meal menu for Thursday, January 8 through Wednesday, January 14.

Thursday, 1/8/26 - Cobb salad with vinegarette, carrot bites, vanilla pudding, mandarin oranges cup, dinner roll served with butter or margarine, and a half pint of milk.

Friday, 1/9/26 - Baked manicotti, Scandinavian veggie blend, asparagus, mixed fruit cup, breadstick, and a half pint of milk.

Saturday, 1/10/26 - BLT sandwich, coleslaw, peaches, chips, and a half pint of milk.

Sunday, 1/11/26 - OSF Peace Meal is closed.

Monday, 1/12/26 - Beef fried rice, vegetable dump-

ling, egg drop soup, strawberry applesauce, fortune cookies, and a half pint of milk.

Tuesday, 1/13/26 - Biscuit and gravy, veggie scramble, hashbrowns, peach cup, and a half pint of milk.

Wednesday, 1/14/26 - OSF Peace Meal is closed.

OSF Peace Meal provides seniors, age 60 and older, with a nutritious lunch Monday through Saturday and are closed on Sunday and Wednesday. There is a suggested donation of \$4.00 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 informa-

tion, please go to <https://www.osfhealthcare.org/osf-peace-meal/> or call 1-309-665-5900.

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 1-309-665-5900. Home delivery in southern Champaign County is currently available in Sidney, Homer, Philo, Tolono, Sadorus, and Pesotom.

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.

## Catholic Charities Report for 1-6-2026 of December 2025 Activities

By Jan Blaney

St Pat's Pantry, located in the St Patrick Parish Center at 304 E Vine in Tolono, was open 10 times during December (closed 12/26 for Christmas).

43 families were served, 28 multiple times, for a total of 116 visits to the pantry. There were 4 new families and 2 deliveries. 25 Christmas Dinner Boxes were distributed on 12/22. The pantry was able to provide Christmas gifts to 10 families. It should be noted that while SNAP benefits have resumed, many families were cut in the amount they receive.

Donations were received from the following families: Baker, Spencer, Stuber, Bleichner, Huber, Keith, Defranko, Kleiss, Eilers, Jenkins, Kaufman, Hettinger and Wilson. The Philo Exchange Bank of Philo, Dollar General stores and several families provided Christmas gifts. Unity Boys Basketball delivered 245 pounds of food. Unity High School/ FFA provided 25 hams for the Christmas Dinner.

Boxes. St Patrick/Alter and Rosary Society provided toiletries and cleaning supplies. St Thomas School provided hand made Christmas cards for the Christmas Dinner

Boxes. St Thomas parishioners provide nonperishable food weekly. Dollar General stores in Philo, Tolono and Villa Grove donated 417 pounds of food. Aldi of Savoy donated 185 pounds of food. Eastern Illinois Food Bank provided 3,393 pounds of food. Thanks to donations from St Patrick, St Thomas, and St Mary's churches the cost of the Christmas Dinner boxes was covered and the pantry shelves have been kept stocked.

Senior Luncheon was held on December 10 at St Patrick Parish Center with 32 guests in attendance including 2 new guests. Christmas was the theme and decorations were provided by the Blaney family.

The potluck entree was ham supplemented with many side dishes provided by guests. Memorials were displayed in honor of Roberta Bleichner who passed away in November and had been active at Senior

Luncheon since it began; and Bernie Eisenmeyer who passed away during the spring and has served as our Santa Clause for years. 6 birthday, 3 get well and 1 sympathy cards were signed. Santa (played by Barry Leonard) distributed

gift bags to all and posed for pictures with guests.

The next Luncheon will be held January 14, 2026 in the Parish Center. The theme will be New year and the entree will be soup and sandwiches. Any one age 55+ is welcome and bring a dish to share. A \$3 donation is requested but not necessary.

18 volunteers provided 193 hours of service to the pantry and luncheon. 2 volunteers are leaving for warmer climates and will return in the spring. 2 new volunteers have been certified. Roberta Bleichner, who volunteered at both the pantry and luncheon since they began, passed away on 11/27 and was laid to rest on 12/13. She will be missed by the volunteers, pantry clients and Senior Luncheon guests.

A huge Thank You goes to the staff of St Patrick Parish. Father Pat O'Neal provides support and problem solving for both the pantry and luncheon. Becky Hand, parish secretary, manages the scheduling, financial contributions and technical assistance for the pantry. Larry Hewing manages maintenance for the Parish Center. The Stuber family provides housekeeping for both the pantry and luncheon.

## RETIREMENT ANSWERS

Do you need help with figuring how much you can spend per month at retirement without running out of money?

Do you need assistance deciding how much & what to invest your retirement assets or rollover money in?

If you want someone to help you find the answers to these questions call:



Lisa S. Boyer, CFP®  
Stan Boyer  
(217) 268-3216  
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Arcola IL 61910

Dan Sappenfield, CFP®  
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1 N Sycamore  
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Poets Corner:  
e-mail your poems to:  
[jamie@thecounty-chronicle.com](mailto:jamie@thecounty-chronicle.com)



"New Year"  
By Carol Ann Duffy  
I drop the dying year behind me like a shawl  
and let it fall.  
The urgent fireworks fling themselves  
against the night, flowers of