

The Night Sky

By David Leake

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

January 21-27

Start looking for a waxing crescent Moon after sunset in the southwest tonight. Saturn sits above and left of the Moon. The pair are nearest each other tomorrow evening. Look around 8:30pm. The Moon will trek further eastward each evening as it orbits our Earth, passing very near the Pleiades star cluster next Tuesday. Use binoculars to

better see the star cluster. The Japanese word for "Pleiades" is "Suburu." Don't believe me? Check out the emblem for the car!

Our bright stars of winter are well-above the eastern horizon as the sky darkens. One will note the three belt stars of Orion in the southeast, making nearly a vertical line. The red shoulder star, Betelgeuse, appears left of the belt with

the bluish knee star, Rigel, to the right. The belt stars seem to point downward towards Sirius, the "dog star" and the brightest star in our night sky. Now if you're thinking "but wait, there's a brighter one in the northeast," Yes, there is, but that's the planet Jupiter! Go on, brave the cold and take a look!

story about wayward love, regret and missed opportunity. "Merry Christmas, Alex Cross" by James Patterson, Danielle Steel's "Color of Hope" (in large print), "Exit Strategy" by Lee & Andrew Child, "Jack Reacher will make three stops today, not all of them were planned" "Remain" by Nicholas Sparks with M. Night Shyamalan " a supernatural love story" and David Baldacci's "Nash Falls" a global crime story.

This is a good start to the new year and hopefully we'll have more new books before the end of the month. Thanks for Reading!

can see if Philo Library owns it. If we do, click on the book, then you'll be prompted to enter your barcode which is the very long number on your library card that starts with 23037 followed by 5 digits then 4 more digits, then enter your password. The original password is the last four digits of the phone number you used when you first applied for a library card. Not sure which number you gave us? Give us a call and we can look it up.

Books received Thursday, January 15, are: "How Does that Make You Feel, Magda Eklund?" by Anna Montague - a thoughtful and affecting

~\$50.00 per box

Volunteers worked over 1,100 hours. At \$34.79 an hour, this totals over \$37,780 worth of volunteer labor.

All food is donated or purchased through cash donations from our very generous community!

Thanks to Jo Ellen, Linda, Karen, Judi, Sharon J, Ernie, Pastor Gail, Dale, and Mike for serving our clients Wednesday night.

We had approximately 40 different people volunteer in 2025. Thanks to all who volunteered.

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
Galatians 6:2: "Bear one another's burdens, and so fulfill the law of Christ".

1 Peter 4:10: "Each of you should use whatever gift you have received to serve others, as faithful stewards of God's grace in its various forms".

Friday of each month at 9 p.m. and at other selected times.

Matinée shows will be featured on February 16, April 3 and on March 19. Shows will not be held on March 20 and March 21.

There will also be sensory-friendly settings on selected Saturdays. These shows have "lights up, sound down" settings. All are welcome to attend these events.

On the first Friday of each month at 7 p.m., the planetarium will host the Kaler Science Lecture Series.

For more information on the spring schedule, free observatory open houses, Galaxy Club, school field trips, sponsoring a planetarium chair, renting a telescope, or booking the dome, call 217/351-2568 or visit planetarium.parkland.edu.

THE SIDNEY SCOOP

by Ann Rhoton, 688-2812

The Sidney American Legion Post 433 regular monthly meeting should have taken place on January 19. Look for a report from your correspondent in next week's edition of the Southern Champaign County Today Paper.

The next regular monthly meeting of the Village of Sidney Board of Trustees will take place on Monday, Febru-

ary 2 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 wonderful week!

If you or your organization have news items you want published drop a line to Ann Rhoton at P. O. Box 491, Sid-

ney, 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 Pesotum Peace Meal menu for Thursday, January 22 through Wednesday, January 28.

Thursday, 1/22/26 - Shepherd's pie, hominy au gratin, sauteed mushrooms, pineapple cup, cornbread served with butter or margarine, and a half pint of milk.

Friday, 1/23/26 - Chicken broccoli alfredo, cauliflower, peach crisp, breadstick, and a half pint of milk.

Saturday, 1/24/26 - Roast beef with Swiss, lettuce and tomatoes, fruit salad, V8 juice, chips, and a half pint of milk.

Sunday, 1/25/26 - OSF Peace Meal is closed.

Monday, 1/26/26 - Vegetable beef soup, Spanish rice,

au gratin potatoes, mixed fruit cup, sliced bread served with butter or margarine, and a half pint of milk.

Tuesday, 1/27/26 - BBQ pulled pork, baked beans, street corn, mandarin oranges cup, hamburger bun, and a half pint of milk.

Wednesday, 1/28/26 - 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 information, 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 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.

Countryside UMC Congregation Collect Warmth for area Kids!



By Janet White
Countryside United Methodist Church include a special tree each year in their Christmas decorations, this special tree is put up in the fellowship hall.

This tradition has been going on for years.

The mitten tree is decorated with mittens, gloves, hats and scarves that the members of the church bring in.

After the holiday season is over, the winter garments are collected and donated to a local charity.

Past recipients of the winter

clothes have included The Crisis Nursery in Urbana, Unity East Elementary School and Unity West Elementary School.

This last Christmas, the winter clothes were given to The Giving Place in Tolono.



After the Winter
by Claude McKay 1889
-1948

Some day, when trees have

shed their leaves
And against the morning's white
The shivering birds beneath the eaves
Have sheltered for the night,
We'll turn our faces southward, love,
Toward the summer isle
Where bamboos spire to shafted grove
And wide-mouthed orchids smile.

And we will seek the quiet hill
Where towers the cotton tree,
And leaps the laughing crystal rill,
And works the droning bee.
And we will build a cottage there
Beside an open glade,
With black-ribbed bluebells blowing near,
And ferns that never fade.

Poets Corner:

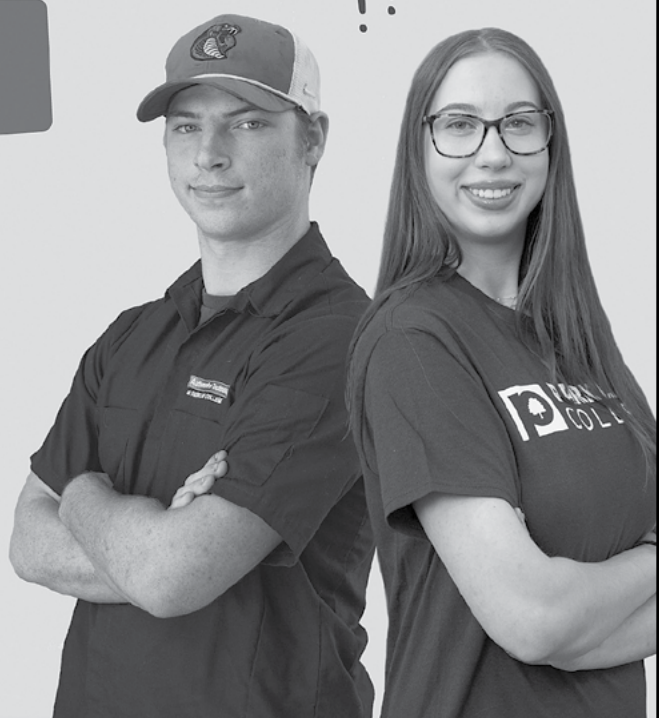
Would you like to see

your original or a family members work published?

Submit your poems or short stories!
e-mail poems and/or short stories to:

jamie@thecounty-chronicle.com

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