

The Night Sky

By David Leake

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

February 4-10

The window for the launch of the Artemis II spacecraft opens from this Friday and runs through February 15th. It will open again in March if needed.

Artemis I tested the Space Launch System and Orion crew capsule in the fall of 2022. Now four astronauts will complete a ten day mis-

sion that will break the altitude records set by Apollo. After entering an eccentric Earth orbit, the craft will circle the Moon at nearly 250,000 miles from Earth and 4600 miles from the lunar surface.

This will be the first crewed mission to the Moon since Apollo 17 in 1972! Though this crew won't land on the Moon, the long-term goal is to

learn how to live on another world in preparation for a trip to Mars.

I used to tell the kids in the Staerkel Planetarium that, when we do land on Mars, I'll be too old to go. But you know who'll be about the right age? I loved to see their excitement! Let's head back to the Moon, possibly for good this time!

Philo Library Weekly Newsletter

What comes to mind when you think about February? Groundhog's Day, Super Bowl Sunday, Valentine's Day, Black History Month or President's Day would be many people's answers. But I bet you didn't know February is National Library Lover's month.

Here are some suggestions on how to celebrate. If you aren't a regular user of the library make it your goal to stop in once a week and browse the collection. If you are a regular, bring a friend that isn't and introduce them to the library.

Another way is to try some of the different items available. If you usually only borrow through Hoopla or Libby, come in check out a physical book. We had a recent donation of puzzles so you might check one of them out when you pick up your next book. I bet you can come up with some other suggestions and I look forward to seeing what they are.

I also want to remind people that we offer home delivery to library cardholders who are physically unable to visit the library. With this service,

library volunteers will select items for you based on your interests and deliver them to your home. If you are a Philo library cardholder and because of a temporary or long-term illness or injury, disability or limited mobility or a senior citizen without transportation, you could be eligible for our service. Getting started is easy. Just give us a call at 217-684-2896.

And remember enjoy National Library Lover's Month.

This Week at Tolono Library

Recently, the Tolono Library has established, not one, but THREE Dungeons and Dragons Campaigns!

We started our Teen Campaign (ages 12-18) back in October, but we now have a group for youth (ages 6-12) and adults (anyone 18+). All three groups have their next meetings coming up; the youth and adult group will meet on Thursday, February 5 4:00-5:00 and 5:30-7:30 respectively. The teen group meets next on Monday, February 9 from 5:30-7:30. Fall into the world of roll-playing games and join the next campaign!

The Friends of the Tolono Library is officially a 501(c)3 organization! With this, the group can now start collecting membership dues and taking tax deductible donations. So now it's time to let the fund-raising begin!

We know that our patrons have noticed the increase in

programs, events, and incentives at the library over the last few months, and we'd like to continue to offer all of these resources at this pace.

Unfortunately, not all of it is sustainable. That is where the Friends of the Library comes in! Their purpose is to raise money on behalf of the library that can be used outside of the library's normal operating budget. The Friends' quarterly meeting will be held on Thursday, February 5th from 4:30-5:30. If you are interested in supporting the library, stop by the meeting and see what they are all about and learn about their upcoming projects.

The 2026 Winter Olympics kickoff on Friday, February 6 and we are celebrating by testing our Olympic knowledge with Olympic Jeopardy from 3:30-5:00. Everyone is welcome to come see if they can win the Gold in Winter

Olympic knowledge.

If you're in a crafting mood on Saturday, February 7, we will have supplies out all day for anyone to come in and create their own homemade Valentines, and on Tuesday, February 10 kids can come celebrate the Lunar New Year by creating their own Paper Lanterns from 4:00-5:00, and as always, Teen FabLab will take place on Wednesday, February 11 from 3:30-5:00.

Remember to check out our website (www.tolonolibrary.org) for more details and a comprehensive list of our upcoming programs; you can also register for programs on our website or by calling the library which is always appreciated but not required (unless otherwise noted). And don't forget to follow us on Instagram, Facebook, and LinkedIn!

Homer Library Announced 'Piece Out' Puzzle Champions



Homer Library held their annual "Great Puzzle Race" on January 31. Five teams participated: PERNICKETY PUZZLERS, PIECE OUT, GETTIN' JIGGY WITH IT, JIGSAW JUNKIES and SOUTH CHURCH PIECE MAKERS. The winning team was Piece Out with a time of 1 hour and 9 minutes for their Birdhouse Puzzle.

THE SIDNEY SCOOP

by Ann Rhoton, 688-2812



Your correspondent hopes that all stayed safe and warm during our Saturday, January 24-Sunday, January 25 snow storm and the extremely cold temperatures that followed!

The Village of Sidney Board of Trustees regular monthly meeting should have taken place on Monday, February 2. Look for a report from your correspondent in next week's edition of the Southern Champaign County Today Paper.

Don't forget that Valentine's Day is fast approaching. Please remember to shop local! Happy Valentines Day!

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, February 16 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.

Sidney Improvement Group (SIG) March 28 Easter Egg Hunt plans are already in the making. The following was posted to the Sidney Scoop and Sidney Improvement Group Facebook pages: "Save the date!

Easter Egg Hunt will be 28 March 2026 at Witt Park."

Speaking of planning ahead the SIG also posted to the Sidney Scoop and Sidney Improvement Group Facebook pages to "Get ready for Sidney Fun Dazes car show! After the show join us in the parade. Vendors, live music, petting zoo, more details to come."

The Sidney Fun Daze Classic Wheels Showdown at which all vehicles are welcome will take place during the Friday, July 24-Saturday, July 25 Sidney Fun Daze on Saturday, July 25 from 10:00 a.m. - 2:00 p.m.

PEACE MEAL WEEKLY MENU

Sidney, Homer, Philo, Tolono, Sadorus, and Pesotum Peace Meal menu for Thursday, February 5 through Wednesday, February 11.

Thursday, 2/5/26 - Vegetables beefy soup, cauliflower, apple crisp, bread served with butter or margarine, and a half pint of milk.

Friday, 2/6/26 - Stuffed chicken breast, French green beans, au gratin potatoes, mandarin orange cup, bread served with butter or margarine, and a half pint of milk.

Saturday, 2/7/26 - Turkey sub sandwich with tomato and lettuce, V8 juice, apple-sauce, chips, and a half pint of milk.

Sunday, 2/8/26 - OSF Peace Meal is closed.

Monday, 2/9/26 - Spa-

ghetti with meat sauce, corn, mixed vegetables, pear cup, breadstick, and a half pint of milk.

Tuesday, 2/10/26 - Biscuit and sausage gravy, egg scrambled with vegetables, hashbrown triangles, pineapple cup, and a half pint of milk.

Wednesday, 2/11/26 - 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

There is a \$15.00 per vehicle registration fee, registration takes place from 9:00 a.m. - 12:00 p.m., voting will take place from 12:30 - 1:30 p.m., awards will be given out at 2:00 p.m., and proceeds will go to support SIG activities.

Additionally included in the posted flyer is that the Sidney Improvement Group is not responsible for any damages, personal or property, that you may incur.

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.

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.

The Giving Place Weekly Newsletter & Upcoming Events

"Every man gives his life for what he believes. Every woman gives her life for what she believes. Sometimes people believe in little or nothing, and so they give their lives to little or nothing. One life is all we have, and we live it as we believe in living it...and then it's gone.

But to surrender who you are and to live without belief is more terrible than dying - even more terrible than dying young."

— Joan of Arc

"The true character of a person lays in their willingness to face the gravest of moments, and in those moments to turn the best of their ideals into the most sacrificial of actions."

— Craig D. Lounsbrough

Wednesday The Giving Place served 3 families (0 new), 16 people and 8 children. Food totaled \$300.00 (6 boxes at ~\$50.00 per box).

Yearly totals for 2025, The



Giving Place served 422 families (30 new), 1,421 people and 643 children. Food totaled \$28,550.000 (573 boxes at ~\$50.00 per box)

We had approximately 40 different people volunteer in 2025. 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!

This week's THANK YOU

section!

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

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
John 5:13 - New International Version

13 Greater love has no one than this: to lay down one's life for one's friends.

Romans 5:7-8 (NCV)

"Very few people will die to save the life of someone else... But God shows his great love for us in this way: Christ died for us while we were still sinners".

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
www.boyersappenfield.com
102 E Main St.
Arcola IL 61910

Dan Sappenfield, CFP®
(217) 832-3033
1 N Sycamore
Villa Grove, IL 61956

Over 40 years of Retirement Planning Experience
Securities offered through Cambridge Investment Research, Inc., member FINRA/SIPC. Advisory services through Cambridge Investment Research Advisors, Inc., a Registered Investment Adviser.
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Poets Corner:

If you would like to see your poems/short stories published in SCC Today please e-mail your work to: jamie@thecounty-chronicle.com