

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 11-17

You may see on social media that there's an annular eclipse of the Sun on Tuesday of next week. While this is true, you have to be in the southern part of Africa or Antarctica to see it. If you have plans to visit those lands, good for you!

A solar eclipse occurs when the Moon's shadow falls upon

the Earth. As the Moon moves in its orbit and the Earth rotates, we have an eclipse shadow track. What makes it an "annular eclipse" is the Moon is a bit farther away than its average distance, so it appears a bit smaller, not completely covering the Sun.

The penguins there will see a glowing ring in the

sky at totality. Some of you may remember the annular eclipse we had right here in Champaign County on May 10, 1994. And skies were actually clear! If you don't want to travel, the next total eclipse seen in Central Illinois will be in September of 2099. Put that on your calendar.

Boyhood" we learn about his growing up on a Georgia farm and the people who shaped his life.

But presidents also write more than just autobiographical works. One example is John F. Kennedy's "Profiles in Courage," which profiles senators who defied their party to do what they felt right.

And for something totally different we have the political suspense thriller, "The President's Plane is Missing" co-authored by Bill Clinton.

I could go on, but then you wouldn't have the fun of coming in and browsing our shelves and making your own discoveries.

Have a great week and hope to see you soon in the library.

library. Your registration is appreciated but not required.

February 17th is also the Lunar New Year, and we are inviting you to celebrate by grabbing one of our Cherry Blossom Sign MYCC kits that will be out on the counter starting that Monday.

February 18 is the third Wednesday of the month, so mark your calendars for Coffee Talk from 9:00-10:00AM, and, as always, there will be Teen FabLab in the afternoon from 3:30-5:00.

Want to learn about our upcoming programs ahead of time? Sign up for our Programs + Newsletter; you'll receive an email with the upcoming month's programs well in advance, giving you plenty of time to plan your schedule! Visit our website to learn more.

"Drone Piece," as the dome shows a simulated flight from outside the Milky Way galaxy, past nearby stars, through the Solar System, and finally to Earth.

The musicians hope the improvised performances and the planetarium's visuals inspire the audience to resonate with the universe in their own way.

Tickets for "The Book of Fixed Stars" are free, but seating is limited. Visitors may reserve tickets at tickets.parkland.edu.

Please visit planetarium.parkland.edu for the show schedule or call 217/351-2568 for information about reserving the dome for special events.

Trustee Tyler Bickers seconded by Trustee Dan Gaden.

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

House.

"In His Own Hand", presents the vision Ronald Reagan had for America through writings selected from his whole life. It includes short stories written in high school and college, a poem from his high school yearbook, newspaper articles, letters, and speeches both before and during his presidency.

In "Off the Record: The Private Papers of Harry S. Truman", we get a picture of this president during his occupancy of the White House till his death in 1972 through diary entries, letters and memoranda.

One of our more prolific presidential writers was Jimmy Carter. In "An Hour Before Daylight: Memories of a Rural

on the first of the month; be sure to set a reminder so you don't miss out next time!

We will also celebrate Valentine's Day with the little ones at Storytime on Friday, February 13 from 10:00-10:30AM. Be sure to bring your babies and toddlers to sit and listen to stories of love and friendship.

The celebrations continue Tuesday, February 17 from 6:00-7:30, where we will host an Interactive History presentation for Mardi Gras!

Learn about the history of carnival and how it is traditionally celebrated. You'll get to experience the music and culture of New Orleans, eat a piece of authentic New Orleans King Cake (from Gambino's Bakery), and create your own masks and parade throws. RSVP to this event on our website or by calling the

The planetarium's sky will then be replaced with geometric imagery to accompany a quartet improvised performance. UIUC Improvisers Exchange Director Jason Finkelmann will lead his ensemble to interpret surreal visuals on the dome.

Created in 2017 through the UIUC Center for Advanced Study Annual Initiative, the group remains an ensemble class open to musicians of all genres. They explore omni-idiomatic improvisation, listening and performance strategies for the improviser, and engagement with visiting artists in the field.

To close the show, both ensembles will join together in another Mesnick composition,

Village of Sidney Trustee Tyler Bickers made a motion for the Village of Sidney Board of Trustees to go into closed session to discuss a Village of Sidney employee at 8:22 p.m.

The board came out of executive (closed) session at 8:58 p.m. with no comment.

Village of Sidney President John Finn brought the meeting to adjournment at 8:59 p.m. following a motion from

THE SIDNEY SCOOP

by Ann Rhoton, 688-2812



Look for your correspondent's February 2 Village of Sidney Board of Trustees Meeting Coverage published in this week's edition of the Southern Champaign County Today Paper.

Valentine's Day is fast approaching. Please remember to shop local!

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.

The "The Mid Central Woman's Christian Temperance Union" meeting will take place on Saturday, February 21 at 11:30 a.m. at Monical's Pizza in Villa Grove.

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

The Sidney Improvement Group (SIG) Easter Egg Hunt at Witt Park is scheduled to take place on Saturday, March 28. Your correspondent will

continue to watch for the time and other details.

Happy Valentine's 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 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, February 12 through Wednesday, February 18.

Thursday, 2/12/26 - Ham chef salad, carrot bites, vanilla pudding, bread served with butter or margarine, and a half pint of milk.

Friday, 2/13/26 - Savory chicken, mashed potatoes, sweet peas, mixed fruit cup, bread served with butter or margarine, and a half pint of milk.

Saturday, 2/14/26 - Happy Valentine's Day! Tuna salad, cottage cheese with pineapple, chocolate pudding, crackers, and a half pint of milk.

Sunday, 2/15/26 - OSF Peace Meal is closed.

Monday, 2/16/26 - Chick-

en and noodles over mashed potatoes, peas and carrots, spiced peaches, and a half pint of milk.

Tuesday, 2/17/26 - Baked pork chops, green beans, baked beans, papaya and mango cup, bread served with butter or margarine, and a half pint of milk.

Wednesday, 2/18/26 - 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 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

"There may be times when we are powerless to prevent injustice, but there must never be a time when we fail to protest."

— Elie Wiesel
"Justice will not be served until those who are unaffected are as outraged as those who are."

— Benjamin Franklin
"We are not to simply bandage the wounds of victims beneath the wheels of injustice, we are to drive a spoke into the wheel itself."

— Dietrich Bonhoeffer
Wednesday was busy at The Giving Place. We served 11 families (1 new), 37 people and 15 children. Food totaled \$700.00 (14 boxes at ~\$50.00 per box).

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

Our needs at The Giving Place!

The Giving Place is in need



of the following items: Instant mashed potatoes, 1 lb. bags of rice, individual snacks, saltine crackers, canned fruit, canned beans, canned tomato products, spaghetti and other dried pasta.

Thanks to Linda, Judi, Jo Ellen, Katie, Sharon, Ernie, Pastor Gail, 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
Micah 6:8 ESV
He has told you, O man, what is good; and what does the Lord require of you but to do justice, and to love kindness, and to walk humbly with your God?
Isaiah 1:17 ESV

Learn to do good; seek justice, correct oppression; bring justice to the fatherless, plead the widow's cause.

Amos 5:24 ESV
But let justice roll down like waters, and righteousness like an ever-flowing stream.
Proverbs 21:15 ESV / 4,981 helpful votes

When justice is done, it is a joy to the righteous but terror to evildoers.

Central Illinois Girl Scouts Kick Off Cookie Season on February 13 by Welcoming Exploremores to the Cookie Lineup

On February 13, Girl Scouts of Central Illinois will kick off the 2026 Girl Scout Cookie™ season as local Girl Scouts explore more possibilities through the largest girl-led entrepreneurial program in the world.

"Every box of Girl Scout Cookies represents far more than a delicious treat; it's a catalyst for local change," said Jennifer Sedbrook, CEO of Girl Scouts of Central Illinois. "Because 100% of the net proceeds stay within our community, each purchase directly funds the service projects, outdoor adventures, and skill-building programs that help area girls thrive today and lead tomorrow."

Exploremores™, a rocky road ice cream-inspired sandwich cookie, will join the legendary lineup for the 2026 Girl Scout Cookie season. Filled with delicious flavors of chocolate, marshmallow and toasted almond-flavored crème, Exploremores reflect the spirit of exploration at the heart of every Girl Scout. In addition to the exciting new cookie, the 2026 cookie lineup will include fan favorites such

as Thin Mints®, Caramel delites®, Peanut Butter Patties® and more.

The Girl Scout Cookie Program® provides invaluable entrepreneurial skills for Girl Scouts across the country and funds experiences such as service projects, troop travel, and summer camp. From a curious kindergartener, amazed by giraffes at the local zoo, to a middle schooler finding the courage to go on her first overnight trip with her troop, Girl Scouts know the road to discovery starts with exploration. Each cookie season, Girl Scouts develop important life skills like goal setting, decision making, money management, people skills and business ethics through the Girl Scout Cookie Program. All proceeds from cookie sales stay local to power Girl Scouts' amazing experiences year-round.

Right now, central Illinois Girl Scouts are exploring who they are, what they can do and all they can become. Your purchase helps them make their community, and the world, a better place — one box of cookies at a time.

How to Purchase Girl Scout Cookies This Year

If you know a Girl Scout, reach out to her.

If you don't know a Girl Scout, use the Girl Scout Cookie Finder by entering your zip code. There you can find a troop selling at a nearby booth, or you can purchase cookies to be shipped directly to you and/or to donate cookies for local community causes.

If you would like to be connected to a local troop selling Girl Scout Cookies, you can fill out the Cookie Finder Customer Request form.

You can also text COOKIES to 59618 to stay informed about Girl Scout Cookie news. Learn more about the Terms and Conditions and the Privacy Policy.

Girl Scout Cookie™ season in central Illinois runs February 13 – March 29.

Girls in grades K-12 can start their journey toward fun, friendship, and new experiences by joining the world's largest entrepreneurial organization for girls at any time of year. GetYourGirlPower.org.

Village of Sidney Board of Trustees Holds Regular and Closed Session Meetings cont'd from pg. 1

Village of Sidney Board Trustee and Parks and Recreation Chair Matt Laurent reported that ball signups had taken place for the Witt Park Ball Park program.

Village of Sidney Board Trustee and Community Development Chair Leroy Schluter had nothing to report.

Village of Sidney President John Finn asked if there was any New and Old Business.

Recipe Corner: Send your favorite recipes to us
jamie@thecounty-chronicle.com