

The Sidney Scoop

By Ann Rhoton
Phone 217-688-2812



The Sidney American Legion Post 433 regular monthly meeting should have taken place on March 16. 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, March 21 at 11:30 a.m. at Monical's Pizza in Villa Grove. A program presented by the "Living Alternative Pregnancy Resource Center" will take place at this meeting.

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

Plans are in the making for the Countryside United Methodist Church located at 1807 CR 1000N, Urbana between Sidney and Philo on the Sidney slab annual flea market fundraiser!

The church will host a clothing and linen sale ahead of the flea market on Friday, March 27 from 5:00 - 7:00 p.m. in the fellowship hall and the flea market will take place on Saturday, March 28 from 7:00 a.m. - 2:00 p.m.

Shoppers at this year's flea market will find kitchen and glassware, books and puzzles, clothing and linens, household goods, and more to choose from and be able to enjoy delicious bake sale treats.

Ninety percent of the proceeds from this year's event stay with the church and ten percent of the proceeds go to Unity East Elementary.

Call the church office at (217) 688-2422 and speak with Pastor Jeff Stahl or other church representatives or reach out to event organizer Karen Chumbley at (217) 493-1570 for more information.

Bring your Easter baskets, hunt for goodies, and visit

with the Easter Bunny at the 9:00 a.m. Saturday, March 28 Sidney Improvement Group Easter Egg Hunt at Witt Park! Age groups for the event are: toddler - 2 years, 3 - 5 years, 6 - 7 years, and 8 - 10 years of age. The event will move to the Sidney Community Library in the event of rain.

The following was posted on March 2 on the Sidney Scoop Facebook page by The Village of Sidney:

"The ever popular 'Dumpster Day' for this Spring is scheduled for Saturday, April 11th from 7:00am - 11:00am at Witt Park. Some of the prohibited items are: tires, yard waste, paints, oils, chemicals, batteries, or electronics of any kind (televvisions, computers, monitors, microwaves, etc.) You must be a Sidney resident to participate. We will also be verifying that you are a Sidney resident; if we don't know you please be prepared to have an ID ready. Thank you!"

The Sidney Lions Club will host their 67th annual donations accepted fish fry on Saturday, May 2 from 4:00 - 7:00 p.m. at the Sidney Community Building located at 211 East Main Street in Sidney.

Alaskan pollock with all the fixings, pork and beans, coleslaw, potato salad, desert, and more are on the menu. Proceeds from the fish fry go toward Sidney Lions Club college scholarships and their eye glasses program.

The Sidney Lions Club will also be giving the community an opportunity to purchase Sidney Lions Club 2026 Christmas Cash - New Year's Dash raffle tickets at their fish fry. Tickets are \$10.00 each and can be purchased at the fish fry, from Sidney Lions Club President Bill Hensch, or from any Sidney Lions Club member.

The inaugural Sidney Spring Fling event brought

to you by The Goose & The Gander, LLC and the Sidney Improvement Group will take place on South David Street in downtown Sidney on Saturday, May 9 from 9:00 a.m. - 3:00 p.m. The event will take place the day before Mother's Day so vendors will focus on gifts for Mom and more.

Anyone interested in being a vendor can visit The Goose & The Gander, LLC website at <https://www.tgandtg.com/> for more information and for a vendor contract form.

Folks can also reach out to Brett Franzen at The Goose & The Gander, LLC at (217) 530-5696 or by email at tgandtgllc@gmail.com with questions concerning the event.

Your correspondent will publish more information about the event as it is made available.

Pastor Jeff Stahl reported to your correspondent that plans are in the making for the Countryside United Methodist Church to have a special Sunday, September 13 50-year anniversary celebration of the church.

They are also trying to get past pastors of the church to come to the 50-year anniversary celebration.

Your correspondent will keep you updated as plans continue to evolve.

Have a great 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.

planting peas on Saint Patrick's Day this year. The forecast is that some time Sunday it will drop below freezing and keep dropping, as a cold front with a bad attitude arrives, bringing rain, then snow. It is predicted to stay below freezing until this column appears. Monday night's low may be in the single digits. By the time you read this, we will begin to see how early flower buds have fared. Perhaps the cold will take a toll on seed production in plants that have already bloomed. And perhaps the early seedlings already up will be ravaged.

With 80 degrees the first week of March, people are wondering what summer will be like. At the rate we've been going, we could hit record high temps one day, and have a snowstorm the next. But let's get to Spring first.

New moon tonight

We'll have a "new" Moon tonight, meaning a good week for skywatching beneath a dark sky. Let's hope for some clear skies and warmer temperatures.

Look westward just after sunset tomorrow evening and see if you can see a very thin crescent Moon below and right of Venus. The Moon should be easier to see Friday evening with the Moon above Venus. Look for what's called "Earthshine" on the Moon. Though a thin crescent appears illuminated, you can see the entire Moon. This is sunlight reflecting off the Earth and then reflecting off the Moon to come back to our eyes. If not Friday, look the next night.

Friday is also the Vernal

In the night sky

By David Leake



Equinox and the first day of spring. The Sun will be perched high above the Earth's equator at 9:46 a.m. Friday morning. We'll see it rise due east and set due west (so be careful driving near sunrise or sunset on east/west streets) and we'll have roughly

equal amounts of daylight and darkness.

Some say you can balance an egg on its end at the equinox, and you can. Try it. But you have the same chance every other day of the year, too. Just no one makes the attempt. Happy spring!



Donna McHenry is served by her husband, Mike, as a volunteer fire fighter in Philo during their St Patrick's meal fundraiser on Sunday, March 15 in the Philo Tavern. *Submitted photo.*



CLIFF STOKER (Philo resident/local musician) is served by Philo Fire Department at their annual corned beef & cabbage meal on Sunday, March 15 in the Philo Tavern. *Submitted photo.*



Friday March 6 exceeded the weather forecasters' expectations. The temperature hit 80 degrees. The rain earlier in the week did indeed change the U.S. Drought Monitor map. Most of Champaign County is now "only" in severe drought (D2) rather than extreme. The area in extreme drought is much smaller than it was.

Moisture and warm weather have certainly gotten the plants growing.

Dandelions are up. Violets are up. Winter speedwell is blooming.

Flowers have fallen from the maples. But Old Man Winter is not quite done with us yet. The present forecast indicates a severe cold spell.

We had a brief cold snap in March 2023 that had an overnight low in the upper teens followed by a daytime high in the mid-20's. It had snow on daffodils in bloom, and the blossoms survived. But the imminent cold snap will have us below freezing for days on end, if the forecast pans out.

So as of Friday the Thirteenth, it doesn't look good for

tion and fabrication.

When you look at history, look at who wrote it and who they wrote it for. The history that tends to make its way into the textbooks was written by the winners, the survivors, and the promoters. Cave drawings showing great hunting successes don't have any pictures drawn by the mastodons or woolly mammoths.

Storytelling, right or wrong, has always been a staple of society despite its inherent unreliability. We've all played that telephone game where the story changes a little each time it's passed down the line. The truth isn't always true. Used to be, it's what we collectively believed. Now it's what we individually believe.

There was a time when fact and faith were separate entities. It was OK to have certain

Ramblin' Man

By David Porter



beliefs as long as they didn't get in the way of our collective facts. We had things like evidence, which pointed to facts, and lack of evidence, which indicated conjecture. We don't have that anymore. Allegation and proof are now synonyms.

We used to have things like eyeballs that could see something and discern truth from that. We don't have that anymore. We still have eyeballs; we just don't always believe

them. Doubt — not even reasonable doubt — is all you need today. Blame is handy, too. If I offer you a sandwich, but you don't care for my sandwich, it's now my fault that you're hungry. Accountability and responsibility — pshaw!

Used to be, the judicial system was the final arbiter of truth. We know they get it wrong sometimes, but at some point, somebody has to have the final say, right?

Wrong-o. It doesn't work that way anymore. Your truth and my truth may be miles apart, but your truth is still true for you, and my truth is still true for me.

We used to say that we'll just have to agree to disagree. That's flipped now, too. We just disagree to agree.

This is really good news for all of us. It shows how much we've grown as a society, where we're not bound by inconvenient truths. We can take comfort in inconceivable deceit.

Salt is good for you. Racism doesn't exist. Aliens are real but climate change isn't. Vaccines are a hoax, the economy is great, and assassination isn't murder depending on who gets assassinated.

This isn't national politics because I see it at the local level — not just local people

believing national or international propaganda. You can see it in local issues, personal relationships, and among your friends and neighbors.

It's good, though. Fantastic, really. I don't know about you, but I was getting a little fed up with common sense.

So, now, I can be over six feet tall. My basketball skills are pro-level. My cooking is to die for, and everybody loves me.

Isn't this much better than the old days when justice and equality were the bullies? Those aunts sitting around the dining table spreading their bologna sauce were pioneers ahead of their time.

© Copyright 2026 by David Porter who can be reached at presseditor1@gmail.com. I always knew Uncle Carbuncle was the philandering old coot they said he was.

Truth is out of fashion; common sense is passé

I just thought I'd let everyone know that I am no longer five feet, six inches tall. I had a growth spurt in my 60s, and I am now six foot-two.

This is a true story. You want to know how I know it's true? Because I said it. I thought it. I believed it. And now it's true.

That's all it takes these days. I don't know whether it's political influence, artificial intelligence, COVID-19, climate change, alien invasion, deep-state manipulation, social media, or something in the water, but the entire concept of what is real and imaginary is upside down.

I suppose society has always been afflicted with conflicting truths. I can tell you, back in the day, I had some aunts who were particularly gifted in the art of exaggera-