

Kaw Valley Almanac

December 19 - 25, 2016

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Sun

Mars, Venus, SW in evening;
Jupiter southeast at dawn

Day	Moon rises	Moon south	Moon sets	% Illum.	Phase
Monday	11:29 PM	05:11 AM	11:47 AM	70%	
Tuesday		05:57 AM	12:19 PM	60%	3rd Quarter
Wednesday	12:26 AM	06:42 AM	12:49 PM	50%	
Thursday	01:24 AM	07:25 AM	01:20 PM	40%	
Friday	02:19 AM	08:07 AM	01:50 PM	31%	
Saturday	03:15 AM	08:51 AM	02:21 PM	23%	
Sunday	04:10 AM	09:35 AM	02:56 PM	15%	



The recent snow fell gently enough on the leeward side of a hedgerow to create snow bridges on the tops of prairie grass blades. The warm weather this week will make the snow disappear in all but the north side of things out of the reach of the sun's rays. Enjoy the deep blue skies created by low humidity and the low angle of the sun even at its peak at noon.

Day	Gets light	Sunrise	Sunset	Gets dark
Monday	06:36 AM	07:35 AM	05:01 PM	06:07 PM
Tuesday	06:36 AM	07:36 AM	05:01 PM	06:07 PM
Wednesday	06:37 AM	07:36 AM	05:02 PM	06:08 PM
Thursday	06:37 AM	07:37 AM	05:02 PM	06:08 PM
Friday	06:38 AM	07:37 AM	05:03 PM	06:09 PM
Saturday	06:38 AM	07:38 AM	05:03 PM	06:09 PM
Sunday	06:39 AM	07:38 AM	05:04 PM	06:10 PM

Nature Notes

§ This is a good week to feed the birds due to the recent cold snap. Look for juncos, chickadees, cardinals, bluejays, nuthatches, downy and redbellied woodpeckers, pine siskins and titmouse all hanging together in winter flocks around the bird feeder this time of year.

§ Wednesday morning at 4:44am is the winter solstice, and this is the longest night of the year: 14 hours, 34 minutes from sunset Tuesday to sunrise Wednesday morning. Summer solstice nights only last 9 hours 6 minutes. At winter solstice the sun rises and sets around 28° SOUTH of due east/west, and is only 27.6° up from the south horizon at noon, while at summer solstice it is around 28° NORTH of due east/west at sunrise/sunset and is 71.3° up from the horizon at noon.

§ If you are travelling this week, look out your car window for the white bark of sycamore trees which line many valley creeks, the coppery prairie grasses on the ridges, and the oaks that hang onto their leaves all winter long. Count the number of hawks perched on fenceposts and telephone poles, look for turkey flocks in fields and bald eagles in the sky. Take care to see the deer and say a prayer for each animal who didn't make it across the road.