

# Kaw Valley Almanac

December 18 - 24, 2017

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Day	Moon rises	Moon south	Moon sets	% Illum.	Phase
Monday	07:40 AM	12:41 PM	05:43 PM	0%	New Moon
Tuesday	08:28 AM	01:29 PM	06:31 PM	2%	
Wednesday	09:14 AM	02:17 PM	07:23 PM	5%	
Thursday	09:55 AM	03:04 PM	08:17 PM	11%	
Friday	10:32 AM	03:51 PM	09:13 PM	17%	
Saturday	11:07 AM	04:36 PM	10:11 PM	25%	
Sunday	11:40 AM	05:22 PM	11:10 PM	34%	



This black capped chickadee is getting nourishment to weather the upcoming colder temperatures—it's not too late to put some out in your yard, and don't forget to provide water, too!



## Sun

Jupiter and Mars east at dawn

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

## Nature Notes

§ This week includes the winter solstice: Thursday has only 9 hours and 24 minutes between sunrise and sunset, making it the shortest daytime of the year. Look to the north at noon this week to see how deep blue the sky is at high noon, due to the low altitude of the sun at its highest point. See the sunrise/sunset point at a given location and return to that point throughout the year: the sunrise/sunset point will never go further south than on Thursday.

§ Last Saturday's Christmas Bird Count registered over 100 species of birds in Douglas County. The snow geese at Loess Bluff National Wildlife refuge have disappeared due to the lower water levels and the driest December there in 15 years. Go instead to see what you can see at Clinton Lake. Don't forget to look for bald eagles along the Kaw River, too! Other great hikes are available at Douglas County State Lake, along the river, around Prairie Park and up at the Fitch Natural History Reserve.

§ If you are traveling this week, look out your car window for the white 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, take care to see the deer and say a prayer for each animal who didn't make it across the road.