

Kaw Valley Almanac

February 19 - 25, 2018

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Day	Moon rises	Moon south	Moon sets	% Illum.	Phase
Monday	09:19 AM	03:35 PM	10:00 PM	11%	1st Quarter
Tuesday	09:51 AM	04:23 PM	11:03 PM	18%	
Wednesday	10:25 AM	05:12 PM		27%	
Thursday	11:03 AM	06:05 PM	12:08 AM	37%	
Friday	11:46 AM	07:00 PM	01:14 AM	48%	
Saturday	12:35 PM	07:58 PM	02:19 AM	60%	
Sunday	01:32 PM	08:58 PM	03:23 AM	71%	



This is brome grass, a cool season grass that most years has already begun to green up by now. But because we have had so little rain in the past several months, it is still dormant, leaving much of our area at high risk of fires especially on windy days. Be careful! The last wheat report put 76% of the crop in poor to fair condition due to the moisture shortage.



Sun

Saturn, Jupiter and Mars south at dawn; Venus low west just after sunset

Day	Gets light	Sunrise	Sunset	Gets dark
Monday	06:11 AM	07:06 AM	06:03 PM	06:59 PM
Tuesday	06:10 AM	07:05 AM	06:04 PM	07:00 PM
Wednesday	06:08 AM	07:04 AM	06:05 PM	07:01 PM
Thursday	06:07 AM	07:03 AM	06:06 PM	07:02 PM
Friday	06:06 AM	07:01 AM	06:07 PM	07:03 PM
Saturday	06:05 AM	07:00 AM	06:08 PM	07:04 PM
Sunday	06:03 AM	06:58 AM	06:09 PM	07:05 PM

Nature Notes

- § Shelf mushrooms are easy to spot this time of year; they grow on dead limbs and trunks and orient horizontally when they grow, so if they are at a different angle, it means the wood they grew on has fallen since it began to grow. Keep an eye out for the mature brown puffball mushroom, which will emit a smoky cloud of spores if you step on it.
- § The snowdrop ornamental flower has begun to bloom, typically the first flower of the year.
- § Raccoons, coyotes, muskrats and cottontail rabbits can be mating this time of year already. Their young are born later when the spring food supply is most plentiful for the mothers to be able to eat enough to feed their young.
- § Breeding eagles have started laying eggs, and great horned owls are also nesting, having found their nesting territories earlier in January. They are reportedly the earliest nesting bird in Kansas. There are plenty of raptors around and overwintering/migratory songbirds and waterfowl are very wary of their presence lest they become a meal.
- § If you have an interest in native plants, come to the Kaw Valley Native Plant Coalition Annual meeting this Wednesday, Feb. 21st, 7:00 - 8:30 pm, Lawrence Public Library Auditorium.