

# Kaw Valley Almanac

February 5 - 11, 2018

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Monday	11:41 PM	04:42 AM	10:37 AM	74%
Tuesday		05:28 AM	11:09 AM	65%
Wednesday	12:41 AM	06:14 AM	11:42 AM	55% 3rd Quarter
Thursday	01:39 AM	07:00 AM	12:17 PM	45%
Friday	02:35 AM	07:46 AM	12:55 PM	36%
Saturday	03:29 AM	08:33 AM	01:36 PM	27%
Sunday	04:20 AM	09:21 AM	02:22 PM	19%



## Sun

Saturn, Jupiter and Mars east at dawn

Day	Gets light	Sunrise	Sunset	Gets dark
Monday	06:25 AM	07:23 AM	05:47 PM	06:44 PM
Tuesday	06:25 AM	07:22 AM	05:48 PM	06:45 PM
Wednesday	06:24 AM	07:21 AM	05:49 PM	06:46 PM
Thursday	06:23 AM	07:20 AM	05:50 PM	06:47 PM
Friday	06:22 AM	07:19 AM	05:51 PM	06:48 PM
Saturday	06:21 AM	07:17 AM	05:52 PM	06:49 PM
Sunday	06:20 AM	07:16 AM	05:54 PM	06:50 PM



The snow can record more than footprints: bird feathers can leave parallel markings in the snow as they fly away as you can see in at least 4 different places in this photo, in addition to the usual footprints. The bird feeder can be a busy place when we have a cold snap and some snow and the antics of the winter flocks can be quite entertaining.

## Nature Notes

§ It's really dry; some years, the "cool season" grasses stay green in winter months, but not this year. This means that ANY windy day is a fire hazard day where the whole landscape could burn, so be careful. This week's snow should help some, although snow-moisture ratio when it's between 20 and 25° is 1:15, meaning if we get 4 inches of snow we only get 0.25 inch of moisture.

§ Opossums, bobcats, raccoons, cottontails, muskrats and coyotes are beginning to mate, while foxes, squirrels and beavers are most likely already pregnant.

§ Moles have been busy this winter, with their tunnels making any hike a soft experience for your feet if the ground has thawed. They are active even under the snow nowadays.

§ This is a good time to clean out bluebird boxes as the birds will soon be inspecting homes for the spring to lay their eggs. Even with the snow, see if you can pick out the morning songs of various birds including cardinals, chickadees, phoebe and day or night, the owls.

§ Look in coming weeks for the reddening of twigs on dogwoods as well as yellowing of willow twigs, both caused by yellow and red chlorophyll activated by longer periods of daylight.