

Kaw Valley Almanac

July 30 – August 5, 2018

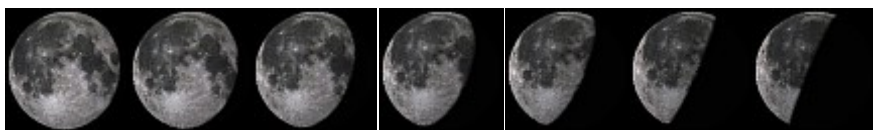
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Sun

Saturn, Jupiter S/SW at dusk,
Mars in E after dark;
Venus west just after sunset

Day	Moon rises	Moon south	Moon sets	% Illum.	Phase
Monday	10:23 PM	03:18 AM	08:49 AM	95%	
Tuesday	10:52 PM	04:02 AM	09:47 AM	90%	
Wednesday	11:21 PM	04:45 AM	10:46 AM	84%	
Thursday	11:51 PM	05:29 AM	11:45 AM	76%	
Friday		06:14 AM	12:46 PM	66%	
Saturday	12:22 AM	07:01 AM	01:49 PM	56%	3rd Quarter
Sunday	12:56 AM	07:51 AM	02:54 PM	46%	



This top-down photo documents that the perennial ashy sunflower leaves (the ones that look a little like a rose) have curled up in order to cope with the lack of moisture, while the other perennial sunflower, sawtooth, has adapted in a different way. The leaves (pointy ones) of the sawtooth sunflower are very skinny and the plants much shorter than in wet years. Wilting/curled/narrowed leaves, shorter stature and delayed/absent blooms are all prairie adaptations to hot, dry cycles.

Day	Gets light	Sunrise	Sunset	Gets dark
Monday	05:18 AM	06:19 AM	08:34 PM	09:45 PM
Tuesday	05:19 AM	06:20 AM	08:33 PM	09:44 PM
Wednesday	05:20 AM	06:21 AM	08:32 PM	09:42 PM
Thursday	05:21 AM	06:22 AM	08:31 PM	09:41 PM
Friday	05:22 AM	06:23 AM	08:30 PM	09:40 PM
Saturday	05:23 AM	06:24 AM	08:29 PM	09:39 PM
Sunday	05:25 AM	06:25 AM	08:28 PM	09:37 PM

Nature Notes

§ The recent rains, greatly welcomed as they were, are not enough to make much of a difference at all for most plants. The insect community, like every other year after a rain, are much noisier both during the day and after dark.

§ Dropping water levels in area ponds, reservoirs, wetlands and rivers/creeks mean more habitat for shorebirds, which thrive on food they grub up in the shallow waters and muds. It can also mean early migratory behavior for other birds who are not finding enough insects, seeds and other food to stock up during what normally is the most food-dense time of the year.

§ This week is still a great time to observe Mars, which is closest to the earth on July 31. It rises 4 or 5 minutes earlier each night, rising shortly before sunset in the east and due south around midnight. It's beautiful to look at with your naked eye or through binoculars. A planetary dust storm continues to obscure features through the telescope, though.

§ The rain seems to have revived the chigger population, which had waned in the dry weather. Expect more spider webs again, which had also been greatly reduced by the dry conditions. Lightning bugs have not returned.