

Kaw Valley Almanac

December 24 – 30, 2018

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Day	Moon rises	South	Moon sets	% Illum.	Phase
Monday	07:31 PM	01:54 AM	09:23 AM	97%	
Tuesday	08:43 PM	02:56 AM	10:13 AM	92%	
Wednesday	09:54 PM	03:54 AM	10:57 AM	84%	
Thursday	11:04 PM	04:50 AM	11:35 AM	74%	
Friday		05:41 AM	12:09 PM	64%	
Saturday	12:12 AM	06:31 AM	12:41 PM	52%	3rd Quarter
Sunday	01:17 AM	07:19 AM	01:12 PM	41%	



The winter solstice happened last week, but the sun is still rising and setting as far south on the horizon this week before starting to march north again. So make a mental note from your favorite spot where the sun is on the horizon and compare it on June 21, the summer solstice: it'll be almost 60 degrees north of where it is this week. See if you can see the flock of geese near the top of the picture.



Sun

Mars SW at dusk,

Mercury, Venus in the east before sunrise

Monday	06:38 AM	07:37 AM	05:03 PM	06:10 PM
Tuesday	06:39 AM	07:37 AM	05:04 PM	06:10 PM
Wednesday	06:39 AM	07:38 AM	05:05 PM	06:11 PM
Thursday	06:40 AM	07:38 AM	05:05 PM	06:11 PM
Friday	06:36 AM	07:38 AM	05:06 PM	06:11 PM
Saturday	06:36 AM	07:39 AM	05:07 PM	06:12 PM
Sunday	06:37 AM	07:39 AM	05:07 PM	06:12 PM

Nature Notes

§ If you want to see eagles, take a walk across the Kaw River bridge at 6th and Massachusetts and look for them perched in the cottonwoods above or below the bridge, looking for a fish.

500,000 Snow geese were reported at Loess Bluffs National Wildlife Refuge along the Missouri River, too.

§ Some things to look for on a winter hike: rabbit and deer nibbles on last year's new growth twigs; dismantled nuts and hedgeballs from hungry squirrels; feather and fur piles from raptor/owl/coyote catches; piles of sticks (pack rat) or leaves (squirrel nests); nibbled off dry grass stalks that are made into rodent nests.

§ With rain predicted this week, it'll be a good week to look for tracks in the mud/around open water. Geese and ducks are present at area lakes and skies, with watchful hawks, winter songbird flocks around bird feeders, and owls at night. In other words, with few leaves and no bugs, it's a good time to check out and observe the local wildlife.

§ Pocket gophers and moles seem to be enjoying the soft ground of late and their burrows and dirt mounds can be easily seen this time of year.

§ Even though we're not having snow, the birds appreciate bird seed in rainy, blustery weather, too.