

Kaw Valley Almanac

September 18 - 24, 2017

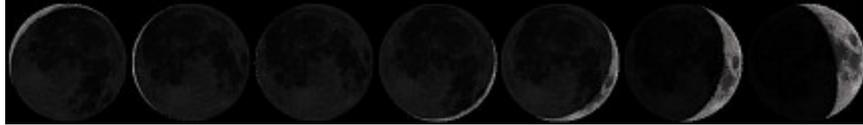
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Sun

Venus, Mercury east at dawn;
Saturn SW after dusk

Day	Moon rises	Moon south	Moon sets	% Illum.	Phase
Monday	05:16 AM	12:06 PM	06:49 PM	3%	New Moon
Tuesday	06:21 AM	12:56 PM	07:24 PM	0%	
Wednesday	07:25 AM	01:44 PM	07:56 PM	0%	
Thursday	08:27 AM	02:31 PM	08:28 PM	3%	
Friday	09:28 AM	03:17 PM	09:00 PM	7%	
Saturday	10:27 AM	04:03 PM	09:33 PM	13%	
Sunday	11:25 AM	04:49 PM	10:08 PM	20%	



The blue sprays of blooming Pitcher's sage are accented by the yellows of sawtooth sunflower, the white flower clusters of boneset and the still-pollinating seedheads of indiagrass. This is a great time of year to enjoy nature's colors and bounty in the prairie, wetland or nature trail near you. Don't forget to bring a friend, a camera and your curiosity!

Day	Gets light	Sunrise	Sunset	Gets dark
Monday	06:13 AM	07:05 AM	07:24 PM	08:25 PM
Tuesday	06:14 AM	07:06 AM	07:23 PM	08:23 PM
Wednesday	06:15 AM	07:07 AM	07:21 PM	08:22 PM
Thursday	06:15 AM	07:08 AM	07:19 PM	08:20 PM
Friday	06:16 AM	07:09 AM	07:18 PM	08:18 PM
Saturday	06:17 AM	07:10 AM	07:16 PM	08:17 PM
Sunday	06:18 AM	07:11 AM	07:14 PM	08:15 PM

Nature Notes

§ The traditional yellow flowers of August have shifted into September, at least partly due to the shifting climate that has extended the summer. Pitcher's sage, perennial sunflowers, gentians, euphorbia, a few lingering gayfeathers are joined by an increasing crescendo of asters that will peak in the next few weeks. Pollinating insects and their predators still abound, as do a wide variety of butterfly species.

§ With insect numbers peaking, their predators are all over the place, including spiders, praying mantis, frogs and dragonflies. Gathering flocks of birds also fuel up on the insect world as well as plant seeds and fruit that are ready to eat.

§ Recent rains will bring a profusion of mushrooms. Check out insect galls on hackberry, oak and elm leaves and on the stems of goldenrods, and in woodland, the common white understory flower is snakeroot.

§ Spiderwebs are still all over the place. If you're lucky, you can see spiders migrating in the air, being pulled along by gossamer strands in the wind.

§ Don't forget that coming this weekend is the Prairie Festival at the Land Institute in Salina. Find the details of this fine event at www.landinstitute.org It's a great way to celebrate the fall equinox, which is also this Friday.