

# Kaw Valley Almanac

March 26 – Apr. 1, 2018

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

Day	Moon rises	Moon south	Moon sets	% Illum.	Phase
Monday	02:29 PM	09:47 PM	04:11 AM	67%	
Tuesday	03:37 PM	10:43 PM	05:00 AM	78%	
Wednesday	04:45 PM	11:37 PM	05:43 AM	87%	
Thursday	05:53 PM		06:21 AM	93%	
Friday	07:00 PM	12:29 AM	06:56 AM	98%	
Saturday	08:05 PM	01:19 AM	07:30 AM	100%	Full Moon
Sunday	09:09 PM	02:07 AM	08:02 AM	99%	

Day	Gets light	Sunrise	Sunset	Gets dark
Monday	06:23 AM	07:14 AM	07:39 PM	08:38 PM
Tuesday	06:21 AM	07:13 AM	07:39 PM	08:39 PM
Wednesday	06:20 AM	07:11 AM	07:40 PM	08:40 PM
Thursday	06:18 AM	07:10 AM	07:41 PM	08:42 PM
Friday	06:16 AM	07:08 AM	07:42 PM	08:43 PM
Saturday	06:15 AM	07:06 AM	07:43 PM	08:44 PM
Sunday	06:13 AM	07:05 AM	07:44 PM	08:45 PM

## Nature Notes

§ Western chorus frogs have begun in earnest, and will become louder as we get more moisture. Often called “spring peepers,” this refers to a different frog species not found in these parts. To listen to our local early spring diminutive frog, listen here: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=hzePgnlpUuk>

§ Look at the treescape and if you see some trees greening up in the next week, it is likely an elm tree growing its winged seeds, or samara. Once they ripen, the trees will turn yellow and they will begin to be carried off in the wind like the whirlygig maple seeds, which are also growing right now.

§ Some crop fields, typically corn and soybeans, are turning purple right now. It's caused by the small henbit wildflower, an annual "weed" that is in the mint family. It typically completes its life cycle before the fields are prepared.

§ I saw the first grasshopper of the season on Sunday: spiders, moths, ladybugs, box elder beetles, are also becoming active again; wood rats, squirrels, foxes and muskrats are bearing young around now. Migratory bats should be showing up; it's mating season for moles, pocket gophers and skunks.

§ Fire is a normal and necessary part of the prairie ecology of the area and is essential for maintaining good diversity. Expect more prairies burned in the area in coming weeks.



These prickly pear cacti are actually these colors as they rehydrate and come out of dormancy from being repeatedly frozen through the winter. If you think about it, the pinkish tinges are not that different than the reddening colors of fall leaves, as the green chlorophyll fades out, leaving the red and yellow chlorophylls/carotenoids producing the last gasp of photosynthesis for the year.