

Kaw Valley Almanac

April 2 - 8, 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	10:11 PM	02:55 AM	08:35 AM	97%	
Tuesday	11:11 PM	03:43 AM	09:09 AM	92%	
Wednesday		04:31 AM	09:46 AM	86%	
Thursday	12:09 AM	05:19 AM	10:25 AM	78%	
Friday	01:04 AM	06:07 AM	11:08 AM	70%	
Saturday	01:56 AM	06:55 AM	11:55 AM	61%	
Sunday	02:43 AM	07:43 AM	12:45 PM	51%	3rd Quarter



Look carefully amongst the graupel, those snowy pellets that came down on Sunday, and you can see pinkish-white blooming pussytoes, one of the first prairie wildflowers to emerge. The light green leaves are covered with hairs that protect them from the early spring cold weather snaps characteristic of when they emerge.

Day	Gets light	Sunrise	Sunset	Gets dark
Monday	06:11 AM	07:03 AM	07:45 PM	08:46 PM
Tuesday	06:10 AM	07:02 AM	07:46 PM	08:47 PM
Wednesday	06:08 AM	07:00 AM	07:47 PM	08:48 PM
Thursday	06:06 AM	06:59 AM	07:48 PM	08:49 PM
Friday	06:05 AM	06:57 AM	07:49 PM	08:50 PM
Saturday	06:03 AM	06:56 AM	07:50 PM	08:51 PM
Sunday	06:02 AM	06:54 AM	07:51 PM	08:52 PM

Nature Notes

§ Most years this is the best week for woodland wildflowers, but a combination of a dry winter followed by cold has delayed the blooms. But rains will bring them up and a glorious couple of weeks of flowers will ensue. Redbuds are delaying unfurling their red buds, but we are having an extended season for wild plum, crab apple and forsythia blossoms.

§ If it seems kinda late for snow, you might recall that we had snow during the last week of March in 2013 and 2016 April snows are not all that uncommon and records of snow flurries show up as late as early May.

§ Migratory birds continue to return/pass through; many shorebirds are in the area as well as migrating sparrows, returning warblers and the melodious brown thrasher. There are lots of hawks and owls.

§ Western chorus frog season will no doubt be extended by the moisture we receive this week. Start looking for other frog and toad species as well as salamanders as spring continues to unfold.

§ Gooseberry leaves have emerged as have leaves of the invasive honeysuckle. Other native forbs whose leaves have surfaced include goldenrods, cinquefoil, stinging nettle, verbena, rue anemone, cutleaf toothwort, waterleaf and trout lily.