

# Kaw Valley Almanac

December 21 - 27, 2020

[www.kawvalleyalmanac.com](http://www.kawvalleyalmanac.com) twitter: @KVAlmanac

Day	Moon rises	South	Moon sets	% Illum/Phase
Monday	12:37 PM	06:28 PM		1st Quarter
Tuesday	01:01 PM	07:09 PM	12:28 AM	60%
Wednesday	01:24 PM	07:49 PM	01:25 AM	69%
Thursday	01:48 PM	08:30 PM	02:23 AM	78%
Friday	02:15 PM	09:13 PM	03:21 AM	85%
Saturday	02:44 PM	09:58 PM	04:20 AM	92%
Sunday	03:18 PM	10:46 PM	05:20 AM	96%



This pair of friends and their dogs found the Wakarusa/Baker wetlands the perfect way to spend the weekend before the winter solstice. This coming week should be ideal for spending at least part of each day on such walks, whether they be solitary or socially distanced with friends of either the two or four legged variety. At home or from a location with a good horizon, note the rising/setting point of the sun on Monday, the furthest south point the sun is during the year, so you can watch that point start to march north for the next 6 months. Be patient; the day-to-day changes on the horizon are the smallest around the solstices and greatest on the equinoxes.



## Sun

Venus E pre-dawn; Mars S, Jupiter, Saturn SW after dusk

Day	Gets light	Sunrise	Sunset	Gets dark
Monday	06:38 AM	07:36 AM	05:02 PM	06:09 PM
Tuesday	06:38 AM	07:36 AM	05:03 PM	06:09 PM
Wednesday	06:39 AM	07:37 AM	05:03 PM	06:10 PM
Thursday	06:39 AM	07:37 AM	05:04 PM	06:10 PM
Friday	06:40 AM	07:37 AM	05:04 PM	06:11 PM
Saturday	06:40 AM	07:38 AM	05:05 PM	06:12 PM
Sunday	06:41 AM	07:38 AM	05:06 PM	06:12 PM

Live outside the Lawrence area? Get rise and setting times, moon data where you live at: <https://www.timeanddate.com/astronomy/>

## Nature Notes

- § Not only is the sun rising and setting furthest south on the horizon; mark the length of a shadow on a fence post, telephone pole or your house around noon and watch that noon shadow get progressively shorter as the sun's path gets higher and higher with the lengthening days. Alternatively, the sunlight reaches further into your house from a southern window at noon, shrinking with lengthening days, a principle that passive solar homes are built around.
- § While local temperatures have been pretty mild so far this December, what do global temperatures look like? January-November global land only temps rank as the hottest on record, while combined ocean temps are the second hottest on record. Much of Kansas continues to be in a drought.
- § If you are driving in the country this week, look for the white bark of sycamore trees which line many valley creeks, the coppery prairie grasses on the ridges, and for oaks that hang onto their leaves all winter long. Count the number of hawks perched on fence posts and telephone poles, look for turkey flocks in fields, take care to see the deer and say a prayer for each animal who didn't make it across the road.
- § If you or a loved one can't get out, providing bird seed and water is a way to bring winter flocks to your/their back yard for easy observation.