

Kaw Valley Almanac

December 20 - 26, 2021

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Day	Moon rises	South	Moon sets	% Illum/Phase
Monday	06:15 PM	01:12 AM	09:01 AM	97%
Tuesday	07:13 PM	02:03 AM	09:46 AM	93%
Wednesday	08:14 PM	02:53 AM	10:25 AM	88%
Thursday	09:17 PM	03:41 AM	10:59 AM	81%
Friday	10:21 PM	04:28 AM	11:29 AM	72%
Saturday	11:25 PM	05:13 AM	11:56 AM	63%
Sunday		05:58 AM	12:21 PM	3rd Quarter



This flock of geese was heading north as the setting sun began to turn the color of the high clouds. Virga is the name of rain or snow that evaporates on the way to the ground, as is evidenced by the cloud on the left. Even with the wind and rain last week, the area has gotten drier as drought continues to creep in from the west. The coming week promises to continue that trend, which at least will make for good hiking weather.



Sun

After dusk, Venus sets WSW, Jupiter and Saturn in SSW.

Day	Gets light	Sunrise	Sunset	Gets dark
Monday	06:37 AM	07:35 AM	05:02 PM	06:08 PM
Tuesday	06:38 AM	07:35 AM	05:02 PM	06:09 PM
Wednesday	06:38 AM	07:36 AM	05:03 PM	06:09 PM
Thursday	06:38 AM	07:36 AM	05:03 PM	06:10 PM
Friday	06:39 AM	07:37 AM	05:04 PM	06:10 PM
Saturday	06:39 AM	07:37 AM	05:05 PM	06:11 PM
Sunday	06:40 AM	07:37 AM	05:05 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/>

§ The winter solstice is on Tuesday: with the longest nights of the year: over 14 1/2 hours between sunset Tuesday and sunrise Wednesday morning. In contrast, summer solstice nights last just a little more than 9 hours. At winter solstice the sun is only 27.6° up from the south horizon at noon, while at summer solstice it is 71.3° up from the horizon at noon.

§ If you are travelling this week, look out your car window for the white bark of sycamore trees which line many valley creeks, the coppery prairie grasses on the ridges, and the oaks that hang onto their leaves all winter long. Count the number of hawks perched on fenceposts and telephone poles, look for turkey flocks in fields and bald eagles in the sky. Take care to see the deer and say a prayer for each animal who didn't make it across the road.

§ Reservoirs are good places to catch waterfowl this time of year. Around Lawrence, see what you can see at Clinton Lake. Don't forget to look for bald eagles along the Kaw River, too! Other great hikes are available at Douglas County State Lake, along the river, around Prairie Park and up at the Fitch Natural History Reserve.

§ Did you know that eastern red cedars come in male and female versions? If it has an orange tinge, it's male and if it has blue berries on it, it's a female. Birds love to spend the nights inside their branches, protected by the wind.