

Kaw Valley Almanac

December 11 - 17, 2023

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Day	Moon rises	South	Moon sets	% Illum/Phase
Monday	06:13 AM	11:02 AM	03:45 PM	4%
Tuesday	07:24 AM	12:00 PM	04:32 PM	New Moon
Wednesday	08:32 AM	01:01 PM	05:29 PM	0%
Thursday	09:33 AM	02:04 PM	06:37 PM	2%
Friday	10:24 AM	03:05 PM	07:52 PM	7%
Saturday	11:05 AM	04:03 PM	09:08 PM	14%
Sunday	11:39 AM	04:56 PM	10:23 PM	22%



Cedar (actually juniper) boughs are easily harvested as a fragrant and popular indoor decoration to festoon a mantle, window sill, or even as an alternative Christmas tree. The blue berries are a favored food of many an overwintering bird, too.



Sun

Jupiter E, Saturn S at dusk; Venus E at dawn.

Day	Gets light	Sunrise	Sunset	Gets dark
Monday	06:31 AM	07:29 AM	04:59 PM	06:05 PM
Tuesday	06:32 AM	07:29 AM	04:59 PM	06:05 PM
Wednesday	06:32 AM	07:30 AM	04:59 PM	06:06 PM
Thursday	06:33 AM	07:31 AM	04:59 PM	06:06 PM
Friday	06:34 AM	07:32 AM	05:00 PM	06:06 PM
Saturday	06:34 AM	07:32 AM	05:00 PM	06:07 PM
Sunday	06:35 AM	07:33 AM	05:00 PM	06:07 PM

§ If you have clear skies around December 14, spend a little time outside looking for shooting stars any time of the night. If they appear to be coming from the east/overhead, the meteors are coming from the Geminid Meteor shower, which should produce up to 120 meteors/hour overnight, perhaps the most active meteor shower of the year. If they appear to be coming from the south, they could be from the Sigma Hydrid meteor shower, which is normally much smaller, but may have been recently "recharged" by the recent passing of comet Nishimura.

§ Now that deer firearm season is over, it's a perfect week for taking a winter hike. Some things to look for include rabbit and deer nibbles on last year's new growth twigs, dismantled nuts and hedgeballs from hungry squirrels, feather and fur piles from raptor/owl/coyote catches, tracks in the mud/around open water, piles of sticks (pack rat) or leaves (squirrel nests) and nibbled off dry grass stalks that are made into rodent nests.

§ Area birds are easier to see without leaves this time of year. This includes the usual suspects that get together to form winter flocks around bird feeders, waterfowl at area reservoirs including various geese, ducks, seagulls and their predators including owls, hawks and eagles perched in the cottonwoods, on fenceposts, telephone poles or flying overhead.

§ Look for the white sycamore trees which line many valley creeks and oaks that hang onto their leaves all winter long.