

Kaw Valley Almanac

November 29 - December 5, 2021

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Day	Moon rises	South	Moon sets	% Illum/Phase
Monday	01:37 AM	08:04 AM	02:20 PM	26%
Tuesday	02:46 AM	08:51 AM	02:47 PM	16%
Wednesday	03:58 AM	09:42 AM	03:16 PM	9%
Thursday	05:13 AM	10:36 AM	03:50 PM	3%
Friday	06:32 AM	11:35 AM	04:31 PM	0%
Saturday	07:51 AM	12:38 PM	05:21 PM	New Moon
Sunday	09:06 AM	01:44 PM	06:22 PM	4%



These blackbirds were flying near sunset: large flocks can still be seen at either sunrise or sunset and during the day they can perch on area power lines. I've watched flocks for 20 minutes without seeing them end, but further south in Arkansas some of these flocks have been documented to have over 40 million birds in one flock. The flocks are typically mixed species of grackles, redwinged blackbirds, and starlings. The undulating, flock in the sky is called a murmuration



Sun

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

Day	Gets light	Sunrise	Sunset	Gets dark
Monday	06:22 AM	07:18 AM	04:59 PM	06:05 PM
Tuesday	06:23 AM	07:19 AM	04:59 PM	06:05 PM
Wednesday	06:23 AM	07:20 AM	04:59 PM	06:05 PM
Thursday	06:24 AM	07:21 AM	04:59 PM	06:05 PM
Friday	06:25 AM	07:22 AM	04:59 PM	06:05 PM
Saturday	06:26 AM	07:23 AM	04:59 PM	06:05 PM
Sunday	06:27 AM	07:24 AM	04:59 PM	06:05 PM

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

§ Deer hunting season with firearms begins this week on December 1 and goes through December 12, so be very visible and careful taking hikes during this time. With a shrinking, waning moon and fair skies predicted for much of the week, this might be a very good time to observe the night sky, with the Pleiades and Hyades rising in the east, followed by Orion and Sirius, the brightest star in the sky, and the Andromeda galaxy high overhead, the furthest object you can see with your naked eye (or binoculars), some 2.5 million light years away. Jupiter & Saturn are favorably placed for viewing in a telescope.

§ Whooping cranes have been in central Kansas of late, on their way to Texas. At Loes Bluff National Wildlife Refuge along the Missouri River, migratory waterfowl numbers are rising, with over 60,000 geese and 100,000 ducks, along with over 100 eagles. Numbers will continue swell: check their website/Facebook page for updates.

§ Packrats have been filling their nests with seeds and nuts of all kinds, including acorns, honey locust seed pods, walnuts, berries, etc. Area tribes used to raid the nests made of sticks and leaves to harvest the bounty for themselves. Folks living in the country can avoid damage to their vehicles by opening the engine hood so they don't start building nests there.

§ Consider asking a farmer if you can cut down a cedar tree for Christmas/decorating. They'll appreciate it to boot!