

Kaw Valley Almanac

February 20 - 26, 2023

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Day	Moon rises	South	Moon sets	% Illum/Phase
Monday	07:41 AM	01:07 PM	06:44 PM	New Moon
Tuesday	08:11 AM	01:59 PM	07:59 PM	1%
Wednesday	08:37 AM	02:48 PM	09:11 PM	5%
Thursday	09:03 AM	03:36 PM	10:21 PM	12%
Friday	09:29 AM	04:24 PM	11:30 PM	20%
Saturday	09:58 AM	05:12 PM		29%
Sunday	10:30 AM	06:02 PM	12:37 AM	39%



photo from [Stephen Locke](#) used with permission

Deer have begun shedding their antlers, and this one conveniently dropped in my sister's front yard. This might be a good week to walk the woods looking for them, before rodents start chewing on them for the calcium.



Sun

Venus, Jupiter W, Mars S after sunset

Day	Gets light	Sunrise	Sunset	Gets dark
Monday	06:09 AM	07:05 AM	06:04 PM	07:01 PM
Tuesday	06:07 AM	07:04 AM	06:05 PM	07:02 PM
Wednesday	06:06 AM	07:03 AM	06:06 PM	07:03 PM
Thursday	06:05 AM	07:01 AM	06:07 PM	07:04 PM
Friday	06:03 AM	07:00 AM	06:08 PM	07:05 PM
Saturday	06:02 AM	06:59 AM	06:09 PM	07:06 PM
Sunday	06:01 AM	06:57 AM	06:10 PM	07:07 PM

Outside Lawrence? <https://www.timeanddate.com/astronomy>

§ With gradually warming temps and a little rain possible in the second half of the week, it's not too early to start listening for the song of an emerging boreal chorus frog or two. Google an audio recording if you're not familiar with the mating call of this diminutive amphibian.

§ Breeding eagles have started laying eggs, and great horned owls are also nesting, having found their nesting territories earlier in January. They are reportedly the earliest nesting bird in Kansas. See if you can start to see geese and other birds starting to pair up as spring breeding season is beginning.

§ Start looking for spider gossamer reflected between twigs and in the brush, as they are becoming active, which means that insects are becoming active enough to be hunted!

§ It's pretty easy to see pocket gopher dirt mounds, packrat nests and mole tunnels this time of year. Since pocket gophers, moles and packrats do not hibernate, their activities can be seen all winter. Currently they are all in the midst of mating season. Gophers are primarily herbivores while moles are insectivores/earthworm/snail eaters; both aerate soils with their tunnels, and dig their nests, food cellars and bathrooms deeper, often below frostline.

§ There are many crows around right now. If you see a flock of noisy crows, look around for an owl, which crows harass due to the owl's habit of raiding crow nests later in the season.