

Kaw Valley Almanac

August 21 - 27, 2023

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Day	Moon rises	South	Moon sets	% Illum/Phase
Monday	11:34 AM	05:10 PM	10:37 PM	20%
Tuesday	12:37 PM	05:54 PM	11:03 PM	29%
Wednesday	01:43 PM	06:42 PM	11:34 PM	38%
Thursday	02:53 PM	07:36 PM		1st Quarter
Friday	04:02 PM	08:34 PM	12:14 AM	59%
Saturday	05:08 PM	09:36 PM	01:04 AM	70%
Sunday	06:06 PM	10:40 PM	02:06 AM	80%



Tall thistle is a native thistle that provides nectar to a wide number of pollinators, including this great spangled fritillary butterfly. Unlike invasive thistles, *Cirsium altissimum* does not spread like wildfire and is a net positive to area prairies and pollinators.



Sun

Saturn rises E at dusk; Jupiter rises midnight, Venus E at dawn.

Day	Gets light	Sunrise	Sunset	Gets dark
Monday	05:44 AM	06:39 AM	08:07 PM	09:12 PM
Tuesday	05:45 AM	06:40 AM	08:06 PM	09:11 PM
Wednesday	05:46 AM	06:41 AM	08:05 PM	09:09 PM
Thursday	05:47 AM	06:42 AM	08:03 PM	09:08 PM
Friday	05:48 AM	06:43 AM	08:02 PM	09:06 PM
Saturday	05:49 AM	06:44 AM	08:00 PM	09:04 PM
Sunday	05:50 AM	06:45 AM	07:59 PM	09:03 PM

§ Recent rains have considerably reduced the amount of Kansas in exceptional drought, but over 64% of the state is still in moderate to severe drought, and that was before the current heat wave hit. There is extreme stress on livestock and wildlife alike, to say nothing about people, so take care and do what you can to protect your loved ones from the extremes.

§ One thing that helps is that the sun is above the horizon 14 minutes less at the end of the week compared to the beginning, as we move toward the fall equinox in a month. At the same time, the moon is waxing toward full, so expect more nocturnal activity on land and in the air to beat the heat.

§ If you are in Lawrence on Saturday, come join me on a walk at Prairie Park Nature Center at 9:30am to see how the old growth prairie is recovering from the spring spaying, as well as learn about what to look for in wildflowers. Expect to see perennial sunflowers, bidens, sweet coneflower and rosinweed, making this a very yellow time of year, and maybe the blue gentians and azure sage will have begun to bloom, too.

§ Did you know that there are many different types of cicadas, each with their unique song? Listen to the recordings at www.insectsinners.com for the eastern US to help you identify which ones you are listening to.

§ There are many hummingbirds who have arrived in the area, and with the heat, it's good to keep water available for backyard birds as well.