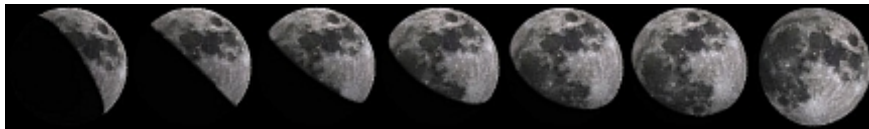


# Kaw Valley Almanac

December 18 - 24, 2023

Download free .pdf of this at [www.kawvalleyalmanac.com](http://www.kawvalleyalmanac.com) X: @KVAIalmanac

Day	Moon rises	South	Moon sets	% Illum/Phase
Monday	12:07 PM	05:46 PM	11:36 PM	33%
Tuesday	12:33 PM	06:34 PM		1st Quarter
Wednesday	12:57 PM	07:21 PM	12:46 AM	55%
Thursday	01:22 PM	08:08 PM	01:56 AM	66%
Friday	01:50 PM	08:57 PM	03:06 AM	76%
Saturday	02:21 PM	09:49 PM	04:17 AM	85%
Sunday	02:59 PM	10:43 PM	05:27 AM	92%



These ducks were sheltered against the north wind by hugging the cattail-lined north shore until I approached, at which point they flew out 50 feet, perfect for this photo. When I was a kid in the 1960s, most years, we'd be ice skating by now.



## Sun

Jupiter SE, Saturn SW at dusk; Venus E at dawn.

Day	Gets light	Sunrise	Sunset	Gets dark
Monday	06:36 AM	07:33 AM	05:01 PM	06:07 PM
Tuesday	06:36 AM	07:34 AM	05:01 PM	06:08 PM
Wednesday	06:37 AM	07:35 AM	05:02 PM	06:08 PM
Thursday	06:37 AM	07:35 AM	05:02 PM	06:09 PM
Friday	06:38 AM	07:36 AM	05:03 PM	06:09 PM
Saturday	06:38 AM	07:36 AM	05:03 PM	06:10 PM
Sunday	06:39 AM	07:37 AM	05:04 PM	06:10 PM

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

§ This week includes the winter solstice: Thursday has only 9 hours and 24 minutes between sunrise and sunset, making it the shortest daytime of the year. Look to the north at noon this week to see how deep blue the sky is at high noon, due to the low altitude of the sun at its highest point. See the sunrise/sunset point at a given location and return to that spot throughout the year: the sunrise/sunset point will never go further south on the horizon than on Thursday.

§ Winter flock visits can be a regular occurrence in your life if you have a backyard bird feeder and some water. Look for juncos, chickadees, cardinals, bluejays, nuthatches, downy and redbellied woodpeckers, pine siskins, various sparrows, crows, robins and titmouse. Check out [feederwatch.org](http://feederwatch.org)

§ 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. Watch for deer and say a prayer for each animal who didn't make it.

§ Did you know that eastern red cedars are sexed? 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.