

Kaw Valley Almanac

February 5 -11, 2024

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Day	Moon rises	South	Moon sets	% Illum/Phase
Monday	03:50 AM	08:24 AM	12:54 PM	23%
Tuesday	04:56 AM	09:24 AM	01:52 PM	14%
Wednesday	05:57 AM	10:27 AM	03:01 PM	7%
Thursday	06:48 AM	11:30 AM	04:18 PM	2%
Friday	07:30 AM	12:30 PM	05:39 PM	New Moon
Saturday	08:05 AM	01:26 PM	06:58 PM	1%
Sunday	08:34 AM	02:19 PM	08:16 PM	5%



The Loess Bluffs National Wildlife Refuge folks just posted this photo from Feb. 2 and estimated that with the melting ice and recent rains there are nearly 400,000 snow geese there right now. There have been a lot of ducks, eagles, gulls too, flying around northeast Kansas the past week; check out the nearest reservoir in your area around sunrise/sunset for a look-see.



Sun

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

Day	Gets light	Sunrise	Sunset	Gets dark
Monday	06:25 AM	07:23 AM	05:46 PM	06:45 PM
Tuesday	06:24 AM	07:22 AM	05:47 PM	06:46 PM
Wednesday	06:23 AM	07:21 AM	05:49 PM	06:47 PM
Thursday	06:22 AM	07:20 AM	05:50 PM	06:48 PM
Friday	06:21 AM	07:19 AM	05:51 PM	06:49 PM
Saturday	06:20 AM	07:18 AM	05:52 PM	06:50 PM
Sunday	06:19 AM	07:17 AM	05:53 PM	06:51 PM

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

§ With recent rains, salamanders have been on the move, crossing wet roads to find mates. Be careful and if you're lucky you might spot one of these hard to see amphibians.

§ Opossums, bobcats, raccoons, cottontails, muskrats and coyotes are beginning to mate, while foxes, squirrels and beavers are most likely already pregnant.

§ This is a good time to clean out bluebird boxes as the birds will soon be inspecting homes for the spring to lay their eggs. With the longer days, see if you can pick out the morning songs of various birds including cardinals, chickadees, phoebes and day or night, the owls. And on Saturday, 8:30am, Feb. 10, learn to ID gulls at Bowersock Dam (Lawrence Bird Alliance).

§ Speaking of longer days, look in coming weeks for the reddening of twigs on dogwoods as well as yellowing of willow twigs, both caused by yellow and red chlorophyll activated by light sensing cells in woody plants detecting the longer days.

§ Lichens and mosses are growing this time of year: to reproduce, mosses are putting out little thread-like stalks with spore-filled capsules called sporophytes, and some lichens also produce spores in structures called ascocarps.

§ Sap is beginning to move in area sugar maples. Best time to tap trees is when it is above freezing days and below freezing nights, which is predicted this week. Did you know you could also tap elms and walnuts?