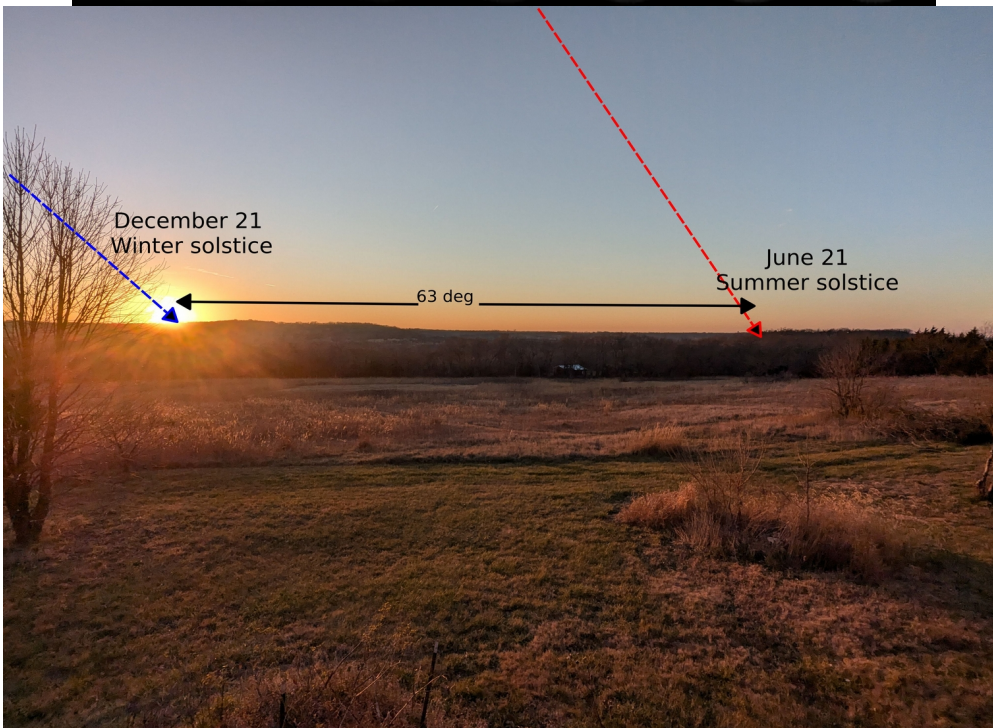


# Kaw Valley Almanac

December 23 - 29, 2024

Download .pdf with functional links at [www.kawvalleyalmanac.com](http://www.kawvalleyalmanac.com)

Day	Moon rises	South	Moon sets	% Illum/Phase
Monday	12:40 AM	06:41 AM	12:33 PM	43%
Tuesday	01:39 AM	07:21 AM	12:54 PM	34%
Wednesday	02:38 AM	08:01 AM	01:17 PM	25%
Thursday	03:40 AM	08:45 AM	01:43 PM	17%
Friday	04:43 AM	09:32 AM	02:16 PM	10%
Saturday	05:48 AM	10:23 AM	02:55 PM	5%
Sunday	06:51 AM	11:18 AM	03:45 PM	2%



Here is a wide angle sunset photo taken on the winter solstice, when the sun is as far south on the horizon as it will get. The horizon point of sunset/sunrise will slowly start moving north, reaching its maximum daily movement at spring equinox, then slowing down and finally stopping again on the horizon at next June's summer solstice.



## Sun

Venus W, Saturn S, Jupiter E at dusk; Mars W at dawn

Day	Gets light	Sunrise	Sunset	Gets dark
Monday	06:39 AM	07:36 AM	05:03 PM	06:10 PM
Tuesday	06:39 AM	07:37 AM	05:04 PM	06:11 PM
Wednesday	06:39 AM	07:37 AM	05:05 PM	06:11 PM
Thursday	06:40 AM	07:38 AM	05:05 PM	06:12 PM
Friday	06:36 AM	07:38 AM	05:06 PM	06:09 PM
Saturday	06:36 AM	07:38 AM	05:07 PM	06:09 PM
Sunday	06:37 AM	07:38 AM	05:07 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/>

§ It's a good time to walk with family and friends this week; what can you see? Packrat nests are easy to pick out this time of year: look for piles of sticks, leaves and grass piled up at the base of trees or sometimes even in the crotch of the tree, above the ground. It is not uncommon for more than one generation of packrat to live in a large nest, with even rabbits, mice, insects, spiders and shrews reportedly sharing the structure at times in the winter.

§ Most years, grasshoppers and crickets die in the winter, laying eggs in the soil that hatch in spring. Beetles survive by digging underground or overwinter in egg or larval stages. Many moths survive in waxy pupal stages that survive in cocoons above ground. Some insects produce antifreeze or eliminate bacteria from their bodily liquids, which means that their fluids can super-cool down to as low as -40° F. without freezing.

§ Pocket gophers and moles seem to be enjoying the soft ground of late and their burrows and dirt mounds can be easily seen this time of year.

§ There are lots of eagles at Loess Bluff Natural Wildlife area: over 600 at last count. Way fewer snow geese--hopefully they are just waiting for cold weather to push them this direction, and not being decimated by the avian flu.

§ Freezing & thawing is softening soils to let seeds in.