

# Kaw Valley Almanac

December 16 - 22, 2024

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

Day	Moon rises	South	Moon sets	% Illum/Phase
Monday	06:14 PM	01:10 AM	09:10 AM	98%
Tuesday	07:24 PM	02:10 AM	09:58 AM	93%
Wednesday	08:33 PM	03:05 AM	10:36 AM	87%
Thursday	09:39 PM	03:55 AM	11:06 AM	79%
Friday	10:42 PM	04:41 AM	11:31 AM	71%
Saturday	11:42 PM	05:23 AM	11:53 AM	62%
Sunday		06:02 AM	12:13 PM	3rd Quarter



This immature red-tailed hawk has perched on an eastern red cedar branch, looking for a rabbit or rodent to eat. The leafless trees make it harder for animals to hide, but also easier to see predators such as this hawk and other birds. Why not join in a Xmas Bird Count near you: <https://ksbirds.org/kos/2024CBC.htm>



## Sun

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

Day	Gets light	Sunrise	Sunset	Gets dark
Monday	06:35 AM	07:33 AM	05:00 PM	06:07 PM
Tuesday	06:35 AM	07:33 AM	05:01 PM	06:07 PM
Wednesday	06:36 AM	07:34 AM	05:01 PM	06:08 PM
Thursday	06:37 AM	07:34 AM	05:01 PM	06:08 PM
Friday	06:37 AM	07:35 AM	05:02 PM	06:09 PM
Saturday	06:38 AM	07:36 AM	05:02 PM	06:09 PM
Sunday	06:38 AM	07:36 AM	05:03 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/>

§ The winter solstice is December 21st, when there are only 9 hours and 24 minutes of daylight, making it the shortest daytime of the year. Look to the north at noon to see how deep blue the sky is at high noon, due to the low altitude of the sun in the south: less than 28 degrees from the south horizon. Watch the location of the sunrise/sunset on the horizon at a given location and return to that place throughout the year to watch it move: the sunrise/sunset point will never go further south than the 21st.

§ It's been mild enough weather that snow geese have not come down to Loess Bluffs National Wildlife Refuge as of the beginning of this time period. But over 500 immature and mature eagles have arrived and are waiting for them!

§ If you visit an unmown prairie and it's sunny, lie down in the grass and you'll be amazed at how well the grasses shield you from the wind and feel the sun's rays are on your face. Look for patches of matted down grasses where deer have enjoyed the same experience/found protection overnight.

§ Speaking of prairies, I will be leading a free hike at Prairie Park Nature Center in Lawrence this Saturday, the winter solstice, at 2pm. If it's sunny, you can experience laying in a prairie like I described, and see first hand how low the sun's arc is across the sky on the winter solstice, how blue the sky is to the north, and identify prairie plants in the winter.