

Kaw Valley Almanac

February 16 - 22, 2026

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Day	Moon rises	South	Moon sets	% Illum/Phase
Monday	06:53 AM	12:02 PM	05:19 PM	2%
Tuesday	07:20 AM	12:48 PM	06:27 PM	New Moon
Wednesday	07:44 AM	01:34 PM	07:34 PM	1%
Thursday	08:08 AM	02:20 PM	08:43 PM	3%
Friday	08:32 AM	03:06 PM	09:53 PM	8%
Saturday	08:58 AM	03:55 PM	11:05 PM	15%
Sunday	09:28 AM	04:48 PM		24%



Here are the opened male blossoms of the silver maple, resting on bark from tree. Some maples are male while others are female, and some have both types of flowers. They start blooming at treetop; if red, they are probably female. Female blooms grow into the helicopter seeds in late March/April.



Sun

Saturn SW, Jupiter SE in evening

Day	Gets light	Sunrise	Sunset	Gets dark
Monday	06:14 AM	07:10 AM	05:59 PM	06:56 PM
Tuesday	06:13 AM	07:09 AM	06:00 PM	06:57 PM
Wednesday	06:12 AM	07:08 AM	06:02 PM	06:58 PM
Thursday	06:11 AM	07:06 AM	06:03 PM	06:59 PM
Friday	06:09 AM	07:05 AM	06:04 PM	07:00 PM
Saturday	06:08 AM	07:04 AM	06:05 PM	07:01 PM
Sunday	06:07 AM	07:02 AM	06:06 PM	07:02 PM

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

§ Breeding eagles have started laying eggs, and great horned owls are also nesting, having found their nesting territories earlier in January. They are reportedly the earliest nesting bird in Kansas. There are plenty of raptors around and overwintering/migratory songbirds and waterfowl are very wary of their presence lest they become a meal.

§ Shelf mushrooms are easy to spot this time of year; they grow on dead limbs and trunks and orient horizontally when they grow. Other late winter mushrooms to keep an eye out for include the oyster/pleurotis mushroom, and the round white puffball mushroom. When it matures, it turns brownish and if you step on it, it will emit a smoky cloud, or puff of spores, which is how it got its name.

§ Deer have begun shedding their antlers, so now might be a good time to walk the woods looking for them, before rodents start chewing on them for the calcium.

§ With warming and a little rain, it's not too early to start listening for the song of an emerging western chorus frog or two. Google an audio recording of this diminutive amphibian so you know what to listen for. And right after sunset/before sunrise listen for the call of the American woodcock, that can call this time of year. Listen to a recording of its call and see if it reminds you of the western chorus frog!