

Kaw Valley Almanac

May 17 - 23, 2021

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Day	Moon rises	South	Moon sets	% Illum/Phase
Monday	10:34 AM	06:13 PM	01:03 AM	31%
Tuesday	11:37 AM	07:04 PM	01:45 AM	41%
Wednesday	12:43 PM	07:53 PM	02:21 AM	1st Quarter
Thursday	01:50 PM	08:42 PM	02:53 AM	62%
Friday	02:59 PM	09:31 PM	03:23 AM	72%
Saturday	04:10 PM	10:20 PM	03:51 AM	82%
Sunday	05:23 PM	11:12 PM	04:20 AM	90%



This prairie phlox is just opening its bright fuchsia pink flowers which will be visible for the next month or so, along with spiderwort, oxeye daisy, salsify and antelopehorn milkweed. The cooler, wetter conditions have extended early spring flowers like puccoons, oxalis, wild hyacinth, verbena, prairie violet and star eyed grass at Prairie Park and other area prairies.

Sun

Mars W, Venus, Merc NW after dusk, Jupiter, Saturn E at dawn.

Day	Gets light	Sunrise	Sunset	Gets dark
Monday	05:04 AM	06:06 AM	08:28 PM	09:39 PM
Tuesday	05:03 AM	06:05 AM	08:29 PM	09:40 PM
Wednesday	05:02 AM	06:04 AM	08:30 PM	09:41 PM
Thursday	05:01 AM	06:04 AM	08:31 PM	09:42 PM
Friday	05:00 AM	06:03 AM	08:32 PM	09:43 PM
Saturday	04:59 AM	06:02 AM	08:33 PM	09:44 PM
Sunday	04:58 AM	06:02 AM	08:34 PM	09:45 PM

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

§ There's been lots of publicity about 17 year cicadas in the Northeast US emerging this year, but the local "Kansas" Brood IV emerged in 2015 and won't reappear again until 2032. A 13 year cicada Brood XIX is mostly in Missouri but spills over some into eastern Kansas and will emerge in 2024.

§ Black locust trees are full of fragrant white flowers this rainy week: see if you can smell them by rolling down your window as you drive by. Look for blooms on the Kentucky coffee tree as well, and the woodland flowers jack-in-the-pulpit and may apples are transitioning into berries while gooseberries continue to grow bigger as well.

§ Warblers have returned in force and the days are full of bird songs of every flavor. Nighthawks are returning to Kansas downtowns across the state; listen for their distinctive "peent" calls, wobbly flights punctuated by dramatic swooping dives to catch flying insects mid-air, they are a welcome addition to spring and summer evenings.

§ With this week's rains, this would be a good time to track down what gives this season its name: Springs. Fully saturated soils create seeps and active springs on hillsides and creek banks that used to be valuable assets to wildlife, tribes and early settlers to get a drink. Settlers also planted watercress, a wonderful edible plant at dependable springs, and some still display patches of watercress that were planted long ago.