

Kaw Valley Almanac

December 29 - January 4, 2026

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Day	Moon rises	South	Moon sets	% Illum/Phase
Monday	01:53 PM	09:04 PM	03:12 AM	66%
Tuesday	02:28 PM	10:01 PM	04:28 AM	76%
Wednesday	03:12 PM	11:04 PM	05:46 AM	86%
Thursday	04:08 PM		07:04 AM	93%
Friday	05:16 PM	12:10 AM	08:14 AM	98%
Saturday	06:31 PM	01:17 AM	09:12 AM	Full Moon
Sunday	07:48 PM	02:20 AM	09:59 AM	99%



Look closely: all those little black dots in the beautiful blue sky are robins. They are a fairly common in Kansas winters, with hundreds or even thousands in a flock. They consume berries on cedars, crab apples, hackberries, and have contributed to the spread of invasive bush honeysuckle by spreading the seed.



Sun

Saturn SE, Jupiter E in evening

Day	Gets light	Sunrise	Sunset	Gets dark
Monday	06:37 AM	07:39 AM	05:07 PM	06:10 PM
Tuesday	06:37 AM	07:39 AM	05:08 PM	06:10 PM
Wednesday	06:37 AM	07:39 AM	05:09 PM	06:11 PM
Thursday	06:37 AM	07:39 AM	05:09 PM	06:12 PM
Friday	06:38 AM	07:39 AM	05:10 PM	06:13 PM
Saturday	06:38 AM	07:39 AM	05:11 PM	06:13 PM
Sunday	06:38 AM	07:39 AM	05:12 PM	06:14 PM

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

§ The first full moon of the year is called both Frost on the Inside of the Lodge Moon and Moon Stands Alone Moon by the Osage Indians. The forecast at the beginning of the week makes it sound likely that you will be able to watch it rise on the horizon a little north of due east at sunset on Saturday and set a little north of due west at sunrise Sunday morning. You can appreciate its bright presence all night long--consider taking a walk after dark and see how alone this moon seems.

§ Most grasshoppers and crickets die in the winter and survive by laying eggs into the soil that hatch in the spring. Many beetles either survive by digging underground or have their offspring overwinter in egg or larval stages. Many moths survive in waxy pupal stages that survive in their cocoons above ground. Some insects either produce their own antifreeze or eliminate bacteria and other ice-triggering particles from their bodily fluids, which means that they can super-cool down to as low as -40° without freezing.

§ It's easier to spot and identify birds due to the lack of leaves. It's also a good time to learn your trees by their shapes, bark color and texture, bud shape and leaf scars on twigs, and leaves. Leaves? Yes, look on the ground under a tree and you can often confirm your tree's identity based on predominant dried leaves and seeds laying on the ground underneath it.