

Kaw Valley Almanac

July 6 - 12, 2026

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Day	Moon rises	South	Moon sets	% Illum/Phase
Monday	12:02 AM	06:11 AM	12:31 PM	67%
Tuesday	12:25 AM	06:55 AM	01:38 PM	3rd Quarter
Wednesday	12:50 AM	07:43 AM	02:48 PM	46%
Thursday	01:19 AM	08:34 AM	04:02 PM	35%
Friday	01:55 AM	09:32 AM	05:19 PM	25%
Saturday	02:41 AM	10:34 AM	06:34 PM	15%
Sunday	03:39 AM	11:41 AM	07:43 PM	8%



This is a male dragonfly *Libellula luctuosa*, or the Widow skimmer, so named because the black markings of both sexes are suggestive of funeral garb. In addition to picking off insects in mid-air, the males are very territorial, and will challenge any other male. The dragonfly nymphs who live in/around water, are also excellent predators, eating mosquito larvae!



Sun

Venus west at dusk, Saturn, Mars E at dawn

Day	Gets light	Sunrise	Sunset	Gets dark
Monday	04:55 AM	06:01 AM	08:49 PM	10:04 PM
Tuesday	04:56 AM	06:02 AM	08:49 PM	10:03 PM
Wednesday	04:57 AM	06:03 AM	08:48 PM	10:03 PM
Thursday	04:57 AM	06:03 AM	08:48 PM	10:03 PM
Friday	04:58 AM	06:04 AM	08:48 PM	10:02 PM
Saturday	04:59 AM	06:05 AM	08:47 PM	10:02 PM
Sunday	05:00 AM	06:05 AM	08:47 PM	10:01 PM

Your exact times: <https://www.timeanddate.com/astronomy/>

§ Prairie wildflower season continues to unfold. Butterfly and other milkweeds are beginning to create milkweed pods, and look for the yellow summer composite flowers: gray coneflowers, blackeyed susan, coreopsis and compassplant. Daisy fleabane and slender mountain mint continues and are beginning to be joined by the purple-blooming *Liatris* species.

§ If you are around a pond, creek or river these days, you may have noticed the increasing amount of cottonwood seed fluff covering the waters and grasses along the water, which the tree has so well used to spread its seeds around to sprout into new trees. The fluff also works well with the wind, with cottonwoods sprouting quite some distance from the water too.

§ Mullein has sent up yellow flower-studded seed stalks; it's a handy plant to be able to identify due to its soft, large leaves that has given it the nickname "toilet paper plant."

§ Recent rains have caused many mushrooms to emerge, including fairy rings, which are caused by the fungus spreading out in an ever expanding circle from where it started, living on dead plant material that it breaks down. Many mushrooms emerge from the remaining dead roots from a tree that has been removed or from buried limbs in the soil.

§ Cicadas have begun, with *Neotibicen pruinosus* being common in my area. Check out <https://www.insectsingers.com/> It's perfect lightning bug season; listen to the katydids, too!