

April On-Site Visitors: 1,623
The Nook Functions: 12

ECONOMIC NEWS

The number of visitors to town increased 8% from April 2022, when we had experienced a sharp decline from the previous year. Local retail establishments are reporting strong sales for April. On an economic development front, the news has been a bit of a mixed bag. Izard Regional Hospital is emerging from bankruptcy as the change of ownership is being finalized, which is good news for the community. Meanwhile, the prison expansion that had been approved under the Hutchinson administration has been put on hold by the Sanders administration as the governor develops her own long-term plan. The expansion is on hold, not cancelled, at this time and we remain hopeful it will be approved.

ROCKET INTO SCIENCE

We held our spring Rocket Into Science on Saturday, April 29. There were 47 elementary-aged students who attended. They participated in fun learning sessions on astronomy, biology, and engineering. We provided a free lunch and hands-on activities that encourage a love for the sciences with an appreciation for our local environment. It was a highly successful and fun day.

SERVING LOCAL BUSINESSES

One of our most important functions is supporting our local businesses, providing the infrastructure that make our local businesses successful, and developing tools for them to use. These services are provided at no charge to the businesses that are licensed to operate by the city of Calico Rock. As new businesses are licensed throughout the year, they are added to these services on a quarterly basis. Of course, businesses are listed on our **ExploreCalico.com** website and we offer free business consultation services, and periodic grants for upgrading business storefronts through our **Main Street Calico Rock** program. And, this month, we are hosting our first **Business Mixer** since before the pandemic for businesses that were licensed by the first quarter of the year.

UPCOMING EVENTS

We will host a regular **Meet the Artist** on the first Saturday of every month from May to December. We are also gearing up for **Lions Club Rodeo Weekend** and the **All School Reunion** on **June 9-10** (June 10 for Reunion) and for the **Community Day** in King City Park just ahead of the **Lions Club Fireworks Show** at on **July 3rd**.

We consider it a privilege to serve our community! Thank you for the opportunity.

Respectfully submitted,

