

On-Site Visitors: 2,395
The Nook Functions: 12

ECLIPSE PLANNING IN FULL GEAR

For over a year, we have been preparing for the Total Solar Eclipse on April 8, 2024. We are holding regular meetings to prepare for the 5,000 people the state estimates will be in the Calico Rock vicinity to view this once-in-a-lifetime event. We have applied for a grant through Main Street America to conduct science-related activities for visitors to town for the eclipse. We continue to be concerned about the lack of public restroom facilities if we do get the number of visitors the state has predicted, as well as camp sites, lodging, and more. Andrew McCrea who hosts American Countryside on RFDTV will be broadcasting RFDTVs coverage from Calico Rock, so the world is definitely coming and will be watching Calico Rock.

CONSTRUCTION PROGRESS

The green parking space is largely completed and ready for some plantings. Framing is now complete at the new Economic Center and work is progressing on getting it ready to finish out. We are also completing work on Tommy's Clubhouse, a space that will be available for birthday parties and other functions just off the science center and sharing parking with The Nook.

SUMMER TOURISM REPORT

We have seen tourism numbers improving slightly and seeing very modest gains in the number of dollars being spent locally by tourists over July. As we see the economy leveling off or improving modestly on a national scale, we are feeling the effects locally. We are monitoring gas prices to determine their effect on fall tourism. We remain cautiously optimistic for Q3 and Q4 of 2024.

ExploreCalico.com

We continue to provide numerous services to our local businesses, including a free listing of all local businesses licensed in the city of Calico Rock. We typically update the list of businesses quarterly with the help of the staff at City Hall based on information given by the business owner at the time of the city license application. We recently completed this quarterly update. The website www.ExploreCalico.com makes a great directory for our local businesses.

Respectfully submitted,

