

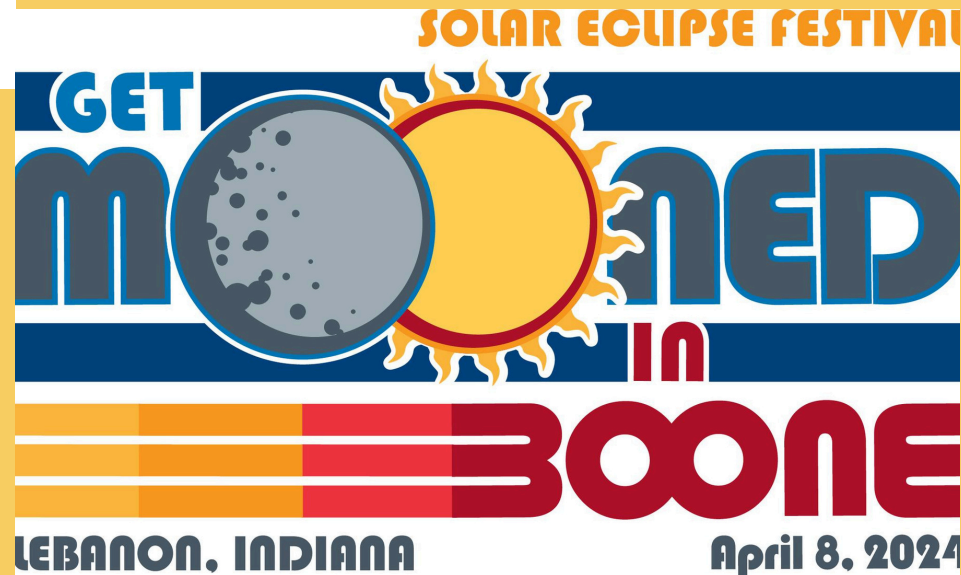
Get Mooned in Boone



TOTAL SOLAR ECLIPSE / APRIL 8, 2024



BOONE
COUNTY
CAMPAIGN



Planned celebrations in
every town in the county,
except Thorntown



Death of the Sun

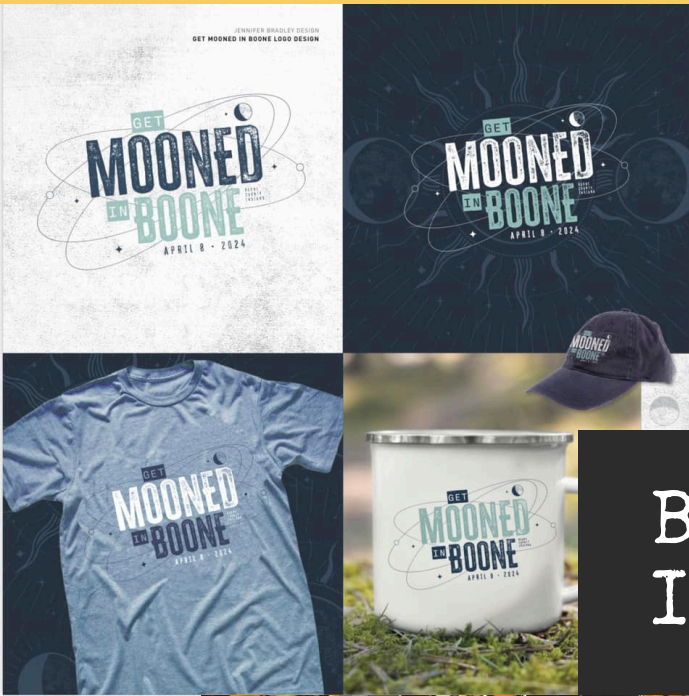
Murder Mystery
in Advance, Indiana

April 8, 2024 ®

EVENTS ACROSS
THE COUNTY



Join us from 1-5pm



BUSINESS INVOLVEMENT





BUSINESS INVOLVEMENT



Artwork by: Anita Gordon

SOLAR ECLIPSE FESTIVAL

LEBANON, INDIANA

3:06 PM 04.08.2024



EIGHT WAYS TO EXPERIENCE TOTALITY LEBANON WATCH PARTIES

- | | |
|--|--|
| 1 WITHAM FAMILY YMCA
2791 NORTH LEBANON STREET | 5 ABNER LONGLEY PARK
1601 LONGLEY DRIVE |
| 2 MEMORIAL PARK
130 EAST ULEN DRIVE | 6 FARMERS BANK FIELDHOUSE AT HICKORY JUNCTION
645 FIELDHOUSE WAY |
| 3 LEBANON LITTLE LEAGUE FIELDS
TIGER WAY, BEHIND LEBANON HIGH SCHOOL | 7 FREEDOM CHURCH
2601 INDIANAPOLIS AVENUE |
| 4 COURTHOUSE SQUARE
100 NORTH MERIDIAN STREET | 8 4-H FAIRGROUNDS
1300 EAST 100 SOUTH |

NEXT CHANCE IN 2343

MAP AND GRAPHIC DESIGN BY LEBANON NATIVE ZACHARY AMMERMAN, WWW.ZACHARYAMMERMAN.COM



Lebanon Parks Department



SOLAR ECLIPSE Scavenger Hunt

Hot for the Stars!

Hit 5 baskets on the basketball court

Community is Working Against Me

Grab the stairs to the top and slide down!

Swing for the Moon!

Swing 5 times on the swing set

Orbit Around the Park

Walk one lap on the Memorial Park Walking Path

Solar Viewing

Stop by the Parks Office for a pair of viewing glasses







THORNTOWN

GET MOONED ON THE FARM
HEAVENLY ACRES FARM
APRIL 6-8

SPEND YOUR ECLIPSE WEEKEND GETTING MOONED AT
HEAVENLY ACRES FARM! FEATURING FARM TOURS,
CONCESSIONS. AND FACE PAINTING. ENJOY THIS GREAT
VIEWING AREA FOR THE TOTAL ECLIPSE!

M.E.L.S. AT THE STARLITE DRIVE-IN THEATRE
APRIL 8

COME OUT AND ENJOY THE TOTAL ECLIPSE AT
THIS GREAT VIEWING LOCATION!





THORNTOWN

GET MOONED AT
DULL'S TREE FARM
APRIL 6-8

OBSERVE THE TOTAL ECLIPSE IN AN UNPARALLELED
SETTING AT DULL'S TREE FARM. WITH PLENTY OF FAMILY
FRIENDLY ACTIVITIES TO KEEP YOU ENTERTAINED
INCLUDING BIG SLIDES, ZIP LINES, ROPES RANGE, SPORTS
SHED, ROLLER BOWLER, TETHER BALL, TIRE MOUNTAIN,
PLAYGROUND, FACE PAINTING, AIR CANNONS, AND MORE!
ON-SITE PARKING, FOOD TRUCKS, AND PLENTY OF SPACE
TO WATCH AS DAY TURNS INTO NIGHT DURING THIS ONCE
IN A LIFETIME CELESTIAL EXPERIENCE!





JAMESTOWN

JAMESTOWN GET MOONED

APRIL 8

THE JAMESTOWN COMMUNITY PARTNERSHIP AND OTHER JAMESTOWN ORGANIZATIONS ARE COMING TOGETHER TO CELEBRATE A RARE EVENT. THERE WILL BE ACTIVITIES SUCH AS GLOW-IN-THE-DARK KICKBALL, FACE PAINTING, AND GLOWING, FLYING OBJECTS LAUNCHED INTO THE SKY. ECLIPSE GLASSES WILL BE PROVIDED TO ALL ATTENDEES TO VIEW THIS ONCE IN A LIFETIME EVENT THAT HAS NOT HAPPENED IN CENTRAL INDIANA FOR OVER 800 YEARS!





ADVANCE

DEATH OF THE SUN
MURDER MYSTERY
APRIL 8

ADVANCE IS READY TO COME TOGETHER FOR AN ECLIPSE CELEBRATION LIKE NO OTHER! HOSTING A THRILLING MURDER MYSTERY LUNCH. "DEATH OF THE SUN". YOU'RE SURE TO EXPERIENCE PLENTY OF EXCITEMENT AND INTRIGUE AS YOU ENJOY A FOUR COURSE MEAL SERVED BY JAWBONE BBQ. FEATURING A BEER GARDEN, FIREHOUSE GRILL, BLUEGRASS MUSIC, AND RAFFLE. THERE IS SOMETHING HERE FOR EVERYONE!





LEBANON

ECLIPSE TREASURE HUNT

APRIL 6-8

**SOLVE THE PUZZLE. INTERPRET THE RIDDLES. AND FIND THE
TREASURE!**

PROFESSOR STEVE'S SCIENCE LASER SHOW

APRIL 8

**MAKING SCIENCE COME ALIVE THROUGH THE USE OF BIG,
FUN & EXCITING DEMONSTRATIONS. PROFESSOR STEVE
WILL COMBINE LIGHT AND SPACE TO GIVE YOU SOME
SCIENCE KNOWLEDGE TO REMEMBER DURING THIS
EPIC EVENT!**





LEBANON

**80'S ECLIPSE ROLLER SKATING PARTY
APRIL 6-7**

**THIS EVENT WILL HAVE YOU RESURRECTING SOME OF YOUR
SMOOTH MOVES IN THE MEMORY HALL GYMNASIUM!**

**SWEATING TO THE 80'S AEROBICS CLASS
APRIL 7**

**HEART OF LEBANON IS PARTNERING WITH THE WITHAM
YMCA FOR THIS 80'S AEROBICS CLASS! DUST OFF THOSE
SHORT SHORTS AND NEON LEOTARDS AND LET'S GET
MOVING!**





LEBANON

**WISEWOOD FARM ECLIPSE
APRIL 8**

**ENJOY THE CLEAR VIEW AT WISEWOOD FARM! PERFECT FOR
GROUPS AND FAMILIES. RESERVE A 20FT X 20FT SPACE. 5
PAIRS OF ECLIPSE GLASSES. 5 MEALS. AND ACCESS TO
ACTIVITIES FOR KIDS AND ADULTS. CONTACT THEM FOR
INFO ABOUT OVERNIGHT RV/TENT CAMPING!**

**BOONE COUNTY 4-H FAIRGROUNDS
APRIL 8**

**FOOD TURCKS. PARKING. AND WEEKEND CAMPING AT THIS
GREAT VIEWING LOCATION!**





LEBANON

NORTH END ECLIPSE PARTY

APRIL 8

**WITHAM YMCA AND THE BOONE COUNTY SENIOR SERVICES
ARE TEAMING UP TO BRING YOU AN ECLIPSE PARTY THAT
TOTALLY ROCKS! FEATURING LIVE MUSIC, GAMES, BOUNCE
HOUSES, CRAFTS, FOOD AND DRINKS, AND MORE!**

SOLAR ECLIPSE AT THE FARMERS BANK FIELDHOUSE

APRIL 8

**ENJOY THE ECLIPSE AND SPORTS AT THE NEW FARMERS
BANK FIELDHOUSE!**





ZIONSVILLE

**TOTAL ECLIPSE IN THE PARK
APRIL 8**

**ENJOY STEAM ACTIVITIES, CRAFTS, FOOD TRUCKS, MUSIC,
AND MORE AT MULBERRY FIELD! TAKE AN ET FAMILY FUN
BIKE RIDE DOWN THE RAIL TRAIL AND SNAG A SELFIE
WITH THE STAR WARS 501ST LEGION!**

**LIONS PARK IN THE DARK
APRIL 8**

**LIONS PARK IS ONE OF THE MOST OPEN, SPACIOUS
VIEWING AREAS IN ZIONSVILLE. A PERFECT PLACE TO
GET MOONED ON APRIL 8TH! RESERVE A PARKING
SPACE AND ENJOY A FUN FAMILY ADVENTURE.**





WHITETOWN

WHITETOWN SOLAR JAM

APRIL 8

SOLAR JAM WILL FEATURE A LIVE MUSIC CONCERT,
LOCAL SPONSORS, AND FOOD TRUCKS! BRING YOUR
CHAIRS, AND PREPARED TO BE IN AWE FOR CLOSE TO 4
MINUTES OF A TOTAL ECLIPSE!

MOONTOWN ECLIPSE PARTY

APRIL 8

LOOKING FOR A CHILL PLACE TO CATCH THE ECLIPSE?
MOONTOWN'S GOT YOU COVERED. ENJOY THE RELAXED
VIBE OF THEIR BREWERY AS YOU WITNESS ONE OF
NATURE'S MOST SPECTACULAR EVENTS.



Home National Bank
will be
closing at
Noon
on Monday,
April 8, 2024



Total
Eclipse

NO SCHOOL for Western Boone County Community School Corporation on:

Monday, April 8

Solar Eclipse



In the path
of totality
2 min 40 sec

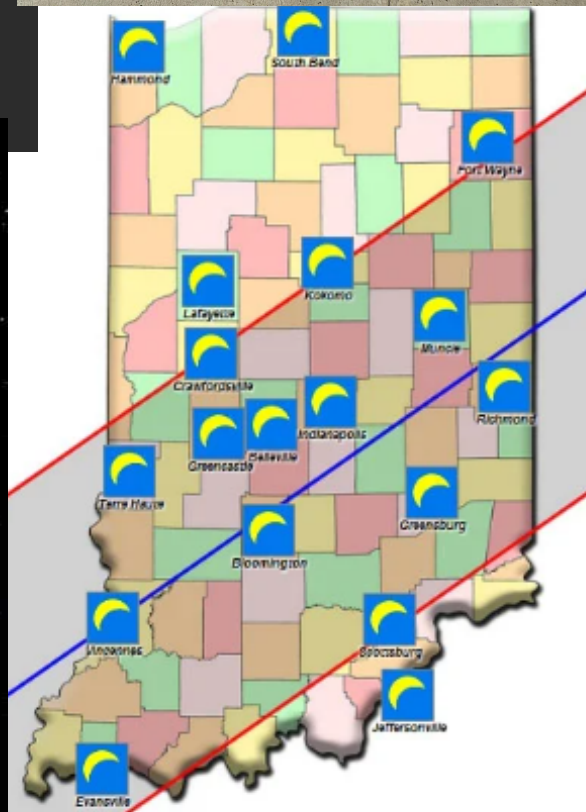


NEWS 18 STORM TEAM

2024 SOLAR ECLIPSE TIMES

CITIES IN TOTALITY

CITY	PARTIAL BEGINS	MAX	END	TOTALITY LENGTH	TOTALITY TIME
WAVELAND	1:49 PM	3:05 PM	4:22 PM	1 min 51 sec	3:05:51 PM - 3:07:42 PM
NEW MARKET	1:49 PM	3:07 PM	4:22 PM	1 min 47 sec	3:06:08 PM - 3:07:55 PM
CRAWFORDSVILLE	1:49 PM	3:07 PM	4:22 PM	58 sec	3:06:39 PM - 3:07:37 PM
LEBANON	1:50 PM	3:07 PM	4:22 PM	2 min 40 sec	3:06:26 PM - 3:09:06 PM
KIRKLIN	1:50 PM	3:08 PM	4:23 PM	2 min 13 sec	3:06:57 PM - 3:09:10 PM
FRANKFORT	1:50 PM	3:07 PM	4:22 PM	15 sec	3:07:47 PM - 3:08:02 PM
KOKOMO	1:51 PM	3:08 PM	4:23 PM	15 sec	3:08:31 PM - 3:08:46 PM
GREENTOWN	1:51 PM	3:08 PM	4:23 PM	1 min 39 sec	3:08:03 PM - 3:09:42 PM
INDIANAPOLIS	1:50 PM	3:07 PM	4:23 PM	3 min 51 sec	3:06:03 PM - 3:09:54 PM





Indiana Department of Natural Resources

Hoosiers are getting ready for the total eclipse on Monday.

Solar spectacle: Questions and answers about Monday's solar eclipse

WHITNEY DOWNARD
INDIANA CAPITAL
CHRONICLE

BUT I CAN STILL
SNEAK A PEEK,
RIGHT?

For a handful of minutes, the skies will darken Monday in a total solar eclipse where the sun's rays will be completely blocked by the moon's orbit — something Hoosiers can only view with special glasses.

The *Kansas Reflector* compiled its own questions and answers for their readers, which we've tweaked to fit our Hoosier audience. Our Kansas neighbors aren't in the path of totality like Indiana but provided some great context before the big event.

WAIT! THERE'S GOING TO BE A SOLAR ECLIPSE?

Yes! On Monday, April 8, 2024, to be precise. Portions of the state will be completely dark for just over four minutes, as detailed by the Indiana Department of Homeland Security. While the skies will start to darken as early as 1:50 p.m., complete darkness will occur in Indianapolis between 3:06 and 3:09 p.m. before the skies lighten again at 4:23 p.m.

Other parts of the state will roughly follow that same timeline but may be off by a few minutes.

Please don't do that. If you don't believe me, listen to Shannon Schmoll, the director of the Abrams Planetarium at Michigan State University.

"We don't ever, ever want to look directly at the sun. It will harm our eyes and can cause permanent damage," she told journalists during a briefing organized by Sci-Line last week. "So to look at this, you need to use either eclipse glasses or some sort of eclipse viewers."

COULD I JUST USE A CAMERA INSTEAD?

Nope. An unfiltered look at the eclipse will leave your fancy digital camera literally smoking. You need a specialized lens filter to take photos of the event with a stand-alone or phone camera.

Okay, okay. Let's get glasses and filters aplenty. But does this mean the world is about to end?

No. Millennia of eclipses have come and gone, and the world remains, for better or worse.

WILL ANIMALS ACT ALL WEIRD?

WHAT'S A SOLAR ECLIPSE AGAIN?

According to our friends at NASA: "A total solar eclipse happens when the Moon passes between the Sun and Earth, completely blocking the face of the Sun. The sky will darken as if it were dawn or dusk."

Just imagine that you're watching an important TV program and your beloved spouse passes in front of the set. They instantly become much less beloved.

Now, let's equate your TV set with the sun and your spouse with the moon. It's just like that.

WHO WILL GET TO SEE IT?

All of Indiana will experience some portion of the eclipse but a portion of the state will be in the "Path of Totality," where the moon will completely block the sun. This band, stretching from Bluffton to Evansville, has attracted hundreds of thousands of out-of-state visitors for the rare event.

How rare? While partial solar eclipses happen two or three times each year somewhere on earth — and there are roughly two total solar eclipses every three years — Indiana won't experience another until 2099.

ANY ADVICE ON WATCHING IT?

Don't look at the eclipse with your naked eyes. Let me repeat that: Don't look at the eclipse with your naked eyes.

The sun is usually so bright that we can't physically stand to look at it. An eclipse cuts down on the brightness, but doesn't stop solar radiation that can cause major vision damage. This happens to people.

It literally scars their retinas. They see a phantom image of the sun for the rest of their lives.

WILL ANIMALS ACT ALL WEIRD?

Take a read through the briefing mentioned above. In short, we know that birds and insects quiet down during an eclipse, but they don't freak out or anything.

"The eclipse is strong enough to suppress that daytime diurnal activity — of day-flying insects and birds going to roost — but it's not strong enough to initiate the kind of typical nocturnal behaviors we see at sunset," said Andrew Farnsworth of the Center for Avian Population Studies at the Cornell University Lab of Ornithology.

For their part, the Indiana Department of Natural Resources recommends keeping pets at home if they have trouble with leashes but note that animals, generally, don't look directly at the sun.

WHAT IS THE STATE GOVERNMENT DOING?

In anticipation, Gov. Eric Holcomb has signed an executive disaster order letting Indiana call on a nationwide aid compact should the upcoming eclipse stress the state's emergency response systems. Due to the number of people, officials expect a "widespread and significant impact" on Indiana's "critical infrastructure systems," including for communication, emergency response and transportation, according to the order.

If you might be driving, be prepared for potential slowdowns and traffic disruptions. Pack plenty of water, food and fuel along with chargers, maps and emergency kits. The Indiana Destination Development Corporation (IDDC) has a list of more tips for safe viewing.



Eclipse-
viewing
weather?



Farmers' Almanac predicted
rain- we got clear skies!

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Eclipse-
viewing
weather?

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LEBANON
TOTAL
ECLIPSE

4/8/24

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SATURDAY, APRIL 6, 2024

\$1.50

Clouds or sun? Weather forecast for Monday's eclipse unclear

CARSON GERBER
CNHI STATE REPORTER

It might be the most anticipated weather forecast in Indiana history.

With the total solar eclipse just days away, Hoosiers and hundreds of thousands of visitors expected to travel to the state are anxiously asking the same question.

Will there be clear skies Monday to witness the once-in-a-lifetime celestial spectacle?

"We're cautiously optimistic — or pessimistic — whichever way you look at it," said Sam Lashley, warning coordination meteorologist at the National Weather Service in Indianapolis.

As of Thursday, the agency forecast

the chance for both clouds and sun in parts of the state that will experience the total eclipse. Central Indiana also has a small chance of rain. Notably, no severe weather, such as thunderstorms or tornadoes, is expected.

The state is currently between two weather systems that make it particularly difficult to predict cloud coverage, Lashley explained. Subtle changes in the timing of those systems could substantially change weather patterns across the state.

"There's just no way to narrow it down right now to that critical six-hour window that everybody's worried about," he said.

By Sunday, meteorologists should have a solid, hour-by-hour breakdown forecast of Monday's afternoon

weather.

EYES ON THE SKY

No one is keeping closer tabs on that forecast than state agencies tasked with managing crowds and traffic during and after the eclipse.

Areas that end up with clear skies should prepare for a massive influx of people seeking the best views, according to the Indiana Department of Homeland Security.

"If Hoosiers or visitors planned to go to one location, but the weather forecast is cloudy or rainy, traffic could easily increase tremendously in a clearer area," the agency noted in its eclipse planning guide.

See **FORECAST** on 3



Video screenshot, courtesy Department of Homeland Security

Spectators in Nebraska watch the total solar eclipse in 2017 on a cloudy day.

FORECAST

CONTINUED FROM 1

The Indiana Department of Transportation has been working closely with local communities to prepare for that scenario. Crews will be stationed across the state to address roadway issues that might arise, according to Natalie Garrett, the department's strategic communications director.

"INDOT is certainly aware that this is a possibility and will be monitoring forecasts over the coming days, as well as traffic conditions the day of the eclipse, to make adjustments as needed," she said in an email.

That includes personnel keeping an eye on traffic cameras and INDOT engineers monitoring and adjusting signal timings, if needed, to help keep traffic moving, Garrett added.

The National Weather Service has been collaborating with local law enforcement and planning agencies since January 2023 to ensure open communication about any weather-related concerns Monday, meteorologist Lashley said.

The service is accustomed to working with agencies on major events like the Indy 500, he explained, but forecasting and planning for the total solar eclipse marks the biggest undertaking in the agency's history.

"I can't even think of anything on a state level that would come close to this," he said. "There's nothing comparable to the scope of this event."

INDOT's free TrafficWise map and mobile app are available at 511in.org. The tool enables drivers to monitor traffic conditions as they travel to and from viewing destinations.

NOT A TOTAL LOSS

Of course, cloudy weather wouldn't negate the eclipse. It just means the experience would be different, explained Cody Kirkpatrick, a meteorologist and senior lecturer at Indiana University.

"A lot of the impacts that you would get on a clear, sunny day, you're still going to get," he said.

Under cloud cover, the eclipse would still bring eerie midday darkness once it reaches totality, accompanied by a drop in temperature

— although that drop wouldn't be as dramatic in cloudy weather.

The sudden cool will cause some flower buds and blooms to close. Nocturnal animals will likely be confused and could appear for the few minutes of darkness, Kirkpatrick noted. Bees might return to their hives.

"Our pets can get agitated, too, and might act the same way as if there were fireworks or thunderstorms, since getting dark can disrupt their usual daily routine," he said.

In fact, it might be even be more dark and night-like if it's cloudy, according to the state's eclipse website. Viewers of clouded-out eclipses have noted remarkable color changes in the sky and seeing the moon's shadow move.

"Perhaps, clouds will obscure the sun but leave other areas of the sky clear,"

the website notes. "In these situations, stars may become visible."

Kirkpatrick urged viewers to keep in mind that partly cloudy weather means conditions could change rapidly, leaving open the possibility it could get sunny for key moments of the event, like the appearance of the solar corona, the glowing outer atmosphere of the sun that's normally hidden by the intense brightness of the sun's core.

"All we need is five minutes of sun at just the right time on Monday afternoon to create a memory of a lifetime," he said.

Regardless of the weather, Kirkpatrick said, he's looking forward to the community and comradery that emerges from a crowd of strangers viewing one of nature's most rare and otherworldly spectacles.

"How many times do we

get to experience a rare event that is good, that's not the aftermath of a tornado or something else terrible?" he said. "Instead, we're getting to come together for this rare, really good event, and everybody's happy and excited."

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Eclipse-
viewing
weather?



Visitors from neighboring towns, and out of state

Making Memories





Making Memories





Making Memories



photo credit: Brandi Small

photo credit: Susan Allen



Making Memories





Making
Memories

TOTAL ECLIPSE 2024



Sugar Plain Friends Church



Photo Credit: Susan Allen
viewing eclipse through colander

Making Memories





Traveling
for miles



Visitors thank Boone County for incredible eclipse experience

MARIA FLORA
MARIA.FLORA@
REPORTER.NET

Boone County partied during Monday's solar eclipse from Advance to Zionsville.

Visitors from overseas and all walks of life came to marvel at the spectacle with local residents, who rolled out the red carpet for them.

"This was a once-in-a-lifetime event," Lebanon Mayor Matt Gentry said Wednesday. "The city left a great impression on everyone who visited. The eclipse may have been only three minutes, but it created a memory and positive impression of Lebanon that will last a lifetime."

Kevin Ellis stopped in Lebanon on a whim because of its close proximity to his Chicago home and ease of access to Interstate 65 and praised the city in a letter emailed to Mayor Matthew Gentry afterward.

"We didn't know what to expect, or where to go," Ellis wrote. Ellis said he followed signs to Abner Longley Park and found an incredible experience. "Lots of friendly and helpful city park employees, a beautiful and pristine park that welcomed dogs, clean restrooms, food trucks for a hot meal, a just-right police presence for safety, and even a DJ broadcasting live music and eclipse updates."

"It's wonderful to see what small-city American can do. We'll never forget our experience or the Hoosier hospitality shared with us by the people of Lebanon, Indiana. We'll be back."

Sarah Blakeslee of Madison, Wisconsin, said via email to *The Lebanon Reporter* on Wednesday, "We were at the North End Eclipse Party at the [Witham] YMCA, and everyone was so nice."

Downtown shops and restaurants also praised the city after a robust boost in business over the weekend, Gentry said.

OTHER SITES

Thorntown didn't plan an official event, but that didn't stop Minnesotans and others from setting up a picnic and relaxing for the day in Tompkins Memorial Park on



Visitors marvel at the eclipse in Whitestown near the time of totality.



Eclipse fans prepare to view the moon through a telescope in Zionsville's Mulberry Fields Park.

MORE ONLINE: See more photos of the festivities at reporter.net.

the town's south end.

The crowd there cheered when the lights went out, and the frogs along Sugar Creek croaked to one another as if it were nighttime. Birds all over the county roosted in the trees, as they do in the evening.

Zionsville, Whitestown, Lebanon, Jamestown and Advance

all experienced an influx of visitors who spread out on lawns with room to spare.

They ate, played pickle ball, photographed the moon, and danced to bands and DJs.

Some out-of-town visitors parked along farm fields on gravel roads to deploy lawn chairs and coolers and settle in with their filtered telescopes and cameras.

One group from Chicago said on social media they chose a rural spot to make

leaving the area easier.

Heavy traffic in all directions leaving Boone County moved at a snail's pace in the hours after the eclipse.

And outbound vehicles made for heavier than usual traffic for hours afterwards but without much headache. Many local motorists used side roads to move around at a nearly normal pace.

"Months of work and coordination paid off, as everything went smoothly," Gentry said.



A family enjoys Lebanon's '80s themed awkward photo booth, complete with prop clothing and accessories.



The Blakeslee family (from left) Ryan, 10, Sarah, Kevin, Leo, 4, and Tessa, 7, traveled from Madison, Wisconsin, to enjoy Monday's solar eclipse at the North End Eclipse Party at the Witham YMCA.



Freedom Church hosted a party in Lebanon.



Photos by Maria Flora | The Lebanon Reporter

A reverent hush fell over the Boone County Courthouse lawn as the moon reached a total eclipse of the sun Monday afternoon.

MOONED IN BOONE

MARIA FLORA

MARIA.FLORA@REPORTER.NET

A collective cheer arose in downtown Lebanon when the moon totally eclipsed the sun Monday.

Then a reverent hush fell over the downtown Lebanon square and in Memorial Park in Lebanon while, for a few minutes, the sky went dark just after 3 p.m.

Visitors and local folks slapped on their cardboard and plastic eclipse glasses and stared up at the spectacle, smiling and mouthing "wow." They lounged on the park lawn, the courthouse lawn, downtown business roofs, and along the streets to watch.

A second cheer went up when the moon began moving past the sun and light returned to Earth about three and a half minutes later.

The Heart of Lebanon, a Main Street America organization, sponsored an '80s themed three-day festival titled Total Eclipse in the Heart, complete with bands, aerobics exercise, vendors, roller skating and big hair.

Discover Boone County sponsored Get Mooned in Boone, which included celebrations all over the county.



As schools were closed for the day, children snacked and watched the eclipse in downtown Lebanon.

A Pink Droyd Eclipse Concert and laser light show moved indoors due to weather Sunday evening at the Boone County 4-H Fairgrounds in Lebanon.

Jamestown celebrated with glow-in-the-dark kickball and other events.

The Zionsville Lions Club made 290 spaces available in Lions Park, and Moontown Brewing in Whitestown threw a party. Wisewood Farm in rural Lebanon and Dull's

Tree Farm in Thorntown also threw family friendly parties with food and activities available.

Advance visitors enjoyed a murder mystery lunch at Jawbone BBQ, a beer garden with bluegrass music, and other fundraising events to buy new playground equipment for the town.

The Lebanon event drew crowds from all over Indiana, at least 20 states, and countries as far away as Australia, The Heart of Lebanon

Online

To view more photos from this story, visit Reporter.net

President Corey Kutz said. And they were in a buying mood.

Restaurants and hotels throughout town did brisk business, and some visitors called police Sunday night to see where they could safely sleep in their cars without bothering the locals.

Dylan Higgins of Illinois said he and friends slept at a gas station, and he loved all the free entertainment in Lebanon, especially Monday's band.

Anything eclipse related sold like hotcakes and T-shirts flew out of local shops Crossroads Imprints on the downtown Lebanon square and Daisy's Designs just around the corner. Indiana Gifts, also on the square, sold more merchandise than at Christmas.

"The downtown vendors are very, very happy," Kutz said just before totality.

Heart of Lebanon Director Missy Krulik said there was no way to get an exact headcount but

MOONED

CONTINUED FROM 1

that the eclipse event drew many more visitors than The Heart's Halloween event, Mischief on Meridian, that traditionally draws 6,000 to 7,000.

Lebanon's Memorial Park filled with vehicles by about 1 p.m., but there was plenty of room to spread out on the lawn. And visitors played basketball, walked their dogs, and filled the playgrounds while they awaited totality.

A group of high school friends and their spouses from Chicago rented a table along Meridian Street downtown and spent the day

sipping beer, catching up on each other's lives, and picnicking.

It was just a three-hour drive for them, Michael Bailey said, adding, "Lebanon is a beautiful city."

"It's small-town clean," his wife, Alesia Bailey, said. "We're in our glory."

Traffic flowed easily through Lebanon in the days leading up to Monday and on Monday morning, as visitors trickled in. But many of the visitors, including the Baileys and their Chicago friends, had to leave quickly after the eclipse to get ready for work Tuesday.

Lebanon streets were gridlocked for a time as the crowds dispersed.

See **MOONED** on 3

Total eclipse was a total success for our community

Eclipse 2024 is now in the record books and few who witnessed it can claim to be unimpressed. The celestial event was certainly a sight to behold. 'Oohs' and 'aahs' could be heard throughout Boone County. Cheers went up at the point of totality. Families came out in droves to watch.

Even the weather cooperated. Some areas of the county reported overcast skies, but most experienced sunshine and 70+ degree weather.

It's hard to imagine a year of planning and three days of celebrations for an event that lasted only a few minutes. But it was all worth it.

Many are still in awe after witnessing not only the eclipse, but the execution of the festivities and the community comradery.

Putting on a major event is a major task. Putting on *multiple* major events at various sites across the county where attendance is nothing more than a guess until the lines start forming is a whole different challenge.

Organizers, staff and volunteers with Discover Boone County and The Heart of Lebanon shined a light on the county that won't soon be forgotten.

The municipalities of Advance, Jamestown, Thorn-town, Mechanicsburg, Whitestown and Zionsville – along with various farms, churches, businesses, fraternal clubs, and other sites – all planned and executed celebrations in conjunction with the county theme of "Get Mooned in Boone."

Despite the logistics of hosting such a huge event, and the headaches that come along with it, things seemed to go off with nary a hitch.

The organization of all of the different communities, and the various agencies within each, was phenomenal in itself.

Local merchants report brisk sales in the days leading up to the eclipse, as well as the day of.

Hotels were booked. Restaurants and bars called in extra help to get everyone served in a timely manner. Parking wasn't even an issue.

Visitors to the different areas of Boone County were impressed with the execution of the events, but more so with the friendly people they met, the restaurants and shops they visited, and the quaintness of the city and towns they landed in to watch the 2024 eclipse.

Boone County hosted visitors from at least 20 states and even some from other countries.

Many vowed to return.

Lebanon, and Boone County as a whole, did all of us proud.

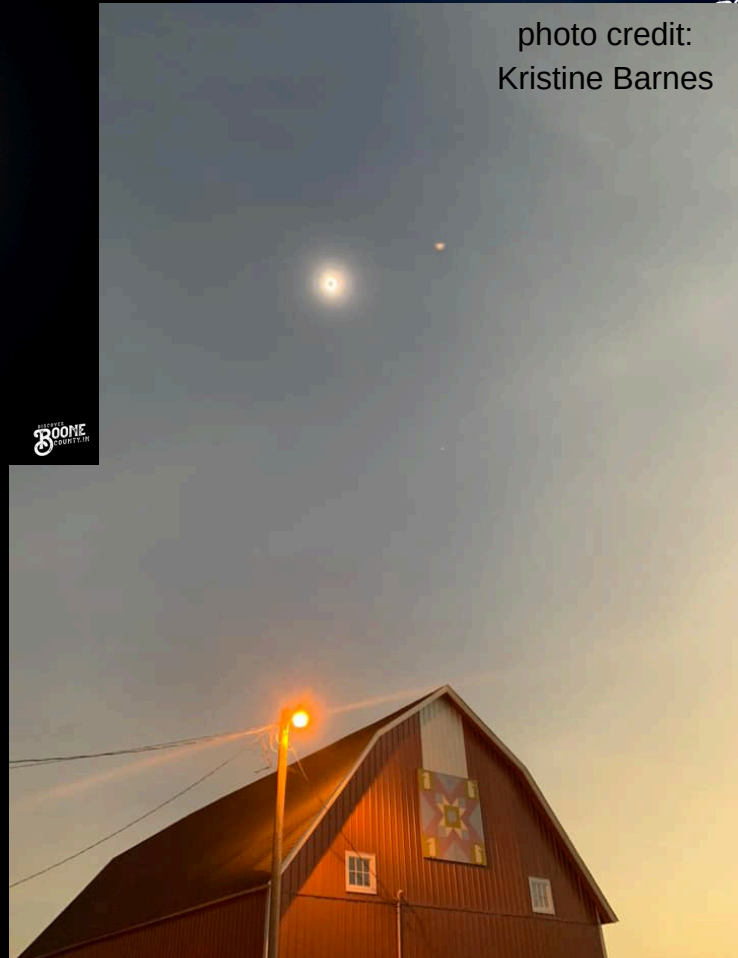
— Editorial by The Lebanon Reporter



Reaching
totality



photo credit:
Kristine Barnes



BOONE
COUNTY

Photo Credit: Victoria Lane



Until Oct.
21, 2153