Solar Eclipse plans at WKU

VFTH

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WKU is preparing for two major events on Monday, the opening of the fall semester and the Great American Eclipse.

Amy Bingham has more on eclipse activities planned on campus in this week’s View from the Hill.

WKU’s campus lies in the path of totality and will experience just over a minute of total darkness. That’s why providing an educational outreach has been a top priority since the planning got underway.

Jeff Younglove \ Coordinator, Special Projects

Charley Pride \ Director, Student Activity

Mollie Daniel \ Freshman

Dr. Gordon Emslie \ Professor, Physics and Astronomy

“It will be a neat minute and 7 seconds.”

Jeff Younglove has been busy this week distributing eclipse viewers.

“All together through the support of the Confucius Institute probably have distributed 100 to 125 thousand viewers to school systems and our students, faculty and staff.”

WKU is opening up Houchens Smith Stadium Monday to students who live outside the line of totality.

“Our numbers within the stadium for K-12 have fluctuated. Right now we’re looking at 1500 to 2,000 people in the stadium.”

Concerns about traffic have meant a lower number than anticipated.

“The last thing you want to do is put somebody on a school bus that may have to sit three hours. There’s a real concern about that .”

Members of the community have been invited to a VIP Eclipse luncheon.

“We offered to Harbaugh Club members first and gave them a heads up first then opened to general public. We’ll have 250 or so there.”

WKU students, especially those who live on campus, are invited to come to South Lawn on Monday.

“Bounce houses, carnival games, we should have pizza, water, stuff like that so people can come and hang out but we also have the viewers for any student how hasn’t picked one of somewhere else.”

“I’m very excited to see it. A once in a lifetime chance to see totality. That’s really awesome.”

WKU Physics professor Gordon Emslie encourages people to develop a checklist of the nuances they want to see during the actual eclipse.

“Observe what the sun’s corona looks like, observe the stars and planets as seen in daytime, observe the reaction of wildlife around you.”

These are the viewers that will be used by the campus community as the eclipse begins around noon on Monday. Dr. Emslie says it’s ok to take them down when totality occurs but it’s important to put them back before totality ends.

With this week’s View from the Hill, I’m Amy Bingham.

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