



Second grader Ari Kirschner looks through a powerful telescope.

Astronomers give elementary students a look at the stars

Forest Elementary School hosted their 2nd Annual Star Gazers Program on Tuesday, February 4, as a hands-on extension to Space science taught in Kindergarten 2nd 4th, and 5th grades.

Although it was too cloudy to view stars and planets, there was no shortage of activities to keep star gazers busy.

Astronomers from the Ford Amateur Astronomy brought several high-powered tele-

scopes, and treated viewers to a spectacular slide show to begin the evening. Another astronomer from the New Detroit Science Center provided a Star Lab planetarium for students to view constellations.

Activities were also set up throughout the Forest galaxy. Centers included a constellation station, creating planet mobiles and comets, straw rockets, and decorating star cookies. In addition, students

and families had an opportunity to sign a condolence card that was sent to NASA in memory of the seven Columbia astronauts.

Forest Principal, Lloyd Lewis estimated that attendance was somewhere between 300-400 people.

The event was coordinated by Forest parent (and Channel 4 meteorologist) Paul Gross, and Forest science teachers, Chris Walker and Kathy Koperski.

Jaycees seeking Citizen of the Year

Farmington Area Jaycees are now accepting applications for Citizen of the Year Award recipients.

Nominations can be anyone who has contributed meritorious service to the community either as a volunteer or in connection with their business.

There are no limitations to a nominee's age, sex, residency, race or religion, but this person must have accomplished his or her deeds in the Farmington/Farmington Hills area.

In sizing up a potential nominee for the Citizen of the Year, remember that past award winners are excluded from consideration.

Government officials may be nominated for volunteer achievements only. Do not hesitate to nominate past nominees who were not winners but are still active in the community.

A nomination form can be obtained by calling Valerie Knol at (248) 476-5227 or by visiting the Jaycees Web site at www.fajc.org/fajcproject.html.

You may also mail the completed form to: P.O. Box 33, Farmington, 48332 or fax it to (248) 848-3795 or e-mail to Fajc@yahoo.com.

The 5th Annual Citizen of the Year banquet will be at 6 p.m. Tuesday, May 6, at the Farmington Hills Manor on Orchard Lake Road. Tickets can be purchased by contacting Knol.

Deadline for all Citizen of the Year nomination forms is March 28.

Dean named HCN Journalist of the Year

Dan Dean, assistant managing editor of the Presentation Desk at the Observer & Eccentric Newspapers, has been named Journalist of the Year 2002 for HomeTown Communications Network Corp.

Dean received the recognition - a \$1,000 prize and award - last month at the corporation's third annual Editorial Achievement Dinner.

Dean was among seven nominees for the award. Judges cited his "leadership in making changes that are reflected in the visual strength of the Observer & Eccentric Newspapers."

"The O&E papers have a newer, brighter and newer design that draws the readers' attention and yet avoids the cookie-cutter look of so many newspaper pages today," the judges wrote. "Dean's job of making sure the visual presentation of the newspapers is consistently excellent is one that is little appreciated, but crucial to the future success of community journalism."

REDESIGN PROJECT

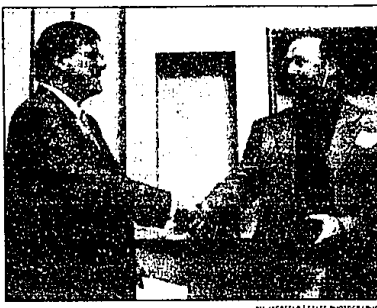
Dean worked on the redesign project with a committee composed of O&E staffers, a design consultant Edward Henninger.

Judges for this year's award included Ben Burns, director of the Journalism program at Wayne State University; Jack Lessenberry, a writing coach, newspaper columnist and professor in the journalism program at WSU; and Sandra Birdiet, director of the Journalism Institute for Minorities at Wayne State.

Dean, 40, manages the presentation desk at the O&E. The desk is responsible for page design and story editing for all 15 O&E editions. Dean has held the position since October 2002. He previously was the Presentation editor for the Eccentric Newspaper Group.

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Dean holds a bachelor's degree in communications from Oakland University. He lives in Orionville with his wife,



HCN Journalist of the Year Dan Dean receives congratulations from Phil Power, chairman of the HomeTown Communications Network.

'Dean's job of making sure the visual presentation of the newspapers is consistently excellent is one that is little appreciated, but crucial to the future success of community journalism.'

Journalist of the Year judges

Cathy, sons, Kevin, 13, Josh, 9, and infant daughter, Heather.

"It is nice to be singled out by your peers for work you have done. Certainly, redesigning the O&E took many long hours. There were many mornings that I headed home seeing the sun start to rise over Troy as I made my way onto northbound I-75 from Square Lake Road.

"The award is a reflection of the support and understanding of my wife, Cathy, who encouraged me through the redesign project. But mostly it is a tribute to the talent and hard work of the entire presentation desk staff and the redesign committee of Jeanne Tuwar, Sue Rosiek, Joe Bauman and, of course, Ed Henninger," said Dean.

O&E CAREER

Dean's role as AME of Presentation is one of many positions he's held throughout

his 20 years at the O&E. He started his career as a photographer for the Wayne and Oakland editions. He was promoted to Troy community editor in 1998 and in May 2000 he launched the *Waterford Eccentric*. In December 2001, he was named Presentation editor for the Eccentric Newspaper Group.

Dean has won many awards at the O&E. In 1990, he was named O&E Journalist of the Year. As a Waterford community editor, his newspaper took a first place for Best Editorial Page in the 2000 Suburban Newspapers of American Editorial contest. In that same contest, the *Waterford Eccentric* took first place in its category for Best Graphic Artwork.

While working as a community editor, Dean was honored in the picture story category for 2002 from the Michigan Press Association.

Dean's photographer had the day off and he wanted to get photographs of an historic home being moved.

He grabbed his camera gear and shot the picture story himself.

HCN is the parent company of the *Observer & Eccentric Newspapers*.

HCN publishes 57 newspapers in Oakland and western Wayne counties, Cincinnati, Kentucky, Lansing metropolitan area and a daily newspaper in Livingston County. HCN also publishes 21 local telephone directories and a variety of specialty publications and shopping guides.

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