

Basehor

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right after sunset before stars are visible.

Sharing his passion for astronomy, Hufstedler recently participated in the Basehor Community Library’s “How-To Festival” where he brought several of his telescopes to discuss his hobby. He was especially happy to visit with a local third grader who shares his enjoyment of learning about the planets.

“He taught me more about the planets than

you can imagine and he also tried to teach me how to pronounce the dwarf planets and moons in our solar system,” said Hufstedler.

Hufstedler said he especially enjoys viewing the Pinwheel Galaxy (Messier 101) due to a supernova that was first observed on May 19, 2023. That supernova is located in the Ursa Major Big Dipper constellation which is around 21 million light years from Earth.

A recent astronomical event that Hufstedler was able to observe with his telescope occurred

in March. Every 15 years, the rings of Saturn appear edge-on due to the orbital tilt and the nearly 30-year orbit of Saturn around the sun. This event is still visible, but Hufstedler is excited for this event to conclude so he can once again see through the rings.

He also gets excited to see Mercury, which is only visible in the evening sky two to three times per year due to its close proximity to the sun. Additionally, there is some sort of interstellar object that has been identified that will be closest



to Earth in October. This object, listed as 3I/ATLAS or C/2025 N1, is believed to have a diameter of around 12 miles. It is only the third known object of its kind. Hufstedler is looking forward to this likely once in a lifetime event.

“I am thankful that I have more of an appreciation for the universe. I really enjoy walking in the early evening, looking for visible planets without the need of a telescope. The first time observing the rings on Saturn and the four primary moons of Jupiter will always be a highlight for me,” Hufstedler said.

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For all customer inquiries please call or email:
913-682-0305 ext 2130
620-860-4774
circhelp@cherryroad.com

PUBLISHER
Jeremy Gulban | jgulban@cherryroad.com

REGIONAL ADVERTISING MANAGER
Brian Bloom | bbloom@cherryroad.com

EDITOR
Mark Rountree | mrountree@cherryroad.com

BUSINESS MANAGER
Beckie Broom | rbroom@cherryroad.com

CIRCULATION DIRECTOR
Barbara Daniels | bdaniels@cherryroad.com

SPORTS CORRESPONDENT
Mark Rountree | mrountree@cherryroad.com

NEWS REPORTER
John Richmeier | jrichmeier@cherryroad.com

ADVERTISING
Meredith Thompson | mthompson@cherryroad.com

OBITUARIES
obits@leavenworthtimes.com

CLASSIFIEDS
classifieds@leavenworthtimes.com

LEGALS
Legals@leavenworthtimes.com

NEWS & PHOTOS
news@leavenworthtimes.com

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