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# The Daily Item

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# STARGAZERS



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Ryan Moores checks out the moon and stars through the telescope at High Rock Tower in Lynn Tuesday night.

## Sky's the limit atop High Rock Tower

**By THOR JOURGENSEN**

THE DAILY ITEM

Her husband's interest in astronomy prompted Beverly Reed to climb iron steps to the top of High Rock Tower and wait her turn to peer into a telescope about the size of a kitchen trash barrel. She was not disappointed.

"It's a wonderful thing," she said after observing the twin bands that gird Jupiter and the four moons arrayed in a precise line next to the giant planet.

Reed spent only a few seconds staring into the Meade LX 200 EMC telescope's eyepiece before declaring High Rock one of her hometown's treasures. For Ronald Reed, the excursion to High Rock's observatory offered a chance to greatly improve on the views he enjoys through his own, smaller Meade telescope.

Located off High Rock Street in the Highlands at the end of Circuit Avenue, High Rock Tower and the park around it offer a panoramic view of Lynn, Lynn Woods and the Atlantic Ocean.

Jesse Hutchinson and his popular family of musicians built a wood tower and homes on the city's highest point in 1840 with the hopes of expanding the location into an "institute of advanced thought."

**Lynn mayoral aide James Marsh schedules telescope viewing times for anyone who calls (781) 599-1444 to arrange a visit to the tower.**

Fire destroyed the wood tower but its stone replacement included an observatory donated to the city by the family in 1904. By the end of the last century, the tower had fallen into disrepair and the observatory had been dismantled.

Former Mayor Patrick J. McManus coordinated city efforts in 1998 to use federal funds to restore the tower and

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Above, Lynn mayoral aide James Marsh opens the observatory at High Rock Tower Tuesday night. Below, Brad Efstratios, left, hits a switch to open the roof of the tower as his friends, from left, Kristen Walsh, Ryan Moores, and Alison Efstratios look on.



# TELESCOPE

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rebuild the observatory. Work began in 2002, but the telescope sat inside a warehouse until 2002 when James Marsh, aide to Mayor Edward J. 'Chip' Clancy, Jr., adopted the observatory as a priority project.

"I asked Chipper, 'Can I take this on?' He said, 'You bet.'"

Marsh worked with city Community Developer Planner John Moberger to get a revolving metal dome equipped with a retractable hatch mounted on top of the tower.

The city worked with Wayne Alarm to transfer several communications antennas from High Rock to the firm's nearby communications towers. Workers placed heavy metal screens over the towers win-

dows to keep hawks and other birds out of it.

The Meade scope sits on a five foot-high base and Marsh schedules telescope viewing times for anyone who calls (781) 599-1444 to arrange a visit to the tower.

"The viewing will be nice and crisp in August and September," he said.

Using a computer, he orients the telescope to a section of the sky and uses its powerful lenses to zoom in on the moon's craters or a distant quasar or planet.

He had escorted school field trips, amateur astronomers and other groups to the observatory and hopes to expand the visits into lectures by astronomers. Reed looks forward to returning to High Rock.

"My husband really loves it."