

COVER STORY



Russ Lederman talks about his custom optics just before a demonstration at his office.

STAFF PHOTOS BY RALPH MUSTHALER



Russ Lederman makes adjustments to his custom telescope eyepieces during a demonstration.

3-D

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apply it to hand held binoculars, so people could have something they could carry around and use to easily see the galaxies above in 3-D.

Thanks to the invention, Lederman was recently able to have a dream come true with a visit to the Mount Wilson Observatory in California to show them his 3-D viewer.

While he was in college, he got sick with a fever one night and a friend brought him a copy of the Larousse Encyclopedia of Astronomy to read. He was hooked.

Some of the images in the book came from the Mount Wilson Observatory, the place where Edwin Hubble made a discovery that supported the existence of an expanding universe.

"Reverse it and you've got a big bang," he said, moving his hands, mimicking the theorized explosion.

Nearly a century later, when Lederman came to Mount Wilson to show them his binoculars he saw a locker with Hubble's name on it and it gave him chills.

"I was like oh man, I can't believe I'm here, this is sick," he said.

rpacella@dmg.gannett.com
443-210-8126

On Twitter @rachaelpacella



Russ Lederman said he wants to use the technology of his invention and apply it to hand-held binoculars.

Death

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Different families, different views

Days after Mary Ellen Bonniwell's death, her son and Long's daughter were divided on what happened.

Cramer said the marks on Mary Ellen Bonniwell came from her falling of-

ten. And at the time the abuse was alleged to have occurred, Long was laying on the floor, Cramer said.

Christopher Bonniwell said Long's family didn't tell him about his mother's death; he found out from an Accomack County Sheriff's deputy.

But Cramer said she and her family aren't permitted to contact him.

Cramer said her mom is not guilty, and she thinks the police are just

looking for someone to blame.

Christopher Bonniwell, 44, Mary Ellen Bonniwell's only son, had been taking care of his mother since she got pneumonia in 1997, he said. While he was incarcerated in 2013, he said Long's family got his mother to move to Fruitland, and Long became her caregiver after she was released from being incarcerated in 2014.

He had an on-again, off-again relationship

with Long, most recently as late as April, he said.

He said Long has falsely filed various charges against him relating to violating a protective order. One case has been dismissed, and three have trials are set for next month in District Court in Salisbury, court records show.

Mary Ellen Bonniwell needed a caregiver because she had brain damage from pneumonia and mental illness, Christo-

pher Bonniwell said.

"She had no way to defend herself," Christopher Bonniwell said of his mother.

Assistant Public Defender D. L. Pugh said via video during Long's bond review hearing Monday that all of her family lives locally, and the case is based on information his client said — nobody else in the house saw anything happen, he said.

Assistant State's Attorney Jamie Miliman had

asked Long be held without bond. District Court Judge John P. Rue kept the bond the same as it had been, at \$1 million.

Cramer said it's not possible things happened how the police said they did. Her mom had a hurt arm, she said.

"My mom doesn't have the heart to do something like that," she said.

vjunkin@dmg.gannett.com
410-845-4639

On Twitter @VanessaJunkin

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BILL JANUS
President and Publisher
wjjanus@gannett.com | 410-341-6534

WILLIAM EDWARD SHOCKLEY III
Executive Editor
tshockle@dmg.gannett.com | 410-845-4601

LAURA BENEDICT SILEO
Consumer Experience Director
lbenedic@dmg.gannett.com
410-845-4632

LOU HAUT
Circulation Manager
lhaut@dmg.gannett.com
410-749-7171 Ext. 399

RON SMITH
Operations Director
rsmith@dmg.gannett.com
410-845-4619

NIKKI IOVACCHINI
Admin/ HR/Marketing/Sales
niovacchini@dmg.gannett.com
410-845-4622

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