

Players and fellow coaches salute legacy of Pocomoke's **Susan Pusey. 1C**



# THE DAILY TIMES

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## 3-D night vision



STAFF PHOTO BY RALPH MUSTHALER

Russ Lederman demonstrates how to use his 20-inch Newtonian telescope at his office.

### Pines man's invention lights up sky in new way

RACHAEL PACELLA  
STAFF WRITER

To the naked eye, a dark, clear night sky feels like a dome surrounding the Earth, with light peaking through forming constellations.

The universe, from where we stand, seems flat because our eyes can't perceive depth that far away. While there still isn't a way to perceive the stars' actual depth in a telescope, one local inventor has come up with a way to create the illusion of 3-D.

Russ Lederman of Ocean Pines has figured out a way to imitate functions of the human eye, but in binocular viewers, allowing pieces of the "flat" star scape to pop out. Small, square pieces of glass attached to the regular lens of a viewer create the effect, shifting different parts of the image forward or back.

"What I'm doing is reproducing what you're doing day to day," he said.

While it isn't an accurate depiction of the stars' dimensions, it gives the illusion of a 3-D sky, which is closer to the truth than a flat sky, Lederman said.

"There's something in all of us that loves to see things in depth. We're used to seeing things that way," Lederman said.

Lederman was already making binocular viewers for telescopes through his company, Denkmeier Optical, Inc. He was inspired by red and blue comic book 3-D effects, and started a new company for the new product.

"It's all been sort of a process of experimentation in new territory, but I liked that a lot, sitting down at night and saying 'what happens if I do this,'" Lederman said. "Now I'm finally ready to be sending these out."

The invention will only impact a very small percentage of the population right now, Lederman said. Most astronomers don't use binocular viewers, which are necessary for the system.

However, looking forward, Lederman hopes to take the technology and

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Russ Lederman's invention uses binocular viewers, allowing pieces of the "flat" star scape to pop out and appear to be in 3-D.

#### Comic book inspiration

Russ Lederman was already making binocular viewers for telescopes through his company, Denkmeier Optical, Inc. when he got inspired by comic books, and specifically the red and blue 3D effects that bring them to life. He started a new company for his 3D sky viewer. Eventually, he hopes to take the technology and apply it to hand held binoculars people could carry around and use to easily see the galaxies above in 3D.



Becky Long faces second-degree murder and other charges.

## Different stories emerge in woman's death

VANESSA JUNKIN  
STAFF WRITER

Christopher Bonniwell said he warned his mother that living with Becky Long may not be a safe environment.

Even so, he didn't expect it would come to this.

His mother, 68-year-old Mary Ellen Bonniwell, was found dead Thursday, July 15 at the home she and Long lived in on Morris Street in Fruitland. On Saturday, July 17, Long — an ex-girlfriend of Christopher Bonniwell's — was charged with murder in her death.

Long, 44, was Mary Ellen Bonniwell's caregiver, and among the charges she faces are second-degree murder, first- and second-degree assault and first- and second-degree abuse of a vulnerable adult. She remained held on \$1 million bond after a bail review Monday morning.

The case remains under investigation, state police said Monday.

Dawn Cramer, Becky Long's daughter, said Mary Ellen Bonniwell and her mother had an "excellent" relationship.

"My mother loved that woman," Cramer said.

#### Police account

Mary Ellen Bonniwell loved crossword puzzles and Elvis Presley, Christopher Bonniwell said. The only man she loved was Bonniwell's father, and they divorced when Christopher was about 12, he said.

She's originally from Exmore but lived in Hacksneck, which is where Christopher Bonniwell lives now, for most of her adult life, he said.

Mary Ellen Bonniwell was found dead inside the home, according to charging documents. Long told police she'd last seen Bonniwell alive at about 10:30 p.m. Wednesday, using the restroom, and Long woke up at about 5 a.m. Thursday to see Mary Ellen Bonniwell slumped over the toilet, charging documents state. She was pronounced dead.

The Office of the Chief Medical Examiner determined Mary Ellen Bonniwell's cause of death was homicide and the cause was multiple injuries, according to charging documents. Injuries included a broken hyoid bone — which is in the neck — bruises and marks, charging documents state.

Long told police at about 9:30 p.m. Wednesday that Mary Ellen Bonniwell had fallen, according to charging documents.

"After attempting to drag and lift Bonniwell up, Long advised that she grabbed her toward the shoulder/neck area, which caused Bonniwell to be 'dead weight,'" charging documents state. "Long then lifted Bonniwell by the neck area and stated that this lasted for approximately three minutes."

Long said "she had a fight during the night of 07/14/2015 over Bonniwell telling lies," after giving different statements to police, charging documents state.

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