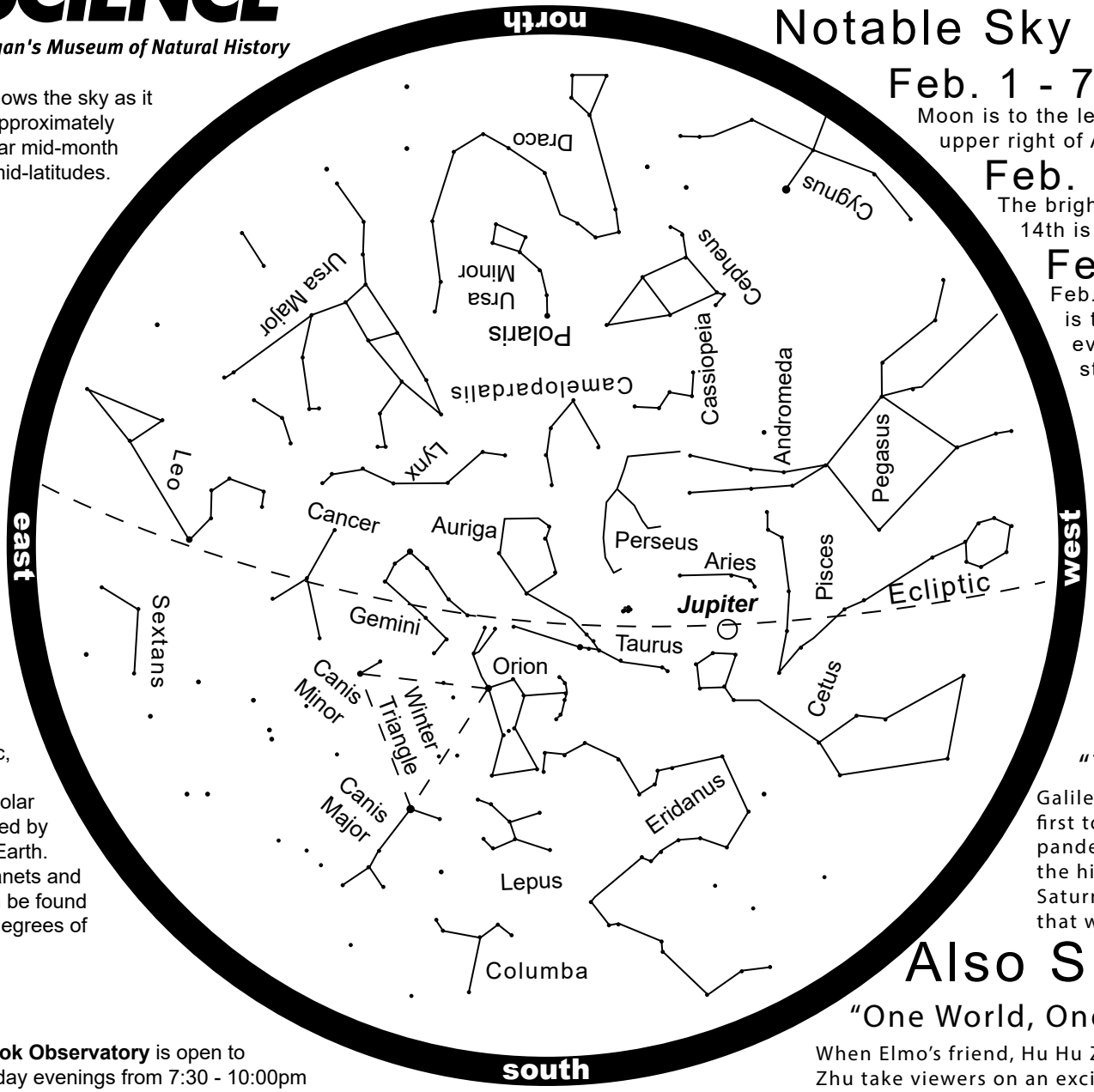
CRANBROOK INSTITUTE OF SCIENCE

Michigan's Museum of Natural History

FEBRUARY 2024

Notable Sky Happenings

This chart shows the sky as it appears at approximately 8pm EST near mid-month at northern mid-latitudes.



What is that dashed line? It's the ecliptic, the reference plane of the solar system, defined by the Sun and Earth. The major planets and the Moon can be found within a few degrees of this plane.

Feb. 1 - 7

Moon is to the left of Spica on the 1st (SSW predawn) and the upper right of Antares on the 4th (SSE predawn).

Feb. 8 - 14

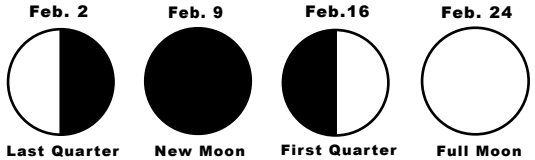
The bright "star" to the upper left of the Moon on the 14th is the planet Jupiter (WSW evening).

Feb. 15 - 21

Feb. 15: Happy 460th Birthday, Galileo! The Moon is to the left of the Pleiades on the 16th (SSW evening) and below Pollux on the 20th. The "twin" star, Castor, is above (SE evening).

Feb. 22 - 29

Venus is above Mars on the 22nd. The two planets are close to the ESE horizon in morning twilight (use binoculars). Moon is to the left of Regulus on the 23rd (E evening) and to the right of Spica on the 28th (SW predawn).



Now Showing

"Two Small Pieces of Glass"

Galileo did not invent the telescope, but he was the first to use it to examine the sky. Telescopes have expanded our knowledge of the cosmos. We'll learn about the history of telescopes, explore the Galilean Moons, Saturn's rings, the structure of galaxies and view images that were made through our observatory telescope.

Also Showing

"One World, One Sky: Big Bird's Adventure"

When Elmo's friend, Hu Hu Zhu, visits from China. Big Bird, Elmo and Hu Hu Zhu take viewers on an exciting discovery of the Sun, Moon, and stars. They learn about the Big Dipper and the North Star and take an imaginary trip to the Moon where they learn that the Moon is a very different place.

The Cranbrook Observatory is open to the public Friday evenings from 7:30 - 10:00pm EST, and the first Sunday of the month from 1:00 - 4:00pm for solar viewing.

For observatory information visit http://science.cranbrook.edu/explore/observatory

For astronomy information visit http://science.cranbrook.edu