If you can observe only one celestial event this month, consider this one:


Southwest 90 minutes
after sunset
Feb. 12


Look to the southwest 90 minutes after sunset.

- Mars will be the brightest object in the area, other than the passing moon.
- Aim binoculars at the Red Planet. On the lower left edge of the field of view, shines Omicron Piscium and at the lower right twinkles Pi Piscium.
- The next brightest object in the field sits just to Mars' left, Uranus.
- A small telescope at high magnification will show Mars' small, ruddy disk, and Uranus' even smaller dot.
- Uranus spans 12 times the diameter of Mars, but it lies 7-1/2 times farther away.

