

Tulare County Office of Education

Jim Vidak, County Superintendent of Schools

March 1, 2005

For Immediate Release

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Tulare County Office of Education Announces:

March Planetarium Showings on Select Fridays

7:00 p.m. and 8:00 p.m. Showings March 4, March 11 and March 18

Visalia – The public is invited to enjoy an evening under the stars at the Sam B. Peña Planetarium, operated by the Tulare County Office of Education. The recently completed planetarium is offering two family-oriented shows on select Friday evenings this year. Completely remodeled last year, the Planetarium is located on the southwest corner of West Main and Woodland Avenue in Visalia in the Educational Enrichment Center.

“For nearly 30 years, thousands of Tulare County students enjoyed shows at our planetarium,” says Tulare County Superintendent of Schools Jim Vidak. “But the size of the old planetarium limited our ability to offer public shows. The new planetarium seats 70 in comfortable, high-back, reclining chairs. We are very proud to offer his fine educational and entertainment resource to our community.”

Planetarium shows will begin promptly at 7:00 p.m. and 8:00 p.m. and feature the following presentations:

Friday, March 4, 2005

7:00 p.m. - Rusty Rocket's Last Blast
8:00 p.m. – Our Place in Space

Friday, March 11, 2005

7:00 p.m. - The Planet Patrol: Solar System Stakeout
8:00 p.m. - Rusty Rocket's Last Blast

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Friday, March 18, 2005

7:00 p.m. - Our Place in Space

8:00 p.m. - The Planet Patrol: Solar System Stakeout

The Planet Patrol: Solar System Stakeout

Planetary Investigator Sam Snork and his assistant Elmo have been dispatched to a nearby solar system to uncover the source of some annoying T.V. transmissions. Join this dynamic duo as they use the very latest in cosmic crime solving equipment to look for leads and cruise for clues to this baffling mystery. In addition to solving the case and discovering that Sam has an allergy, you will also learn some amazing facts about our solar system. Planet Patrol is a 40-minute, family-oriented presentation.

Rusty Rocket's Last Blast

After decades of teaching rocket rookies the basics of rocket physics, Rusty Rocket has announced that he will be retiring and that this will be his last blast. He already has plans for how he will spend his free time. Meanwhile, he has one final mission to command: an introductory tour of the solar system focusing on the variety of planetary environments. Rusty really emphasizes the immense distances between the planets. Rusty Rocket is a 35-minute presentation ideal for families with children in grades 1 through 5.

Our Place in Space

A host of endangered animals explore the cause of day and night, the importance of our star the sun, the beauty of the constellations, and the variety of objects that make up the universe. This 35-minute presentation is recommended for children in grades 1 through 3 but is designed for children of all ages and family audiences.

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Show tickets can be purchased at the Impact Center Office 30 minutes before show time or in advance on weekdays between 1:00 and 4:00 p.m. Tickets are \$4 for adults and \$3 for children under 12. The public can save one dollar by purchasing the two-show package. Group rates are also available. Shows start promptly on time and there is no late seating once the planetarium doors close. For more information, call 737-6334.

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