

Tulare County Office of Education

Jim Vidak, County Superintendent of Schools

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For Immediate Release

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Tulare County Office of Education Announces: Public Planetarium Presentations Offer Holiday Entertainment 7:00 p.m. and 8:00 p.m. showings: November 18 and December 1, 2, 8, 9, 15 and 16

Visalia – The Sam B. Peña Planetarium, which is operated by the Tulare County Office of Education, is offering an expanded schedule of family-oriented shows for the holidays. The first presentation, scheduled for Friday, November 18, will feature a performance of the newest planetarium show – *Lunar Odyssey* – an exciting mix of astronomy, history and some of the mythology surrounding Earth’s nearest neighbor. Following *Lunar Odyssey*, the Planetarium will feature a showing of *The Planet Patrol*. In December, the public can enjoy six evenings of the Planetarium’s two popular holiday features – *A Christmas Story* and *Santa Snork Saves the Seasons*.

The Planetarium is located on the southwest corner of West Main and Woodland Avenue in Visalia in the Educational Enrichment Center. “Our new, expanded planetarium, which was completed in 2004, affords us the opportunity to share the planetarium experience with the public,” says Tulare County Superintendent of Schools Jim Vidak. “It’s an educational and entertainment resource the community can proudly share with friends and family visiting during the holidays.”

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Tulare County Office of Education

Jim Vidak, County Superintendent of Schools

Page 2

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

Nov. 18

7:00 p.m. - Lunar Odyssey

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

December 1, 2, 8, 9 15 and 16

7:00 p.m. - A Christmas Story

8:00 p.m. - Santa Snork Saves the Seasons

Lunar Odyssey

Come aboard as Trans-Lunar Tours takes you on a fantastic *Lunar Odyssey*. Throughout the trip, experts in lunar mythology, history, science, and astronomy give you a guided tour of the awesome beauty and mysteries of Earth's nearest neighbor in space.

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.

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Tulare County Office of Education

Jim Vidak, County Superintendent of Schools

Page 3

A Christmas Story

"A Christmas Story" is told lovingly by a father to his young daughter. During the story he explains the origins and importance of some of our holiday season traditions. After dinner, the family is off to the planetarium for a brief introduction to the winter sky and some possible explanations for the Star of Wonder.

Santa Snork Saves the Seasons

When we go out to look at the winter constellations, why is it cold? Is it like this everywhere on Earth, and more importantly, why does the Earth have seasons? Planetary investigator Sam Snork not only saves the seasons, but he also presents an alien interpretation of "A Visit from Saint Nicholas."

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. No late seating is offered once the planetarium doors close. For information, call 737-6334.

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