

# 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. showings: November 17, and December 1 and 15**

*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 17, will feature *The Explorers*. In December, the public can enjoy a showing of the Planetarium’s two popular holiday features – *A Christmas Story* and *Santa Snork Saves the Seasons* on December 1 and December 15 respectively.

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 feature the following presentations:**

Nov. 17

7:00 p.m. – The Explorers

December 1

7:00 p.m. - A Christmas Story

December 15

7:00 p.m. - Santa Snork Saves the Seasons

**The Explorers** focuses on the human spirit of exploration throughout time and space. The planetarium dome is used to identify constellations, observe what daily motion can tell us about way-finding, and study changes in the sky as the observer's latitude changes. During a live section in the program, the audience will get a chance to use their knowledge to navigate with techniques utilized by Polynesians for thousands of years. Then . . . it's on to Mars!

**A Christmas Story** features a father and his young daughter, who discuss the origins and importance of some of our holiday season traditions. The family also visits their local planetarium for a brief introduction to the winter sky and some possible explanations for the “Star of Wonder.”

**Santa Snork Saves the Seasons** stars Sam Snork, a planetary investigator. Snork investigates Earth's seasons and presents an alien interpretation of "A Visit from Saint Nicholas."

- more -

# Tulare County Office of Education

*Jim Vidak, County Superintendent of Schools*

Page 2

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. Group rates are also available. Shows start promptly at 7:00 p.m. No late seating is offered once the planetarium doors close. For information, call 737-6334.

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