

# Tulare County Office of Education

*Jim Vidak, County Superintendent of Schools*

November 21, 2007

## **Media Alert**

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**Tulare County Office of Education Announces:**

## **Peña Planetarium Offers Three Holiday Programs November 30, December 7 and 14, 2007 • 2500 Burrel Ave., Visalia**

*Visalia* - The Sam B. Peña Planetarium, which is operated by the Tulare County Office of Education, is offering an expanded schedule of shows for the holidays. The first presentation, scheduled for Friday, November 30, will feature *A Christmas Story*. Next month, the public can enjoy the Planetarium's latest program in the *Tulare County Night Skies Series* on December 7, and the popular holiday feature – *Santa Snork Saves the Seasons* on December 14.

The Planetarium is located on the southwest corner of West Main and Woodland Avenue in Visalia in the Educational Enrichment Center. "The number of evening shows we offer to the public is growing," says Tulare County Superintendent of Schools Jim Vidak. "Particularly at this time of year, it's an educational and entertainment resource the community can proudly share with friends and family."

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**Planetarium shows begin promptly on time (listed below) and feature the following presentations:**

November 30

7:00 p.m. – *A Christmas Story*

December 7

7:30 p.m. – *The Hero, the Lady and the Stars of Early Winter*

(Part Two in the Tulare County Night Skies Series)

December 14

7:00 p.m. – *Santa Snork Saves the Seasons*

**A Christmas Story** features a father and his young daughter, who visit their local planetarium for a brief introduction to the winter sky and some possible explanations for the “Star of Wonder.” *A Christmas Story* is ideal for adults and children in grades three and up.

**The Hero, the Lady and the Stars of Early Winter** is the second installment in the Tulare County Night Skies Series. Visitors will see constellations and deep sky objects visible at this time of year and learn the mythological stories related to the star clusters. The Tulare County Night Skies Series is produced in cooperation with the Tulare Astronomical Association and authored and narrated by the Association’s president, Dave Adalian. Following a 20-minute program in the Peña Planetarium, Tulare Astronomical Association members will be available outdoors at a nearby observation site to give the audience an opportunity for some first hand star-

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gazing using state-of-the-art telescopes. This program is recommended for older children and adults.

**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." *Santa Snork* is ideal for adults and children in grades three through six.

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

For more information about the Peña Planetarium, visit [www.tcoe.org/ImpactCenter](http://www.tcoe.org/ImpactCenter).

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