

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: Peña Planetarium Offers Two February Public Shows Friday, February 1 and 29, 2008 • 2500 Burrel Ave., Visalia

Visalia - The Sam B. Peña Planetarium, which is operated by the Tulare County Office of Education, is offering two public showings in February, including a new segment in the “Tulare County Night Skies” series.

Friday, February 1 at 7:30 p.m.

The Hunter and the Ring of Fire: The Bright Stars of Winter

The third segment in the “Tulare County Night Skies” series, this program highlights the constellation Orion – the great hunter – and the “Ring of Fire,” which is also known as the Winter Hexagon. “Tulare County Night Skies” is a program produced in conjunction with the Tulare Astronomical Association, and authored and narrated by the Association’s president, Dave Adalian. After the 20 minute program, Tulare Astronomical Association members have telescopes available outdoors for stargazing. This program is recommended for older children and adults.

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The “Tulare County Night Skies” programs give audiences a more in-depth look at constellations and DSOs (or deep sky objects), which are visible at this time of year. This program is thorough enough for amateur astronomers and informative for beginning star-gazers.

Friday, February 29 at 7:00 p.m.

Planet Patrol: Solar System Stakeout

Sam Snork, planetary investigator, and his protégé, Elmo, search for the source of some unusual TV transmissions. During this adventure, they discover new information about the planets in our solar system, as well as what makes Earth so special. This show is suitable for the entire family.

The Planetarium is located on the southwest corner of West Main and Woodland Avenue in Visalia, in the Educational Enrichment Center. “We are proud of the new shows developed in partnership with the Tulare Astronomical Association,” says County Superintendent of Schools Jim Vidak. “Together with our family shows, they offer a fun blend of history and science.”

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 (559) 737-6334.

For more information about the Peña Planetarium, visit www.tcoe.org/ImpactCenter.

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