

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 May Public Shows Friday, May 9 and 30, 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 May, including a new segment in the “Tulare County Night Skies” series.

Friday, May 9 at 8:00 p.m.

Cosmic Zoo (A Fourth Segment in the Tulare County Night Skies Series)

Spring skies are teeming with life as celestial beasts play among the stars in the Cosmic Zoo. Leo the lion, the lynx, the bears and others surrounding the Big and Little Dippers are highlighted along with their mythology.

“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. The “Tulare County Night Skies” programs give audiences a more in-depth look at

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constellations and deep sky objects which are visible at this time of year. The program, which is thorough enough for amateur astronomers and informative for beginning star-gazers, is recommended for older children and adults.

Friday, May 30 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 Street 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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