

# 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 Four Summer Public Shows July 11 & 23, 2008/August 6 and 22, 2008 • 2500 Burrel Ave., Visalia**

*Visalia* - The Sam B. Peña Planetarium, which is operated by the Tulare County Office of Education, is offering four public showings this summer – two matinee showings and two evening showings, including a new segment in the “Tulare County Night Skies” series.

### **July 11, 2008, 9:00 p.m. – NASA Presentation**

The Peña Planetarium is proud to premiere a special NASA-produced show on the Phoenix Mars Lander Project, which has been in the news recently with its discovery of frozen water on the planet.

### **July 23, 2008, 2:00 p.m. - *Our Sky Family***

This fascinating show introduces the planets and the concept that we are part of the solar system. Students find themselves taken on a magical trip through the solar system, where cartoon personifications of the planets present photographs and information about themselves.

### **August 6, 2008, 2:00 p.m. - *Rusty Rocket's Last Blast***

Join Rusty's last class of rocket rookies as they explore how rockets work, relive some great

- more -

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moments in space exploration, take a quick tour of our solar system, and discover how very far it is to even the nearest planets.

## **August 22, 2008, 9:00 p.m. - Tulare County Night Skies**

“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 a 20-minute program in the planetarium, Tulare Astronomical Association members have telescopes available outdoors – weather permitting – for stargazing. The “Tulare County Night Skies” programs give audiences a more in-depth look at constellations visible at this time of year. The program, is recommended for older children and adults.

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](http://www.tcoe.org/ImpactCenter).

# TCOE #

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