

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 six summer public shows, including new full-dome presentation, *The Enchanted Reef*

June 24, 26 and July 15, 17 • 2500 Burrel Ave., Visalia

Visalia - The **Peña Planetarium** will hold six public shows this summer – including four afternoon matinees and two evening shows as described below:

June 24, 2009, 1:30 and 3:00 p.m. - *The Secret of the Cardboard Rocket*

Climb aboard a magical cardboard rocket with two young children and depart on an extraordinary ride through space. Experience a breathtaking, up-close look at our solar system's planets. You'll see each fascinating planet as never before — including Mercury, which has the shortest year, and Mars, the famous red planet with its volcano that is larger than the state of Utah! You'll zoom through the crackling ice/rock rings of the “gas giant” Saturn, right after you investigate another “gas giant” — Jupiter, whose size equals 1,000 “Earths.” You'll navigate around our other planets, and find yourself hurtling toward the outer reaches of our system. This show utilizes the planetarium's new full-dome technology.

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June 26, 2009, 8:00 p.m. - *The Explorers*

The Explorers focuses on the human spirit of exploration throughout time and space. The dome is used to identify constellations, to observe what daily motion can tell us about navigation, and to study changes in the sky different latitudes. During a live section in the program, the audience will get a chance to apply their knowledge to navigate with techniques used by Polynesians for thousands of years. Then . . . it's on to Mars! **Following the presentation, the Tulare Astronomical Association will provide an opportunity for telescope observation.**

July 15, 2009, 1:30 and 3:00 p.m. - *The Enchanted Reef*

The Enchanted Reef is a new feature, which utilizes the planetarium's full-dome technology. The film will transport you to a tropical reef — a one-of-a-kind world that is colorful and foreign and full of adventure and danger. Within the reef, you'll meet creatures that are humorous and courageous, lovable and bizarre, charming and dangerous.

July 17, 2009, 7:00 p.m. - - *The Enchanted Reef*

The Enchanted Reef is a new feature, which utilizes the planetarium's full-dome technology. The film will transport you to a tropical reef – a one-of-a-kind world that is colorful and foreign and full of adventure and danger. Within the reef, you'll meet creatures that are humorous and courageous, lovable and bizarre, charming and dangerous.

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 increasing number of new

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full-dome shows – like *The Enchanted Reef* – we can offer,” says County Superintendent of Schools Jim Vidak.

Tickets can be purchased at the Impact Center office 30 minutes before show time or in advance on weekdays between 2:00 and 4:00 p.m. Tickets are \$4 for adults and \$3 for children under 12. It is strongly recommended that tickets be purchased in advance as shows often sell out. 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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