

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: Friday planetarium show features workshop for telescope owners

Friday, September 25 • 2500 Burrel Ave., Visalia

Four hundred years ago, Galileo turned his telescope to the heavens and revealed for the first time an infinite and perplexing universe. *Two Small Pieces of Glass: the Amazing Telescope* explores the history of the telescope and the discoveries this wonderful tool has made. In this full-dome, digital presentation, the audience will learn how telescopes work and how the largest observatories in the world use these instruments to explore the mysteries of the universe.

In addition, the presentation explores the Galilean Moons, Saturn's rings, and the spiral structure of galaxies. Visitors will also learn about the discoveries of Galileo, Huygens, Newton, Hubble and others.

Two Small Pieces of Glass: the Amazing Telescope will be followed by a live tour of the current night skies on the dome of the planetarium. Afterwards, the Tulare Astronomical Association will conduct *Telescopes 101*, a seminar on telescope use. Visitors who register in advance are invited

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to bring their scopes for training and troubleshooting. To register, contact Greg Eckes at (559) 739-7270.

The Planetarium is located on the southwest corner of West Main Street and Woodland Drive in Visalia, in the Educational Enrichment Center. “We are proud of the increasing number of new full-dome shows the Planetarium offers and the educational partnership we have formed with the Tulare Astronomical Association,” 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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