

# Tulare County Office of Education

*Jim Vidak, County Superintendent of Schools*

May 9, 2012

## **For Immediate Release**

Contact: Robert Herman  
Public Information Officer  
(559) 733-6606 – office  
(559) 303-8568 – cell

**Tulare County Office of Education Announces:**

## **Peña Planetarium offers public shows in May, June & July**

**7:00 p.m., Friday evenings, May 11 & 18, and June 8**

**2:00 and 3:00 p.m., Wednesday afternoons, June 13 and July 11 • 2500 Burrel Ave., Visalia**

*Visalia* - The Sam B. Peña Planetarium, operated by the Tulare County Office of Education, will offer the following shows in May, June and July.

### **May 11, 7:00 p.m. – *Saturn: Jewel of the Heavens***

Saturn was once a planet of great mystery. Now we know more than ever about its amazing system of rings, moons and storms thanks to modern robotic space pioneers. From its bizarre moons with mysterious features to the millions of icy particles that compose the enigmatic rings, this new program features a three-dimensional tour of the Saturnian system.

### **May 18, 7:00 p.m. – *The Explorers***

*The Explorers* focuses on the human spirit of exploration throughout time and space. The planetarium dome is used to identify constellations, to observe what daily motion can tell us about way-finding, and to study changes in the sky as the observer's latitude changes. During a live section in the program, the audience will get a chance to use their new knowledge to navigate from Tahiti to Hawai'i using techniques practiced by Polynesians for thousands of years. Then... it's on to Mars! *The Explorers* is ideal for families with children in grades four and up.

# Tulare County Office of Education

*Jim Vidak, County Superintendent of Schools*

## **June 8, 7:00 p.m. - *Wildest Weather in the Solar System* (New Show!)**

Join us on a spectacular journey to witness the most beautiful, powerful, and mysterious weather phenomena in the solar system. From a storm the size of a 100-megaton hydrogen bomb to a 400-year-old hurricane to a dust tempest that could engulf entire planets, you'll be glad you live on Earth!

## **June 13, 2:00 and 3:00 p.m. - *Earth, Moon and Sun***

How do the Earth, Moon and Sun work together as a system and what is the myth and science behind it? Why does the Sun rise and set? Why do we see different constellations during different seasons? What is an eclipse? Learn about the Moon's phases and orbit. Explore past and future space travel to our moon and beyond.

## **July 11, 2:00 and 3:00 p.m. - *Secret of the Cardboard Rocket***

Climb aboard a magical cardboard rocket with two young adventurers and experience a breathtaking, up-close look at each of our Solar System's planets with guidance from their astronomy book.

The Planetarium is located in the Educational Enrichment Center on the southwest corner of West Main Street and Woodland Drive in Visalia. 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. **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/planetarium](http://www.tcoe.org/planetarium).

# TCOE #