

Tulare County Office of Education

Jim Vidak, County Superintendent of Schools

June 14, 2007

For Immediate Release

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Tulare County Office of Education Announces:

Summer Public Planetarium Matinees

2:00 p.m. showings: June 20 & July 25

Visalia – The Sam B. Peña Planetarium, which is operated by the Tulare County Office of Education, is pleased to offer two public matinee shows this summer. The first presentation, scheduled for Wednesday, June 20, features a showing of *Our Place in Space*. On Wednesday, July 25, children and parents can enjoy *Rusty Rocket's Last Blast*.

“We are delighted to offer our first summer matinee shows,” says Tulare County Superintendent of Schools Jim Vidak. “Response from the public has been so strong this year to our monthly public shows that we were prompted to continue them this summer.” Attendance to the planetarium and the adjacent multi-media theater for the 2006 – 2007 school year reached over 9,000 visitors – nearly double the amount of visitors from the previous school year. This figure includes students who visit the planetarium on field trips to see shows teachers schedule in advance, as well as the public who attended the monthly evening shows.

This summer, matinee shows begin promptly at 2:00 p.m. and feature the following presentations:

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June 20: Our Place in Space (2:00 p.m.)

July 25: Rusty Rocket's Last Blast (2:00 p.m.)

Our Place in Space

A host of endangered animals explore the cause of day and night, the importance of our star – the sun – the beauty of the constellations, and the variety of objects that make up the universe.

Rusty Rocket's Last Blast

Join Rusty's last class of rocket rookies as they explore how rockets work, relive some great moments in space exploration, take a quick tour of our solar system, and discover how very far it is to even the nearest planets.

Tickets can be purchased at the Peña Planetarium office 30 minutes before show. The Planetarium is located on the southwest corner of West Main and Woodland Avenue in Visalia in the Educational Enrichment Center. The address is 2500 West Burrel Ave. in Visalia. Matinee tickets are \$3 for adults and \$2 for children under 12. Children must be accompanied by an adult. The planetarium's Galaxy Gift Shop will also be open during the matinee shows. The shop has a wide assortment of items including astronomy posters, T-shirts and toys.

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Seating for the planetarium is limited to 70. Shows start promptly on time. No late seating is offered once the planetarium doors close. For information, call (559) 737-6334.

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