

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 Two March Public Shows Friday, March 14 and 28, 2008 • 2500 Burrell Ave., Visalia

Visalia - The Sam B. Peña Planetarium, which is operated by the Tulare County Office of Education, is offering two public showings in March, including the most recent segment in the “Tulare County Night Skies” series. Below are descriptions of the two shows.

Friday, March 14 at 8:00 p.m.

The Hunter and the Ring of Fire: The Bright Stars of Winter

The third segment in the “Tulare County Night Skies” series, this program highlights the constellation Orion – the great hunter – and the “Ring of Fire,” which is also known as the Winter Hexagon. “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 the 20-minute program, the audience can meet with members of the Tulare Astronomical Association, who have telescopes available outdoors for stargazing. This program is recommended for older children and adults.

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The programs in the “Tulare County Night Skies” series give audiences a more in-depth look at constellations and DSOs (or deep sky objects), which are visible at this time of year. This program is thorough enough for amateur astronomers and informative for beginning star-gazers.

Friday, March 28 at 7:00 p.m.

Lunar Odyssey

Come aboard as Trans-Lunar Tours takes you on a fantastic *Lunar Odyssey*. Throughout the trip, experts in lunar mythology, history, science, and astronomy give you a guided tour of the awesome beauty and mysteries of Earth's nearest neighbor in space.

The Planetarium is located on the southwest corner of West Main 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.

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