

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 four evening shows for January and February

Friday evenings January 22 and 29, and February 19 and 26 • 2500 Burrel Ave., Visalia

Visalia - The Sam B. Peña Planetarium, operated by the Tulare County Office of Education, will offer the following Friday evening shows in January and February.

January 22, 7:00 p.m. - *Tulare County Night Skies Series: “Cosmic Zoo”*

This program highlights the constellations and deep sky objects currently overhead in Tulare County. Audience members will enjoy learning about the mythology that surrounds the objects. Weather permitting, the program will conclude with an outdoor telescope observation session near the Planetarium, provided by the Tulare Astronomical Association.

January 29, 7:00 p.m. - *IBEX: Interstellar-Boundary Explorer*

NASA’s IBEX mission is mapping the solar system’s boundary and teaching us about the shape and nature of the helio-sphere, the invisible bubble that surrounds our solar system. **(A full-dome presentation)**

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February 19, 7:00 p.m. - Tulare County Night Skies Series: “The Ring of Fire”

This program highlights the constellations and deep sky objects currently overhead in Tulare County. Audience members will enjoy learning about the mythology that surrounds the objects and see a presentation of *Ring World* – the story of the Cassini-Huygens mission to Saturn and its moons.

February 26, 7:00 p.m. - Two Small Pieces of Glass: The Amazing Telescope

See how telescopes work and how the largest observatories in the world use these instruments to explore the mysteries of the universe. **(A full-dome presentation)** Following the presentation, the Planetarium will present *Telescopes 101* – a hands-on training and troubleshooting session sponsored by the Tulare Astronomical Association. Community members planning to attend *Telescopes 101* must register in advance by contacting Greg Eckes at (559) 739-7270 or president@tulareastro.org.

The Planetarium is located on the southwest corner of West Main Street and Woodland Drive in Visalia, in the Educational Enrichment Center. 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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