

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 Public Shows in April
Friday, April 11 and 25, 2008 • 2500 Burrel Ave., Visalia

Visalia - The Sam B. Peña Planetarium, which is operated by the Tulare County Office of Education, is offering two public showings in April, including a special NASA-produced segment on Saturn.

Below are descriptions of the two shows.

8:00 p.m., Friday, April 11: “Ring World”

“Ring World” is a special NASA program focusing on the planet Saturn, which is visible for the next several months with the aid of a telescope. For sheer beauty, nothing in the solar system beats the rings of Saturn. Thousands of individual rings, made of bits of ice and rock, encircle the planet.

Weather permitting, the Tulare Astronomical Association will provide visitors with the opportunity to view Saturn through telescopes from a nearby observation site after the show.

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7:00 p.m., Friday, April 25: “The Explorers”

“The Explorers” focuses on the human spirit of exploration throughout time and space. The 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 apply their knowledge to navigate with techniques used by Polynesians for thousands of years. Then . . . it's on to Mars!

The Planetarium is located on the southwest corner of West Main Street and Woodland Drive in Visalia, in the Educational Enrichment Center. “We are pleased to offer the first of several new NASA-produced shows,” 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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