

Tulare County Office of Education

Jim Vidak, County Superintendent of Schools

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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 two January evening shows January 23 & 30, 2009 • 2500 Burrel Ave., Visalia

Visalia - The Sam B. Peña Planetarium, operated by the Tulare County Office of Education, is pleased to offer the following public shows this month:

January 23, 2009, 7:00 p.m. – *Dawn of the Space Age*

Dawn of the Space Age is the world's first 360-degree, 3D stereo movie. The show utilizes the planetarium's new "full-dome" projection system. This program accurately portrays man's first steps into space – from the launch of the first artificial satellite Sputnik, to the magnificent lunar landings and privately-operated space flights.

January 30, 2009, 7:00 p.m. - *The Hero, the Lady and the Stars of Early Winter*

A segment in the popular *Tulare County Night Skies* series, *The Hero, the Lady and the Stars of Early Winter*, combines an indoor planetarium show with outdoor stargazing. Visitors will see constellations and deep sky objects visible at this time of year and learn the mythological stories related to the star clusters. The *Tulare County Night Skies* series is produced in cooperation with

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the Tulare Astronomical Association and authored and narrated by the Association's president, Dave Adalian. Following a 20-minute program in the Peña Planetarium, Tulare Astronomical Association members will be available outdoors at a nearby observation site to give the audience an opportunity for some first-hand stargazing using state-of-the-art telescopes. This program is recommended for older children and adults.

The Planetarium is located on the southwest corner of West Main Street and Woodland Drive in Visalia, in the Educational Enrichment Center. "The public is enjoying the enhancements we've made to the projection system in the Peña Planetarium," says County Superintendent of Schools Jim Vidak. "The full-dome shows, like *Dawn of the Space Age*, are a fantastic experience, much like an IMAX theater."

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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