

Tulare County Office of Education

Jim Vidak, County Superintendent of Schools

August 13, 2009

For Immediate Release

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Tulare County Office of Education Announces: Peña Planetarium offers four full-dome public shows, including new presentations this month August 14 & 28 and September 11 & 25 • 2500 Burrel Ave., Visalia

Visalia - The **Peña Planetarium** will hold four public shows beginning this week as described below:

August 14, 2009, 7:00 p.m. - *IBEX: Search for the Edge of the Solar System*

(Full-Dome Video)

What are the boundaries of our Solar System which protect us from the dangerous galactic environment? IBEX, a small explorer Earth-orbiting spacecraft, has been designed to find the answer. While traveling through the solar system, audiences will get an in-depth look at the mission and how IBEX is collecting high-speed atoms to create a map of our Solar System's boundary.

August 28, 2009, 7:00 p.m. - *Black Holes: The Other Side of Infinity*

(Full-Dome Video)

Experience the creation of the Milky Way Galaxy, and witness the violent death of a star and

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Tulare County Office of Education

Jim Vidak, County Superintendent of Schools

Page 2

subsequent birth of a black hole. Mathematical equations, cutting-edge science, and Einstein's theories fill in holes along the way.

September 11, 2009, 7:00 p.m. - *Dawn of the Space Age*

(Full-Dome Video)

From the launch of the first artificial satellite Sputnik to the magnificent lunar landings and privately-operated space flights, you'll be captivated by this most accurate historic reconstruction of Man's first steps into space.

September 25, 2009, 7:00 p.m. - *Two Small Pieces of Glass: The Amazing Telescope*

(Full-Dome Video)

See how telescopes work and how the largest observatories in the world use these instruments to explore the mysteries of the universe. Afterwards, the Tulare Astronomical Association will conduct *Telescopes 101*. If you register in advance, you are invited to bring your scope for training and troubleshooting. To register, contact Greg Eckes at (559) 739-7270.

The Planetarium is located on the southwest corner of West Main Street and Woodland Drive in Visalia, in the Educational Enrichment Center. "We are proud of the increasing number of new full-dome shows the Planetarium offers," says County Superintendent of Schools Jim Vidak.

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Tulare County Office of Education

Jim Vidak, County Superintendent of Schools

Page 3

Tickets can be purchased at the Impact Center office 30 minutes before show time or in advance on weekdays between 2:00 and 4:00 p.m. Tickets are \$4 for adults and \$3 for children under 12. It is strongly recommended that tickets be purchased in advance as shows often sell out. 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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