

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 in April and May

Friday evenings, April 16 and 30, and May 14 and 21 • 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 April and May.

April 16, 7:00 p.m. – *Tulare County Night Skies Series: Cosmic Zoo*

Inside the planetarium, visitors will be treated to a tour of current Tulare County night skies, including constellations, deep sky objects and mythology. Weather permitting, a telescope observation site near the Planetarium will be set up after the show for visitors to see first-hand some of the same objects in the sky above. The observation site is provided by the Tulare Astronomical Association.

April 30, 7:00 p.m. – *Dawn of the Space Age* (A full-dome presentation)

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.

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Page 2

May 14, 7:00 p.m. – *Two Small Pieces of Glass: The Amazing Telescope* (A full-dome presentation)

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

May 21, 7:00 p.m. – *The Enchanted Reef* (A full-dome presentation)

This program transports the viewer to a tropical reef – a one-of-a-kind world full of adventure and danger, riddles and mysteries, old legends and myths. *The Enchanted Reef* is a world inhabited by creatures that are humorous and courageous, lovable and bizarre, charming and dangerous. It's an exciting adventure for the whole family.

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 2:00 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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