

Wolbach Library: CfA in the News ~ Week ending 20 September 2009

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DIALOG(R)

Library puts focus on 'Visions of Universe'

Becky Wright

Standard-Examiner (Ogden, UT)

Friday, September 18, 2009

TEXT:

Sep. 18--The year 1609 was huge in astronomy -- it's the year Galileo Galilei first pointed his new, more powerful telescope at the heavens. Through his telescope, Galileo discovered that the moon has craters and mountains, and he was the first to see Jupiter's four largest moons. What he observed through that telescope helped prove that the Earth revolves around the sun, and not the other way around.

In honor of those momentous discoveries, the International Astronomical Union declared 2009 the International Year of Astronomy. Locally, the Weber County Library is celebrating with an astronomy exhibit.

"Visions of the Universe: Four Centuries of Discovery" opens Wednesday at the Pleasant Valley Branch. Featuring 12 panels highlighting important astronomical discoveries made over the past 400 years, the traveling exhibit is presented by the Space Telescope Science Institute of Baltimore, Md., the Smithsonian Astrophysical Observatory in Cambridge, Mass., and the Chicago-based American Library Association, through funding from NASA.

Exhibit panels present information about the moon, storms on the sun, missions to Mars, the nature of comets, the birth of stars, nebulae and galaxies, and more.

"It's the history of astronomy, from the beginning, and how it evolved to current technology," said Kathryn Pudlock, a librarian at the Pleasant Valley Branch.

Pleasant Valley is one of 40 libraries across the country hosting the exhibit.

"We're trying to incorporate a lot more science and technology programming

into the community and library," said Pudlock. "We thought this exhibit would be an excellent resource for us."

The display panels feature a variety of images, from Galileo's historical drawings and diagrams to recent photos of deep space.

"I'm excited at the quality of pictures the Hubble Space Telescope actually creates," said Pudlock.

Librarians have planned events and programs to enhance the exhibit:

--7:30 p.m. Wednesday, the exhibit

opens with a star party. Telescopes will be provided by the Ogden Astronomical Society.

--7 p.m. Sept. 30, the library screens

"Blast!", a movie about the 2006 flight of the Balloon-Borne, Large-Aperture, Submillimeter Telescope (BLAST).

"It's astrophysics Indiana Jones-style," said Pudlock, describing the documentary about launching the scanning device that detects submillimeter light from distant starforming dust clouds .

--7 p.m. Oct. 1, the library presents an

evening at Space Camp.

--7 p.m. Nov. 19, families are invited to cook up some fun experiments with "Kitchen Chemistry."

"Visions of the Universe: Four Centuries of Discovery" continues through Dec. 11.

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