

# WHAT'S UP?



## Why Leap Year?

In 2012 we add a day to February to get our calendars in sync with the earth's motion. Each year, after after revolving through 365 rotations (or 365 days) the earth is one quarter of a turn (6 hours) short of its starting line from the previous year. After two years, 12 hours short; after 3 years, 18 hours; and after 4 years, 24 hours short. By 2012 we are a day short of the 2008 start. We add one extra rotation--Feb. 29--to move up in line. See <http://youtu.be/e10PwkScF-I>.



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## The Lasers Are Coming!

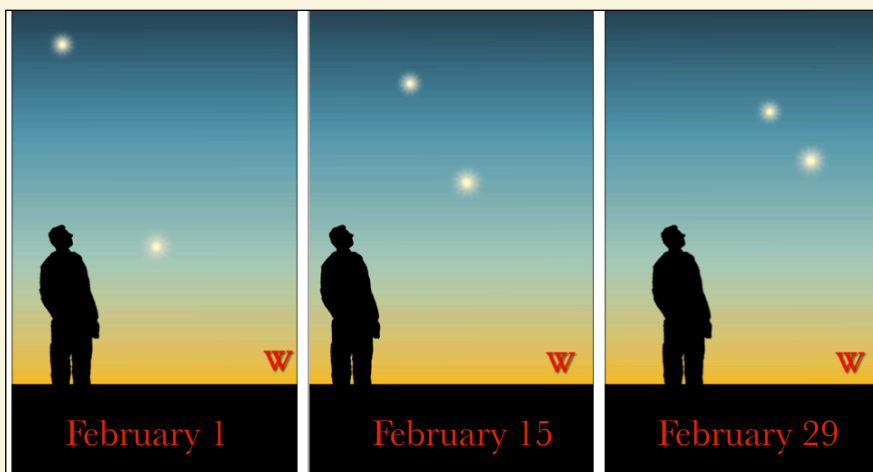
The PHM Digital Video Theater (DVT) will have a new laser system installed in March. PHM staff, family, and friends will have a free night to see one of two laser shows on Wednesday, March 14.

## DVT Schedule

**Feb 9 @ 6:30 p.m.**  
*Secrets of the Sun*

**Feb 12 @ 1:30 p.m.**  
*Zulus Patrol: Under the Weather*  
(Young audience)

**Feb 23 @ 6:30 p.m.**  
*Legends of the Night Sky: Orion*  
(Young Audience)

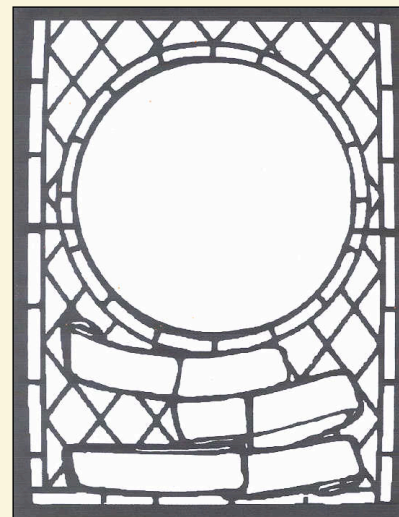


## Watch Jupiter & Venus Head for a Showdown

The two brightest planets are moving toward a conjunction in the western sky after sunset. Upper Jupiter descends while Venus creeps higher throughout the month. The pair will dazzle as they pass around March 13. Watch the solar system in motion! Image and header credit: [Celestial Almanack](#), © 2012 Jay Ryan, used with permission.

## Science Alive!

The 20th annual Science Alive! is **Saturday, Feb. 5** from 10AM to 4PM at the St. Joseph County Public Library in downtown South Bend. The transit of Venus is featured in two rooms. Notre Dame Physics will be leading a Stained Glass Window contest on the third floor, with prizes for winning artwork. The Michiana Astronomical Society will have hands-on activities on the lower level, including a photometer to discover a simulated earth-like planet orbiting a distant star. Free fun!



## TROVE Art Exhibit

Are you artistic? Celebrate the 2012 transit of Venus in our region through your artistic vision. A recent call-for-art seeks two dimensional art at [www.transitofvenus.org/artwork](http://www.transitofvenus.org/artwork).