



March \$2 Movies



Join us this March during our \$2 movies. We have a spectacular lineup of movies and all seats are just \$2! Join us at 5:30 on Wednesdays and Fridays or 2:30 on Saturdays. A new movie is shown each week. Be sure to come often so you don't miss out on all the fun! Check out the schedule below.

- **Twilight: Breaking Dawn Part 1** - Feb. 29, Mar. 2, 3
- **Cowboys and Aliens** - Mar. 7, 9, 10
- **Tower Heist** - Mar. 14, 16, 17
- **Moneyball** - Mar. 21, 23, 24
- **Contagion** - Mar. 28, 30, 31

Bright Meteor Seen Over North Texas



If you live in the Dallas - Fort Worth area, you may have experienced a bright flash of light in the night sky on Wednesday, February 1. According to FOX 4 news in Dallas, "witnesses began calling and emailing the station just after 8 p.m. to

Spring Break



Are you looking for something fun to do with the kids during Spring Break? We've got the answer! We're adding a few afternoon shows during Spring Break in addition to the regularly scheduled evening shows. Are you using a Groupon? Bring it with you to these special shows!

- **March 13** - 2:00 p.m. - One World, One Sky
- **March 14** - 2:00 p.m. - Spacepark 360
- **March 15** - 2:00 p.m. - Secret of the Cardboard Rocket

Please note that the Planetarium office will be closed on Friday, March 16. This will not affect the public show schedule for that day.

Happy Leap Day!



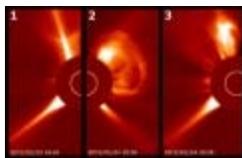
Remember that old children's saying - "30 days has November, April, June and November? All the rest have 31, except February which has 28." Well this year is a little different. We have an extra day in February!

report an extremely bright light that zipped from west to east across the skyline. Some people said the object had a long tail and that it appeared to fall apart. Others said they heard or felt an explosion as it passed."

The Planetarium at UT Arlington was also bombarded with questions. FOX 4 News came to the theater to interview director, Levent Gurdemir, about the object. That evening, Gurdemir was invited to speak with Fox 4 News anchors live on the news set. You can watch the video of his interview at this [link](#).

FOX 4 Meteorologist Dan Henry "believes based on witness reports and information from the [American Meteor Society](#) (AMS) that the object was a bolide. A bolide is a fireball or very bright meteor. It explodes often with visible fragmentation and sometimes a sonic boom, according to AMS."

Solar Storms Erupt



From February 23 through February 24 our sun produced an astonishing five solar eruptions, launched from the top, bottom, left and right sides of the solar disk. Four of those eruptions came in just a 24 hour period.

One of the eruptions, a large snaking magnetic filament, erupted during the early hours of February 24, 2012 and launched the first of two coronal mass ejections (CME) in Earth's direction.

The filament eruption, as seen in the [video](#) taken by the Solar Dynamic Observatory (SDO) in extreme ultraviolet wavelength, forms a visible split in the sun's atmosphere, where plasma races away in waves in opposite directions. The divide stretches the length of the

Why do we need to add an additional day to our calendar every 4 years? Because the Earth doesn't orbit the Sun exactly every 365 days. It actually takes 365.25 days to orbit the Sun!

But wouldn't it be better if we counted the added interim time? Probably not.

The Earth orbits the sun once every 365.25 days, so every four years we add an extra day to the year (Leap Year). In the interim years we don't have our "official" time off by any certain amount because each day is only off by 360 min/year. So to have an accurate "official" calendar, all we have to do is add an extra minute to each day, so that every day is 24 hours and 1 min. This number is so insignificant that we don't calculate it in to our normal calendar, but over time, it will start to add up (1 day every 4 years).

NASA Maps Earth's Trees



A NASA-led science team has created an accurate, high-resolution map of the height of Earth's forests. The map will help scientists better understand the role forests play in climate change and how their heights influence wildlife habitats within them, while also helping them quantify the carbon stored in Earth's vegetation.

Scientists from NASA's Jet Propulsion Laboratory; the University of Maryland, College Park; and Woods Hole Research Center, created the map using 2.5 million carefully screened, globally distributed laser pulse measurements from space. The light detection and ranging (lidar) data were collected in 2005 by the Geoscience Laser Altimeter System instrument on NASA's Ice, Cloud and land Elevation Satellite (ICESat).

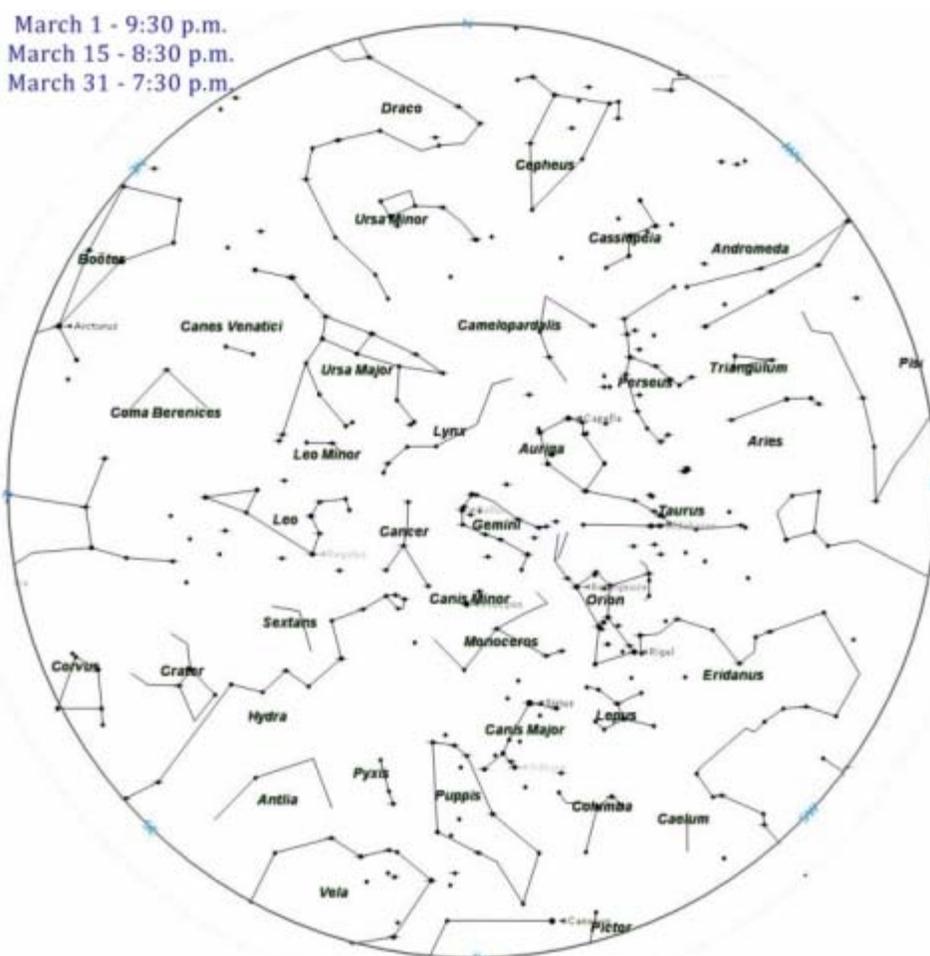
original filament location, almost 248,500 miles (400,000 km).

Solar filaments are darker, cooler solar material floating above the sun's surface, suspended by magnetic forces. When they appear over the solar limb they are called prominences.

See more amazing photos of the eruptions and the latest data from the Sun [here!](#)

"Knowing the height of Earth's forests is critical to estimating their biomass, or the amount of carbon they contain," said lead researcher Marc Simard of JPL. "Our map can be used to improve global efforts to monitor carbon."

Read more about NASA's tree map and the research that is being done with it [here.](#)



Planetarium at UT Arlington

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