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#### News Release: The Stars are Out In Rocky Mount

The chilly winter months are filled with stars in Rocky Mount. From the floodlit stage to the starlit sky and visions of our vast universe, there will be plenty for the family to do inside to stay out of the chilly winter winds.

The Imperial Center for Arts & Sciences, a 133,000 square foot cultural art center built in a historic tobacco factory, celebrates its' first anniversary in January. This world-class venue, composed of new and rehabilitated historic structures, covers half a city block and houses The Children's Museum and Science Center, the 303 seat Theatre and the Arts Centre's nine galleries. In addition to the wonderful exhibits, galleries and stage productions offered at this facility, the architectural detail and innovation in the construction of the building are worth the trip. This facility symbolizes the rebirth of cultural facilities that were damaged so severely by the floods resulting from Hurricane Floyd in 1999.

The Children's Museum opens a new exhibit "Extreme Deep: Mission to the Abyss." This exhibit offers a hands-on exploration of life at the bottom of the sea. The exhibit will be showing January 27, 2007 through January 6, 2008. The state-of-the-art digital SciDome™ 56 seat planetarium is featuring live and recorded sky tours, laser light concert shows as the entire known universe is accessible to explore. In addition, there are many hands-on and visual learning exhibitions, including a live animal habitat and coastal marsh touch tank that will interest kids of all ages. There is a small admission charge. For complete program details call the box office at 252 972 1266

The Imperial Centre Arts Centre galleries are open daily with artwork in a range of media and materials, including the art of national artists and local talent. The Art Centre is a wonderful venue spanning several galleries and two floors of the Imperial Centre. The Art Centre is free. Call 252 972 1163 for exhibition information.

On the Dunn Center at NC Wesleyan College stage productions feature "stars" to entertain a range of theater and music tastes. The Dunn Center presents the "Manhattan Piano Trio" on January 12th at 8PM. The piano, cello and violin combine for great listening. Juno Award winning pianist Jesse Cook takes the Dunn Center stage on January 26<sup>th</sup> at 8PM for an evening of easy listening jazz. "The Celtic Tenors" perform on February 9th, 2006 at 8PM entertaining with Irish songs from their three Double Platinum Award albums. On March 3<sup>rd</sup> the sounds of steel pan calypso with the "Caribbean Sounds" fill the Dunn Center with lively music of the Caribbean influenced by jazz and classical music. Details and tickets for all events at 252 985 5197.

The Women's Professional Billiards Association third Carolina Women's Billiard Classic returns the women professional billiard "stars" to Rocky Mount February 22-25th. They will compete in a cash purse event at the Gateway Convention Center with Sunday coverage by the ESPN network. The top 64 women will complete for the top

prize. On Wednesday night a special fundraising event provides the opportunity to have dinner and play with the professionals. The Sunday championship competition sells out early so call 252 972 5080 for ticket details.

. It's easy to see that Nash County is the place to get out of the cold for great family entertainment as well as our year-round good old "Southern Hospitality." For more information visit [www.rockymounttravel.com](http://www.rockymounttravel.com) or call the Nash County Visitors Bureau at 1-800-849-6825.