

Tulare County Office of Education

Jim Vidak, County Superintendent of Schools

September 26, 2008

For Immediate Release

Contact: Robert Herman
Public Information Officer
(559) 733-6606 – office
(559) 303-8568 – cell

Tulare County Office of Education Announces:

Peña Planetarium offers two October evening shows October 3 & 17, 2008 • 2500 Burrel Ave., Visalia

Visalia - The Sam B. Peña Planetarium, operated by the Tulare County Office of Education, is offering two new programs in October.

October 3, 2008, 8:00 p.m. – *The Skies of Autumn*

On Friday October 3, at 8:00 p.m., the Peña Planetarium will present *The Skies of Autumn* from its *Tulare County Night Skies* series. Seasonal constellations including the Summer Triangle are explored as well as many deep sky objects such as star clusters, galaxies and nebulae. Ancient mythology is deeply woven into the descriptions of these celestial phenomena. This video program is authored and narrated by the Tulare Astronomical Association's president, Dave Adalian. After the 20-minute program, Tulare Astronomical Association members will have their telescopes available outdoors to give visitors an opportunity for some firsthand stargazing. This program is recommended for older children and adults.

- more -

Tulare County Office of Education

Jim Vidak, County Superintendent of Schools

Page 2

October 17, 2008, 7:00 p.m. – *Dawn of the Space Age*

Dawn of the Space Age is the world's first 360-degree, 3D stereo movie. It will premiere at the Peña Planetarium on October 17 at 7:00 p.m. and showcase the theater's new "full-dome" projection system. This program accurately portrays man's first steps into space – from the launch of the first artificial satellite Sputnik, to the magnificent lunar landings and privately-operated space flights.

The Planetarium is located on the southwest corner of West Main Street and Woodland Avenue in Visalia, in the Educational Enrichment Center. "The public will really enjoy the enhancements we've made to the projection system in the Peña Planetarium," says County Superintendent of Schools Jim Vidak. "The full-dome shows, like *Dawn of the Space Age*, are a fantastic experience, much like an IMAX theater."

Tickets can be purchased at the Impact Center Office 30 minutes before show time or in advance on weekdays between 1:00 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.

TCOE

Rel. 62/08