

Tulare County Office of Education

Jim Vidak, County Superintendent of Schools

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Media Alert

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Tulare County Office of Education Announces: Peña Planetarium Offers Additional Indoor and Outdoor Programs October 26 and November 2, 2007 • 2500 Burrel Ave., Visalia

Visalia – The Peña Planetarium will continue its offering of fall public shows with ***The Explorers***, beginning at 7:00 p.m. on Friday, October 26, 2007. ***The Explorers*** focuses on the human spirit of exploration throughout time and space. The planetarium dome is used to identify constellations, to observe what daily motion can tell us about way-finding, and to study changes in the sky as the observer's latitude changes. During a live section in the program, the audience will get a chance to use their new knowledge to navigate from Tahiti to Hawai'i using techniques practiced by Polynesians for thousands of years. Then... it's on to Mars! ***The Explorers*** is ideal for families with children in grades four and up.

The Skies of Autumn is a new program developed in partnership with the Tulare Astronomical Association. This program, which is recommended for older children and adults, incorporates both a short planetarium show and outdoor star-gazing with the aid of telescopes.

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The Skies of Autumn will be shown Friday, November 2 at 7:30 p.m. The program is designed to give in-depth information about the constellations and deep sky objects, visible at particular times during the year.

“The planetarium is enjoyed by thousands of Central Valley students every year,” says Tulare County Superintendent of Schools Jim Vidak. “Through our public evening programs, we hope to introduce a new audience to the wonderful amenities of our facility.”

Tickets can be purchased at the Peña Planetarium Office 30 minutes before show time or in advance on weekdays between 1:00 and 4:00 p.m. The Planetarium is located on the southwest corner of West Main Street and Woodland Avenue in Visalia. It is housed in the Tulare County Office of Education’s Educational Enrichment Center at 2500 West Burrel Avenue. Tickets are \$4 for adults and \$3 for children under 12. Shows start promptly on time. No late seating is offered once the planetarium doors close. For ticket information, call the Peña Planetarium at (559) 737-6334.

For more information about the Tulare County Office of Education and its programs, please call Robert Herman, Public Information Officer, at (559) 733-6606.

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