

# Tulare County Office of Education

*Jim Vidak, County Superintendent of Schools*

September 8, 2010

## **For Immediate Release**

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**Tulare County Office of Education Announces:**

## **Peña Planetarium offers four public shows in September and October, including two premieres**

**7:00 p.m., Friday evenings, September 10 & 24, and October 15 & 29 • 2500 Burrel Ave., Visalia**

*Visalia* - The Sam B. Peña Planetarium, operated by the Tulare County Office of Education, will offer the following evening shows in September and October, **including** the premiere of *Saturn: Jewel of the Heavens* (September 24) and *Earth, Moon and Sun* (October 29).

### **Friday, September 10, 7:00 p.m. – *Black Holes: The Other Side of Infinity* (A full-dome video)**

Experience the creation of the Milky Way Galaxy, and witness the violent death of a star and subsequent birth of a black hole. Mathematical equations, cutting-edge science, and Einstein's theories fill in gaps along the way.

### **Friday, September 24, 7:00 p.m. – *Saturn: Jewel of the Heavens* (A full-dome video premiere)**

Saturn was once a planet of great mystery. Now we know more than ever about its amazing system of rings, moons and storms thanks to modern robotic space pioneers. From its bizarre moons with mysterious features to the millions of icy particles that compose the enigmatic rings, this new program features a three-dimensional tour of the Saturnian system.

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**Friday, October 15, 7:00 p.m. – *Two Small Pieces of Glass: The Amazing Telescope***

**(A full-dome video)**

See how telescopes work and how the largest observatories in the world use these instruments to explore the mysteries of the universe. Following the presentation, the Planetarium will present *Telescopes 101* – a hands-on training and troubleshooting session sponsored by the Tulare Astronomical Association. Community members planning to attend *Telescopes 101* must register in advance by contacting Greg Eckes at (559) 739-7270 or [president@tulareastro.org](mailto:president@tulareastro.org).

**Friday, October 29, 7:00 p.m. – *Earth, Moon and Sun* (A full-dome video premiere)**

This new program explores how the Earth, Moon and Sun work together as a system, and the myths and science behind their connections. Why does the Sun rise and set? Why do we see different constellations during different seasons? What is an eclipse? Learn about the Moon's phases and orbit. Explore past and future space travel to our moon and beyond.

The Planetarium is located on the southwest corner of West Main Street and Woodland Drive in Visalia, in the Educational Enrichment Center. Tickets can be purchased at the Impact Center Office 30 minutes before show time or in advance on weekdays between 2:00 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](http://www.tcoe.org/ImpactCenter).

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