



Photo by Doug Keeler/Midway Driller

**Young boy clutches free backpack he received at the Taft Police Officers Association's Backpacks & Badges Officers provided about 350 backpacks and school supplies at the event held Saturday.**



Photo by Doug Keeler/Midway Driller

**No one was injured but a car was damaged and the 600 block of Lucard was blocked for three hours last week when a large tree branch fell. City of Taft public works crews responded to the incident and removed the large eucalyptus branch that fell from the north side of the street.**

## Two arrests made in unsuccessful burglary

By Doug Keeler  
Midway Driller Editor  
dkeeler@taftmidwaydriller.com  
@midwaydriller

Two Bakersfield men were arrested last week on burglary, vandalism and other charges after an unsuccessful attempt to steal coins from a laundromat, Taft Police said.

The man were arrested at gunpoint several blocks from the scene.

Sgt. Corey Beilby police received a report of a crime in progress at the laundromat at 212 Fourth St. about 9 a.m.

He said the reporting person was watching on video as one of the suspects tried to pry open a coin machine.

By the time officers arrived the suspect had left, but they had video of their vehicle, Beilby said.

A short time later, the vehicle, a Cadillac Escalade, was spotted in the 100 block of Kern Street and officers soon made a traffic stop.

The suspect were taken out of the car at gunpoint after making "furtive movements," Beilby said.

They were identified as Tony Jay Neal, 43, and Nicky Anthony Sessions, 50, both of Bakersfield.

Neal was charged with burglary, vandalism, conspiracy, and possession of a controlled substance

He also had a warrant from Los Angeles.

Sessions was charged with burglary, vandalism, conspiracy, and possession of burglary tools and driving on a suspended license.



Photo by Doug Keeler/Midway Driller

**Flames consume interior of house on Stevens Street.**

## Fire burns house, other items

Fire gutted a home and burned numerous items in the back yard Sunday afternoon in South Taft.

The fire broke out just after 1 p.m. in the 1000 block of Stevens Street Arriving firefighters found the small house ablaze with downed power lines in the rear and leaking

gas.

The leak at one point filled the house with natural gas, forcing firefighters to fight the fire from a distance until the gas flow was cut off.

No injuries were reported. The cause wasn't immediately available.



Photo by Doug Keeler/Midway Driller  
**Firefighter works to cut flow of natural gas at fire.**

## COVID-19, delta variant increasing

Taft added five new Covid-19 cases in the past 24 hours and 20 in the past week, but the number of active cases in the 93268 zip code is down after more recoveries were reported.

The Kern County Health Department reported 1,880 total cases in the Taft area Tuesday with 1,827 recoveries, leaving 53 active cases here

CoVid-19 continues to increase in Kern County and more and more cases caused by the delta variant are being reported.

Here is a rundown of information provided by health department spokeswoman Michelle Corson:

•There are 335 newly reported confirmed cases in Kern County, bring our total confirmed cases to date to 118,360.

• There are no new deaths being reported today, but there have been 1,436 COVID-19 deaths since the start of the pandemic.

•The 14-day case rate is 26.45 per 100,000.

•As of August 16, 692,426 doses of the COVID-19 vaccine have been administered to Kern County

residents. 331,528 or 43.9% of Kern's eligible population have been fully vaccinated against COVID-19.

•As of August 16, Kern County had 187 COVID-19 related hospitalizations and 37 were in the ICU.

Corson said there has been a 69.9% increase in first doses of the COVID-19 vaccines administered in the past three weeks in Kern County. Vaccination appointments for individuals aged 12+ can be made by visiting myturn.ca.gov.

"Staying in overall good health by eating well and regularly exercising are all layers of protection that we encourage our community to use to limit the transmission of COVID-19," said Brynn Carrigan, Director of Kern County Public Health Services. "Eat a balanced diet, load up on fruits and veggies, and limit sugary beverages. This will help lower your risk for obesity, type 2 diabetes and heart disease – conditions that also make you at higher risk for severe illness from COVID-19."

Visit the health department website [www.kernpublichealth.com](http://www.kernpublichealth.com) to stay informed on COVID-19.

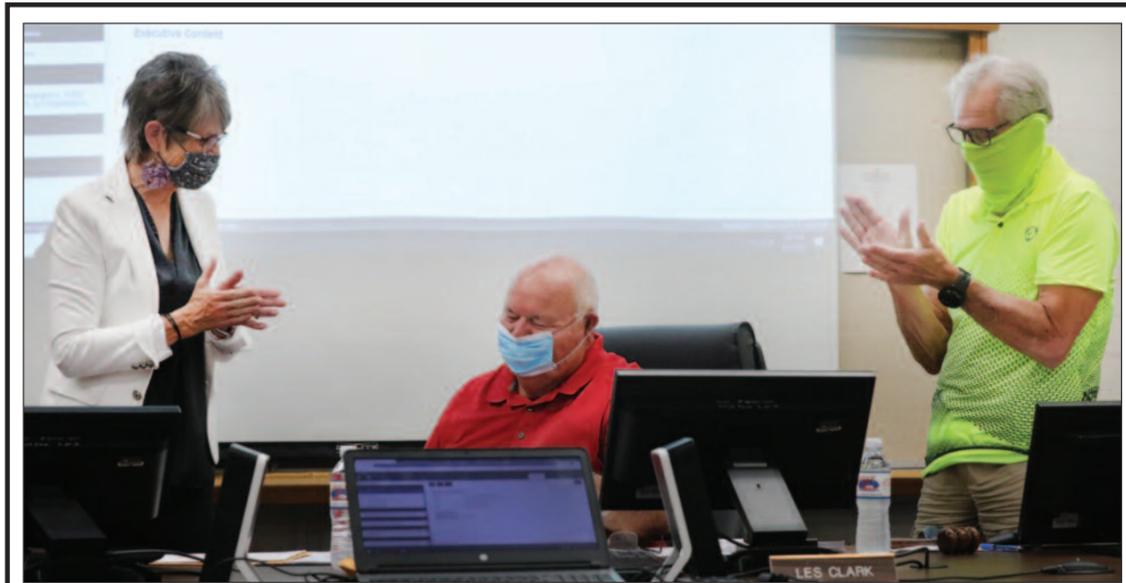


Photo by Doug Keeler/Midway Driller

**Taft City School District Supt. Julie Graves and TCSD Board President Greg Mudge applaud after Les Clark Jr. was recognized for 15 years of service on the board. He received a commendation from the Kern County Superintendent of Schools. Clark has also served 29 years on the Taft Union High School District Board.**



**STARTING THURSDAY, JULY 1, 2021**

**West Side Family Health Care will open at**

**7:00 am Monday - Friday**

**Holiday and weekend hours will remain 10:00 am - 9:00 pm**

# NEW HOURS



## West Side Family Health

**100 E. North St. Taft, CA 92368  
661-765-1935 • WSHCD.org**

