



TC Foundation honoring the Holmes



Fred and Barbara Holmes will receive the Taft College Foundation's Community Spirit Award.

The Taft College Foundation announced that Taft civic leaders Fred and Barbara Holmes have been selected to receive the Foundation's annual "Community Spirit Award."

The time-honored event will feature a special video capturing the enduring community spirit of Fred and Barbara Holmes.

The award will be presented October 7 at Taft College's 11th Annual "Cougar Cookout," a highly festive event that draws hundreds of people each year to celebrate and honor Veterans and exceptional individuals in the Taft community. "Fred and Barbara are true community spirits for the city of Taft, and we are honored to award them with the 2021 Community Spirit Award" says, Dr. Deb Daniels, Superintendent/President of Taft College & West Kern Community College District.

If anyone in the Town of Taft represents the true spirit of community first, it's Fred and Barbara Holmes. Like most young married couples, they started out struggling financially. But Fred's strong ethic of hard work paid off. Surrounded and supported by what Fred describes as "great employees," Fred's oil services business

began to prosper in a big way.

Fred and Barbara are preeminent additions to the list of outstanding community members who are awardees: John and Betty Miller (2014), Harry Wilson (2015), Dr. David Cothrun (2016), Ray and Lodema Hatch (2017), Don and Linda Zumbro (2018), and Bob and Judy Hampton (2019).

Tickets are \$30 general admission and \$20 for TC Alumni, Faculty & Staff. Veterans will receive two complimentary tickets sponsored by Brad Peters, San Joaquin Bit Service. Ticket purchases are available on Eventbrite, 2021cougarcookout.eventbrite.com

Table sponsorships are available, Table sponsor \$1,000; Community Spirit Award Fred & Barbara Holmes Sponsor \$2,000; Honor Flight Sponsor \$3,000. Honor Flight Sponsors will give a Taft College Veteran or community veteran a trip on an Honor Flight.

The event begins at 5:00 pm with the presentation of colors by Fellows American Legion Post 63. Dinner service will start at 6 p.m. and continue through to 8:30 p.m. For more information, please call the Taft College Foundation at (661) 763-7936.

TC hosting Cougar Day August 11

It's Taft College's one-stop process to get students ready for classes.

"You can become a Cougar in one day," said TC Executive Director of Marketing and Community Relations Susan Groveman.

It's going to be held on Aug. 11 and will be inside due to the heat.

Capacity is limited. To reserve a spot, go to www.taftcollege.edu/financial-aid/cougar-day

Everything will be available to register for the fall semester, which starts on Aug. 23.

Students will be directed to each step, including the application process, registering for classes, financial aid, counseling and even the purchase of textbooks and supplies.

Groveman said the college has a lot of funding to help students cover their educational costs.

Even students who do not qualify for the California Promise Grant may get up to \$500 to cover books and other expenses.

"The financial incentives are great," Groveman said.

And, after you're all ready for the start of school, every student will be treated to a free lunch in the Cougar Cafe in the brand new Student Services Center.

Face masks required when TC reopens

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

"This fall, Taft College will be BACK TO NORMAL" the college's flyer on social media said.

Almost all in-person classes will return for all TC classes when the fall semester starts in a month, but students will be required to wear masks on campus, school officials said.

Vaccinations will be required only for students living in student housing. The college plans to offer classes online as alternative for students during the fall semester this year.

Taft College, like all other schools colleges and universities in the state, closed down in mid-March of 2020 due to the Covid-19 pandemic.

Only a handful of face-to-face classes such as dental hygiene and some science classes, were held during the past year.

All other classes were offered online only.

Taft has low vaccination rate

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

Less than one-third of people aged 12 and over in the Taft area have been vaccinated against COVID-19, according to state figures.

The California Department of Public Health's website said only 29.9 percent of the people 12 and over in the 93268 zip code were vaccinated as of July 13.

Kern County Public

Health Director Brynn Carrigan told the Kern County Board of Supervisors that more than 99 percent of all the Covid-19 cases reported since Jan. 21 involve people who have not been vaccinated and that no person who has received a vaccine has died.

Kern County is currently seeing an increase in Covid-19 infections.

The county's rate has increased from 2.1 cases per 100,000 people a week ago

to 2.5 this week, but is still well below the state average of 5.4 cases per 100,000 people.

The Kern County Health Department reported 207 new cases on Monday and two more deaths.

The Covid-19 pandemic has now killed 1,416 people in the county.

In Taft, there are 1,796 total Covid-19 cases with 1,753 people either recovered or presumed recovered, leaving 43 active cases.

State, local redistricting underway

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

State and county political boundaries are being redrawn after the 2020 census, but the process is under way without the final census results.

Kern County supervisorial boundaries are being boundaries are redrawn for the second time in just over three years.

A 2018 lawsuit settlement forced the county to change the five supervisor districts to add a second latino majority district.

Those changes moved Taft from the fourth district to the fifth and a new supervi-

sor. This year's process is the one done every 10 years with new census results.

It got underway this week with a virtual meeting Monday night that was not well attended, according to reports.

A second meeting that also had translation for Spanish and Punjabi speaker was held Tuesday at 6 p.m.

A follow-up hybrid virtual and in-person public meeting is scheduled for 10 a.m. July 31 at the Kern County Board Chambers located at 1115 Truxtun Ave. and online at bit.ly/3i1eEVM.

The state is also redraw-

ing political boundaries and this will affect the congressional district.

That process is being handled by the nonpartisan California Citizens Redistricting Commission.

California lost one of its 41 congressional seats as a result of the 2020 census.

Both the state and county redistricting processes are being rushed since federal census data is being delayed by the coronavirus pandemic.

Kern County is anticipating getting the census data in September and completing new maps by December, while the state may not have new congressional districts until January.

City plans to resurface part of 10th Street

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

The city is starting the process to repair a worn out section of Tenth Street.

It's going to take a while, though. The Taft City Council voted Tuesday night to approve a resolution to get funding from Kern COG to replace the road surface on 10th Street between Kern Street and Pilgrim Avenue.

If all goes well, engineering for the project would be done in the 2022-2023 fiscal year and the actual work would be done in 2023-24.

The estimated costs for the project

is about \$570,000.

The city would only pay 11.47 percent of the total cost and the rest would come through Kern COG with a federal match.

According to a city staff report, the project would include grinding the existing roadway, removing the excess and compacting and repaving the road surface.

Since federal funds are being used, sidewalks at all corners and alley intersections will be upgraded to meet current ADA standards.

That is a separate project will be funded through state SB1 funds and is currently in the design phase, according to the staff report.



Mayor pro tem Orchel Krier (upper right) reads agenda report on plan to resurface section of Tenth Street as councilmen Josh Bryant and Jeff Eveland look on.

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

West Side Family Health

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

NEW HOURS