

\$1.50

MIDWAY DRILLER

SERVING TAFT AND THE WESTSIDE COMMUNITIES SINCE 1910



Thursday, September 9, 2021

Vol. 111 - Edition 36

A salute to heroes TUHS takes steps as COVID increases

Taft Union High School paid tribute to the 13 United States Marines killed by a suicide bomber at Kabul, Afghanistan in August. Thirteen flags were placed at the south end of Martin Memorial Stadium prior to the start of the games. Before the varsity game, Taps was played by two TUHS band members at opposite ends of the stadium and the names of the Marines were read.



Photo by Doug Keeler/Midway Driller

Trumpeters at each end of Martin Memorial Stadium played taps.

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

Taft Union High School is planning to hold a COVID-19 vaccine clinic next week. "We are fighting daily to mitigate the COVID impact and keep our students safe and in school," the school said in a social media post last week.

The clinic will be held in the schools cafeteria on Sept. 15 from 3 p.m. to 6 p.m. on Sept. 15

This comes as the school is seeing an uptick in COVID among its students.

The school said the increase at the school is

a reflection of COVID increases in Taft and the community.

Daily attendance was at 92 percent last week, the school said, but "although our overall numbers remain relatively low, we are seeing some increases in our students."

The school is taking many precautions. Masks are required at all times indoors, and encouraged outdoors, seating is spaced where possible, seating charts are used in every class to assist with contact tracing.

Students in modified quarantine can still attend classes but have to be tested twice weekly.

Like many schools in the county, TUHS has had sports events cancelled by COVID.

Its football season opener against Kern Valley was canceled when several Taft players fell into COVID protocols after being exposed.

Taft is relatively fortunate. Kern Valley hasn't played a game yet after having Aug. 27 and Sept. 3 games canceled by COVID protocols and several other schools have lost two games.

Last week, North at West, Foothill at California City, McFarland at Coalinga and Arvin at Kern Valley were all canceled.

Civic luncheon kicks off Oildorado

The Civic Luncheon, traditionally the first official event of any Oildorado celebration, will be held on Friday, October 8, beginning at noon. This year's presenting sponsor is Chevron. In lieu of an event tent, the Oildorado Board opted to spend some time remodeling the back portion of the Oildorado Store, known as the Oildorado Event Center. The transformation from the former service work stations to the beautiful event venue is near complete and will be unveiled at the Civic Luncheon.

Sponsored tables for eight people are available to corporate or private groups for \$2,000 and include: VIP table placement, business or group name on the table, logo on the website and marketing materials, seating for 8, drink tickets, and exclusive Oildorado swag for each person. Sponsored tables may be reserved by emailing oildorado@gmail.com. Individual tickets may be

purchased for \$50 each beginning September 24 at the Oildorado Store during the Grand Opening or online at www.taftoildorado.com. There will be no tickets sold at the door.

"This Civic Luncheon promises to be a very fitting opener to this year's Oildorado Days," stated Jordan Miller, first male Chairperson of the Civic Luncheon Committee. Traditionally, the responsibility of the Civic Luncheon planning is that of the spouse of the Oildorado President, and it still is. However, Miller's gender breaks with tradition as does that of his wife, Oildorado President Shannon Miller, the first female President of Oildorado.

Miller's description of the Civic Luncheon as "fitting" is based upon the distinguished line-up of speakers who have demonstrated their support of energy and petroleum. Elected dignitaries include: Taft's Mayor Dave Noerr, owner of Huddleston Crane, and a tireless ad-

vocate for the oil patch and petroleum, Kern County's own U.S. Congressman Kevin McCarthy, State Senator Shannon Grove, State Assembly member Vince Fong, and Kern County's Board of Supervisors Second District Supervisor Zack Scrivner.

Headlining the event will be Rock Zierman, CEO of the California Independent Petroleum Association CIPA, who brings a wealth of experience in advocacy for the petroleum and energy industries. He will be speaking about the challenges California's oil and gas companies face in the current political climate and the efforts to help them succeed, including information about pending lawsuits.

Doors will open at 11:30 a.m. The luncheon will be catered by Hodel's. The Luncheon will be followed by entertainment by popular band, Soda Crackers.



Photo by Doug Keeler/Midway Driller

Thirteen flags were placed in the south end of Martin Memorial Stadium in honor of 13 Marines killed.



Photo by Doug Keeler/Midway Driller

Wildcat defensive coordinator Russ Emberson during salute.

100 new COVID cases in Taft

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

More than 100 new COVID-19 cases were reported in the Taft area over the long Labor Day weekend.

The 93268 zip code now has 2,175 total COVID cases, up by 107 new cases from Friday, according to Kern County Health Department figures.

Taft now has 324 active cases, according to health department figures.

The Fellows-Derby Acres area had an increase of six cases over the weekend and now

has 55 total cases with 41 recoveries.

Maricopa added one new cases and no new cases were reported in the McKittrick area.

Kern County saw an increase of 1,911 new cases over the three-day weekend and three new deaths, raising the toll to 1,485.

As of Tuesday, As of today, Kern County has 329 COVID-19 related hospitalizations and 71 are in the ICU.

The county has a total of 128,770 cases since the pandemic started, but most - 115,990 - have recovered.

The health department said that since Jan. 21, the first day a person could be considered fully vaccinated, unvaccinated people account for 99.04 percent of all COVID cases in the county and 98.48 percent of the hospitalizations.

The department said 336 vaccinated people have become infected with COVID-19 since Jan. 21 and 34,721 unvaccinated people have tested positive.

Just 34 vaccinated COVID-19 patients have required hospitalization compared to 1,550 unvaccinated patients.

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