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Thursday, September 23, 2021

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New shirt designs at Oildorado Store.

Photo by Doug Keeler/Midway Driller

Grand opening Friday for Oildorado Store

When Oildorado 2020 was postponed due to Covid and restrictions were placed on gatherings for events, the Executive Board had to decide the proper course of action for our community. The Oildorado Board re-evaluated what was needed to move forward and explored ways to bring our traditional events back. Ultimately, we knew a celebration was in order and are excited that the time has come to finally celebrate Oildorado 2020, in 2021.

Oildorado takes place October 8-17, 2021. No celebration is complete without the Headquarters Store and Lounge. The Grand Opening of the Headquarters Store will be held on Friday, September 24 at 10am. Oildorado Headquarters is located at 501 North Street and includes the Store, Lounge, and Event Center.

Beginning at 10am, a special "pipe-cutting ceremony" will signal the Official start Oildorado 2021. The board of directors, volunteers, Maids of Petroleum, Posse and Wooden Nickel Gang will be joined by elected officials, local business owners, and the community to celebrate the occasion.

Past President Eric Cooper, now serving as a Vice President, knows the magnitude of what it takes to plan the event, but also what it takes to navigate the needs of the store. He understands the complexities of merchandising the store including dealing with and ordering from multiple vendors, designing an appealing façade to enhance the shopping experience, and organizing volunteers to complete the work and stock and run the store.

Oildorado is grateful for every volunteer who has put in any number of hours to make the event space functional with a clear direction and clean space. Rene Adamo, Vicki Howard, Brandon Farkas, the entire Executive Board, and other visionaries have been dedicated to making the store, lounge, and event cen-



Volunteers place clothing and souvenirs on racks at Oildorado Store.

Photo by Doug Keeler/Midway Driller

ter an attractive venue space. President Shannon Miller has remained optimistic that Oildorado 2021 will closely resemble prior celebrations, with slight modifications. Even though some features and attractions are not happening due to permitting issues or lack of employees, there will be lots to do between now and the end of October. The Posse and Wooden Nickel Gang will begin rounding up those who should be arrested, the Maids and Melodrama participants will be putting the final touches on

their performances, the Whiskerino and Tessie Garratt contestants will be finalizing their grooming techniques and style for the contests, and the store will be open with tickets, event schedule, and more.

If you are unable to join us for the store grand opening on Friday, September 24, 2021 at 10am, there are plenty of other opportunities to visit the store throughout Oildorado. Check out www.taftoildorado.com for additional information.

TC to induct team, 6 more into Hall of Fame

Two professors, an alumnus, former board member, a confidential employee, an athlete and a cross country team will be inducted into the Taft College Hall of Fame in November.

They will all be honored the Taft College Hall of Fame Awards Ceremony on Sunday, Nov. 7 at the new Taft College Student Center.

This year's inductees include longtime board member Carolyn Hosking (extraordinary service), Craig Johnson (distinguished faculty), George Kersh (outstanding male athlete), Harry

Wilson (distinguished alumnus) Shelley Klein (distinguished confidential) and Sonja Swenson (distinguished faculty)

The awards reception will begin at 4 p.m. and will be followed by the dinner program beginning promptly at 5 p.m.

Individual tickets are \$75 and must be purchased by Oct. 29.

After the deadline, tickets will be available as space allows. Seating cannot be guaranteed after Nov. 2. Masks are required at the event and will be provided, if necessary.

Taft now over 470 active COVID cases

By Doug Keeler
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Six new COVID-19 deaths were reported in Kern County and 25 new COVID-19 cases were reported in the Taft area on Tuesday.

The 93268 zip code now has 476 active cases and is approaching 2,500 total cases since the start of the pandemic, according to the Kern County Health Department.

Last week, COVID forced Taft Union High school to cancel a varsity football game at Kennedy High School in Delano and Taft College had to postpone a home volleyball match against Reedley.

Taft has 2,426 total cases since the start of the pandemic and 1,950 are recovered, according to the health department.

According to health department figures, Taft has added 251 new cases in the last two weeks.

COVID-19 cases inched up in Maricopa, where there are now 24 active cases, and Fellows-Derby Acres with 23 active cases.

Kern County added 446 new cases Tuesday morning and now has 132,288 total cases and 14,447 are active, according to health department figures.

The six new deaths bring the county total to 1,551.

Taft woman dies in crash on Hwy 119

A Taft woman died in a single-vehicle accident on Highway 119 west of Highway 43 Sunday night.

The California Highway Patrol said 56-year-old Sherri Ann Newer-Blaylock was westbound on Highway 119 in the opposing lane passing traffic that was traveling about 50 miles per hour.

The CHP said the Newer-Blaylock lost control of her 2019 Dodge Charger while passing, crossed the eastbound lane and left the south side of the roadway where it overturned.

She was not wearing a seatbelt and was pronounced dead at the scene, the CHP said.

The crash was reported at 10:19 p.m.

Taft Union High will be playing Shafter Friday

Taft Union High School will hopefully be back in action Friday night after last week's South Sequoia League opener against Kennedy High was cancelled Friday.

As of Wednesday night, Friday's home game against Shafter was still on, TUHS athletic director Suzanne

White said.

Last week's varsity game was canceled because Taft had players in COVID-19 protocols, Coach Brian Durkan said.

He declined to say how many players were exposed, but the impact was apparently significant.



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

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