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COURTESY ED GAITHER

Taft Plaza Christmas Tree will look something like this

Community Christmas tree project underway

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Site work has begun for a community Christmas tree for Taft's 2021 Christmas season.

It's a community-funded project that will bring a 16-foot-tall replica tree to the Fifth Street Plaza.

Public works crews and a private contractor were at work Tuesday morning digging trenches for the electrical conduit to power the tree.

Ed Gaither, organizer of the project, said the tree is in transit from Texas.

when it arrives, it will be on a three-foot tall stage and will be topped with a three-foot diameter star.

A special tree lighting event "Christmas on the Plaza" is planned for Dec. 4 at 6 p.m. and



PHOTO BY DOUG KEELER/MIDWAY DRILLER

City crews cut trench for electrical conduit to provide power to replica Christmas tree.

many more events will be held at the tree leading up to Christmas.

Gaither said there will be a "Santa Shack" with Santa making several appearances as well as local churches getting involved with programs at the tree.

Fundraising for the

tree is still ongoing. You can follow it on Facebook at Taft Plaza Tree Lighting Event for more information about events and information on how to donate.

You can also email plazatreefund@yahoo.com for information on how to donate.

deadly weapons charges at a readiness hearing on Oct. 15, court records show.

Eight other counts, including first degree murder and attempted murder, were dismissed.

Oaks was arrested in connection with the Aug. 21 homicide of Danny Barham, 55, on Moose Street and the stabbing of a second man who has not been publicly identified.

The stabbing occurred at mid afternoon and he was arrested by deputies several hours later in Bakersfield.



PHOTO BY DOUG KEELER/MIDWAY DRILLER

Current Taft College Professor Mike Mayfield places medal on retired Professor Craig Johnson at Taft College Hall of Fame event Sunday evening (above). Below Board of Trustees President Dawn Cole welcomes inductee Shelley Klein to the podium. Johnson and Klein were among six individuals and a team that joined the hall of fame this year.



KCHD says another winter COVID-19 surge possible

Recent modeling provided by the state indicates that another winter surge is a possibility and primarily influenced by waning immunity to COVID-19, the Kern County Health Department said.

"During the pandemic, modeling has proven to be a valuable tool to help inform our local response as we shore up needed resources for public health, emergency medical and hospital systems during surges," health department spokeswoman Michelle Corson said.

Specifically, Corson said, the California COVID-19 Assessment Tool (CalCAT) shows a worst-case scenario of Kern County beginning another surge in early December 2021, reaching a peak on January 14, 2022 averaging 748 cases per day and hospitalizations peaking on January 20, 2022 with 559 hospitalizations. For context Corson pointed out, at the height of the most recent surge, Kern peaked at an average of 411 cases per day with 336 hospitalizations and tended to follow the pessimistic modeling.

"The determining factor in how Kern will trend in the modeling is the actions our community takes to ensure optimal

COVID-19 Coronavirus

immunity from this disease, which includes getting vaccinated and subsequently getting your booster dose when you are eligible," Corson said. "Additionally, the proven healthy practices of wearing a mask if not vaccinated, hand washing, staying home when sick and maintaining a healthy diet remain critical in our ongoing fight against COVID-19."

Corson said all COVID-19 vaccines continue to provide significant protection against severe illness, hospitalization, and death. However, certain populations are seeing a slight decrease in vaccine effectiveness against infection. Therefore, the CDC has recommended that certain populations obtain their booster to ensure optimal immunity. Booster doses of vaccines are very common. They are part of most childhood and adult vaccine series to ensure a person maintains immunity against infection from diseases.

A booster dose of the Pfizer or Moderna vaccine is recommended six months after your sec-

ond dose if you:
•Are 65 or older, or
•Age 18+ living in long-term care settings, or
•Age 18+ and have underlying medical conditions, or
•Age 18+ and are at increased risk due to social inequity, or
•Age 18+ working or living in high-risk settings.

A booster dose of the Johnson & Johnson vaccine is recommended two months after your initial dose if you are 18 or older.

View state models by visiting this website: <https://calcat.covid19.ca.gov/cacovid-models/> and view attached graphs.

To find a vaccination site near you or to make an appointment at vaccination sites, visit www.kernpublichealth.com or www.MyTurn.ca.gov. Kern County Public Health is operating a COVID-19 vaccination clinic at the Kern County Fairgrounds, Tuesday through Friday from 10:30 a.m. to 6 p.m..

No contest plea in Tupman stabbing

The Bakersfield man charged with stabbing one man to death and critically injuring another in Tupman last year has pleaded no contest to one count of involuntary manslaughter and one count of assault with a deadly weapon, according to Kern County Superior Court records.

Alan Oaks, 44, is still in custody awaiting his sentencing on Nov. 16. His bail remains at \$1.5 million, according to Kern County Sheriff's jail website.

Oaks entered no contest pleas to the manslaughter and assault with a



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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

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For information regarding classes, prices, registration deadlines, ages etc. please call 661.765.6677

