

# Local news

## FIRST LOOK

with SCOTT COX

### TUESDAY'S HIGHLIGHTS



**Bakersfield City Councilman Russell Johnson talks about Internet cafes Tuesday with Californian President and CEO Richard Beene.**

**Illegal Gambling:** Bakersfield City Councilman Russell Johnson talked about concerns about Internet cafes Tuesday. "It's really just illegal gambling happening in a commercial center," Johnson said. Californian President and CEO Richard Beene asked about the current status of such cafes. The councilman said business people including a dentist and a laundromat owner have complained about the impact of the cafes on their businesses.

**511:** Representatives of the Kern Council of Governments and Kern Motorist Authority pitched the benefits of calling 511 to get real-time traffic and transit information. "It's very new right now," said 511 project manager and Kern COG regional transportation planner Becky Napier, noting the telephone part of the free service went live about a month ago, and the website at kern511.org last summer. The theme of the service is "know before you go," said Susanne Campbell, rideshare coordinator.



**Energy Summit:** The Taft College Foundation will host the West Kern Petroleum Summit on Oct. 18 with the help of a Chevron Economic Development Initiative Grant and other sponsors.

Sheri Horn-Bunk, executive director of the Taft College Foundation, said the summit will cover current and new petroleum and natural gas technology.

### UPCOMING GUESTS

**Today:** Bakersfield Police Chief Greg Williamson is in for his regular appearance to talk about local crime statistics and prevention. He's followed

by Lois Henry.

**Friday:** Scarlett Sabin of the Ronald McDonald House talks about their upcoming event.

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# Local kids open up their imaginations on carpet

BY LAURA LIERA  
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Most people probably don't approve of splattering green, blue, purple, pink and red paint on brand-new carpet in their homes.

But on Tuesday at Beale Memorial Library, more than 90 local kids and parents got their hands dirty and painted on carpet pieces of various sizes.

More than 150 plain carpets were transformed into artwork within the first two hours and Andie Apple, head of public services of Kern County Library, was expecting to have all 300 carpets covered in paint by the end of the day.

"It's fun and encouraging to see the youth and families interact together, and just create a bond over something so simple as painting on carpet," Apple said.

Carefully adding the last couple of touches to her colorful animal farm, Laine Waldrop, 8, described what she had drawn and said it was actually a little harder to paint on carpet than she thought.

"The horse and piggy are my favorite because they came out the best, and the piggy is pink and it's so cute," Waldrop said, adding two small dots for the pig's eyes.



CASEY CHRISTIE / THE CALIFORNIAN

Simran Sidhu paints a rainbow fish on a carpet square at the Beale Memorial Library.

Her grandmother Brenda Waldrop sat to her left and could not stop smiling as she saw her granddaughter get so involved in painting.

"Anything like this is wonderful because it gives them a moment to create art from their imagination, and they got lost in their own artistic world," she said.

The idea of painting on carpets

came from a Fresno County Library activity that also draws community members together.

The project in Kern was made possible by a grant received from the U.S. Institute of Museum and Library Services under the Library Services and Technology Act, administered in California by the state librarian.

Please turn to **CARPETS / 9**

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# Local news

### CARPET: CONTINUED FROM 8

The decorated squares are called Magic Reading Carpets and will be used in libraries across Kern County for story time.

Tuesday's art session was the second time kids and families had the opportunity to draw on carpets. The first event took place in June.

The carpets were donated by local carpet companies, and Apple hopes to keep the idea going in years to come.

On the library's auditorium floor, carpet squares reflected childhood books. From "Harry Potter" books to the "Cat in the Hat," images of colorful art covered the stage.

"I painted the train from my favorite book, 'The Polar Express,' because it brings me back to my childhood and all the great books I grew up with," said Rafael Sanchez, 13, who was visiting Bakersfield from Texas. "This is the first time I painted on carpet and in Texas we don't have this so it's been a great experience that I probably won't ever do again."



Carolina Esquibel has fun with her father, Jesus, during the Magic Reading Carpets decorating event Tuesday at the Beale Memorial Library.

CASEY CHRISTIE / THE CALIFORNIAN

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