

Oil monument

OILWORKERS MONUMENT SITE

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www.taftofvmonument.org



CASEY CHRISTIE / THE CALIFORNIAN

A drawing of the Oilworkers Monument in Taft was displayed during the groundbreaking.

Taft project will honor 100 years of oil workers

THE BAKERSFIELD CALIFORNIAN

A groundbreaking ceremony Friday in Taft attracted a large crowd, including several local dignitaries, to the site of a proposed oil worker monument intended to commemorate the men and women who helped turn the town into a center of oil production.

The event included the unveiling of a monument design by Taft-born artist Benjamin Victor.

A crowd of dignitaries tosses dirt during Friday's groundbreaking ceremony in Taft for the Oilworker Monument, which will honor workers who spend their lives toiling in the oil fields.

Oil companies took the opportunity to announce financial contributions to the project: \$100,000 from Chevron, a \$100,000 "challenge grant" from Aera Energy LLC, \$60,000 from oil businessman Charlie Beard and \$50,000 from businessman John Newmann.

The monument is expected to be complete in time for Taft's 100th anniversary next year.



Benjamin Victor, the artist of the Oilworker Monument, gets a hug from his mother, Joyce Victor of Bakersfield. He was born in Taft, raised in Bakersfield, and lives in South Dakota.

