



FOR CITY COUNCIL
WARD 3

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Newsom praises local work on cleaner energy

BY JOHN COX
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Gov. Gavin Newsom, unbothered in the face of local criticism while speaking to hundreds Friday morning during a surprise visit to Bakersfield, praised efforts in Kern to develop cutting edge clean energy technologies that serve California's ambitious climate goals for transitioning away from petroleum.

After taking his this week for polities local politicians may undermine the county's economy and threaten funding for public services, the governor acknowledged

"We're all going to experience the future together. Divorce is not an option."

— Gov. Gavin Newsom

hardships ahead and, without apologizing for them, asserted state money will be made available to support innovation and help cover local budget shortfalls.

"We're iterating in real time," Newsom said during the last day of the California

Economic Summit at Mechanics Bank Theater and Convention Center. "We're all going to experience the future together. Divorce is not an option."

Later, in comments exclusively to The Californian, he justified clamping down on a state oil production at a time of increasing foreign imports by saying, "We need to accelerate the transition ... and California is uniquely positioned for that transition."

Reaction from local officials was mixed, with some expressing appreciation that Newsom came to a county

that has not welcomed him, and others either expressing dismay at his proposed solutions or rejecting his comments as diverting attention from continuing challenges.

Assemblyman Vince Fung said the governor's comments Friday "cannot deflect from the real-world consequences of his policies" that the Bakersfield Republican blamed for increasing gasoline, energy and food prices, worsening reliance on imported oil and falling farmland.

In an apparent reference
Please see NEWSOM | A3



PHOTO COURTESY DEEN FOURSEY/ CALIFORNIA JOURNALISM
Gov. Gavin Newsom made an unannounced visit to downtown Bakersfield Friday for the second and final day of the California Economic Summit.

'Selflessness, courage and strength'



THE KERN COUNTY SHERIFF'S HONOR GUARD AT THE FIRST RESPONDERS CEREMONY HELD FRIDAY AT HISTORIC UNION CEMETERY IN EAST BAKERSFIELD. See more photos at Bakersfield.com.

First responders honored at Historic Union Cemetery

BY STEVEN MAYER
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It was not an accident scene or a crime scene, and yet there were dozens of men and women who gathered at Historic Union Cemetery on Friday dressed in the highly recognizable uniforms of the California Highway Patrol, the Bakersfield Police Department, the Kern County Sheriff's Office, not to mention local fire departments, county probation and more.

Rather than responding to danger, disaster or duty, they were there to be thanked, honored and recognized for their service in celebration of First Responders Recognition Day.



The crowd stands as the Kern County Sheriff's Honor Guard presents the colors at First Responders Recognition Day held Friday at Historic Union Cemetery.

"They are the ones that respond when called, regardless of the time of day, the weather conditions or the

location within the county of Kern," said county Coroner Division Chief Dawn Ratliff.

"They respond without question to unknown situations, and really with very limited information. Once they arrive, they must make split-second decisions about a course of action," she said.

They render medical aid, they rescue those in danger and they sometimes must recover the unfortunate victims of accidents, disasters or crimes where the unthinkable has happened.

"I have witnessed their patience, their willingness to help and assist to keep us safe and their professional

Please see RESPONDERS | A4

Report: Ming Avenue-New Stine Road intersection had highest number of collisions since 2011

THE BAKERSFIELD CALIFORNIAN

The Ming Avenue-New Stine Road intersection was determined to have the highest number of vehicle collisions in Bakersfield since 2011, according to a news release by Chain Cohn Clark, which used data compiled from the Safe Transportation Research & Education Center at the University of California, Berkeley.

There were 40 crashes at Ming and New Stine. Not far behind, Gosford Road and Ming Avenue had 37 crashes since 2011, and is ranked as the intersection with the second most vehicle collisions in Bakersfield, according to the news release.

"We want (to) bring awareness to not only the issues facing motorists, pedestrians and bicyclists on our roadways, but the areas in our community with the highest numbers of collisions," said Matt Clark, senior partner and attorney at Chain Cohn Clark. "As we cross these paths, let's be extra careful to make sure we all make it home safe."

The following intersections also rank within the top 10 roadways in Bakersfield. Northwest and downtown Bakersfield were the areas that had the most collisions.

■ Iteal and Wilson roads: 35



ELIZA GREEN/ THE CALIFORNIAN
Cars zoom past the intersection of Ming Avenue and New Stine Road. The intersection has seen the most collisions in the past decade out of any in Bakersfield, according to a recent report.

Experts discuss windfall profits tax amid increased calls from Newsom

BY GRACE GEDVE
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Few things agitate drivers — and make politicians sweat — like rising prices at the pump.

Gas prices in California are consistently higher than the rest of the country, thanks to state taxes, a cleaner fuel blend, an isolated gas-refining market and more. But in September, California prices jumped even higher and that gap grew wider.

Gov. Gavin Newsom pointed the finger at the gas industry when he talked to reporters in early October, saying companies were "bleeding" drivers and called for a new "windfall profit" tax on oil companies.

Valero, an international oil company that owns refineries in California, saw its profits from July to September increase 500 percent over the same period last year. And profits on West Coast gas operations increased dramatically in April through June, compared to the same time last year, at companies that own some of the state's largest refineries, an analysis by Consumer Watchdog found.

With Newsom planning to convene a special legislative session in early December to focus on the new tax, California speakers in experts about how the issue has worked in the U.S. and abroad.

WINDFALL PROFIT TAX'S CHECKERED PAST

This isn't something states have done
Please see GAS | A3

FRIDAY NIGHT FOOTBALL



See photos from last night's games on Page C1; find our latest coverage at Bakersfield.com.



ASSAULT

Speaker Nancy Pelosi's husband attacked at home

NATION & WORLD | B1