



District One Newsletter

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"We are not defined by the price of a barrel of oil, or how much rain falls from the sky, but rather by the character of the people who live here. We have achieved great things in the past, and we are going to do amazing things in the future."

- Supervisor Mick Gleason

A message from Supervisor Gleason

2015 was undoubtedly a challenging year for Kern County, and it would seem 2016 will continue this trend. Oil prices still hover near \$30 per barrel, a roughly 80% drop since 2014. The El Niño weather pattern has brought some relief to the valley in the form of much needed rain and snow pack, however we are still a long way from undoing the damaging effects of the worst drought in our history.

The coming year will indeed be a challenge, but in my years, not just with the Board of Supervisors, but as a resident of Kern County, I have learned one thing: the people of Kern County see every challenge as an opportunity. As I discussed in this year's State of the County speech, this has been consistently proven throughout our County's 150 years. It is this spirit of resolve and determination that I will strive to embody as your 2016 Board Chairman. I look forward to the year ahead, because I know that once again, we will come out stronger on the other side.

Best regards,

Mick

The State of the County

This year we celebrate Kern County's 150th Anniversary! At the State of the County dinner, we heard about the rich history, colorful characters and inspiring stories that made our first 150 years such a success. Here is an excerpt:

"The U.S. Navy does not believe in fair fights...we believe in killing the enemy and winning each encounter. From its early rocketry and free-fall weapons to covert devices, strategic missiles, and even submarines, China Lake has invented more concepts, components, and systems to help our fighters than anyone can ever list. Every aviation weapon that has ever been used by the Navy in conflict since World War II has been rigorously tested in China Lake. During the Korean War, our forces had no weapons that could stop the enemy's large Russian tanks. In just 30 days, the ingenious team of experts at China Lake designed and built on the base 500 antitank rockets that stopped the Soviet tanks in their tracks. China Lake has repeated that performance many times in many ways and places that are still classified."



(The full text of Supervisor Gleason's State of the County speech can be found at: http://www.co.kern.ca.us/bos/stateofcounty/stateofcounty_2016.pdf)

What has changed in 150 years:

1. *County Seat moved from Havilah to Bakersfield*
2. *Population of Bakersfield in 1866: 600
Today: Nearly 400,000*
3. *Value of crops 1900:
Approximately \$14 million
Value of crops in 2014: Over \$6 billion*
4. *History of oil in our county: Our first oil company, Buena Vista Petroleum operated for 3 years and produced 4,000 gallons of kerosene. In 2016, companies in Kern County account for 1/10th of all US oil production.*

El Niño

Watch [this video](#) to find out what you need to know about preparing for and responding to natural disasters, especially *El Niño*. Experts from nine national and local agencies including National Weather Service, Fire Department, California Highway Patrol, Sheriff's Office, County Public Works, Public Health and others, come together to help you be prepared for the flooding that often accompanies El Niño weather patterns. Preparation is the only tool we have to combat natural disasters. The most important thing to know about El Niño is this -- if it's raining, it's too late to prepare.



New County Seal

In honor of its 150th anniversary, Kern County is redesigning the County seal. What elements would you would like to see in the updated seal? Please click [here](#) for a quick, single question, survey.

2016-2017 Grand Jury Recruitment

Do you want to make a difference? Apply [here](#) today for a chance to serve on the Kern County Grand Jury.

Kernville Hazardous Waste Collection

This one-day only drop-off collection event will be held at the Kern Valley Transfer Station on Saturday, February 20th from 9am to Noon. Click [here](#) for more information on hazardous waste disposal.

2016 Boat Permits Available Online

We are pleased to announce that 2016 Kern County Annual "All Lakes", and "Lake Isabella Only" boat permits are now available for sale online by clicking [here](#). To place your boat permit order by phone, or for additional information, please contact the Kern County Parks and Recreation Department at (661) 868-7000 during regular business hours, Monday - Friday from 8:00 am until 5:00 pm.

China Lake High Tech Consortium and Idea Hub

Wednesday, February 3rd from 12:15-12:30. The China Lake/Ridgecrest Chapter of NCMA is proud to welcome Bill Hogan. Bill was lead person for High Tech Symposium that held concurrently with the NAWCWD Industry Day. He will be presenting on "Fostering innovation through the China Lake High Tech Consortium and Idea Hub" Location: China Lake Museum. Board prepared lunch \$8 members, \$10 non-members. RSVP to: John Faria or Kim Matsunaga at ncmachapter072@gmail.com RSVP by: Thursday, 28 2016

Blood Drive, Houchin Community Blood Bank, Ridgecrest

February 17th from 12 noon to 6 pm Kerr McGee Center 100 W. California Ave. To schedule an appointment, contact (661) 323-4222

Fun Facts About Whiskey Flat

1. Originally named Rogersville after miner Lovely Rogers found gold in a rock he threw at his mule!
2. The name Whiskey Flat comes from the board a bartender laid across two whisky barrels as a makeshift bar to serve miners.

Board of Supervisors

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We're on the Web!

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59th Annual Whiskey Flat Days

One of the most popular Festivals in all of Southern California. Held every Presidents Day Weekend, Whiskey Flat is a leap back to the good ol' wild west days when the area was settled by gold miners, cattle ranchers and trappers. Join us when Kernville reverts to its old name "Whiskey Flat" for four nostalgic days of fun for the entire family. Come and enjoy a



parade, rodeo, carnival rides, frog jumping food and craft booths, costume contests, live music, gunfighter skits, tours, games and much, much more! Learn more by visiting the Kernville Chamber of Commerce Whiskey Flat Days page [here](#).

Ridgecrest Veterans Breakfast

Calling all World War II and Korean War Veterans from the Upper Mojave Desert area: You and your spouses are cordially invited to the first of free (donations welcomed), planned monthly Veteran's Breakfasts, hosted by the Historical Society of the Upper Mojave Desert at the Historic USO Building, 230 W. Ridgecrest Blvd. Enjoy a hot breakfast and share your memories and experiences with each other and with current servicemen and women on site to assist with this event. This will also be an opportunity to learn about the Honor Flight Program and other veterans' programs in the area. February 18th, 8:00 AM – 10:00 AM

27th Annual Lake Isabella Fishing Derby

The 27th Annual Isabella Lake Fishing Derby is right around the corner! This event is fun for the whole family and will be held March 19th, 20th & 21st. Early Bird registration deadline is February 29th at 4:00 PM. Online registration closes Tuesday March 15th, at 4:00 PM. The last day to pre-register in person at the KRV Chamber is Wednesday, March 16th, at 2:00 PM NO ENTRIES WILL BE ACCEPTED AFTER 7:00 AM On Saturday, March 19th, 2016. NO EXCEPTIONS! So get your entries in today!

6th Annual Shafter Celebration of the Arts

The 6th Annual COLOURS Celebration of the Arts begins February 25th! The multi-day event held at various venues showcases "Transformed Art" in many forms ranging from canvas, sculpture, film and stage, to wine, food, activities, and music. For event details, a schedule of events, to purchase tickets, or to become a sponsor, go to Shafter COLOURS website [here](#).

For more information on events in your area, visit your local Chambers of Commerce events page:

[Bakersfield](#) - [Delano](#) - [Ridgecrest](#)
[Shafter](#) - [Kern River Valley](#)