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# MIDWAY DRILLER

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Thursday, October 14, 2021

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## McCray named 2021 Oildorado Queen

Reagan McCray was crowned 2021 Oildorado Queen Tuesday Night at the Maids of Petroleum Queens Pageant at Taft Union High School.

McCray was chosen by a panel of judges from a field of 12 Maids of Petroleum.

McCray, 18, is sponsored by the Taft Soroptimist Club.

Allie Barnachia was named princess and Bella Long was selected by the maids as Miss Congeniality.

McCray was crowned at the end of a 2-1/2 hour program that included each contest introducing themselves, swimsuit and gowns, and a talent show.



Reagan McCray reacts as she is named 2021 Oildorado Queen. She got a big hug from 2015 Oildorado Queen Madison Rubadeau Harmer, who awarded her the crown and sash.



PHOTO BY DOUG KEELER/MIDWAY DRILLER  
Congressman Kevin McCarthy and Oildorado President Shannon Miller in the hoosegow with Sheriff Brian Sellman (left) and Billy White enjoying the moment.

## Oil regulations come under attack

By Doug Keeler  
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State and federal energy policies that threaten Kern County's oil industry and Taft's way of life came under fire from political and industry leaders at the Oildorado Kickoff Luncheon.

"We've got the fight of our lives on our hands," said keynote speaker Rock Zierman, CEO of the California Independent Producers Agency.

Zierman spoke after Mayor Dave Noerr, Kern County Supervisor Zack Scrivner, Assemblyman Vince Fong, State Sen. Shannon Grove and Congressman Kevin McCarthy all added their voices to the protest against California Gov. Gavin Newsom's policies and those of the Biden Administration.

They spoke in front of a crowd of 450 people gathered for the traditional opening of the Oildorado celebration.

There was a tone of defiance especially to state policies that have effectively ended fracking permits and eventually end oil production.

"We are going to fight like hell to defend you and your way of life," Fong told the crowd.

"We should be proud of our heritage and we should be proud that we power a state. We should never shy away from that," Fong added.

Scrivner praised Taft for its 111 years since it was incorporated and its "rich, wonderful history" and criticized Newsom's environmental policies which he said aren't based on reality.

"It's all based on politics," he said.

Scrivner, like other speakers, said the state will depend on oil for the foreseeable future whether it bans oil production here or not.

"It's called hypocrisy. That's what happening here," the supervisor said.

Currently the state gets 30 percent of its oil from within California and 70 percent is imported, he said.

And its the imported oil that makes pollution worse. Several speakers noted that the oil imported here comes from countries without California's strict environmental controls. McCarthy said he sees the United States relying increasingly on oil imports, and that weakens the nation.

United States' oil independence means "more production, more jobs...and the world is safe."

"I'd like to keep our money in America and I'd like to keep America strong" he said.

He said government is declaring war on the oil industry "based on politics not based on science."

Zierman said California's oil production contributes both jobs and tax revenues to the state.

"How many jobs and how much taxes does foreign oil produce?" he asked.

California, Zierman said, is the only place to produce climate-safe oil.

Grove talked about the importance of oil to the Kern County economy, proving thousands of \$80,000-plus jobs, and offering careers to many people.

## Vacancy on WKCCD board

The West Kern Community College District is seeking applicants to fill a vacancy on the district's board of trustees.

Board member Manny Campos resigned effective Oct. 5 and his current term expires in December 2020.

No reason was given for the resignation

Applicants must be at least 18 years of age, a registered voter residing in the district, and otherwise not disqualified by the Constitution or the state from holding a civil office.

To obtain an application packet, please e-mail ddaniels@taftcollege.edu or call (661) 763-7711. Completed applications must be received by 5:00 p.m. on November 4, 2021.



**STARTING THURSDAY, JULY 1, 2021**

**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**

100 E. North St. Taft, CA 92368  
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