

Chamber Connection

Volume 5, No. 10 • October, 2018 • www.kilgorechamber.com

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Published monthly
by the Kilgore
News Herald

OKTOBERFEST IS COMING!



**Kilgore Oktoberfest 2018
in Historic Downtown Kilgore.**

**Hosted by the City of Kilgore
and Kilgore Main Street
this free event will be from**

1 pm – 9 pm on Saturday, Oct 13.



President's Note



**Jill McCartney
Chamber Pres.**

Have You? Are You? Will You?

Have you considered becoming a member of the Kilgore Chamber of Commerce & Visitors Bureau? As a business in Kilgore, Texas it is something to consider. Have you been looking for different ways to promote your business? Have you been wanting to provide your employees with unique ways to incentivize their employment with you? Have you thought about how you can become an active part of the community? Have you ever wondered how you can become more visible in your community? Have you wanted to increase your good business practices as well as your profitability?

Are you prepared to have most of the consumers in your area think that your business has an effective business strategy based on your membership in a chamber of commerce? Are you also prepared to be thought of as having better products and services due to your membership in a chamber of commerce? Are you interested in being a community leader?

Have I given you some reasons to think "Huh, maybe I should do this membership thing with the Kilgore Chamber of Commerce & Visitors Bureau"? Since I am the one asking all of these great questions and getting you to think, perhaps I should provide a few answers as well.

As a member of the Kilgore Chamber of Commerce & Visitors Bureau we provide you with additional ways to promote your business. We link your business website to www.kilgorechamber.com and give details about what type of business as well as how to get in touch with your business. We also talk about our members on our different social media accounts. Joining the Kilgore Chamber of Commerce & Visitors Bureau will also give you the opportunity to provide your employees with a way to save money. Yes, I said we can save YOU and your employee's money. The all new "Keep It In Kilgore" member to member discount program does just that. We are gathering ways for members and their employees to receive discounts on products and services. It's pretty simple! Simply join the chamber and receive a key fob for you and your staff (depending on size of business 2-5 key fobs will be provided, additional ones can be

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Talking Tourism

Can you see the fall colors? Well if you're patient, and not looking for them, you just might see them later this season. Don't forget that that there is always fall flavored coffee to "fall" back on. This time of year is known for festivals, and the fall festivals have arrived. This past month SAFFE Day created once unique and fun experience in Downtown Kilgore for both locals and visitors. Drill teams from all over the state flocked to Kilgore for their chance to perform with Kilgore College. Let's talk about what else has been happening in the world of Kilgore Tourism.



Ryan Polk
Tourism Mgr.

Texas is America's largest and longest running state fair. Kilgore was featured in the GoTexan Pavilion at the Texas Heritage Trails booth. "We were thrilled again to showcase Kilgore as a focus destination at the Fair this year," said Marty Prince, executive director of the Texas Forest Trail Region. "We know what an amazing place it is to visit, and we looked forward to sharing that information with the diverse travelers who came to the Fair."



Kilgore Oktoberfest – October 13

A Wunderbar Experience in East Texas! Invite your friends and family and make plans now to attend Kilgore Oktoberfest 2018 in Historic Downtown Kilgore. Come out and enjoy "Bier in the Beer Garden and Soft Drinks in the Root Beer garden along with incredible German culinary fare. The festival will include artisans, food vendors, hot dog eating contest, bier stein holding contest, chicken dance, and a live concert with The Social Club.

26th Annual East Texas Oilmen's Chili Cook-off – October 25

Can you smell the seasonings? The 26th Annual East Texas Oilmen's Chili Cook-off is going to be larger than last year and the teams are going to be even more competitive. Make plans now for this year's event on Thursday, October 25 at 10 am.

SEE TOURISM, PAGE 3



Our second Kilgore 5 – Star Hospitality ended September on a high note. On September 20, Visit Kilgore hosted its second Kilgore 5-Star Hospitality Training Program. Over 16 professionals from hotels, attractions, businesses and organizations attended this interactive destination and customer service training program.

This initiative was created to educate attendees, mostly front line, marketing and human resources employees from the hospitality, restaurant, retail and other service oriented industries about Kilgore's unique attractions, history, assets and experiences while equipping attendees with best used customer service and hospitality training.

From videos showcasing Kilgore's attractions, to 5-Star hospitality training, the ultimate goal of this program is to equip the attendees with knowledge, passion, and a better of understanding of Kilgore and how their customer service can influence visitors' perceptions of Kilgore and Texas.

This month, Kilgore was once again one of the featured destinations at the State Fair of Texas. With over 2.7 million visitors, the State Fair of

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EAT.
STAY.
PLAY.

TOURISM

From Page 2

East Texas Pipe Organ Festival – Nov 11-15

The sounds are both dramatic and soothing. The East Texas Pipe Organ Festival will be on November 11-15 this year. Look and listen for renowned organists to perform at the First Presbyterian Church and the St Luke's First United Methodist Church in Kilgore.

A Very Derrick Christmas – Nov 15

It's much more than a few lights, make plans now for A Very Derrick Christmas with the Kilgore Historical Preservation Foundation with kid's activities, live performances and entertainment and much more. The stars on top of the derricks will shine bright with Christmas color on November 15, 2018.

Reel East Texas Film Festival – Nov 15-18

It's show time! Reel East Texas Film Festival will kick off its second festival on the evening of the 16th. This top industry rated event, will be larger this year with event more screenings at the historic Texan Theater and the Dodson Auditorium in Kilgore. Expect to see both international and films from not too far away. For more information and tickets go to releasstexas.com

Nov-Dec Events

Mingle & Jingle	Nov 24
Kilgore Christmas Parade	Nov 27
Dashing Through Downtown	Dec 1
Deck the Halls	Dec 8
Jingle All The Way	Dec 15
Stuff the Stocking	Dec 22

Don't forget to use #VisitKilgore or #KilgoreTX when using Instagram, Facebook and Twitter and we may just repost your image on our Visit Kilgore social media sites.

If you have an event that you would like to share to our calendar, please email me at rpolk@kilgorechamber.com.

For more tips and ideas and information on happenings and events in Kilgore, visit our website www.visitkilgore.com, and stay up-to-date on current events by liking us on Facebook and following us on Instagram and Twitter at VisitKilgore.



FRIENDSHIP PLAYGROUND PROJECT



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For more information please visit:

<https://www.facebook.com/FriendshipPlaygroundAtHarrisStreetPark>

or

tinyurl.com/FriendshipPlayground

Contact us at: E4LeadershipKilgore@gmail.com



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MORNING BREW



Morning Brew, one of the Chamber's business connection events, was sponsored and held at CrossFit Kilgore on Thursday, September 20th. Thank you to Dale and Michelle for hosting an outstanding event! If your business is interested in hosting a Morning Brew, contact Lisa Morgan at the Kilgore Chamber 903-984-5022.



A VERY DERRICK CHRISTMAS



5 P.M. THURSDAY, NOV. 15
IN DOWNTOWN KILGORE

JOIN US ON THE
WORLD'S RICHEST ACRE!



ENJOY LIVE
ENTERTAINMENT
UNDER THE
DERRICK STARS!



presented by Kilgore Historical
Preservation Foundation
& Kilgore Chamber of Commerce

Giant 'Snowzilla' Slide • Visits with Santa • Dozens of Vendors • Storytime
Local Merchant Deals • Holiday Arts & Crafts • Reindeer Games • And More!

& DON'T MISS A FREE SCREENING OF "THE POLAR EXPRESS"
AT 6 P.M. MONDAY, NOV. 12, IN THE TEXAN THEATER



We extend a warm welcome to our newest Chamber Member Investors! Please join us in welcoming them by patronizing their business for your personal and professional needs.

Aerial Drone Integration, LLC The Office Center, Inc.

Interested in finding out how the Chamber works for business? We welcome the opportunity to visit with you and share the many reasons your company would benefit as a member investor. Contact us at 903-984-5022, email us at info@kilgorechamber.com, or check out member investor information at www.KilgoreChamber.com.

MISSION STATEMENT

Mission

To assist in building a strong business environment that promotes the economic well-being of Kilgore.

Vision

The Kilgore Chamber of Commerce & Visitors Bureau is the voice for business & catalyst organization that ensures Kilgore is a vibrant place to do business, work, live & visit.



Thank you to our member investors for their continual belief and support of the important work of the Kilgore Chamber of Commerce. We recognize and thank each member for their investment commitment made in September 2018.

5S Rental & Sales, LLC

Buffco Production, Inc.

Business Computer Solutions

D & D Industrial Welding Supply, Inc.

Daco Equipment Inc

District Attorney Michael Jimerson

Dr. Surya P. Lanka

Drug & Alcohol Testing Compliance

Services

Hedrick Land Surveying Company

JOMAX

Judge Bill Stoudt

Kilgore Cable TV Company

KISD

Walgreens Co.

Find a Chamber Member in the Business Directory at
www.KilgoreChamber.com.

INVESTING IN THE CHAMBER MEANS INVESTING IN YOUR BUSINESS [BECOME A CHAMBER AMBASSADOR]



The Kilgore Chamber of Commerce Ambassadors act as **the official goodwill greeters and volunteer liaisons between the Chamber and its current and prospective members.** Joining this team is a great option members can exercise to increase their commitment to the Chamber while gaining additional exposure for themselves and their business...and have fun doing it! **Chamber Ambassadors work to exhibit the goals and ideals of the Chamber while promoting their business mission within the arena of Chamber events.** Ambassadors make member goodwill visits throughout the year, welcome new businesses and new members, recruit new members to the Chamber, assist the Chamber staff at chamber/community functions and serve as personal representatives of the Chamber throughout the community.

INTERESTED? Contact the Chamber to find out more at

info@kilgorechamber.com or 903-984-5022.



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Kilgore Chamber of Commerce

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info@kilgorechamber.com



Morning Brew

Coffee + Conversation = Connections

Thursday, October 18, 2018 ~ 8:00—9:00 A.M.
Julie Woods & Associates, 402 N Henderson Blvd



Attending Morning Brew is a great WAY to make business connections!

Join us and take advantage of meeting potential customers, share your promotional message with other businesses, make a business announcement, and learn more about the host business. Door prizes and breakfast refreshments top off the morning.

What's not to like about making new business friends?

A Member Program of the Kilgore Chamber of Commerce

CALENDAR



Chamber Meetings & Events - September/October

Oct 12	Grand Opening/Ribbon Cutting	4:00pm	Whistle Stop Coffee House
Oct 15	Star Gala	6:00pm	Kilgore College Devall Ballroom
Oct 16	E4 Leadership Reception	5:15pm	Harris Street Park
Oct 18	Morning Brew	8:00am	Julie Woods & Associates
Oct 30	Grand Opening/Ribbon Cutting	11:00am	Tempest Golf

Community Events - September/October

Oct 10	The Back Porch Acoustic with David Allen	7:00 pm	The Back Porch
Oct 13	Kilgore Oktoberfest	1:00 pm	Historic Downtown Kilgore
Oct 18-21	Kilgore College Theatre Presents Lord of the Flies	Time Varies	Kilgore College
Oct 19	Dueling Pianos on The Porch	8:00 pm	The Back Porch
Oct 20	The Pumpkin Run 5k and Family Fun Day	9:00 am	St. Luke's UMC
Oct 25	26th Annual Etx Oilmen's Chili Cook-off	10:00 am	Historic Downtown Kilgore
Oct 26	CS Lewis in Kilgore	8:00 pm	Texan Theater
Oct 26	Uncle Lucius and Aaron Stephens	8:00 pm	The Back Porch
Oct 27	It's just a bunch of Hocus Pocus	2:00 pm	Texan Theater
Oct 27	Big Woods book signing and discussion	3:00 pm	The Kilgore Bookstore
Oct 27	Jonathan Terrell on the Porch	8:00 pm	The Back Porch
Oct 31	Trick or Treat in Downtown Kilgore	4:00 pm	Historic Downtown Kilgore

Go to KilgoreChamber.com or VisitKilgore.com for more event information. If you have a community event you wish to have listed on the Kilgore Calendar please send your information via email to info@kilgorechamber.com, drop it by the Chamber office at 813 N. Kilgore Street. We will be happy to share your event information on the community calendar and via Facebook at KilgoreChamber and VisitKilgore.

2018-19 CHAMBER OF COMMERCE BOARD OF DIRECTORS

EXECUTIVE BOARD

James Murphy, Chairman (Republic Services)
Dr. Chris Gratton, Chair Elect (Gratton Chiropractic)
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Lisa Morgan, Member Services Manager
Ryan Polk, Tourism Manager

Proud Chamber Member for Over 25 Years



REPUBLIC
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2611 N Hwy. 42 Kilgore
2815 N Hwy. 42 Kilgore

PRESIDENT'S NOTE

From Page 1

purchased for \$2.00 each at our office) and present the key fob at participating member businesses. Members who have already signed on to offer discounts include: Gabriel/Jordan Buick GMC, Kilgore College Fitness Center, CorssFit Kilgore, Kilgore Tire Center, Kilgore Eye Care Center, Global Graphics, Aerial Drone Integration, and Automotive Super Center. We are hoping to accumulate more than 25 ways for our members and their employees to save dollars and to "Keep It In Kilgore!"

By becoming a member of the Kilgore Chamber of Commerce you increase your visibility by linking your website on our website, we produce quality publications for you to advertise in, sponsorship opportunities, event hosting, and listing your business as a new member in our newsletter. Consumers are 59% more likely to shop at a business that belongs to a chamber of commerce due to the simple reason that being a member of your local chamber of commerce provides your business with credibility and boosts the perception the community has about your company.

Getting involved and developing into a community leader is a great way to utilize your membership in the Kilgore Chamber of Commerce & Visitors Bureau. We have many different ways for you or your staff to become involved on a regular basis with different committees and events.

As a member we also will refer your business. We ONLY refer members of the Kilgore Chamber of Commerce & Visitors Bureau. If someone calls in seeking to send a loved one some flowers we have them contact Main Street Flowers & More to speak with Martha and if you're calling to ask about accountants, or you are needing an attorney, we simply go to our membership directory and provide them with a list of our members.

Now my question to you is Will You? Will you consider joining the premier business organization in Kilgore, Texas? The Kilgore Chamber of Commerce & Visitors Bureau. We would love to add you to our growing list of businesses to refer and promote. We are on a mission to make Kilgore, Texas the best place to Live, Learn, Work and Play and we need your assistance to do just that.

I would like to offer your business a 1 time opportunity to join now and have your membership investment for one year last through 2019. If you join in October, your membership renewal month will not be until January of 2020 for a savings of over \$40 dollars for an employer with 1-4 employees. Your Kilgore Chamber of Commerce & Visitors Bureau is ready to help your business succeed and to be an involved member of the community.

Call me to discuss membership today. 903-984-5022 jmccartney@kilgorechamber.com

Y'all have a great October,
Jill McCartney, IOM, CCEO-AP
President/CEO
Kilgore Chamber of Commerce & Visitors Bureau



Scenes from around the CITY OF STARS



(TOP&BOTTOM PHOTOS) Capital Connect BizConnect Luncheon.
(SIDE PHOTOS) SAFE Day 2018

Kilgore Chamber of Commerce

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