

# Chamber Connection

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Kilgore News Herald

## A Letter to the Chamber Members

Hi,  
I would first like to take a moment and thank all of our current and past members. Without your support and investment in the Kilgore Chamber of Commerce, we would not be experiencing our 89th year in operation. In our April Newsletter, we listed all of our current members. You can also check out our membership list by going to [www.KilgoreChamber.com](http://www.KilgoreChamber.com) and click on the red bar where it says Member List. Through the years our members have paid their investments, sponsored and attended events and have given us the ability to move Kilgore forward. We enjoy a very real and supportive relationship with not only our members but our community partners as well. We work together with the City of Kilgore, Kilgore Economic Development Corpora-

tion, Kilgore Independent School District, Kilgore College, and the East Texas Council of Governments to make Kilgore, Texas the best place to Live, Learn, Work and Play. Each day we strive to make a difference.

The past 2 months have been an EXTREME challenge to all of us, whether you are a large company or a small one, everyone has felt the stress of COVID-19. Your Kilgore Chamber has been diligent in getting information out to our members and non-members alike. We have added a COVID-19 page to our website, [www.KilgoreChamber.com/covid19](http://www.KilgoreChamber.com/covid19), we have created two Facebook groups, [www.facebook.com/groups/KilgoreAreaTakeOut](http://www.facebook.com/groups/KilgoreAreaTakeOut) as well as [www.facebook.com/groups/KilgoreAreaCoCMembersOnly](http://www.facebook.com/groups/KilgoreAreaCoCMembersOnly). Our COVID-19 website page contains many links

### WEBSITES AND RESOURCES

#### FACEBOOK GROUPS

[www.facebook.com/groups/KilgoreAreaTakeOut](http://www.facebook.com/groups/KilgoreAreaTakeOut)  
[www.facebook.com/groups/KilgoreAreaCoCMembersOnly](http://www.facebook.com/groups/KilgoreAreaCoCMembersOnly)

#### COVID-19 RESOURCE SITE

[www.KilgoreChamber.com/covid19](http://www.KilgoreChamber.com/covid19)

to provide you with up to date information on loans, grants, new guidelines, Back to Business Toolkit, Kilgore Cares Grant application, and much more.

Our Facebook groups have been created to help our members and community. Kilgore Area Take-Out has helped our community go to one single place to find all the information on our local restaurants. Our restaurants have been posting their specials and menus now for several weeks. Be sure to join the group and

check it out. We are blessed to have many different choices here in the Kilgore area to choose from. The other Facebook group is a member's only group. This is a place where our members can go to communicate in regard to issues, concerns, advocacy, glean insight on specific situations such as COVID-19. We hope if you are a member you will consider joining the group.

Your Kilgore Chamber of Commerce will continue to update you. As our businesses are starting to open



Jill R. McCartney, IOM,  
CCEO-AP  
President & CEO

and breathe life back into our community, we urge you to please be diligent in the safety and health of not only yourself, but the folks you are near. Please maintain your distance and sanitize regularly. We also encourage you to please Shop Local and Shop Small. Be sure to look in Kilgore

See LETTER, Page 2



## Member • 2 • Member Discounts

### Save Money and Increase Visibility

### JOIN TODAY to participate in this program!



It provides chamber members with east and direct access to some of their most important prospects—The Kilgore Chamber of Commerce & Visitors Bureau members. All members, in good standing, are eligible to participate in the program.

### It's easy ... And it's free!

For more information contact Lisa Morgan at 903.984.5022 or [lmorgan@kilgorechamber.com](mailto:lmorgan@kilgorechamber.com)

Kilgore Chamber of Commerce & Visitors Bureau,  
1108 N. Kilgore Street, Kilgore, TX 7566



**KILGORE**  
CHAMBER OF COMMERCE  
& VISITORS BUREAU



## Member • 2 • Member Discounts

### Save Money and Increase Visibility

The Kilgore Chamber of Commerce & Visitors Bureau's Member 2 Member Discounts are a great way to draw more attention to your business **both offline and online**. Your business gets extra exposure with an additional category listing... **free advertising** and your fellow chamber members **save money!**

The Member 2 Member Discounts program provides chamber members with easy and direct access to some of their most important prospects—The Kilgore Chamber of Commerce & Visitors Bureau members.

All members, in good standing, are eligible to participate in the program.

**It's easy . . . And it's free!**

**Here's the easy part:**

- Offer a discount off your standard customer prices or offer a free product or service.
- Submit your offer and you're done.

**Here's the free part:**

- Your offer will be listed on the Member 2 Member Discounts Brochure. Your office will be displayed on the Member 2 Member Discounts web page at [kilgorechamber.com](http://kilgorechamber.com), Member Benefits, Save Money. **In addition, your discounts offer is hyper-linked to your website . . .**

**ALL FOR FREE!**

**Please complete the following form and then submit your discount via fax, mail or e-mail.**

Business Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Contact Person: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

City: \_\_\_\_\_ State: \_\_\_\_\_ Zip: \_\_\_\_\_

Telephone #: \_\_\_\_\_ Web Address: \_\_\_\_\_

Discount Offered (10% discount, buy one get one free, \$25 off, free admission, etc)

\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

All discounts expire December 31, 2021, unless otherwise specified. Please mail or fax to: Lisa Morgan, Kilgore Chamber of Commerce & Visitors Bureau, 1108 N. Kilgore Street, Kilgore, Texas 75662, or Fax to 903.984.4975 or e-mail to: [lmorgan@kilgorechamber.com](mailto:lmorgan@kilgorechamber.com)

For more information call Lisa Morgan at 903.984.5022



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## Talking Tourism



**Ryan Polk**  
Tourism Mgr.

May is glowing green, and the mood is brightening. Historically, May is a fast and busy month, choked full of events, but we are in a season this year, but the great outdoors has been and will always be putting on a show for us. From the wildflowers blooming to the fantastic sunsets, there is something luxurious about experiencing our piney woods during these times. And as we slowly open up, there are some events to think about attending in your new future, but in the meantime, #supportlocal safely and keep up with our attraction via social media.

### TRAVEL MATTERS

May is the month where we celebrate National Travel and Tourism Week (NTTW). Celebrated the first full week in May, NTTW was cre-

ated by Congress in 1983 to champion the economic power of travel in the U.S. This year, NTTW arrives at a pivotal moment, as we celebrate its indomitable spirit and elevate the role it will play in America's economic recovery. Travel and tourism is here today because of the hard-working professionals of tourism and hospitality. With the theme, The Spirit of Travel Cannot Be Broken, it's the perfect time to celebrate the value travel holds for the economy and businesses. Kilgore unites with communities across the country as we share the resilient spirit of our industry talent and workforce.

With the outbreak of COVID-19 and the associated downturn in the economy, it is more important than ever for Kilgore to come together to support this crucial industry. Our travel and tourism partners in Kilgore are job creators, small businesses, entrepreneurs, and leaders without their 5-Star hospitality, the quality of life for all Kilgore residents wouldn't be the same.

The spirit of travel is alive and well in Kilgore. Dollars spent by visitors to have increased since 2016. This outside spending enhances the quality of life for residents and visitors alike. For

instance, travel to Kilgore, Texas, resulted in \$32.532 million in 2018 up from \$31.409 million in 2017 that was spent on expenditures like lodging, food service, transportation, retail, recreation, and entertainment in 2017. This spending generated \$809,783 in 2018. This revenue is crucial for local government to invest in services and programs that benefit all residents, including infrastructure, amenities, and public safety. Did you know that tourism supports 1 in 10 American jobs? In 2018, tourism accounted for approximately 350 jobs in the local job market. The taxes paid by visitors to our community in 2019 saves the average household hundreds of dollars. So we can all appreciate the visitor when they start the return.

This is a challenging time for not just the travel and tourism industry, but let's use this month and the summer as an opportunity to show our community how much we care by continuing to support our favorite restaurants, shops, and visiting local attractions when they open. We've pivoted marketing efforts to focus on providing inspirations for trip planning when the visitor is ready to return while continuing to support all things local.



**Kilgore is a unique and dynamic destination with so many exciting attractions and experiences!**

**Don't forget to use #VisitKilgore or #KilgoreTX when using Instagram, Facebook, and Twitter, and we may post your image on our Visit Kilgore social media sites. For more information on happenings and events in Kilgore, visit our website [www.visitkilgore.com](http://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.**

## BACK-TO-BUSINESS Toolkit



Brought to you by: **KILGORE**  
CHAMBER OF COMMERCE & VISITORS BUREAU

**Please go to [www.KilgoreChamber.com/covid19](http://www.KilgoreChamber.com/covid19) to see the Back to Business Toolkit in its entirety.**

**2020**  
JUNE 26-27 | RABBIT CREEK  
GATES OPEN AT NOON FRIDAY JUNE 26

**FRIDAY JUNE 26**  
Meet/Greet and ride with Jeff Stroud of PCF

**SATURDAY JUNE 27**  
**MUD BOG**  
\$50 TO ENTER. **\$2000** TO THE WINNER

Poker Run, \$10 per Hand  
Bounty Hole  
Tug of War  
(Prizes for winning Tug of War team)

**FOOD TRUCKS ON SITE**  
Primitive Camping sites for \$40  
(Friday night only, June 26)

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CONTRIBUTORS:

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**\$30 PER PERSON**  
**SIGN-UP 903-984-5022 | [kilgorechamber.com](http://kilgorechamber.com)**

### LETTER From Page 1

for the things you need before you head out of town, our businesses here need your support.

Now I would like to address a few comments to the businesses who are NOT a member of the Kilgore Chamber of Commerce... The Kilgore Chamber of Commerce is YOUR Chamber. We need your help to grow this organization and secure its place in Kilgore for many years to come. We presently have 275 members who invest in us yearly, we need that number to get back to 400+, as it was in the past. If you are currently not a member or are a past member, I invite you to consider joining this organization. We are a 501 (c) 6 non-profit business who is here to assist the businesses

in the Kilgore, Texas area. You do not have to be located inside the limits of Kilgore to be a member, we welcome businesses from all zip codes. If you have question about joining please feel free to contact me at any time. We need your help to grow, the Kilgore Chamber of Commerce is the Connector of leaders and influencers; we are the Catalyst for business growth; and we are the Champion for a stronger community. Join today to be a part of the best that East Texas has to offer. We simply cannot grow without you.

*We Are Kilgore,*  
Jill R. McCartney, IOM  
President & CEO  
Kilgore Chamber of  
Commerce & Visitors Bureau

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Bus 903 984 2917 Fax 903 983 2895  
[brent.rice.j13m@statefarm.com](mailto:brent.rice.j13m@statefarm.com)

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YES – Our Spring Swing Golf Tournament at Tempest Golf Club is happening!

Spring in Texas means great weather and great storms, little did we know that we would have an international pandemic to deal with as well. March and April have been a struggle for all of us that is for sure. As we move into May with things starting to open back up we feel it's time to have a little fun and get out there and stretch our legs, hit some balls, and enjoy ourselves.

As we learn our "New Normal" please know we will adhere to all guidelines and stipulations regarding social distancing and take whatever precautions are necessary to keep our golfers safe as well as having a great day, enjoying the East Texas fresh air.

We would like to thank Patterson Motors of Kilgore for their Titleist Sponsorship, as

well as Republic Services for the Brunch Sponsorship, SWEPCO for the Scorecard sponsorship and Arabella has signed up for an Adopt a hole Sponsor. We look forward to adding your business to the list of sponsors. Check out the attached form and see which sponsorship fits best with your business. We know that many of you have not been able to get out there and market your businesses like you would like to during the last couple of months, let us help you change that.

Sign your Foursome's up today. We plan on filling up quickly so I would not delay in getting your team and sponsorship choices in. As always, we thank you for your support and we look forward to seeing you on Friday, May 29th, at Tempest Golf Club, we Tee off at Noon.



# TEMPEST GOLF CLUB

568 E WILKINS RD, GLADEWATER, TX 75647

FRIDAY  
MAY 29

- 10 AM BLOODY MARY BAR OPENS
- 10:30 AM BRUNCH
- 12 PM TOURNAMENT BEGINS

★ **TITLEIST SPONSOR: \$2,000**

- (only 1 available, team of 4 with cart & food)*
- Headlining logo on all materials printed and web-based (promotional, advertising, newsletters, event sponsor signage, program)
  - Opportunity to set up a display table and distribute marketing and promotional materials
  - Looped ad run during Crawfish Boil - business must provide digital ad
  - Player gift personalized with your logo



★ **BRUNCH SPONSOR: \$1,000**

- (2 available, team of 4 with cart and food)*
- 2 carts on course with beverages with your logo - you can have 1 staff person in cart
  - Opportunity to set up table with your business materials in dining area

★ **TEAM ONLY FEE: \$500 MEMBER or \$600 NON-MEMBER**

- Green fees for 4, golf cart, food and beverage

★ **ADOPT-A-HOLE SPONSOR: \$250**

- Exclusive name recognition on sign at assigned hole
- Business hosts assigned hole - may bring additional signs and hand out materials to golfers
- Sponsor and coordinate a game or challenge on adopted hole and provide prize for morning and afternoon rounds
  - Longest Putt
  - Longest Drive
  - Closest to Hole
  - Putting Contest

★ **PREMIER SPONSOR: \$1,250**

- (2 available, team of 4 with cart and food)*
- Logo on all materials printed and web-based (promotional, advertising, newsletter, event sponsor signage, program)
  - Looped ad run during Crawfish Boil - business must provide digital ad
  - Opportunity to set up a display table and distribute marketing and promotional materials

★ **SCORECARD SPONSOR: \$1,000**

- (2 available, team of 4 with cart and food)*
- Name recognition on registration table and event program
  - Business name on all scorecards
  - Logo recognition on luncheon table
  - Name recognition in online and social media advertising
  - Team of 4 including cart and green fees - includes lunch

★ **HOLE FLAG SPONSOR: \$300**

- (only 18 available)*
- Logo on a hole flag which will be used during the outing and presented to you after the tournament

★ **HOLE / TEE SIGN SPONSOR: \$150**

- Your company name placed in a sign located near a green or tee

*Tournament Hosted By The Kilgore Chamber of Commerce  
For More Information: (903) 984-5022*

## TEAM REGISTRATION

ENTRY DEADLINE: FRIDAY, MAY 22

TEAM NAME: \_\_\_\_\_  
 CONTACT PERSON: \_\_\_\_\_  
 ADDRESS : \_\_\_\_\_  
 PHONE: \_\_\_\_\_  
 EMAIL: \_\_\_\_\_  
 TEAM MEMBERS: \_\_\_\_\_

**CIRCLE NUMBER OF CARTS NEEDED:**  
 NONE 1 2

**TEAM ENTRY:**  
 \$500 | MEMBERS  
 \$500 | NON-MEMBERS

**PLEASE REMIT PAYMENT TO: KILGORE CHAMBER OF COMMERCE**

PAYABLE BY CASE, CHECK OR CREDIT CARD

NAME ON CARD: \_\_\_\_\_ ZIP: \_\_\_\_\_

CARD NUMBER: \_\_\_\_\_ CSV: \_\_\_\_\_

EXPIRATION DATE: \_\_\_\_ / \_\_\_\_ SIGNATURE: \_\_\_\_\_

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# New Member!

Geonix LLC

Find a Chamber Member in the Business Directory at [www.KilgoreChamber.com](http://www.KilgoreChamber.com).



## Member Investor RENEWALS

Arpco Valves & Controls, LLC  
 Atwood's  
 Central Title Company  
 Charburger Stockade  
 Charles N. Richardson Enterprises  
 Closure Systems International  
 Colton Meyers State Farms  
 Complete Printing & Publishing  
 East Texas Professional Credit Union  
 Express Lawn & Tree Service

Farmers Insurance Group  
 First Baptist Church  
 Glen Hollow Apartments  
 Kilgore Rotary Club  
 Mobbs Real Estate Group  
 U.S. Title Company - Kilgore Office  
 Upshur Rural Electric  
 Cooperative Corporation  
 The Ward Agency

**"The purpose of the Kilgore Chamber of Commerce & Visitors Bureau is to cultivate a strong business and industrial environment in Kilgore, creating a vibrant place to live, learn, work and play."**

### KILGORE CHAMBER OF COMMERCE STAFF

Jill McCartney, President/CEO  
 Lisa Morgan, Member Services Manager  
 Ryan Polk, Tourism Manager

### 2019-20 CHAMBER OF COMMERCE BOARD OF DIRECTORS

#### EXECUTIVE BOARD

Dr. Chris Gratton, Chairman (Gratton Chiropractic)  
 Mark Robinson, Chair Elect (AEP/SWEPCO)  
 Robert Young, Vice Chair (Skeeter Products)  
 Bobbie Hurley O'Dell, Vice Chair (Arpco Valves & Controls)  
 Billie Mims, Treasurer (Austin Bank)  
 James Murphy, Past Chair (Republic Services)

#### BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Tim Capps, Gabriel/Jordan GMC Buick  
 Joe Stephens, Brookshire's  
 Blayne Cole, Noble Roofing  
 Erin Brogoitti, The Ward Agency  
 Jack Moore, Whataburger

#### EX-OFFICIO

Richard Nash, KISD  
 Dr. Brenda Kays, Kilgore College  
 Amanda Nobles, KEDC  
 Josh Selleck, City of Kilgore  
 David Cleveland, East Texas Council of Government

# BILL ADAMSON BUSINESS CENTER

*New to Kilgore, could be the perfect office location for you!*

Don't want to lease your own building, pay maintenance/utility bills, and still have access to a conference room? Why not lease one or more offices in the Bill Adamson Business Center! The complex contains 17 offices, 3 open reception areas as well as a conference room, break room and restroom facilities. Tenants may lease one office or several adjacent offices while availability lasts.

### We have everything you need to start your business today!

- Single Story, well-appointed office spaces for lease on an individual basis
- Free access to a conference room, break room/kitchen and restrooms
- Office sizes range from 140 sf to 250 sf (\$180 to \$430/month)
- Office rates vary based on size and access to natural light
- One Executive Suite with 430 sf
- All utilities included except for phone/internet
- 11 covered parking spots with rear access available for a nominal monthly fee
- Easy access to high-speed internet services (cable or fiber)
- Anchor tenant utilizing 2 offices - Kilgore Chamber of Commerce

### Come take a look!

Call Jill McCartney at 903.218.6895 for more information and applicable lease rates for each office.



**SCHEDULE**  
 Shopping & Reception | Dinner Program & Awards | Purse Raffle

**WOMEN IN BUSINESS AWARDS**  
 The Rising Star The Shining Star  
 Lifetime Star Achiever

*Ladies, our theme this year is the Kentucky Derby - be sure to break out your spring colors and your matching spring heels or sandals. Most importantly, your brightest and biggest statement of the evening will of course be your hat!*

**INFORMATION & TICKETS**  
 Go to [KilgoreChamber.com/Events](http://KilgoreChamber.com/Events)  
 Call 903.984.5022  
 Email: [LMorgan@KilgoreChamber.com](mailto:LMorgan@KilgoreChamber.com)

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