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Chamber Connection



KILGORE
AREA CHAMBER OF COMMERCE

MAY 2021 • www.kilgorechamber.com

Welcome to May 19th



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

Sometimes it feels like an accomplishment just getting up each day, let's be honest, the past 14 months have not been the best. However, we get up, we dust ourselves off, we head into work, and try to make it the best day possible for everyone involved. All we need is that one person, that one co-worker, that one customer, that "ONE"

to change our entire day and make us smile for the next few hours. Be that one. In the words of Mr. Mike Clement's, "Be Somebody, To Somebody."

As businesses continue to navigate the remnants of the Pandemic, we have been working hard to get you the information needed regarding additional PPP loans, Restaurant Revitalization Fund, Shuttered Venue Operators Grant Program, as well as anything else that comes down from the SBA. We have also shared on our Facebook page, upcoming seminars, and programs from the Office of the Governor on Small Business issues.

Yet, with all the things we can do to assist you, it seems that finding you quality employees that want to work is not one of them. I know many of you are struggling to get back to full staff and assist your customers in a fashion in which they are accustomed to. With the

folks in DC extending the American Rescue Plan to September 6, 2021, it provides many of our folks with benefits and making a better wage at home, then they would be working. We have expressed our concern to Senators Cruz & Cornyn as well as Congressman Gohmert during our DC Capitol Connect on March 30th. We will continue to fight the good fight to oppose American Resue Plan to be extended any further.

In addition to opposing the ARP, we have also signed on to oppose HB 4027. HB 4027 requires that local sales taxes be collected and reported based on the item's final destination as opposed to the transaction location. In laymen's terms, any boat that Skeeter Boats sells, the tax dollars will no longer stay within the City of Kilgore, it will be reported the location it is being delivered to and sold. HB 4072 creates an unnecessary burden for economy-driven

enterprises that are already struggling to stay afloat. HB 4072 is intended to address a perceived inequity that results from the misuse of Chapter 380 agreements. The overwhelming majority of cities that use these agreements to grow their economies and benefit their communities are in no way "gaming the system." Your Kilgore Area Chamber of Commerce has signed on, along with many other Chambers of Commerce, to oppose HB 4072.

Continuing our quest on advocating for our businesses and community, HB 1556, Chapter 313/Texas Economic Development Act Renewal and Reform is something we are in full support of. Chapter 313 is the most successful economic development tool in the state's toolbox. According to the Comptroller, the program is responsible for over \$217 billion in investment, with another \$35 billion set to come onto the tax

rolls by 2028. It is because of this success that we must extend and strengthen this program.

School districts and the state receive immediate benefits as projects are fully taxable for debt service, partially taxable for maintenance and operations, and companies also make stabilization payments to the schools.

One you can make certain that your elected officials are voting in support of issues concerning your business and/or community is to look at their voting record for bills that make it to the House and Senate Floors. Check it out at: <https://capitol.texas.gov/help/findvoteinfo.aspx>. Stay involved and educate yourself on what is happening in Austin.

*Jill R. McCartney, IOM
Kilgore Area Chamber of Commerce
President & CEO*

50 Social Media Questions for Awesome Engagement

On social media you need interaction. Without it, your content won't get seen by your audience. But getting people to interact can be a challenge. But not anymore!

Here are 50 conversation starters for your business. That's about two months of work-week posts already done for you!

50 FUN QUESTIONS TO GET TO KNOW YOUR AUDIENCE

In order to mix these up and add a little excitement, we've also solicited answers through emojis and GIFs. You can alter the structure of these questions in a way that fits your audience.

1. What item does your household go through the quickest?
2. What's your favorite scent?
3. Tell us where you were born in a GIF.
4. Tell us how old you are by sharing the top song when you were born.
5. Beach house or lake house?
6. Mountains or beach?
7. Name your favorite car of all time.
8. Tell us a secret that your parents don't know.
9. Best gift you've ever received.
10. What's your favorite breakfast food?
11. What's your favorite ice cream topping?
12. What do you call a carbonated beverage? (soda, pop, Coke?)
13. What's the scariest movie you saw as a kid?
14. Marvel or DC?
15. Star Trek or Star Wars?
16. Name a TV show you've seen every episode of.
17. What show did you most recently binge watch?
18. What movie can you watch over and over?
19. What's your favorite movie quote?
20. What celebrity do people think you look most like? Tell us in a GIF.
21. Share your favorite emoji in the comments.
22. What's your favorite book

that became a movie?

23. Tell us the name of a rock band using only emojis.
24. Fill in the blank: Country music is _____.
25. Would you rather be freezing or too hot?
26. Show us in a GIF: what's your biggest fear.
27. What word do you always spell wrong?
28. What's the most embarrassing autocorrect incident you've ever had?
29. If you had a theme song, what would it be?
30. Name the best song to listen to when cleaning your house.
31. What phrase annoys you when hear it? Or What word do you wish you could outlaw so no one would ever use it again?
32. If you had one wish that could be used to fix a problem, what would you use it for?
33. What thing do you wish you had invented?
34. You've been invited to a party and need to bring some-

thing that begins with the last letter of your first name. What do you bring?

35. If money was no object, what would you do for your business?
36. What did you want to be when you grew up? Show us in a GIF or emoji.
37. What do you hate that everyone else seems to love?
38. If you could choose a new first name, what would it be? Or What would your superhero name be based on what you're best at?
39. Who do you wish you could talk to one more time?
40. If you could select a mentor from any time period, without concern of a language/knowledge barrier, who would you choose?
41. What's your favorite sport?
42. What fictional character are you most like?
43. Tell us your favorite ice cream flavor in emojis.
44. Give us a few words from an old TV commercial jingle that

you remember. We'll try to guess the product or service.

45. What TV show should never have been canceled?
46. The best business advice I've ever received is...
47. Age yourself by naming a store/business that is no longer operating.
48. Name a "non-traditional" combo of tastes that you love. (Example: French fries and milk shake.)
49. What's your morning routine?
50. If your life was a movie, what genre would it be?

Remember, when someone takes the time to share their thoughts or preferences with you make sure you respond back. The best possible way is by asking another question based on their answer. Keep the conversation going as much as possible and the social media channels will deem your content important to your audience. Plus, you'll get to know each other a little better. Since people buy from who they know, like, and trust, that's always a good thing.

WELCOME NEW MEMBERS!

19th Hole Bar and Grill
Chick-fil-A at Kilgore
Complete Supply, Inc.

Hospitality Health ER
Phynet, Inc - Kilgore Family Clinic
Ubeo Business Services

MEMBER INVESTOR RENEWALS

Anytime Fitness
Closure Systems International
Complete Printing & Publishing
CrossFit Kilgore
Cynergy Technology
De Rigueur
Drover Energy Services, LLC
DATCS
Edgar's Big Taco #2
Farmers Insurance Group

Geonix LLC
Kilgore Rotary Club
Kilgore Small Animal Hospital
Leading Edge Medical Associates
Lexington Court LTD
Regions Bank
Tara Harris State Farm
U.S. Title Company - Kilgore Office
Upshur Rural Electric Cooperative Corporation

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

Place YOUR AD in next month's
Chamber Connection
Call 903.984.2593

KILGORE NEWS HERALD



Therapeutic Optometrists



Dr. Jadie Roberts



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UPCOMING EVENTS & MEETINGS



May 10	Government Affairs	11:30am	Kilgore Chamber
May 11	Ambassadors Meeting	11:30am	Pizza Hut
May 13	Executive Meeting	12:00pm	Kilgore Chamber
May 14	Ribbon Cutting	12:00pm	E&H Drug Testing
May 16	KISD Senior Parade	2:00pm	Downtown Kilgore
May 17	Board Meeting	12:00pm	Kilgore Chamber
May 19	Transportation Meeting	12:00pm	Kilgore Chamber
May 20	Morning Brew	8:00am	Downtown D'Lites
May 31	Memorial Day — OFFICE CLOSED		
June 2	EMT's	11:30am	Kilgore Chamber
June 3	Star Gala	6:00pm	Texan Theater

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 1108 North Kilgore St. We will be happy to share your event information on the community calendar and via Facebook at KilgoreChamber and VisitKilgore.

MORNING BREW

POWERED BY
KILGORE AREA CHAMBER OF COMMERCE

Thursday
May 20, 2021
8:00 - 9:00 am
103 N. Kilgore St.
Kilgore, TX. 75662



APRIL'S MORNING BREW



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

2020-21 CHAMBER OF COMMERCE

KILGORE AREA CHAMBER OF COMMERCE STAFF

Jill McCartney, President & CEO
Lisa Morgan, Member Services Manager

EXECUTIVE BOARD

Mark Robinson, Chairman (AEP/SWEPCO)
Bobbie Hurley O'Dell, Chair Elect (Arpco Valves & Controls)
Robert Young, Vice Chair (Skeeter)
Erin Brogoitti, Vice Chair (The Ward Agency)
Jill McCartney, Secretary (Kilgore Area Chamber of Commerce)
Blayne Cole, Treasurer (Noble Roofing Bullard Associates, LLC)
Dr. Christopher Gratton, Past Chair (Gratton Chiropractic)

BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Tim Capps (Gabriel/Jordan GMC Buick)
Jack Moore (Whataburger)
Kevin Offering (East Texas Hardware)
Ubaldo Meraz (East Texas Professional Credit Union)

EX-OFFICIO

Richard Nash (KISD)
Dr. Brenda Kays (Kilgore College)
Jana Russell (Kilgore Economic Development Corp.)
Josh Selleck (City of Kilgore)
David Cleveland (East Texas Council of Governments)



Morning Brew, one of the Chamber's business connection events, was sponsored Avalon Faire. Thank you to Adi DiShion and staff 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.



In April, our Ambassador's had lunch at the one and only McKay's Ranch House Restaurant and enjoyed their awesome buffet, be sure to stop by and have lunch or dinner at McKay's, tell Danny the Kilgore Area Chamber sent you.

2020-2021
Chairman's Star Member

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KILGORE

AREA CHAMBER OF COMMERCE



success tradition achievements relationships

invites you to attend the

STAR Gala

THURSDAY, JUNE 3, 2021

Texan Theater | 201 South Kilgore

Reception begins at 6 p.m. | GALA starts at 7 p.m.

Reservations required by May 28th

Seating is limited

CORPORATE TABLE \$625 | INDIVIDUAL TICKET \$65

FOR TICKETS:

Visit KilgoreChamber.com, click on events, and click on June 3 for the Star Gala reservation page or call 903.984-5022 or email lmorgan@kilgorechamber.com

PLATINUM STAR SPONSORS



GOLD STAR SPONSORS



We had an amazing evening at our Women In Business – Texas Tea on the evening of Thursday, April 29th at the Texan Theater. Our award winners are: Verenice Ordorica – Rising Star Award, Rachel Rowe – Shining Star Award, and Josie Atchley – Lifetime Star Achiever Award.

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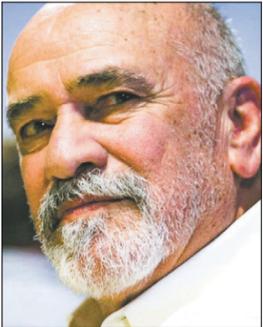
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City Connection



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Notes from City Hall



Bill Woodall

Kilgore Community Relations Manager

Yeah, yeah. I know. As I write this, it's noon on May 11 and the temperature outside is 61 degrees F (16 degrees C sounds much colder – yet another reason to stay with the Fahrenheit scale). While it's significantly warmer than the snowy Mother's Day week I spent in Colorado some years ago, it's still a few degrees short of East Texas summer. But the heat's coming... that's a promise from city hall.

In the meantime: **WORK has slowed** at the pool house but our project managers are hopeful – maybe even optimistic the work will be completed in time to open the pool for Memorial Day. You keep your fingers crossed; we'll keep pushing the contractors.

PLANNING for the annual Fourth of July Extravaganza is all-but complete. As Bob Cummings used to say on his TV series, Love That Bob, "Smile, you're going to like this one."



The First Baptist Church choir will open this year's Independence Day party in Kilgore City Park

with appropriately patriotic music. The choir will be followed by the oh-so-popular country and western band Dagnabbit... that's some flag-waving followed by some foot-stomping.

In addition, we're expecting food trucks and food booths. City hall is accepting applications for vendor permits. If you've got the food and the inclination, request a permit from permits@cityofkilgore.com.

The evening will end with a fireworks spectacular, overseen by Kilgore fire department, beginning just at dark.

DOWNTOWN'S southern gateway is absolutely getting a makeover... the first major re-build in many decades (maybe ever).

The city has rented a milling machine to peel all the asphalt off Main from Rusk Street south to Henderson Blvd. Once the asphalt is gone, engineers can evaluate the old concrete underlayment and finalize paving plans.

While those paving plans are being drafted, all utilities will be relocated from beneath the street and moved to the right-of-way where they'll be more (a whole lot more) accessible.

When finished – it'll be a couple of years – Main Street will have new pavement, adjacent property owners will have new parking lot entrances and the whole thing will be flanked by six-foot-wide sidewalks.

For the next two years, Main Street will be rough; you'll want to drive slowly and watch for construction crews. Access will be maintained for all businesses and, wherever possible, lanes will be open in both directions.

The \$2.3 million project will be funded over two budget years, the only major capital project scheduled in the city's lean post-pandemic budget.

Place
YOUR AD
in next month's
City Connection

Call 903.
984.2593

KILGORE NEWS HERALD



Ryan Polk

Tourism Manager

TALKING TOURISM



How are those summer plans coming along? Yes, it might be cool and wet right now, but June will be here before you know it. It's already been a fun spring around Kilgore, so keep reading to see what is coming up next.



Tractors, Trucks & Fun

photo courtesy of Mayor Ronnie Spradlin



Downtown Kilgore Vintage Market

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2021 Preview!

Tunes Day at The Acre Every Tuesday, May and June 1

Kilgore Public Library Reading Series

Registration (May 17 – 28)

Register Here: kilgorepubliclibrary.beanstack.org

Kilgore Cruise Night May 29

Super Hero Sprint & Festival..... Jun 12

Sign Up Here: runsignup.com/Race/TX/Kilgore/SuperHeroSprintFestival

Texas Shakespeare Festival (July 1 – Aug 1)



Super Hero Sprint & Festival



Tunesday at The Acre

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Kilgore Public Library Reading Series

