



## **Catching up with KC**

---

**90th Anniversary of  
Kilgore College**



### **KC's rich legacy began with the oil boom**

In April 1935, W.L. Dodson and B.E. Masters joined forces to create a junior college in the oil-rich town Kilgore had become five years earlier. The college opened in the fall of 1935 with Dodson as president, Masters as dean, and 11 faculty members using the Kilgore Independent School District facilities to teach 229 students.

As KC prepares to celebrate its 90th year with a gala in March 2025, it now offers 138 academic majors, logged a record semester enrollment of 7,855 students for Fall 2024, and has 310 employees, 22 of whom have doctoral degrees.

KC's service area includes 20 school districts throughout Northeast Texas—from Gilver to Mount Enterprise and Big Sandy to Hallsville. Seven ISDs make up KC's in-district students and campuses, and they have been expanded into Longview, Overton, Gilmer, and White Oak. In 2016, Dr. Brenda S. Kays became the college's ninth president and its first female president.

**[Go here to learn more about KC's history.](#)**

---

## **85th Anniversary of the**

# Rangerettes



## **Rangerettes' intention "to keep people in seats" still holds true today**

In 1939, KC Dean Dr. B.E. Masters wanted to attract young women to KC and also "keep people in their seats during football game halftimes." His solution was found when Miss Gussie Nell Davis created the Kilgore College Rangerettes. The first group of its kind in the world, the Rangerettes brought "show business" to the football gridiron during the 1940 football season.

Two directors have followed in Miss Davis's footsteps: Mrs. Deana Bolton Covin became the second director of the Rangerettes when Miss Davis retired in 1979. Mrs. Dana (Brown) Blair, a former Rangerette, became the third director of the Rangerettes after Mrs. Covin retired in 1993.

The Rangerettes are the world's best-known collegiate drill team, traveling all over the United States. They have toured the world many times since the 1970s — including performances in South America, Romania, France, Canada, Japan, Singapore, Italy, Switzerland, England, Scotland, and Ireland. They will return to London, England for a New Year's Day celebration this year.

[Read more about this group here.](#)

---

## **40th Anniversary of the**

# Texas Shakespeare Festival



Founder Raymond Caldwell developed the Texas Shakespeare Festival idea at Kilgore College in the early 1980s. The goal was to establish a professional summer theatre for East Texas based in Kilgore that would be housed in the Van Cliburn Auditorium, to create a company with a name that would have broad appeal to professional theatre artists, employing high caliber actors, designers, and directors from throughout the nation; to offer professional actors and theatre students the luxury of working on plays from the world's storehouse of dramatic literary masterpieces, and to create a regional play about the East Texas oilfield discovery to be produced as a cultural-historical memento of our unique and colorful heritage.

In honor of the 40th season in 2025, TSF will be remounting that regional play, *The Daisy Bradford 3* by Gifford Wingate, alongside a slate of blockbuster productions, including *Twelfth Night* and *Macbeth* by William Shakespeare, *Steel Magnolias* by Robert Harling, *Kiss Me, Kate* with music and lyrics by Cole Porter and book by Sam and Bella Spewack, and *The Princess and the Players* by Jason Richards.

Tickets go on sale May 1st, 2025.

[To learn more, visit here.](#)

---

## Record Enrollment





Kilgore College is currently celebrating a significant milestone as it has achieved a record-breaking enrollment of 7,288 students. The record enrollment figures are a testament to the college's strategic planning and its ability to attract and retain students through exceptional academic and workforce offerings, state-of-the-art facilities, and a supportive campus culture.

[Read more here](#)

---

## Homecoming



### Homecoming includes a new King and Queen; secures a KC win

Congratulations to the 2024 Kilgore College Homecoming King and Queen: Samuel Clements of Kilgore and Ella Byers of Tyler. Both represented the Rangerette organization and were voted by the KC student body. Coronation was held in Masters Gym before the game in anticipation of rain. Other Homecoming Queen nominees in the court were Lexi Allums of Harleton, representing the Baptist Student Ministry and Choir, and Molly Gajeske of Sour Lake, representing the Dance Club. Homecoming King nominees in the court were: Izeal Jones of Houston, representing Football, and Chase Geissel of Destin, Florida, representing the Ranger Ambassadors.

The game followed with KC Rangers defeating the Blinn Buccaneers 22-15.

[Check out our Flickr album from the game here.](#)

---

# HOF Inductees and Brunch



Kilgore College honored former standout athletes, coaches, and contributors at its annual Hall of Fame Banquet on Saturday, Oct. 5.

[Read more here](#)

[See photos here](#)

---

## **Ranger Shootout Alumni & Friends Golf Tournament**



We are thrilled to announce the incredible success of the recent Kilgore College Alumni & Friends Golf Tournament! This year, we sold out the tournament, drawing passionate supporters from near and far.

Our participants came together not only to enjoy a day on the greens but also to support the Kilgore College community, and we are happy to report that we exceeded our fundraising goals significantly! The funds raised will play a vital role in enhancing the Kilgore College Alumni Association.

Thank you to all the players, sponsors, and volunteers who contributed to making this event possible. Your enthusiasm and support were truly the driving force behind our success.

We can't wait to see everyone again at our next tournament in 2025 – it promises to be another fantastic event! Stay tuned for more details in the coming months. Let's keep the Kilgore College spirit alive and thriving!

[See photos here](#)

---



Mark your calendars for an unforgettable evening at the Blue Star Gala, celebrating the achievements of Kilgore College students! Join us on March 22, 2025, at the Maude Cobb Convention Center in Longview, TX, for a night filled with inspiration, entertainment, and community spirit.

We are thrilled to announce that we will be raffling off a stunning 2025 Slate Gray Chevy Silverado 1500 with Custom Black Wheels—a fantastic opportunity to drive home in style while supporting our students!

This event is not only a celebratory gathering; it's a chance to make a meaningful impact on the lives of Kilgore College students. All proceeds from the gala will support The Ranger Achievement Center, a one-stop shop solution for academic advising, career counseling, accessibility services, tutoring, and personal development resources.

Whether you want to join us for an evening of fun, support our students through sponsorships, or contribute auction items, your involvement makes a difference.

Don't miss out on this chance to celebrate our student success stories and contribute to their bright futures!

[For more information, visit here.](#)

## Alumni Updates

**Kilgore College Theatre Alum  
Trevor Newlin's Major Motion  
Picture Debut in Alien: Romulus**

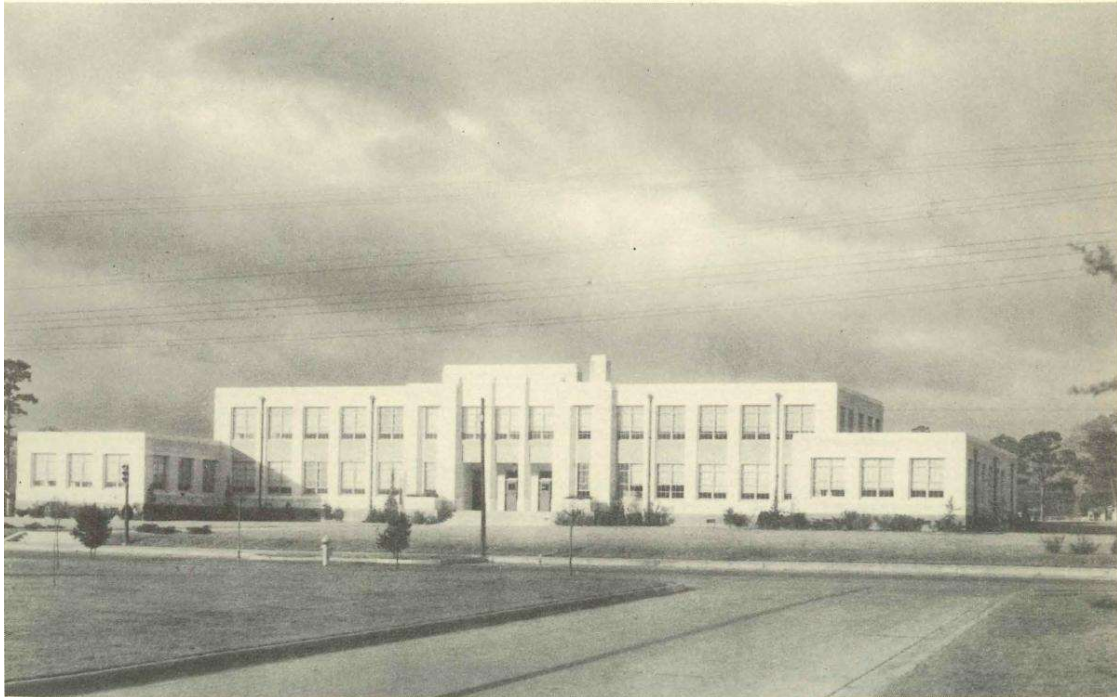




Kilgore College Alum Trevor Newlin has appeared on the big screen this summer. The former KC Theatre student plays the role of the Xenomorph in "Alien: Romulus." Recently, Newlin sat down with Communications & Public Relations Director Manny Almanza to discuss his rising career.

[Interview with Trevor Newlin](#)

---



Can you guess the year Old Main was built on the Kilgore College campus? Everyone who guesses correctly will be entered into a drawing to receive a free Ranger Yearbook of your choice (dependent upon availability). Additional yearbooks are available with a donation to the KC Foundation. Email [Rachel Stallard](mailto:Rachel.Stallard@kilgore.edu) for more details.

1968 was the year the original pedestrian bridge was built, as pictured in the last newsletter!

## Foundation News

### MLK Breakfast





## Join Us for the MLK Breakfast at Kilgore College!

We are excited to announce the upcoming Martin Luther King Jr. Dual Credit Scholarship Breakfast at Kilgore College on January 17th, 2025. This special event celebrates Dr. King's legacy and brings our community together to honor his enduring impact.

Reserve your table now to ensure your presence at this meaningful gathering! By participating in this event, you'll enjoy a wonderful breakfast and contribute to a worthy cause—supporting our dual credit students as they pursue their education.

To secure your table or for more information, email [Gabriela Garcia](#) or call the Kilgore College Foundation office at 903-988-7523.

Don't miss this opportunity to celebrate, connect, and support our community's future leaders.

We look forward to seeing you there!

---

## Roy H. Laird Health Science Center & Torrence Health Science Education Center Officially Opens



CHRISTUS Good Shepherd, Kilgore College, the City of Kilgore, and the Roy H. Laird Memorial Hospital Foundation hosted a ribbon-cutting and grand opening for their newest facility, the Roy H. Laird Health Science Center, on July 11.

[Read more here](#)

[See more here](#)

---

# KC Holds Official Ribbon Cutting for New KC Transportation Institute



Kilgore College held the official ribbon cutting for its new KC Transportation Institute on Aug. 14. The completed project consists of a large driving training track, multi-classroom facility, and warehouse training building, and it is part of a major expansion of the college's CDL training program.

[Read more here](#)

[See photos here](#)

---



# WIN THIS TRUCK!



ONLY  
600  
TICKETS  
SOLD!

2025 SLATE GRAY CHEVY SILVERADO 1500 | BLACK CUSTOM WHEELS | VALUE: \$48,000

Must be 18 or older to win.  
Valid ID and insurance required.

**Drawing Date:** March 22, 2025  
*Need not be present to win.*

**\$100  
PER TICKET**

**KILGORE  
COLLEGE  
FOUNDATION**

**PATTERSON**  
KILGORE CHEVROLET CHRYSLER DODGE JEEP RAM

Kilgore College Foundation | 1100 Broadway, Kilgore, TX 75662 | For more information, call: 903-983-8182

## Harvest Hope: Your Fall Donation Seeds Tomorrow's Dreams

Go to [GIVING](#) and make a donation to one of nearly 300 projects destined to make a difference in the lives of current Kilgore College students.

*Thanks*

**YOU MAKE IT  
ALL POSSIBLE.**

Kilgore College Foundation | 1100 Broadway | Kilgore, TX 75662  
903-988-7523 | [KC Foundation](#)



Kilgore College Foundation | 1100 Broadway | Kilgore, TX 75662 US

[Unsubscribe](#) | [Update Profile](#) | [Constant Contact Data Notice](#)



Try email marketing for free today!