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AMERICA'S NO. 1 SMALL CITY | CAPITAL OF THE EAST TEXAS OIL FIELD

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ONE DOLLAR

INSIDE

SPORTS: The East Texas Pump Jacks didn't have a spectacular offensive game on Friday night, netting just three hits. But it was enough to help them get a 3-2 win over McKinney.

Page 8A

SPORTS: Anyone who'd like to keep up with Olympics-bound Kilgore native and track standout Kenta Bell can do so now on a website Bell will update daily.

Page 7A

TOMORROW



Partly Sunny

High: 92 | Low: 70

Forecast, Page 4

KILGOROUND

BILL WOODALL

DOES anything smell better than the earthy fragrance that comes with a brief rain on a hot, July day?



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UNLESS the weather is so severe that the emergency warning system might actually be needed for a real emergency, the city is going to be testing its emergency sirens again this week.

IF ALL goes according to plan and you're in town, you'll hear the sirens at noon Wednesday.

+++

LAUGHING with the Archie Whitfields at Driller Park last week and wondering what we did in the evenings before the Pump Jacks season: "It's hot but it's sure better than anything on television."

THERE are about two dozen Kilgoreos (you know who you are) who seldom — if ever — miss a Pump Jacks home game. For those families, at least, the presence of

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Gas costs linked to distant learning

By LESTER MURRAY
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School officials are not sure why, but enrollment in on-line courses at Kilgore College jumped almost 70 percent in the past two and a half years.

Most college campuses do not track students reasons for taking online courses but, according to a recent Associated Press survey, many college administrators across the country cite a clear link between fuel prices and enrollment in on-line classes.

rollment in on-line classes.

Since the fall 2007, students have been able to earn an associates degree without ever attending a class on campus. Students can also complete the core requirements at Kilgore College Online and transfer those credits to any Texas public college or university.

KC Online offers more than 70 credit courses. Distance education courses cost the same as standard classroom courses. Books can be ordered online

through the KC bookstore and financial aid, including a new loan program, is available to all qualified students, including those taking online courses.

Charleen Worsham, director, distance education and instructional technology said the hard data is not in yet on how higher gas prices have affected distance learning enrollments.

"Distance learning enrollments have been steadily rising since we offered our first interactive television course in spring

of 1997 with enrollment of 11 students, followed by our first web-based course in fall of 1998. That semester we had 55 enrollments in 5 distance learning courses. To put that in perspective, last spring we had 1,695 enrollments in 139 different sections, Worsham said.

Worsham said to-date online courses have been in a "if we build it, they will come" mode and she feels the energy crunch "will require us to have a web-course/hybrid course construc-

tion boom" (A hybrid course is one in which part of the instruction is delivered online and part of it in the traditional classroom.) In looking to the future, I predict that this trend will continue - we will have an increase in fully online courses as well as hybrid courses," said Worsham. "I see hybrid courses as a way to reduce travel time and expense for both faculty and students while providing the face-to-face "hands-on" in-

See DISTANT, Page 3A

Kilgore missionaries in Ukraine

By KATHRYN MARTINEZ
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Two months after their mid-May departure to the Ukraine, a Kilgore family is living in downtown Kiev, population four million, while they patiently await repairs and renovations at their future home an hour and a half away in much smaller, rural Rzschishiv.

Bruce and Debi Crowe, along with their six stair-step children — aged 11 to one — are members of and missionaries from Kilgore's Crosspoint Community Church. The family made the 24-hour trip unscathed, but adjusting is another thing.

"Ukrainians eat pork at all three meals," Bruce Crowe joked. "It is like they have never seen a cow."

According to Crowe, the family whole is adjusting to their current big-city life and taking lessons in Russian; but some of the children are wondering when they will get to go to Six Flags again.

Crow said some confusion arises as the family adjusts from standard measurement to metrics.

"There is a lot of guess work as we cook," Crowe said. "Recipes call for a gram of this, or a liter of that; and it just takes some getting used to."

Another thing Crowe needs a little time to get used to is the traffic.

"There is not room in this city for all the cars," he said. "I miss Kilgore and Longview and being able to travel without making a lot of plans."

The last couple of months spent in Kiev are not in preparation for the family's future in the Ukraine. For now they are sub-leasing an apartment from a family of missionaries who have returned state-side for the summer; but only until renovations and repairs are completed at their home in Raschischev — and their belongings arrive.

"We just learned this week that our crate is in Jamaica," Crowe said. "we were a bit surprised to find that it had swung that far south, but it is headed this way."

The Crowe family should receive its crate — which contains a truck, trampoline, beds, furniture and clothing and all the worldly possessions one might pack into a crate when leaving to travel half way around the world — on Aug. 20

Once the family has its roots in Rzschishiv, plans are to branch out into the community though ministry and outreach programs. Crowe has already arranged a sister-city type relationship with Kilgore through the help of the city council here.

"I am excited to set up an internet conference between the two mayors," Crowe said. "It is my intention to make that meeting a pretty big deal."

Crowe is CEO of Kilgore's Cypress interactive, Inc., a company which de-



Bruce and Debi Crowe with their six children in Kiev, a Russian city of four million people.

signs and markets web sites.

According to Crowe a lot of business and government relations in the Ukraine are corrupt and forming the sister-city type relationship and by spreading the gospel are his chance to

make a difference.

"For 70 years, during Communism and escapism, the national religion was no religion," Crowe said. "Our goal is to build a relationship with as many people as possible."

Kilgore's sales tax revenue steps backward

By KATHRYN MARTINEZ
 news1@kilgorenewsherald.com

Kilgore's sales tax rebate took a step backward with an allocation check that totaled \$819,657.65, an amount 5.82 percent below the \$870,378.32, received last July.

Year-to-date allocations for the city total \$6,217,035.42, still up 14.29 percent over last year's year-to-date allocations of \$5,439,551.57, through July.

Lawanna Willams, City of Kilgore assistant finance director, said that Kilgore is "at the top of the bubble."

"We have seen rapid and extended growth here for a couple of years now," Williams said. "We may have hit our growth peak and reached a plateau."

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Stallion facility to employ 125 at River Bend

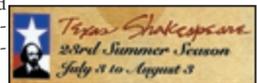
Plans have been finalized and construction has begun on a new facility for Stallion Oilfield Services Ltd. at River Bend Business Center and Industrial Park.

Stallion has purchased a 12.5-acre tract for its East Texas division which will include an 18,000-square-foot operations facility in Four S Industrial Park within River Bend Business Center and Industrial Park.

The facility will include more than 8,000 square feet of office support space located on two floors. The balance of space in the structure will be allocated for equipment support and maintenance.

Once completed, Stallion will combine its heavy hauling division with its 60-65 employees and the SPS, production services division which will bring an additional 60 employee base with support equipment into this one central location. The addition of Stallion Oilfield Services Ltd. will add more than 120 employees, 16 heavy-hauler trucks, five cranes, six rig-up vehicles and the entire fleet of service trucks to River Bend Business Center and Industrial Park.

See STALLION, Page 3A



Sunday, July 13 matinee
 Julius Caesar

Sunday, July 13, evening
 Twelfth Night

Evenings at 7:30
 Matinee at 2 p.m.

Ticket Price: \$20

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