

## 'Rettes will perform at Pearl Harbor Remembrance in Hawaii

The Rangerettes made a quick trip over the weekend to perform in the Dallas Holiday Parade, then left Sunday for Hawaii where they will perform in the Pearl Harbor Remembrance Day Parade and participate in the annual ceremony commemorating the 82nd anniversary of Pearl Harbor.

On Dec. 7, 1941, a surprise attack on a United States naval base at Pearl Harbor began, killing more than 2,400 Americans. Each year, on this day, Pearl Harbor survivors, veterans and visitors from all over the world come together in remembrance and honor.

The Pearl Harbor Remembrance Ceremony is set for 11:30 a.m. (CST) Dec. 7 at the Pearl Harbor National Memorial. Later that day, the Rangerettes will perform in the Pearl Harbor Memorial Parade at 10 p.m. (CST) in Waikiki. You can **watch the parade live here**.



**ABOVE:** The Rangerettes participate in Pearl Harbor Memorial services in Hawaii in 2016. This year is the third time in 10 years that the Rangerettes have traveled to Hawaii for the ceremony.

## Aspen Institute names KC as a 'Top-150 U.S. Community College'

The Aspen Institute named Kilgore College as one of the 150 institutions eligible to compete for the \$1 million Aspen Prize for Community College Excellence, the nation's signature recognition of high achievement and performance among two-year colleges.

The institutions selected for this honor stand out among more than 1,000 community colleges nationwide as having high and improving levels of student success as well as equitable outcomes for Black and Hispanic students and those from lower-income backgrounds.

"With the forward-thinking vision of our board of trustees and the dedicated efforts of our esteemed faculty, staff and administrators, we are truly delighted to be acknowledged and honored for our significant achievements in advancing our instructional mission," said Dr. Brenda Kays.

[READ MORE](#)



## Cookies & Cocoa with Santa ...and gingerbread house decorating contest



Cookies and Cocoa with Santa, hosted by the KC Hospitality Committee, is set for 1 to 3 p.m. (come-and-go) on Thursday, Dec. 7, in the Devall Ballroom.

Refreshments will be served and carols will be sung as attendees will be able to vote for their favorite gingerbread house creations.

That same day, the KC Hospitality Committee is hosting its second

annual Tacky Christmas Sweater Competition.

Much like the Halloween costume contest, if you or your colleagues want to participate, please send a photo to [humanresources@kilgore.edu](mailto:humanresources@kilgore.edu) by 10 a.m. on Dec. 7.

All the photos will be sent out in a survey and the "tackiest of them all" will be awarded at the end of the Christmas event.

 **MARK YOUR CALENDARS!**

An exciting spring convocation is set for Jan. 8 in Dodson Auditorium. For more info (COMING SOON) on Opening Week 2024, visit:

[www.kilgore.edu/opening-week](http://www.kilgore.edu/opening-week)

## APPRECIATION & REFLECTION: A Grateful Note as we wrap up 2023...

As we approach the end of the fall semester, I want to take a moment to express my deepest gratitude for the incredible effort and dedication each one of you has put into launching the Fall 2023 semester under the new funding model outlined in Texas HB8. Your hard work and commitment to our students have not gone unnoticed, and I am genuinely appreciative of the extra mile you've gone to help each student move one step closer to realizing their educational goals and dreams.

The transition to the new funding model introduced complexities to our operations, and navigating these challenges required a collective effort and a shared commitment to our students' well-being. I commend each and every one of you for successfully facing these challenges head-on and for your unwavering focus on providing the best possible education and support for our students.

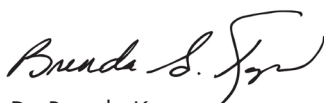
I am thrilled to share that, due to the new HB8 FAST grants and the introduction of new dual credit pathways, we have witnessed remarkable growth in our dual credit student population. This achievement is a testament to your resilience and adaptability. As we look forward to the Spring 2024 semester and beyond, I anticipate this positive trend will continue, further solidifying KC's reputation for providing top-notch instruction and services to high school students who desire to get a head start on their higher education journey.

I want to extend a special thank you to those faculty and staff members who took the time out of already burgeoning schedules to attend one of the listening sessions about the new outcomes-based funding model this semester. Your insights coupled with your valuable feedback have been instrumental in helping KC optimize our approach to integrating the new funding model while still ensuring our primary focus remains on all elements of student success. Your ideas and suggestions will play a vital role in shaping our **Vision 2030** and the new **2024-2027 KC Strategic Plan**. For those who couldn't attend this semester, rest assured that additional sessions will be scheduled during the Spring 2024 semester, and I hope that you will be able to attend because your voice is equally important.

As we approach the holiday break, I encourage each of you to take some well-deserved time for rest and relaxation. The dedication you've shown throughout this semester is truly commendable, and I want you to know how much it is appreciated. May the holiday season bring you joy, peace, and quality time with loved ones.

Looking ahead to 2024, I wish you all the best that life has to offer. Your contributions make a significant impact on the lives of our students, and I am confident that together we will continue to achieve more great things in the coming year.

Warm regards until next time,



Dr. Brenda Kays  
KC president



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[@KCBrendaKays](https://twitter.com/KCBrendaKays)



Dr. Brenda Kays

## Rangerette Christmas Show set for Dec. 10 in Dodson



The Rangerette Christmas Show began in 2011 and is an annual holiday tradition featuring the Kilgore College Rangerettes with performances by local dance groups.

Shows are set for 2 and 5 p.m. on Sunday, Dec. 10, in Dodson Auditorium on the Kilgore campus.

Reserved tickets for the one-day-only Broadway-style show, "Lights, Camera, Christmas," are \$20 each and are available to purchase online only through Dec. 10 by visiting [www.rangerette.com](http://www.rangerette.com).

All tickets are non-refundable. The show is approximately one hour long. [MORE](#)

## KC holds groundbreaking for new CDL training track



KC officially broke ground — shovels, dirt and all — for its new CDL Driver Training Track to begin construction of a large driving track, classroom facility and warehouse training building as part of a major expansion of the KC Transportation Institute. [MORE](#)

## Mitsubishi Motors donates used training equipment

Mitsubishi Motors of North America recently closed its Dallas training office and donated unused equipment to the KC Automotive Department. Automotive Technology instructors



**Tanton Johnson** and **Collin Harris** traveled to Dallas Nov. 3 and loaded a trailer with engines, transmissions, diagnostic equipment and training manuals. This equipment is a great asset for students enrolled in the Automotive Technology program.



On-Campus Calendar

- 7, Cookies & Cocoa with Santa, Devall Ballroom, 1-3 p.m.  
Choir Winter Concert, Van Cliburn Auditorium, 7:30 p.m.
- 9, Men's basketball vs. Southern Shreveport, Masters Gym, Noon  
Women's basketball vs. Western Gulf, Masters Gym, 2 p.m.
- 10, Rangerette Christmas Show, Dodson Auditorium, 2 & 5 p.m.
- 11, KC Board of Trustees Meeting, McLaurin Admin. Building, 6:30 p.m.
- 14, Nurse Pinning Ceremony, Dodson Auditorium, 10 a.m.
- 15, Fall Graduation, Dodson Auditorium, 6 p.m.
- 18, December Mini classes begin

Star Days Registration set for Jan. 9 in Kilgore, Longview

Formerly called Late Registration, Star Days Registration is set for Tuesday, Jan. 9, on both the Kilgore and Longview campuses from 8 a.m. to 6 p.m. Just like Late Registration, this will be a one-stop-shop for students to enroll for the Spring 2024 semester. Students can also access advising and enrollment services virtually during this day. Students can click here to [access virtual advising/enrollment here](#).

Birthdays  
DECEMBER 2023

12-2 Savannah Macdonald	12-18 Madison Foote
12-4 Nicholas Simpson	12-18 Janet Wiley
12-4 Sandra Teel	12-20 Chris Gore
12-9 Haley Doss	12-20 Stephanie Wallace
12-10 Jonathan Santiago	12-21 Joel Estrada
12-10 Michael Willbanks	12-22 Amanda Jackson
12-12 Jennifer Deupree	12-22 John Whitehead
12-12 Judy Gumm	12-24 Jayden Oden
12-13 John Raulston	12-24 Sara Smith
12-14 Rachel Stallard	12-26 Gin Germany
12-16 Ada Duarte De Ortiz	12-28 Michael Smith
12-16 Patrick Hicks	12-29 Megan Dehayos
12-16 Michael Huston	12-31 Larry Dorsey
12-16 Lillian Jackson	12-31 Rebekah Metcalf
12-17 Shelby O'Connor	12-31 Katelyn Thompson

JANUARY 2024

1-3 William Stowe	1-18 Sheri Burlingame
1-5 Matthew Mosely	1-18 Shelley Wayne
1-5 Carrie Snyder	1-19 Andre Belaski
1-7 Brian Casper	1-20 Sarah Whitfield
1-9 Cary Challis	1-21 Terry Hanson
1-9 Russell Waggoner	1-21 Heidi Everett
1-9 Collin Harris	1-22 Emily Hammett
1-11 Kendra Morris	1-23 Lucas Gless
1-11 Paul Buchanan	1-24 Magen Ducote
1-13 Sheri Gillis	1-26 Tracy Fletcher
1-14 Kathy Hatfield	1-27 Vickie Gramling
1-15 Shanetra Simmons	1-28 Charmyn Tumey
1-16 Kenny Byrd	1-30 Julie Webb
1-17 Matthew Gayetsky	

DATA: Did you know?

RETENTION RATE INCREASE!

69.7% of KC's first-time-in-college, full-time Fall 2022 students returned in Fall 2023. This is up from 67.5% from the previous year.

Data provided by:

[KC Office of Institutional Effectiveness & Research](#)

School of Nursing attends mock trial

The KC School of Nursing took a day trip to Dallas to attend the October 2023 **Texas Nurses Association Mock Trial**, designed to educate nursing students on legal considerations that are integral to the nursing profession. The mock trial featured a nurse giving testimony and the prosecution and defense presenting their respective cases. This event offered valuable insight and education to nursing students at all career stages, from students preparing to begin their careers in healthcare to seasoned professionals. Nursing students also represented KC at the Regional Education on Aging, Caregiving and Healthcare (**REACH Conference**) in Longview at Maude Cobb Convention Center.



The Longview Chamber of Commerce officially welcomed the **TRIO Educational Opportunity Center (EOC) to Longview with an official ribbon cutting in November** at the EOC's new home in KC-Longview's North Building. **KC's EOC** provides **FREE** services to high school graduates, college students needing financial aid assistance or adults planning to enroll in college or vocational school.

In Memoriam

**Mike Earley**, 81, passed away Sept. 15. He served in the U.S. Air Force during Vietnam and was a longtime employee at KC who led the efforts to establish the fire academy in 1989.

[View full obituary](#)



Mike Earley

**Daniel Stalcup**, 77, passed away Sept. 22. He was a proud Vietnam Veteran and worked at KC for 35 years, retiring in 2006 as the manager of the KC Bookstore.

[View full obituary](#)



Daniel Stalcup

**Leon Dodgen**, 90, passed away Oct. 30. He worked at KC for 30 years where he retired as Assistant Dean of Physical Plant.

[View full obituary](#)



Leon Dodgen

**Randall Brint**, 76, passed away Nov. 23. He served on the Kilgore College Board of Trustees from 1997-2010.

[View full obituary](#)



Randall Brint