



FOREVER

KILGORE COLLEGE RANGERETTES

NEWSLETTER

AUGUST 2019

Forever dues now do more for 'Rettes

Lifetime rate changes as online payment method debuts

Lifetime-membership payments now will go further toward helping the Kilgore

College Rangerettes. The Rangerettes Forever board voted in June to increase the lifetime

investment to \$200 from \$150 and to eliminate annual dues. "All costs have increased,

and our dues have stayed the same from the beginning,"

Forever President Velma McCollum Yount, 35th Line,

Please see DUES on page 5.

JUMPING INTO 80

With new freshman line, Rangerettes begin celebration of team's eight decades PAGE 10



Sophomore Kilgore College Rangerettes sing the school's fight song as they encircle new freshmen July 19 in Dodson Auditorium. See the first performance of the Rangerettes' 80th year beginning 7:30 p.m. Friday, Aug. 16, on the same stage. KILGORE COLLEGE PHOTO/JAMIE MALDONADO

'I'm at home here,' new residence manager says as year begins

BY KATHRYN MORTON

Betty Longacre has been a Rangerette mom for decades, but this summer she added

69 more daughters to her fold when she took on manager duties at the Rangerette Residence.

The mother of Kilgore

College Rangerettes Assistant Director and Choreographer Shelley Stoeck Wayne, 46th Line, and grandmother of Ryan Wayne, 78th Line,

Longacre took the residence reins from Shirley Hankins Arredondo, who retired from the position to be closer to her

Please see RESIDENCE on page 5.

FROM THE PRESIDENT

Looking back on term, forward to growth

You know, a few years ago when Beverly Swatzell approached me about being on the board, I was not sure. I can now say it has been a fun and rewarding time. Being able to work with so many of our talented Forevers and reunite with many of my Rangerette line has certainly been an added treat. We have an amazing organization, and I am sure Miss Davis is smiling and happy as the 80th year kicks off.

I had the pleasure of going up to represent the Forevers at the Pre-training tea and helping to welcome the more than 90 girls trying out for the Rangerettes and their managers. They were each poised and friendly. Excitement in their eyes, which of course grew for everyone in the room when Mrs. Blair made the announcement of the upcoming trip to Birmingham, England, to perform for the Birmingham International Tattoo festival in November.

As of March 1, we have our own Kilgore



VELMA MCCOLLUM YOUNT
35TH LINE

STAY IN TOUCH: Click [here](#) to submit your contact information to the Rangerettes Forever so you don't miss important news.

Rangerettes Forever Foundation nonprofit to help support our organization through fundraising for scholarships, travel and other necessities that may arise. I have always heard, if you don't change and grow, you don't survive. We are certainly an organization growing and changing, as well as Kilgore College.

We have a wonderful new board stepping in for 2019–21, as well as a few remaining for both our board and KRFF.

This is such an exciting time, and you are welcome to join in to help support and grow our organization. Happy 80th celebration, and I hope to see each of you on the field “just one more time” in October for a reunion and memory-making event.

*Velma McCollum Yount, '74–'76, 35th Line
Rangerettes Forever president 2017–19*



Rachel Green, 78th Line, performs at a 2018 Kilgore College football game.

KILGORE COLLEGE PHOTO/
JAMIE MALDONADO

'RETTES IN ACTION

SHOWOFFS: See the 80th Line perform for the first time and witness the final phase of officer tryouts at Show-offs beginning 7:30 p.m. Friday, Aug. 16, in Dodson Auditorium. Reception afterward in the Rangerette gymnasium.

KILGORE COLLEGE FOOTBALL GAMES:

The Kilgore College Rangers' season kicks off 7 p.m. Saturday, Aug. 24, at Kilgore College. The Homecoming game begins 3 p.m. Saturday, Oct. 19, and will feature registered Forevers performing *just one more time* to celebrate the Rangerettes' 80th anniversary. If you missed the Aug. 1 registration deadline for the Forever performance, come cheer on your fellow Forevers. **Click here** for the rest of the KC football schedule.

RANGERETTES FOREVER PUBLISHES THIS NEWSLETTER FOR OUR MEMBERS AND FRIENDS OF RANGERETTES.

Please send any physical address changes or email address changes to the Kilgore College Alumni Association at alumni@kilgore.edu. Please include your full name and maiden name, if applicable, associated with your college record to ensure a proper match of the information. We do not distribute or sell our alumni data, including emails, to any outside organizations.

Send news tips to RetteForeverNews@gmail.com

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Kathryn Morton ('01)

★
RANGERETTES FOREVER OFFICERS:

Velma McCollum Yount ('76) president
Lisa McCutcheon Walker ('86) vice president and president-elect
Regina Hodge Wyatt ('76) secretary
Nancy Hollabaugh Greer ('78) treasurer
Beverly Rochin Swatzell ('77) past president

★
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RANGERETTES ON SOCIAL MEDIA:

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Tumblr: www.kcrangerettes.tumblr.com
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Rangerettes Forever Facebook page: www.facebook.com/Rangerettes-Forever-682825548571907

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Bits & Boots



MINI CAMP MEMORIES

Mackenzie Oden McCall, 68th Line, tells a story from her Rangerette years to current Rangerettes during this summer's mini camps. To volunteer at 2020 camps, visit Rangerette.com/forevers/forevers-contact.

PHOTO COURTESY OF MARINA HAAKE JEFFERIS



IN APPRECIATION

The Rangerettes Forever presented an honorary lifetime membership to Kilgore College President Dr. Brenda Kays during Revels 2019. "We appreciate all she is doing at Kilgore College and her ongoing impact on the Rangerettes and Rangerette Forevers," Lisa McCutcheon Walker, Forevers vice president, said. From left are Walker, board member Mazie Mathews Jamison, Kays and Rangerettes Forever President Velma McCollum Yount.

\$1M GIFT TO SUPPORT RANGERETTES

A Kilgore College graduate gave \$1 million to KC to complete a permanent operating endowment fund for the Kilgore College Rangerettes. He and his wife, a Rangerette Forever, wished to remain anonymous. [Click here](#) to read more about the gift. ★

66th Line honors classmate with skin-cancer education

After classmate Bree Speerin passed away in February from melanoma, the 66th Line is honoring their friend by providing sunscreen and promoting skin-cancer awareness to current Rangerettes. During the Rangerettes' work week in August, 66th Line members presented information about selecting and applying quality sunscreen and guidance about early skin-cancer detection and screening. The class plans to repeat the information sessions and sunscreen donations annually, classmate Anna Mattingly



SPEERIN

McBride wrote in a Facebook post announcing the project.

The class created an Amazon wishlist for Forevers who wish to purchase quality sunscreen for the Rangerette Residence. To contribute sunscreen to the project, [click here](#) and buy items from the wishlist. At checkout, select Amazon's prepopulated gift address to Gretchen Kotlar.

If you check out through Amazon Smile, which gives a percentage of your purchase to the Kilgore College Foundation, you can contribute even more to the Rangerettes. After placing items in your cart, go to Smile.Amazon.com and complete your purchase. ★

PHOTO/INTEGRITY FUNERAL CARE

Bits & Boots

ONE MORE REMINDER

If you haven't yet paid for your spot on the field for the 80th anniversary performance, send your \$80 check or money order by Aug. 16 to: Coast2Coast Productions LLC, P.O. Box 2849, Kilgore, TX 75663

KICK IN FOR RANGERETTES WHILE YOU SHOP

When you use **AMAZON SMILE**, a percentage of your total goes toward Rangerette scholarships. Pick Kilgore College Foundation as your charity at www.smile.amazon.com.

USE CODE RANGERETTES to save 10 percent off your order AND donate 10 percent to the Kilgore College Rangerettes when you purchase clothing and accessories from ElleLain.com. Owner Lauren Williams Oliver is daughter of Sue Davis Williams, 34th Rangerette Line, and Terry Williams, a manager for the 33rd and 34th Lines. ★



DON'T MISS YOUR CHANCE TO TRAVEL WITH THE TEAM

Days after returning from the World Bands Challenge in Italy, the Kilgore College Rangerettes learned they were headed abroad for another tattoo — this time the Birmingham International Tattoo in Birmingham, England. The team will travel to London during the trip as well, and Forevers are invited on the journey. **Click here** to view travel details from All World Travel. The first per-person (nonrefundable) payment of \$1,000 is due Aug. 20.

'RETTE IN STONE



Samantha Fink Taveras, 75th Line, points out her name on a bench engraved with the names of her class members. Commemorative benches in Kilgore College's Mike Miller Plaza offer an opportunity to honor classes, officer lines and other Forevers. Bench customization requires a single or collective donation of \$2,500. For details, contact 903-988-7523 or akinsey@kilgore.edu.

PHOTO
COURTESY
OF
SAMANTHA
FINK
TAVERAS

Help us protect K-Girl, 'Rette logo

The Rangerette logo and the K-Girl image are trademarked property of Kilgore College. The unauthorized use of these images is a violation of law. Kilgore College is committed to protecting the image and reputation of the Rangerette organization. Before using the Rangerette or K-Girl images in any manner, please contact the Kilgore College marketing department.

- Do not allow posts on your social-media sites that include unauthorized merchandise bearing the trademarked images.
- Report to KC Marketing any known individuals or companies us-

REPORT VIOLATIONS

Contact Kilgore College's marketing department to report unauthorized use of the Rangerette logo or K-Girl image:

MANNY ALMANZA,
KC director of marketing,
malmanza@kilgore.edu or
903-983-8623

ing the trademarked images on goods or merchandise.

—Michael W. Jenkins,
Kilgore College
executive vice president

SHARE NEWS FROM YOUR FOREVER CHAPTER

We want to know what great works your Forever chapter has accomplished. Share your Rangerettes Forever chapter's announcements with the Rangerettes Forever Newsletter by sending an email to RetteForeverNews@gmail.com. If possible, include a high-resolution, color photograph and caption information, identifying those pictured, from left to right (for small groups). We look forward to sharing your news.

DUES continued from page 1

said. "In making this small increase, it will help to build our account and ultimately help our Rangerettes."

The end of annual dues will help prevent membership lapses, she said.

"Folks are busy these days; they would just forget to renew," she said, pointing out that most Forevers pay less overall by contributing a lifetime amount versus renewing from year to year.

DUES CHANGE

The Kilgore College Rangerettes Forever now offer a simplified, single membership option: a \$200 lifetime membership that benefits current Rangerettes. Rangerette.com soon will feature an online payment page.

Changes in payment method also are in the works. Soon Forevers will be able to pay online at Rangerette.com. For

those wishing to join before the web page is activated or who are unable to pay online, send your \$200 check to Kilgore Rangerettes Forever Foundation, 500 S. Rusk St., Kilgore, TX 75662.

Forevers who previously joined on a yearly basis for financial reasons can finance a lifetime membership by developing a payment plan. Email ForeverFoundation@gmail.com to begin the process.

For questions about whether a recent membership payment

has been received, contact Amber Kinsey in the Kilgore College Office of Institutional Advancement at 903-988-7523 or akinsey@kilgore.edu.

You can purchase a lifetime membership — for yourself or as a gift — at any time. Membership benefits include early access to Revels tickets and inclusion on the Rangerettes Forever mailing list.

"By joining, you help support our organization," Yount said. ★

RESIDENCE continued from page 1

grandchildren and other family members.

Longacre's duties, for which she started training months before her June 1 move-in date, include ensuring the 13-year-old building is secure and running properly.

"There's a lot of paperwork to it, but (it's) a lot of fun," she said. Her job also entails making sure the Rangerettes' needs are met — that they are safe, comfortable and rested — and she works to avoid scheduling conflicts with practices and other meetings.

Kathryn Heller Zwick, 37th Line, owns Zwick Management, which oversees the residence. She said in a Facebook announcement that she was "proud and excited" to introduce the new hire. Zwick hand-picked the new manager, Longacre said.

"In the back of my mind, I've always kind of thought, 'Wow, wouldn't that be a great job,'" Longacre, who is semi-retired from real estate, said.

"I love everything about it," Betty Longacre said of the Kilgore College Rangerette Residence, which she began managing this summer.

PHOTO COURTESY OF BETTY LONGACRE



"The biggest surprise was that it just fit like a glove."

BETTY LONGACRE
RANGERETTE RESIDENCE
MANAGER

"... I just thought it would be a good fit for me with knowing some things about managing properties, which is a big part of this, but, of course, the most important part (is) the girls and making sure that they have everything they need."

Longacre had moved to Kilgore two years ago, when Ryan made the team.

"I did not want to miss anything," she said of being able to "experience a different side of Rangerettes." Now she's involved in the organization from yet another angle.

With mini camps, Pre-training and her first freshman move-in under her belt, Longacre said her tenure is "going great."

"We are doing a lot of maintenance, and we are doing a lot of just getting things back into the pristine place it needs to be as far as the building is concerned," she said. "It's been a very productive summer."

Despite her familiarity with

so many aspects of the organization, Longacre continues to learn and discover new facets.

"The biggest surprise was that it just fit like a glove," Longacre said. "I love everything about it. I'm at home here. I feel like I understand a lot of different sides of the program, from being the mother of a Rangerette, the grandmother of a Rangerette and then the mother of the assistant director of the Rangerettes. It's given me a good view of all of it. The organization is so unique and so incredible and has influenced so many lives of so many young women all over the world. I knew I would be happy, but I'm elated."

She's looking forward to more firsts — and celebrating the Rangerettes' 80th anniversary.

"I can't even begin to tell you — the first of everything," she said. "I already have my first freshman class. I'm very familiar with the sophomore class. They have been just so wonderful with me coming in to welcome me." ★

A gift 30 years in the making

Thirty years ago, the 48th Line sophomores performed in their final Revels and headed into the world. They've since deepened their knowledge of friendship, support and giving back. To commemorate their anniversary and to pass these lessons to a new generation of Forevers, three representatives from the class shared a message with Rangerettes backstage before the Revels matinée this past April. They also presented \$6,000 the class collected as a Rangerette sponsorship.

"It's such a cool thing for former 'Rettes to do and so helpful," Dana Blair, Rangerette director, said.

Shannon Ingram Wagner, Judy Jones Poe and Missy Roach Sumpter made the presentation, during which Wagner read the message she wrote about friendship,

Please see GIFT on page 7.

The Kilgore College Rangerettes and their directors display a donation box from 48th Line representatives before the Revels 2019 matinée.

PHOTO COURTESY
OF SHANNON INGRIM WAGNER

A MESSAGE FROM THE 48TH LINE

It is an honor to stand before you today. I'm humbled to represent my dear 48th Line.

I'll bet you don't realize that you, beautiful, talented ladies, you are standing on the shoulders of many women, who spent hours on this stage, and walked miles on this campus. I know I didn't understand the concept! It didn't become clear to me until I felt my own shoulders lifting up, supporting, and loving a new generation. I was actually surprised at the joy I found, when this began to happen!

The traditions, the discipline, tight schedules, and the strict lifestyle — all of these things have planted seeds deep in your soul, just taking root now. Your Kilgore days will be well behind you, before you really see these seeds begin to bud. When they do — oh, and they will — it will almost surprise you. Others will notice, too. Not just your presence and grace, the way you "lift your head and hold it high." It will even be more than your exceptional manners. The true blossoms of your two years here will be in your grit, your rare work ethic, your attention to detail, being prepared, your courage, and your true heart. When those moments

happen, take a moment, have gratitude for your time here, under this incredible leadership, and who you became because of it all.

The real gifts, though, the golden prizes you will walk away with: It's the ladies who surround you now. Hold on to one another. Make the effort. Show up for each other. Show up for the joyful and the tragic moments. Life will get busy. Other things will and should become important, but nurture these friendships. Treasure the history you share.

The privilege of this sisterhood that you're now a part of comes with responsibility. As you become the shoulders for future Rangerette lines, you, too, will discover the new joy of supporting this organization. Your pride for Rangerettes will explode.

I stand before you only as a representative of my 48th Line. Together, we have raised \$6,000 to give back to Rangerettes. We also would like to challenge you to start a lot younger than we did, so we are presenting you with this donation box, in hopes that you will bring it to the final tea. As you are being honored and reflecting back on all you have received, may you also start a new class tradition — of saying "thank you" by giving back.

We would also like to give you something a little more personal. We have a lucky penny for you and a personal handwritten message from one of our classmates. The 48th Line wishes you all the luck during your performances. Ladies you've never met feel a special bond with you and will be loving you and cheering you on. Even reliving our own moments through your performances. We would also like this penny to be a little reminder that no donation or gesture is too small. Do what you can — but DO!

Oh ladies, but for tonight: Hold on tight to each moment. Breathe, listen, even hear your own breath and heartbeat — and of those on stage with you. Soak up all the applause and know it comes from a place of pure love. Treasure it, even the pain. Sophomores, our message to you is: This is not the end! Thirty years after our last Revels, we are here to tell you: No this is not the end! This is only the beginning of your forever!

I would like to end with a quote from the genius Dr. Seuss:

"Sometimes we never know the value of a moment until it becomes a memory."

God bless you.

—Shannon Ingram Wagner



Bits & Boots

DINING THROUGH THE DECADES



East Texas Forever's treated East Texas Rangerettes to dinner at Val's Italian Restaurant & Pizza in Kilgore in March. Forever's from the 1940s to 2000s attended, including 94-year-old Louise Dickson Sims, a sophomore Rangerette in the 1941-42 year.

PHOTO COURTESY OF MARTHA HALE DEAN

GIFT continued from page 6

maturity and philanthropy (See "A message from the 48th Line," page 6.) The 48th Line members presented each Rangerette with a lucky penny and note, and they gave the team a donation box with the challenge to start their own habit of giving.

Classmate Karla Jo Helms, owner and founder of Florida-based PR firm JoToPR, was a driving force on the fundraising campaign, Wagner said. A private Facebook page and email blasts were critical in the campaign, she added.

"The best advice I have for future class' fundraising efforts would be to start early," Wagner, who launched the campaign in June and concluded it the week before Revels, said. "Have a firm deadline."

Any class, group or individual can become a Revels sponsor, and it's never too early to begin planning your financial support for the Kilgore College Rangerettes' spring production. Levels begin at Manager (\$500-



PHOTO COURTESY OF SHANNON INGRIM WAGNER

The 48th Line presented current Rangerettes with a penny as a reminder that no donation or gesture is too small.

"Start (fundraising) early. Have a firm deadline."

SHANNON INGRIM WAGNER
48TH LINE

\$999) and extend to Gussie Nell Davis (\$20,000+), but all donations are appreciated. Contact shelleywayne@rangerette.com or visit Rangerette.com and click the About tab then Sponsorship for details. ★

Freshman Rangerettes available for adoption

Here's what you need to know about the 2019-20 Adopted program, which matches Forever's with active members of the Kilgore College Rangerettes line:

- You **MUST** email all requests to RetteAdoption@gmail.com.

If you do not email, you will not receive information on a current or new Rangerette.

- If your adopted Rangerette from the 2018-19 year is now a sophomore, she remains your adopted for the 2019-20 year. You do NOT need to email if you intend to keep your sophomore Rangerette. This does not mean that you cannot adopt a new 80th Line member as well.

- Most likely, more than one Forever will be assigned to your Rangerette. You are not obligated to collaborate on gifts, communication, etc.

- While there are no requirements for your level of interaction with your adopted Rangerette, this is still a commitment. Once you adopt, find a communication channel that works best for you, and follow through with that all year. These amazing young women are hungry for guidance and mentorship throughout their time as Rangerettes, and your desire to develop and keep a relationship with them brings great joy.

Email RetteAdoption@gmail.com with any questions you may have. ★

HAS YOUR BOND GONE BEYOND?

Has your Forever-adoptee relationship lasted well beyond the adoptee's time in uniform? We'd love to hear about it at RetteForeverNews@gmail.com.



Un viaggio memorabile

ITALIAN ADVENTURE WAS 'TRIP OF A LIFETIME' FOR RANGERETTES

For the 79th Line and the 78th Line officers, the trip to Italy this summer truly reemphasized the “world famous” in “World Famous Kilgore College Rangerettes.”

This trip of a lifetime was our class' first exposure to international traveling (But not to be our last. Yea, England!), and, to speak on behalf of my class, it was nothing short of an honor to represent the red, white and blue on foreign soil.



**REAGAN
WELLS**
79TH LINE

Our days in Italy were a rotation of practices, performances and getting to explore beautiful cities rich in historic

Please see more VIAGGIO on page 9.



RANGERETTE PHOTOS

TOP OF PAGE: A few members of the 79th Line assemble before their performance in the Ferrari Museum in Modena.

ABOVE: The 78th Line officers at the Ferrari Museum are, from left, Lt. Haley Carlile, Lt. Sara Aguillard, Capt. Cierra Birmingham, Lt. Kelsey Little and Lt. Ryan Wayne. [Click here](#) to watch Birmingham's vlog of the trip.

VIAGGIO continued from page 8

architecture and culture.

Our performance schedule included dancing at the disco club Pattaya, a fun restaurant we would frequent throughout the week, an opening-ceremonies celebration at the Ferrari Museum in Modena, a guest performance in Quando la Banda Passo, and being the halftime entertainment for the 2019 Italian American Football League bowl in Milan. My personal favorite of the performances was the latter; it was an amazing experience to do what Rangerettes do best on a football field 5,000 miles away from Kilgore. However, participating in the band festival was also very cool because we got the chance to talk to and become friends with groups from Ukraine, the Netherlands and Thailand. While each performance was unique, the one similarity experienced across the board was the awe in each audience that was inspired by the iconic uniformity of our organization. It was a very real reminder of how special Rangerettes is and how special each of us is who gets to see it from the inside.

When we weren't performing or relaxing at our beautiful hotel (The Rangerettes were extremely lucky to stay at the Hotel Tre Torri, which provided us with the most amazing breakfast and cappuccinos each morning as well as top-notch service.), we were able to explore the cities of Modena, Milan and Florence. Many of us shopped, visited museums, ate delicious food or simply went sightseeing. My favorite



TOP: The Kilgore College Rangerettes' trip to Italy included a visit to Florence.

CENTER: The 79th Line spends some time with their new Ukrainian drummer friends. They also befriended groups from the Netherlands and Thailand.

BOTTOM: Reagan Wells feeds the birds outside the Duomo in Milan.

PHOTOS COURTESY OF REAGAN WELLS



"... The Italy trip truly brought us closer together and opened our eyes to just how lucky we are!"

REAGAN WELLS
79TH LINE

day was in Milan because the city is absolutely beautiful but also booming with activity; it reminded me a lot of New York City. There were many different languages and cultures coming together in one place, and it seemed at every turn there was a new street artist or musician, which was such an eye-opening



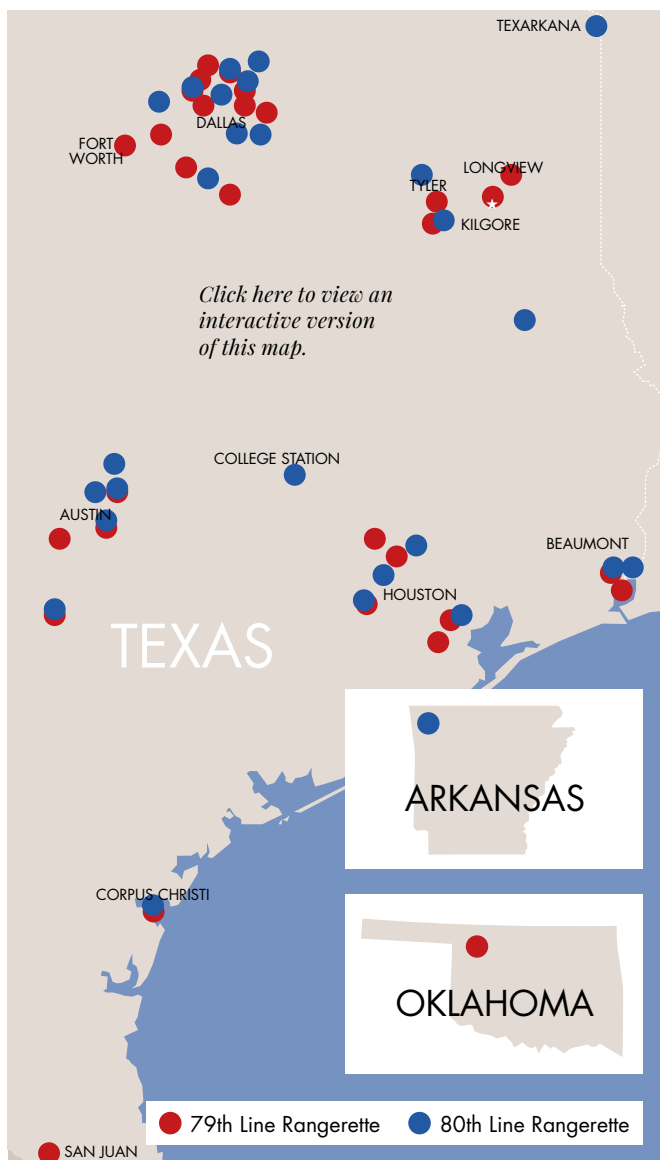
and enriching life experience to have. It had always been a dream of mine to travel abroad, and I know the experiences gained on this trip will never

be forgotten by myself or by our class; the Italy trip truly brought us closer together and opened our eyes to just how lucky we are! ★



Sophomore Rangerettes capture reactions as the sign bearing numbers of new freshmen falls from the rafters above them.
KILGORE COLLEGE PHOTO/JAMIE MALDONADO

EIGHTY, IT'S YOU



After a week of kicking, dancing and smiling, 34 Hopefuls earned spots on the 80th Line of the Kilgore College Rangerettes. This year's team hails from across Texas — with two from out of state.

FRESHMAN RANGERETTES

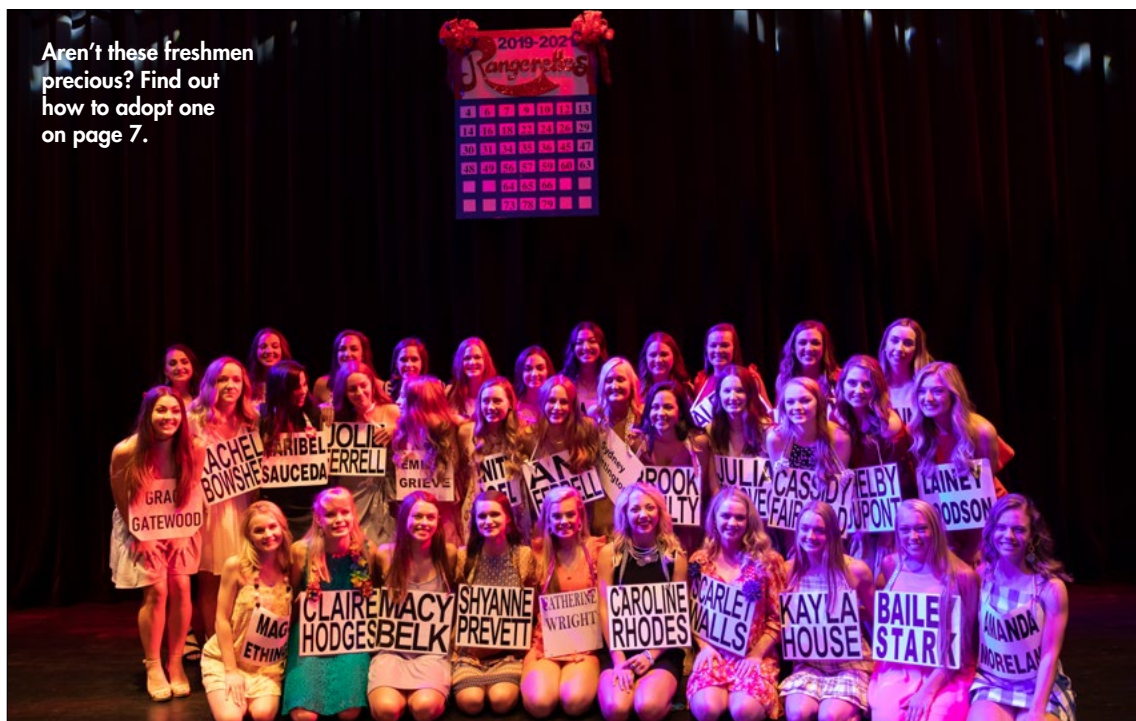
Austin: Trinity Vogel
Bridge City: Macie Moore
Carrollton: Alexis Moisan
Cedar Park: Claire Hodges
College Station: Natalie Lancaster
Corpus Christi: Maribel Saucedo
Cypress: Hannah Moss and Bailey Stark
Dallas: Julia Sincovec
Deer Park: Alexa Ramos
Flower Mound: Sydney Whittington
Frisco: Abigail Evans
Georgetown: Cassidy Fairchild
Haslet: Shyanne Prevett
Katy: Shelby Dupont

Lindale: Lainey Goodson
McKinney: Rachel Bowsher, Grace Gatewood and Brook Naulty
Mesquite: Ariana Hickman
Midlothian: Kali Rochford
Nacogdoches: Maggie Ethington
Nederland: Ashlyn LeBaron and Maggie Smith
New Braunfels: Emilie Grieve
Plano: Scarlet Walls
Round Rock: Ani Ferrell, Jolie Ferrell, Kayla House and Amanda Moreland
Springdale, Ark.: Caroline Rhodes
Texarkana: Catherine Wright
The Woodlands: Macy Belk
Whitehouse: Elisabeth Eckles

IN THE NEWS AND ADDITIONAL PHOTOS

Click here to read about tryouts in the Kilgore News Herald and **click here** to watch coverage of tryouts on KLTU.
Click here to read about Sign Drop in the News Herald and **click here** for the Longview News-Journal's article.
Click here to view photos from Pre-training and **click here** for Sign Drop on the Kilgore College Flickr page.
Click here to view Sign Drop images by Frozen in Time Photography.

Aren't these freshmen precious? Find out how to adopt one on page 7.



CLOCKWISE FROM TOP LEFT:

The 80th Line assembles for one of its first class photos below the sign that announced the new members.

Sophomore Alyssa Gray, left, and freshman Scarlet Walls of Plano point to Walls' tryout number.

Sophomore Reagan Wells hugs freshman Maggie Smith of Nederland. Both of them tried out for the team with No. 47.

Freshman Catherine Wright of Texarkana points to the sign with her sister, Haleigh Kate Wright Franck, 72nd Line.



KILGORE COLLEGE PHOTOS/
JAMIE MALDONADO

A look back at Revels

Revels performances are an experience for the senses: The pulse of the music, the distinctive scent of air conditioning and blue velvet seats, the prickle of goosebumps when the first patriotic uniforms burst onto the stage. And the sights: a rainbow of sparkle, light, grace and athleticism. This year's Kilgore College Rangerette Revels focused on vision — as a sense, as a creative power and as anticipation for the future — in “More than Meets the Eye” during its April 10–13 run.

In two acts, “Eyes Wide Open” and “2020 Vision,” the Rangerettes explored choreography from hip hop to ballet, looking back on traditions and forward to anniversaries and events taking place in 2020, including the 80th year of the Rangerette organization. The Rangerette Extravaganza high kick, performed in their traditional red, white and blue uniforms, concluded the show.

Sarah Coker, 64th Line, hosted the program. Read more about her involvement on page 14.

At a reception in the Deana Bolton Covin Rangerette Gym between Saturday shows, Forevers, friends and family mingled and had the opportunity to shop at vendors who gave a percentage back to the Rangerettes. A silent auction raised money for the organization as well. ★



Click here to read the Revels edition of The Flare, Kilgore College's student newspaper. The issue included articles about Revels performers as well as Forevers.

Sophomore Kaitlyn Harvey performs in “Eye Opener,” the opening number, choreographed by Kali Boyd, 65th Line. **Click here to view additional Revels photos on Kilgore College's Flickr page.**

KILGORE COLLEGE PHOTO/
JAMIE MALDONADO



Left: Rangerettes lift Sophomore Lexie Kieschnick in "Look For the Light," choreographed by Angela Falcone Aulds, 68th Line, and her sister, Alyssa Falcone Goza, 70th Line.

Below: Sophomore Kelsey Little dons a sparkling headpiece in the final moments of "You Should See Me in a Crown," choreographed by Maryelle Stephenson, 75th Line, and Ashley Miller.



Left: Haley Carlile and her fellow sophomores pay tribute to Queen in "Don't Stop Us Now," choreographed by Angela Falcone Aulds, 68th Line, and Rangerettes Assistant Director and Choreographer Shelley Wayne.

Above: Sophomore Ryan Wayne performs her solo, "Right Before Your Very Eyes." KILGORE COLLEGE PHOTOS/JAMIE MALDONADO

More than talent

Forever Sarah Coker talks Revels practice (lots of practice) and what she learned hosting the show

Sarah Coker had never thought about hosting Revels.

"It was the dream gig I never knew I wanted," she said.

"... But when Mrs. Blair approached me about it, I felt like I'd made the team all over again."

She prayed it would work out with her work schedule. It did, and the bespectacled Forever led audiences through five productions of "More Than Meets the Eye" in the auditorium where she'd performed more than a decade before as a member of the 64th Line.

Please see more TALENT on page 15.

Host Sarah Coker shares the contents of her planner with Revels audience members. The year ahead includes celebrating the Rangerettes' 80th anniversary. KILGORE COLLEGE PHOTO/JAMIE MALDONADO

TALENT continued from page 14

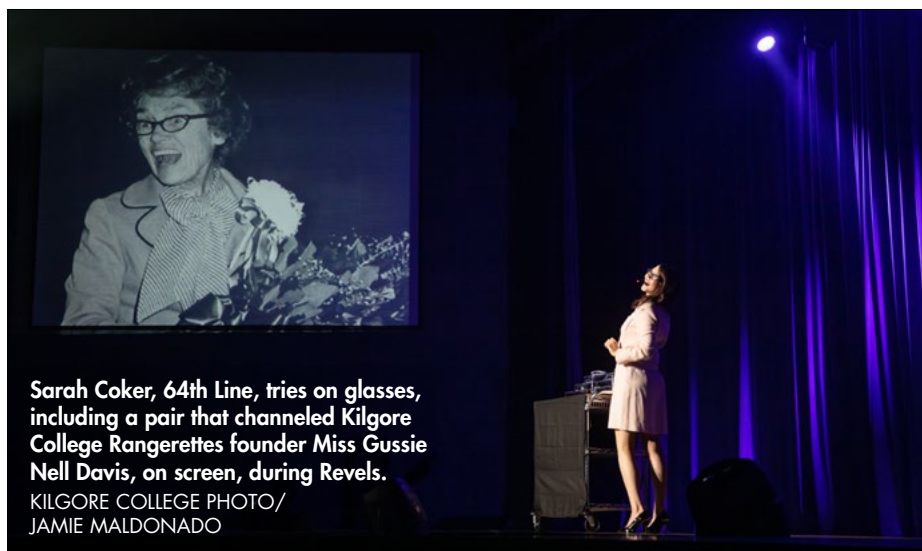
She shared her perspective of the Revels process, what it was like being back in Kilgore again and what she'll take with her now that she's kicked off her glittery heels.

WHAT SORT OF PREPARATION AND REHEARSAL DID YOU DO LEADING UP TO THE SHOW?

I started working on the script with Mrs. Blair in January. I'm a freelance writer and a little Type A, so if she'd hired me in August, I would have started then, haha. We'd write a little, get the famous Missy Review™, edit, keep writing, run it by her again, etc. I recorded and re-recorded versions of me reading the script as sincerely as I could so that Mrs. Blair and I could pick at it. I sent private YouTube links and edits weekly. I think we both (and Mrs. Wayne, too) just wanted it to feel authentic and sound like stuff I would say, not like I had memorized lines. I traveled to Kilgore three weekends throughout this whole experience and rehearsed for hours, not leaving ANYTHING vague. As with everything in 'Rettes, you practice every little thing. And in the end, once I'd pared down the script to one that would work (and some of that happened the night before opening), I memorized it and didn't deviate much. I also spray tanned. A lot.

WHAT EMOTIONS AND THOUGHTS DID YOU EXPERIENCE THE WEEK OF THE SHOW AND DURING PERFORMANCES?

Honestly I lived vicariously through the Rangerettes — the sophs, mainly. The show and the experience is about THEM. Sure, I had a big part in the show and I took it extremely seriously because I take Rangerettes and their reputation seriously — but it wasn't about me. I was the jokes in between the good stuff people paid money for. I talked about this during the show, but every single thing in that town reminded me of my time there. I was on vacation from work, essentially, just reliving the best two years of my life as an almost-35-



Sarah Coker, 64th Line, tries on glasses, including a pair that channeled Kilgore College Rangerettes founder Miss Gussie Nell Davis, on screen, during Revels.
KILGORE COLLEGE PHOTO/
JAMIE MALDONADO

year-old. The girls seemed interested in my tidbits, so I'd toss them a story here and there. Mainly I just loved staying up until 3 a.m. listening to THEIR stories out in the hall of Davis, just like we used to do. Some things have changed — but also nothing's changed. I just savored getting to hear them tell stories about kicking fight song or doing sister reveal night or giving back color privilege or representing Texas and America at Macy's or other events. I loved getting to see these girls feel the pride I felt and still feel. It was great to be in it with them and know that Miss Davis' vision lives on — and it's captured on much better cameras now!

WHAT WAS THE MOST CHALLENGING PART OF HOSTING REVELS?

Everything about it was a challenge, but here's the juicy, terrifying stuff: Walking into Dodson for that first rehearsal

OFFSTAGE

When she's not hosting Revels, Sarah Coker is a recruiter for Google in Austin. On Instagram, she thrifts/sells vintage clothes @cozy_quirky and encourages people to take care of themselves @sarah_coker_health_coach.

and hearing Mrs. Wayne counting for the girls. Shivers down my SPINE, y'all. Trying not to fall in the pit while I basically play a character version of myself who wears heels. I don't wear heels. Hearing the announcer's voice welcome people to Revels on opening night. Standing backstage watching the sophs pull the fresh in for fight song on Saturday night and knowing it's over — not just for me but for these new sisters I made on 78 — that was hands down the most challenging part. I wept and mourned the end with them and it felt like it was over all over again for me. It honestly took me a bit to recover because I felt so much for them.

WHAT HAVE YOU TAKEN WITH YOU FROM THIS EXPERIENCE?

If you want a performance to impress people, you have to practice until every aspect from lights to music to spacing to the dancing itself is perfect. Mrs. Wayne once said something to the effect that watching the Rangerettes perform might be the closest thing to perfection she's ever seen in a broken world where perfection doesn't exist. What I took away from this experience is a reminder that you don't get that by just being talented. Everybody's talented. You practice, occasionally with monotony, until talent is unified among 70 people. Then it's breathtaking. ★

Kicks & Cadence

Tales from the continued adventures of Foreverers and supporters



IMAGE COURTESY OF THE SOUTHWEST DAIRY FARMERS

DAIRY DOUBLE TAKE

If the smiling faces you've seen on Southwest Dairy Farmers billboards this year look familiar, it's because they're **ANA**, left, and **DIANA ESPINOSA**, 77th Line. The Espinosas' campaign appears in videos and web advertising and on about 25 billboards in Dallas, San Antonio, Austin, Houston and El Paso and elsewhere in

SDF's region, which comprises Texas, New Mexico, Kansas, Missouri, Oklahoma, Virginia, Kentucky and North Carolina. While they are not pictured in uniform in this series, the duo caught SDF's attention when they were part of a Rangerette campaign filmed at Kilgore College.

"They've just got a good, fresh, wholesome look," Jim Hill, Southwest Dairy Farmers CEO and general manager said.

SDF is in its eighth year of sponsoring the Kilgore College Rangerettes, who have appeared at events, on posters, on murals, in advertising campaigns and in an exercise video for the alliance of dairy farmers.

"We're delighted to be with (the Rangerettes)," Hill said. He added that he expects the partnership to continue "until they run us off." ★

★

BEVERLY ROCHIN SWATZELL,

36th Line, started Swatzell+Heilig, a line of handbags, with her daughter. Learn more about the USA-made bags crafted from Italian leather and hand-woven raffia straw at www.SHHandbags.com.



PHOTO COURTESY OF BEVERLY SWATZELL



PHOTO COURTESY OF KELCI BJORNIE

KELCI BJORNIE, 74th Line, left, is the new assistant director of the Kittens at Temple High School in Temple. **LESLY POWELL**, 72nd Line, right, is the dance team's director.

Please see more *Kicks & Cadence* on page 17.

Kicks & Cadence

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LONGVIEW NEWS-JOURNAL/MICHAEL CAVAZOS

The Longview News-Journal's Charm Magazine profiled **TINA CUELLAR GRIDER LYON**, 43rd Line, who is teaching her third generation of dancers in her Longview studio. **Click here** to read the article.



PHOTO COURTESY OF NIKI BLASKE GROCE

NIKI BLASKE GROCE, 47th Line, is the new executive director of the Longview Symphony. **Click here** to read more about her new position in a Longview News-Journal article.

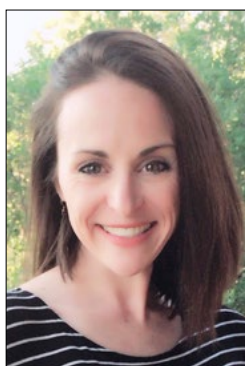


PHOTO COURTESY OF ERIN HARGOVE BOYER

ERIN HARGOVE BOYER, 59th Line, is the new director of the Emerald Dazzlers and dance teacher at Azle High School in Azle. She also is the new director of Azle Youth Sports' Junior Dazzlers drill team.

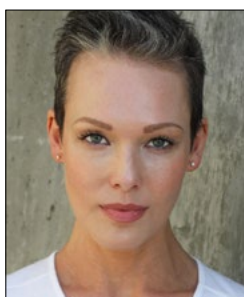


PHOTO COURTESY OF ERIN CUMMINGS

ERIN CUMMINGS, 56th Line, portrayed Marine Major Ellen Wallace in an episode of "NCIS" in April. She played a former fiancée of Leroy Jethro Gibbs, the head of the NCIS team, and her character is found dead with Gibb's blood on her uniform.

PHOTO COURTESY OF JENNIFER NIX MCMANUS



JENNIFER NIX MCMANUS, 61st Line, center, opened Party Princess Productions - Dallas with her husband. Learn more at <https://dallas.partyprincessproductions.com>.



PHOTO COURTESY OF SUSAN GORHAM ROBB

The Rev. **SUSAN GORHAM ROBB**, 36th Line, will be the new pastor of Highland Park United Methodist Church's Cox Chapel service starting Sunday, Sept. 1. Robb is senior associate minister with the church and author of "Called: Hearing and Responding to God's Voice." Book clubs, small groups, Bible studies and Sunday-morning classes are using the publication. **Click here** to read more about her new duties. **Click here** to listen to her episode as a guest on Episode 63 of The Enneagram Journey podcast.

Please see more *Kicks & Cadence* on page 18.

Kicks & Cadence

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PHOTO COURTESY OF TORI BOAZE

TORI BOAZE, 73rd Line, started as a sales specialist at Betenbough Homes in Midland.



PHOTO COURTESY OF ERIN WINTER CAMPBELL

ERIN WINTER CAMPBELL, 61st Line, is the new associate principal at Westwood High School.



PHOTO COURTESY OF MADISON CASHION

MADISON CASHION, 76th Line, is the new assistant director of the Sapphires dance team and a dance educator at Seven Lakes High School in Katy.



PHOTO COURTESY OF SARAH COKER

SARAH COKER, 64th Line, is working in recruiting as a sourcer for software engineers at Google in Austin.



PHOTO COURTESY OF CASSIE ROWLAND DYSON

CASSIE ROWLAND DYSON, 70th Line, is the new performance team director at Allen Dance Studio in Allen.

★



PHOTO COURTESY OF CORTNEY GELPI HARDAWAY

CORTNEY GELPI HARDAWAY, 74th Line, is convention-services manager at Four Points by Sheraton Manhattan in Manhattan, Kansas.



PHOTO COURTESY OF BROOKE LUNA

BROOKE LUNA, 75th Line, is the new head director of the Bandoleras at Berkner High School in Richardson.



PHOTO COURTESY OF JEN GRAY MORROW

JEN GRAY MORROW, 60th Line, is the new head director of the Escorts drill team and a dance teacher at Deer Park High School in Deer Park.



PHOTO COURTESY OF JACLYN WEAVER SMITH

JACLYN WEAVER SMITH, 62nd Line, will teach motor lab (prekindergarten physical education) this coming school year at Dobie Pre-K School in Dallas.

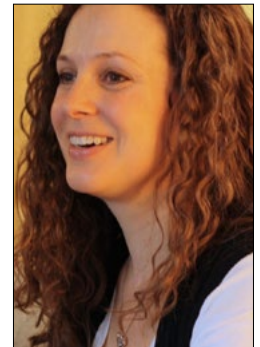


PHOTO COURTESY OF EMILY FOSTER VEGA

EMILY FOSTER VEGA, 59th Line, is a new fourth-grade dual-language instructor at Alexander Elementary School in Houston.

★

KXAN profiled **JAMIE SHIVES WALLACE-GRINER**, 59th Line, and her nonprofit animal rescue, Safe in Austin. [Click here](#) to watch the piece. [Click here](#) to watch more coverage, on CBS Austin. Learn more at Safeinaustin.org.



MARISSA WEBER, 74th Line, is the new dance teacher and Stars director at West Brook High School in Beaumont.

PHOTO COURTESY OF MARISSA WEBER

Please see more *Kicks & Cadence* on page 19.

Kicks & Cadence

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PHOTO COURTESY OF BROOKE BEAUCHAMP WILSON

Rain on Saturday of Revels only made the **58TH LINE's** 20-year union sweeter. "It was such a magical weekend, and we thought it was pretty fitting that it was raining when we all pulled into Kilgore for

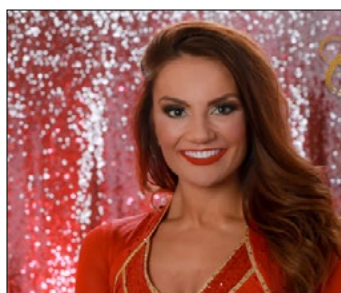
the matinee since we are the 'rain class,'" 58th Line member Brooke Beauchamp Wilson said. The class gathered at High Hill Farm in Tyler, where they watched their Revels, looked at scrapbooks and

reminisced. "It was so precious how it felt like no time had passed at all," Wilson said. "We all said how lucky we were to be a part of the Rangerette organization that held such amazing friendships and memories."



LISA MCCUTCHEON WALKER, 45th Line, is a new national real estate manager with McDonald's.

PHOTO COURTESY OF LISA MCCUTCHEON WALKER



KANSAS CITY CHIEFS PHOTO/STEVE SANDERS
ALLISON NICOLE EIGSTI, 76th Line, is a field rookie with the Kansas City Chiefs Cheerleaders.



PHOTO COURTESY OF JACKIE GARZA
JACKIE GARZA, 71st line, is a Houston Rockets Power Dancer for a third year.



ARIZONA CARDINALS PHOTO
ASHLEY CUPPLES, 71st Line, is a fourth-year Arizona Cardinals Cheerleader and captain of the team. She is a certified speech-language pathologist.

SHARE YOUR SUCCESSES AND MILESTONES!

Don't be shy! We want to hear about your exciting new jobs, promotions and achievements. Email your news to **RetteForeverNews@gmail.com**. Include a high-resolution, color photo and caption information.

Please see more *Kicks & Cadence* on page 20.



Kicks & Cadence

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Lauren Gibler, **68TH LINE**, hosted her class' 10-year reunion at her mother, Kathryn Heller Zwick's, house in Kilgore. The class watched their Revels DVDs, ate Tex-Mex (their class favorite) and caught up. "It was absolutely amazing to see how close we are 10 years later," Gibler said.

PHOTO COURTESY OF LAUREN GIBLER



The **48TH LINE** commemorated its 30-year reunion with a trip to Kiepersol, a food, wine and spirits destination in Tyler, during Revels week. Classmates arrived Friday for wine-and appetizers-tasting. The class shared meals and invited their freshmen and sophomores to a happy hour on Saturday. They also attended the Revels matinée and reception together, and some visited the Rangerette Showcase and Museum. "Several girls in our class had never returned to Kilgore in 30 years, so it was so exciting for them," classmate Shannon Ingram Wagner said. Read more about the class' reunion activities and Revels donation on page 6.

PHOTO COURTESY OF SHANNON INGRIM WAGNER



Please see more *Kicks & Cadence* on page 21.

SHOW YOUR PRIDE WHEN YOU DRIVE

Does your Texas vehicle still lack a Kilgore College Rangerette license plate? Know someone whose car needs one? Don't hesitate to purchase a plate or extend the term of your existing one. MyPlates.com sometimes

removes specialty plates from its inventory if an organization does not meet the required 200 registered plate minimum, according to the website. Your plate helps keep the Rangerette design on the road.



Plates start as low as \$35 a year for a five-year plan with randomly generated letter/number combinations.

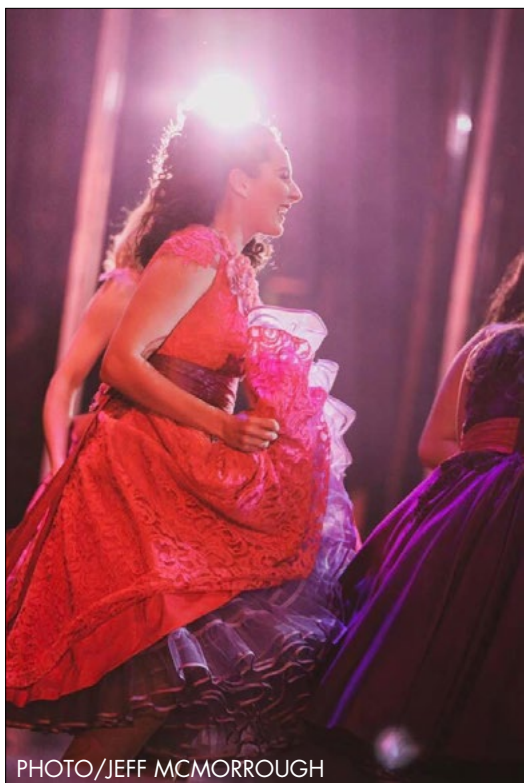
Order at www.MyPlates.com/Personalized/PLPC179 or call 888-769-7528.

If your plate has expired and you decide not to renew it, consider donating it to the Rangerette Residence. Drop your plate at the residence or send it to 819 Nolen St., Kilgore, TX 75662.



Kicks & Cadence

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PHOTO/JEFF MCMORROUGH

MICHELLE MAYO, 69th Line, performed as Teresita in "West Side Story" with A.D. Players at the George Theater this summer in Houston.



Ashley Atwood on the set of "The Poison Rose" with John Travolta and her son.

PHOTO
COURTESY
OF ASHLEY
ATWOOD

ASHLEY (MARTIN) ATWOOD, 61st Line, filmed the role of Jessie Winston in Western thriller "Hell on the Border." The film is slated to be released in 2019. She played Nurse Melissa in "The Poison Rose," starring John Travolta and Morgan Freeman. She self-produced and starred in the series "Wild Wild Yogis."



KIERSTIN DORNAK, 75th Line, left, is the new assistant director of the Gold Dusters dance team at Jersey Village High School in the Houston metropolitan area. **RYAN GARCIA**, 68th Line, directs the team.



KILGORE NEWS HERALD PHOTO/JAMES DRAPER

The Kilgore News Herald profiled **VICTOR OLOWO**, the Rangerettes' trainer and fitness coach. **Click here** to read the article about Olowo, a new naturalized citizen originally from Nigeria.

In loving memory:

LETA SUE YATES FULLER, 20th

Line, passed away in February. **Click here** to read her obituary.

SHIRLEY JEANNE BRANSON

STURROCK, 14th Line, passed away in April. **Click here** to view her obituary.

ANNE PRICE GASSAWAY, Eighth Line, passed away in April. **Click here** to view her obituary

LOU ANN MACKEY MELTON, Fourth Line, passed away in May. **Click here** to read her obituary.

KATHY SIMMONS ROBINSON, 33rd Line, passed away in June. **Click here** to read her obituary.

GLENN EDWARD WELLS, Kilgore College's band director from 2011 to 2018, passed away in June. **Click here** to read his obituary.

EMMA NELL COPPEDGE FREEDMAN, 13th Line, passed away in July. **Click here** to read her obituary.