

FRIDAY HOOPS ROUNDUP

Kilgore, Overton earn district wins...
more on 6A.



WEDNESDAY, JANUARY 7, 2026

KILGORE NEWS HERALD

1 SECTION, 7 PAGES

VOL. 96, NO. 2

CAPITAL OF THE EAST TEXAS OIL FIELD

KILGORENEWSHERALD.COM

\$2.00

Five years after church shooting, East Texas man credits God with his miraculous survival: 'The Holy Spirit is alive and well'

JORDAN GREEN
Longview News-Journal

STARRVILLE — Mike Sellars has a message: "The Holy Spirit is alive and well."

He knows that because it's the only reason he is alive and well.

On Jan. 3, 2021, Sellars rode his motorcycle to Starrville Methodist Church as he might on any other fair-weather Sunday morning. He

parked his bike and walked inside next to the chapel. There, he found Pastor Mark McWilliams pointing his pistol at a man on the floor who was holding the church's money bag. McWilliams yelled to Sellars to call 911.

The man on the floor turned out to be a fugitive from law enforcement. Mytrez Woolen had evaded

before. While Sellars was outside on the phone, Woolen grabbed McWilliams' gun, shooting the pastor four times, killing him.

Then Woolen turned for Sellars. He shot Sellars twice in the chest and four times in the back as Sellars ran from him.

As Sellars sank toward the ground outside the church, where

See SHOOTING, Page 2A



Temporary Rusk Co. burn ban in place

Special to the News Herald

The County Judge of Rusk County enacted a seven day ban on outdoor burning Friday, Jan. 2. This ban may be extended by the Rusk County Commissioners Court if conditions do not improve over the next week. All

See BAN, Page 2A

Water main break repaired within hours

Special to the News Herald

City of Kilgore reported a water main break Monday afternoon but crews repaired the line within hours and service has now been restored.

The city announced Monday afternoon areas south of Woodlawn St. were experiencing low water pressure due to a water main break near Couch Ave, and Hwy 259.

See WATER, Page 2A

FIGHTING FLAMES

Kilgore FD responds to fire, no injuries reported



Kilgore Fire Department responded to a reported fire at CHEP USA in Synergy Park Friday, with no injuries or extensive damage reported. The facility's sprinklers contained the flames and prevented widespread damage. (Contributed Photo)

BY LUCAS STROUGHT
Staff Writer

Kilgore Fire Department responded to a reported fire at CHEP USA in Synergy Park Friday, with no injuries or extensive damage reported.

The fire was found to be contained to a large wooden scrap grinder, according to KFD, and the building's fire sprinkler system contained the fire to the grinder and saved the building from damage.

According to Kilgore Economic Development Corporation, CHEP USA is the largest company of its kind on the planet and owns approximately 353 million pooled pallets, crates and containers which are shared, repaired and

reused. The massive supply includes CHEP's signature blue pallets, and the company's operations are spread throughout a sprawling global network of 750-plus service centers across 60 countries as part of the 60-year-old Brambles Group.



Mostly sunny, with a high near 79, low around 62.

Kilgoreround 2 Classifieds 7
Lifestyle 3 Sports 9-10
Entertainment.... 5



Facebook:
Kilgore News Herald
Twitter:
@KilgoreNews

www.KILGORENEWSHERALD.com