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Commissioner counterattacks at criticism of energy industry

"What you do has made a difference in this world."



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Texas Railroad Commissioner Wayne Christian praises energy sector leaders Tuesday during the eighth annual East Texas Energy Symposium.

NEWS HERALD PHOTO BY JAMES DRAPER

Posted Tuesday, May 2, 2017 9:30 pm

By James Draper
news1@kilgorenewsherald.com

Elitist intellectuals are distorting the truth about the energy industry, Wayne Christian says, and it's up to the leaders in oil, gas and coal to counter the falsehoods.

"We need to start educating," the newly-elected Texas Railroad Commissioner told the men and women gathered at Kilgore College Tuesday for the eighth annual East Texas Energy Symposium.

For too long, Christian said, the industry as a whole has sat back and let others recast their efforts in a negative light.

In the past 100 years, "We've extended life, through the oil-and-gas industry in the United States and around the world, from 45 to 75," he said. The energy sector deserves an apology and a 'Thank You,' Christian told the group, as "the most profitable, life-giving industry in the history of the planet.

"What you do has made a difference in this world ... the industry that has allowed the United States to become the country it is."

This year's symposium – focused on enhanced oil recovery techniques – drew about 100 participants to Kilgore

College's Devall Student Center. The attendees logged continuing education hours in seminars from Andy Cordova of GE Oil & Gas, Buster Heneman of NRG Systems and Peter Hennings of the University of Texas Bureau of Economic Geology. Two authors with ties to the industry, Kimberly Fish and B.B. Denson, also joined the event's roster.

Hosted by the East Texas Oil Museum at KC, symposium chairman Mark Goloby thanked the crowd for their support.

"The participation provides direct support to the East Texas Oil Museum," he noted, "A real jewel of East Texas that brings the message of how integral the energy is to the very existence of the modern conveniences our nation and the world enjoys."

Christian was the event's final guest, as keynote speaker in the Devall Student Center ballroom.

"The Railroad Commission plays a key role in ensuring the energy industry's license to operate," Goloby praised. "They provide both the means for the oil and gas industry to do what we do best while insuring the public's interest in safe and equitable exploitation of these God-given natural resources."

Texas has redefined the oil and gas market across the world, Christian said, and it's "unfathomable" what is happening here, including not only the largest discovery of oil and gas in Midland last year, the construction of two major refineries and the development of a 720-mile pipeline stretching from Midland to Corpus Cristi.

Despite those developments, he added, "egghead professors (not at Kilgore College)" are teaching millennials to fear the energy industry.

"I think we've got some defense to play – that's teaching people how important oil and gas is," Christian emphasized, detailing the differences between the early 20th century and the modern world oil and gas created. At the Texas Railroad Commission, "Our desire, number one, is to keep people safe" and to help ensure CPR – cheap, plentiful and reliable energy sources: "None of those include windmills and solar panels.

"I'm all for free competition. If anybody can compete with oil, gas and coal, get out and do it."

Solar and wind have not been the answer, Christian added, despite receiving massive government subsidies, including from the State of Texas, with more on the horizon as equipment ages.

Meanwhile, with Saudi Arabian influence weakening, "Texas can set the price of oil worldwide," he added, up to \$60 per barrel: "We're kind of shooting for that."

Don't forget, Christian said, the state's impact on the country's "anemic" two percent recovery.

"Had it not been for the state of Texas, that would have been a negative nationwide."

The commissioner brushed away 'bad science' blaming the energy industry for earthquakes and climate change.

"Are we after what's good for mankind, to use God's natural resources to better our world, for our children and our grandchildren," he said, "or are we just going to simply sustain Mother Earth so there's no influence of man on the earth?"

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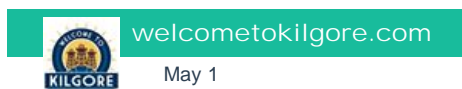
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Lease would add new EMS hub

By CHERRIE KATE
The approval comes one month after the proposal was first presented to the Kilgore City Board of Commissioners during the district's March 27 meeting.
KEDCO representatives have a half-acre of land on Highway 139 in the area where Champion EMS is located.
The agreement would allow the city to lease the land to Champion EMS for a period of 10 years.
The agreement would also allow the city to purchase the land at the end of the lease term.
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KPD LINKS SUSPECT TO 2016 ARMED ROBBERY



The suspect in December's armed robbery of Citizens National Bank was identified as the author of the North Kilgore Street Branch Bank (bottom) demands money. Hunter Cameron is charged with that crime of armed robbery, both for the CNB incident and last Friday's bank at First National Bank of Hughes Springs in Liberty City.

'It's terrifying for the victims'

By JAMES DRAVER
The suspect in last week's bank robbery in Liberty City has been linked to another robbery in Kilgore from December, and Hunter Cameron has an additional \$100,000 bond in a new charge.
On the March 27 meeting of the board, the board discussed the possibility of a new EMS hub in the area where Champion EMS is located.
The agreement would allow the city to lease the land to Champion EMS for a period of 10 years.
The agreement would also allow the city to purchase the land at the end of the lease term.
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Early votes for mayor lag behind prior polls

By JAMES DRAVER
Only the Kilgore mayor race is on the ballot this spring, the first time since the last election in Kilgore. That also means that voters in the city have had the most of the last election since May 2011.
According to Mayor Hunter Cameron, the city's voter turnout was 60 percent in the 2011 election.
The city has had a low voter turnout since then, with the last election in May 2011.
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Coalition combats Rx abuse

By CHERRIE KATE
With prescription medication use on the rise, Kilgore EMS is helping patients and community members in the region. The goal is to help patients and community members in the region.
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City of Kilgore workers are visible in the background at the construction site for the new branch of the Citizens National Bank in Kilgore. Construction should be completed by May 2017.

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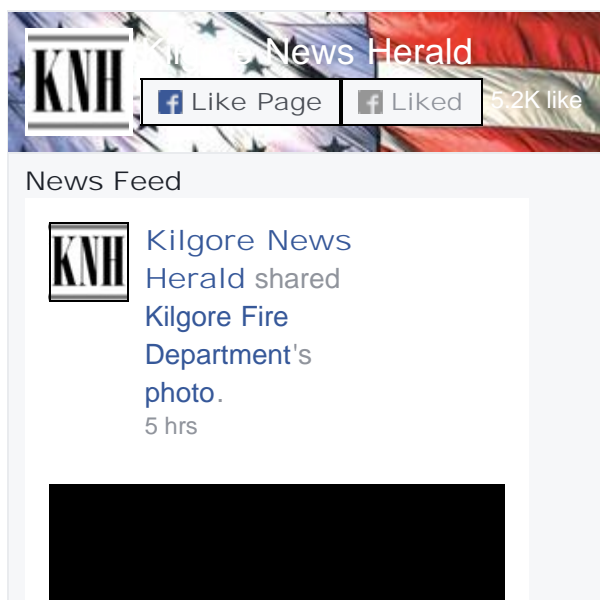
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