

Kingsbury News & Information Newsletter - February 23, 2025

1 message

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Sun, Feb 23, 2025 at 11:29 AM

Kingsbury Texas

News & Information Newsletter



Dear Kingsbury,

Here's the latest on what's going on in Kingsbury!

The Siege Of The Alamo Begins

Today in Texas history, the siege of the Alamo began ...

In February, 1836, Mexican General Antonio Lopez de Santa Ana has crossed the Rio Grande and marched from Mexico, arriving near San Antonio de Bexar (now San Antonio). The garrison within the Alamo mission was jointly commanded by newcomers William B. Travis, regular army officer, and James Bowie, who had commanded a volunteer company.

Day 1 - February 23, 1836

In the early hours of February 23, Travis stationed a soldier in the San Fernando church bell tower—the highest location in town—to watch for signs of an approaching force. Travis then sent Captain Philip Dimitt and Lieutenant Benjamin Noble to scout for the Mexican Army's location. At approximately 2:30 that afternoon the church bell began to ring; the soldier stationed in the tower claimed to have seen flashes in the distance. Dimitt and Noble had not returned, so Travis sent Dr. James Sutherland and John W. Smith on horseback to scout the area. Smith and Sutherland spotted members of the Mexican cavalry within 1.5 miles of the town and returned to Béxar at a run.

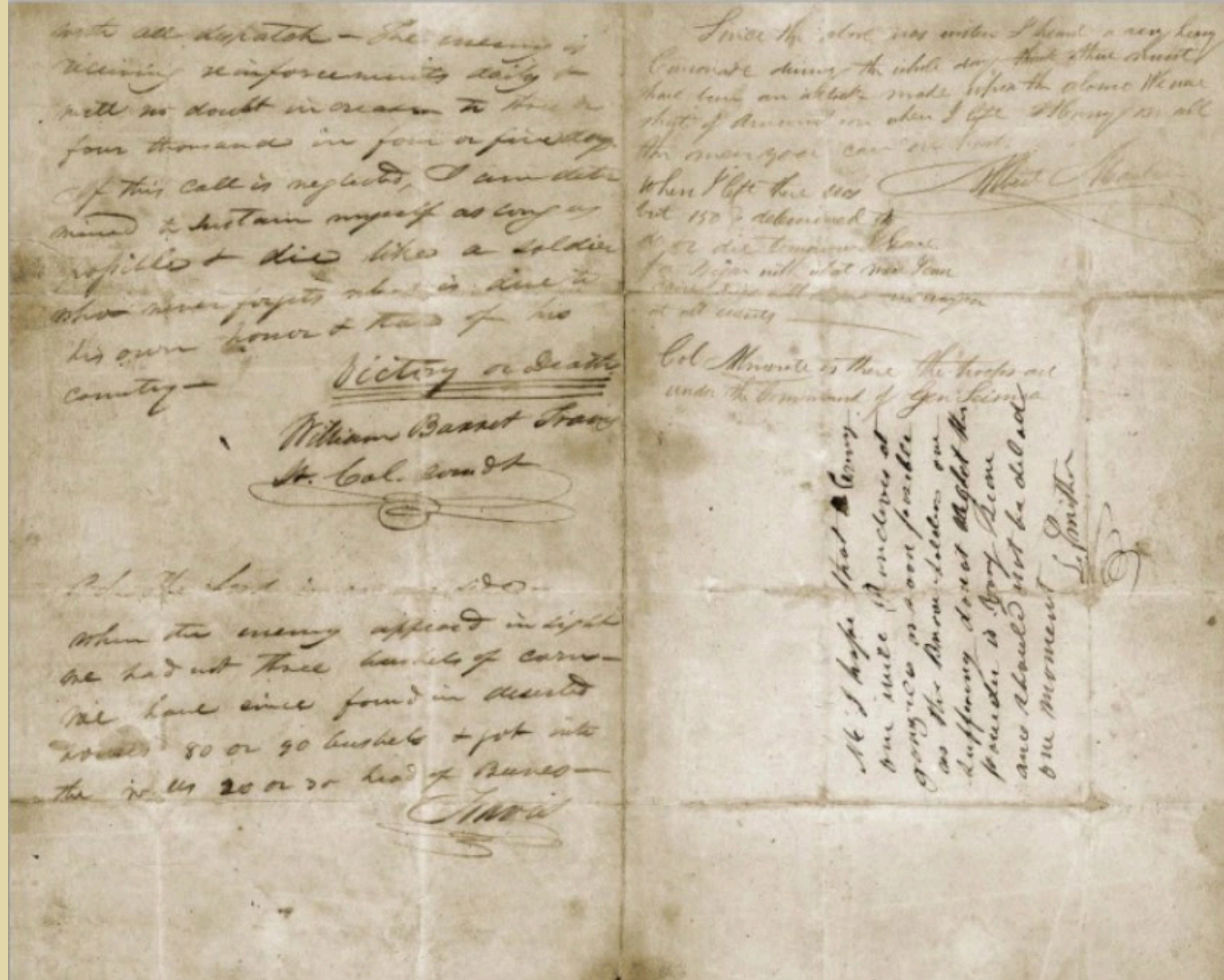
By late afternoon, Béxar was occupied by about 1500 Mexican troops, who quickly raised a **blood-red** flag signifying "No Quarter" - there would be no prisoners. Soon after, a Mexican bugler sounded the request for parley. Travis answers the Mexican's terms with a volley from the Alamo's 18-pounder cannon.

Furious, the Mexican general ordered his forces to launch a siege.

Day 2 - February 24, 1836

Wednesday, February 24 marked the first full day of the siege. Throughout the day, the Mexican army reconnoitered the Alamo defenses. At 11 a.m. Santa Anna accompanied the cavalry on a scouting mission, coming within musket shot of the Alamo.

Bowie had been ill and at some point during the day he collapsed and was confined to his bed. Fearing that he was contagious, Bowie moved into a small room in the low barracks along the south wall of the mission. Travis was now in sole command of the garrison and recognizes their disadvantage. He sent out several messages via couriers asking for reinforcements. He wrote his famous letter addressed "To the People of Texas and All Americans in the World ... The call is upon ALL who are able to bear arms, to rally without one moment's delay, or in fifteen days the heart of Texas will be the seat of war." In the letter, he pledged that he would "never surrender or retreat" and swore "Victory or Death."



Travis sent the letter with courier Albert Martin, who delivered it to Gonzales. There, Launcelot Smithers took custody of the message and delivered it to San Felipe, where it was read by Governor Henry Smith. Smith told the colonists at San Felipe "to fly to the aid of your besieged countrymen and not permit them to be massacred by a mercenary foe." The letter was eventually reprinted throughout the United States and much of Europe.

In the early evening, Mexican Colonel Juan Bringas led scouts across a footbridge over the San Antonio River; Texian sharpshooters quickly killed one soldier and the Mexicans retreated, but Davy Crockett managed to drop a second man before the enemy finally reached cover. Throughout the night the Mexican artillery sporadically bombarded the church and long barracks, while the Mexican army fired muskets and shouted to fool the Texians into believing that an assault was imminent, or that Texian reinforcements were being slaughtered.

Santa Anna also ordered that his military band serenade the Texians throughout the night.

Day 3 - February 25, 1836

The Mexican bombardment continued through the morning of February 25. At approximately 10 a.m. about 200–300 Mexican soldiers, primarily cazadores from the Matamoras Battalion, crossed the San Antonio river and took cover in abandoned shacks approximately 90 to 100 yards from the Alamo walls. The Mexican soldiers were intending to use the huts as cover to erect another artillery battery, although many Texians assumed they were actually launching an assault on the fort. Travis called for volunteers to burn the huts, despite the fact that it was broad daylight and they would be within musket range of the Mexican soldiers. Charles Despallier, Robert Brown, James Rose and a few others volunteered for the mission. To provide cover, Dickinson and his men fired their 8-lb cannons, filled with grapeshot and canister, at the Mexican soldiers in the huts. Crockett and his men fired rifles, while other Texians reloaded extra weapons for them. Within two hours the battle was over. As soon as the Texians saw flames erupting from the huts they threw open the Alamo gate, and the Texians re-entered the Alamo. The Mexican soldiers retreated, after six of their soldiers were killed and four wounded, while several Texians had been mildly scratched by flying rock.

That afternoon Mexican soldiers were posted east of the Alamo, on the road to Gonzales. Santa Anna learned that a beautiful 17-year-old girl, Melchora Barrera, and her widowed mother had remained in town and he dispatched one of his men to ask the girl to be Santa Anna's mistress. The girl's mother refused the offer and, although Santa Anna was already married, one of his officers dressed up as a priest and performed a marriage ceremony. Santa Anna then retired to enjoy a honeymoon.

Travis wrote another letter requesting help and the Texian officers voted that Juan Seguin should carry the message. The Texians believed that none of the other couriers had made it through the Mexican lines, and told Travis that Seguin's knowledge of Spanish would help him to avoid capture by Mexican patrols. Seguin, riding Bowie's horse, which was the fastest in the mission, and his aide Antonio Cruz left about 9 pm. Seguin did not expect to survive the mission; he and Cruz encountered a Mexican cavalry patrol but were able to escape using their knowledge of Spanish and the local terrain.

After dark, a small party of Texians left the Alamo to burn down more of the huts; all were able to return to the Alamo without injury.

Day Four – Friday February 26, 1836

The Texians burned more jacales (small thatched roof huts) during the night. It soon became obvious that the Alamo's water well would not supply the needs of a 150+ people in the garrison. They would have to obtain water from the nearby acequia (irrigation ditch). The overnight arrival of a norther dropped the temperatures to near freezing. As daylight broke, a Texian foray went outside the walls to obtain water and wood. A small skirmish erupted with the Mexican troops and Mexican casualties were slightly heavier than in earlier fights due to the Texian's eastern-facing cannon.

Day Five – Saturday February 27, 1836

The fifth day of the siege was again cold with temperatures ranging in the 30s. Having exhausted their own supplies, the Mexicans pillaged Bexar of foodstuffs and perishables. When they in turn depleted these, they sent troops to nearby ranchos to forage livestock and corn. In a decisive move, the Mexicans cut off the eastern acequia's water supply at its source: the San Antonio River. Not only did this end the minor skirmishes that had taken place from the beginning of the siege; it essentially eliminated the defender's major source of water.

General Gaona received Santa Anna's letter of the 25th requesting him to send three battalions as quickly as possible. Gaona immediately complied, yet failed to forward any heavy siege guns because Santa Anna neglected to include this request in his dispatch.

Day Six – Sunday February 28, 1836

Mexicans receive intelligence that 200 Texian reinforcements from Goliad are en route to the Alamo. The morale within the compound is high. According to Mrs. Dickinson, Crockett took up a fiddle and challenged John McGregor, a Scot with bagpipes, to a contest of instruments.

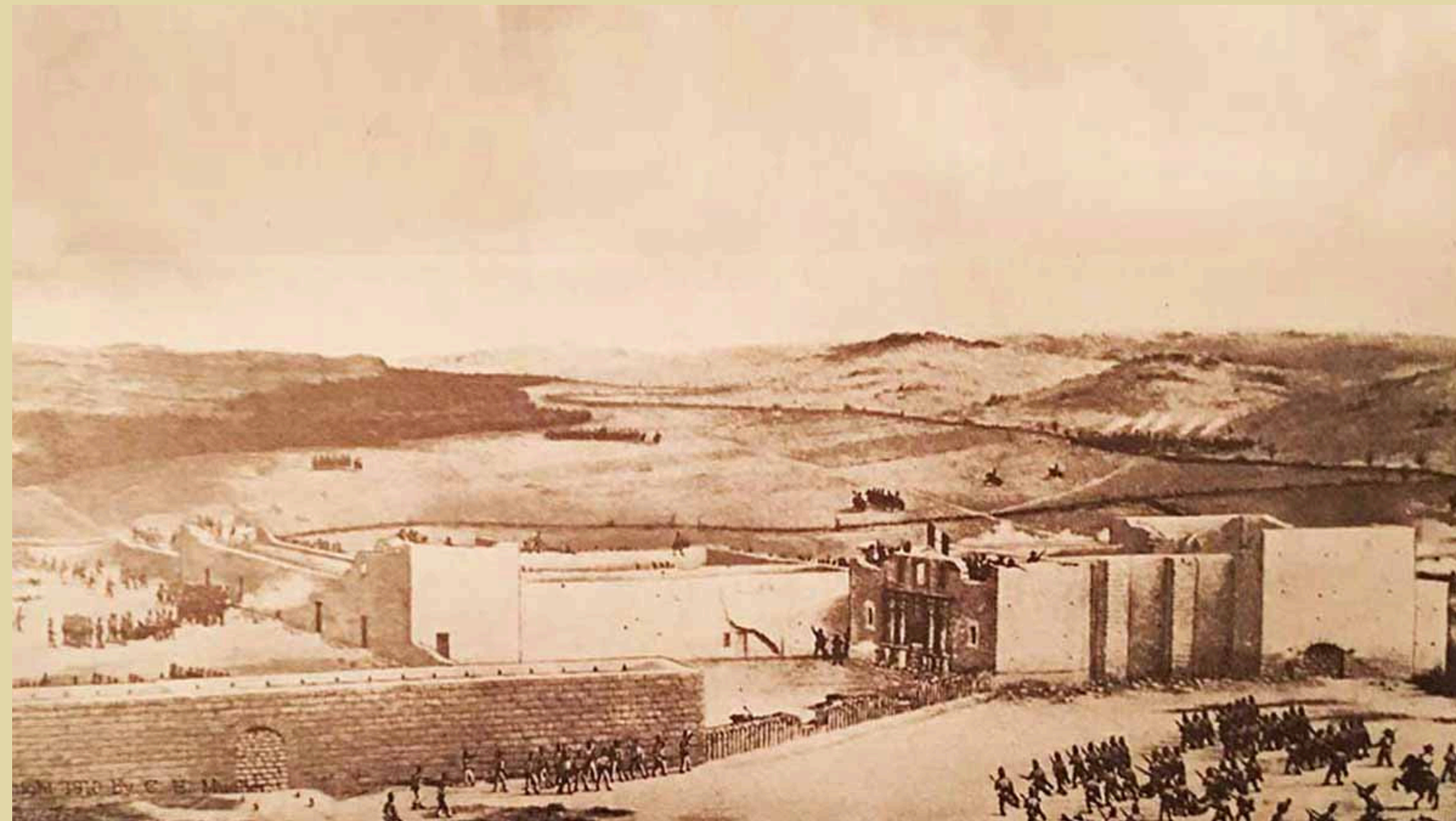
Day Seven – Monday February 29, 1836

The Mexican's Jimenez battalion and the cavalry under command of General Ramirez y Sesma are ordered down the Goliad road to intercept any reinforcements that might have been sent by Fannin. The Mexicans propose a three-day armistice and several Tejanos leave Alamo during the cease-fire.

Day Eight – Tuesday March 1, 1836

Thirty-two reinforcements from Gonzales arrive. General Sesma advances towards Goliad to seek out Texian reinforcements coming to the aid of the Alamo. Finding none, he returns to Bexar. The Alamo's 12-pound gunnade fires two shots, one of them hitting Santa Anna's headquarters.

And the siege lingers on ...



There's A Day For Everything

In case you didn't already know ... there's something every day to **celebrate!**
Here are some of the fun, unusual, or forgotten holidays this week:

February 23rd - National Tile Day, National Dog Biscuit Day, National Banana Bread Day

February 24th - National Tortilla Chip Day

February 25th - National Clam Chowder Day, National Chocolate Covered Nut Day

February 26th - National Letter To An Elder Day, National Set A Good Example Day, National Tell A Fairy Tale Day, National Pistachio Day

February 27th - National Small Dog Day, National Pokémon Day, National Anosmia Awareness Day, National Retro Day, National Toast Day, National Chili Day, National Polar Bear Day, National Strawberry Day, National Kahlua Day

February 28th - National Skip The Straw Day, National Rare Disease Day, National Chocolate Souffle Day, National Tooth Fairy Day, National Floral Design Day, National Public Sleeping Day

March 1st - National Sunkist Citrus Day, National Self Injury Awareness Day, National Minnesota Day, National Dadgum That's Good Day, Global Day Of Unplugging, National Horse Protection Day, National Fruit Compote Day, National Pig Day, National Peanut Butter Lover's Day, National Play Outside Day



Hello March!

This week sees the first day of March. For some of us it's an unsettling month: no longer winter, not quite spring, even though the official First Day of Spring usually falls around March 20th with the vernal equinox. As we march into March, entertain your brain with some fun facts about our third month.

First of all, March was not always the third month. For the ancient Romans, it was the first month of the year and was named after Mars, the god of war. This could go a long way toward explaining some of the fierce weather that can occur in this month and the familiar saying that “March comes in like a lion and goes out like a lamb.”



It might also explain why one of the traditional birthstones for March is the bloodstone, marked by red flecks against its green surface and sometimes referred to as the martyr's stone. It symbolizes courage and endurance.



But the alternate birthstone is the more tranquil aquamarine with its distinctive seawater blue coloration. It is said to confer safety during sea voyages.



The official March flower is the daffodil or jonquil. It's one of the first flowers to bloom as spring draws near, making it the flower of rebirth, along with other meanings such as friendship and respect. Its traditional sunny yellow color makes it the perfect cheerful flower for celebrating the end of winter.



The Zodiak signs for March are



Pisces through March 20th

Traits: Compassionate, artistic, intuitive, gentle, wise, musical

Known for: Being sensitive and creative

Personality: Often seeing the world through rose-colored glasses, focusing on the good and tuning out the darkness




Aries starting March 21st


Personality traits: Bold, Ambitious, Courageous, Determined, Confident, Enthusiastic, Optimistic, Honest, and


Passionate.
Aries are known for being unpredictable and spontaneous.

MARCH WEATHER LORE

 *When March has April weather, April will have March weather.*

 *Thunder in March betokens a fruitful year.*

 *Dust in March brings grass and foliage.*

 *A March Sun sticks like a lock of wool.*



~~ March is also ~~

National Sauce Month	National Noodle Month	Irish-American Heritage Month
National Frozen Food Month	National Flour Month	Women's History Month
National Craft Month	National Celery Month	National Kidney Month
National Peanut Month	National Umbrella Month	National Red Cross Month
National Asset Management Awareness Month	National Athletic Training Month	



Kingsbury Weather

Kingsbury weather for this week. You can always get the latest **weather** in Kingsbury on the Kingsbury website under [Calendar](#).



For current temperature, rainfall totals, wind speed, etc. just click on the bar at the bottom to go directly to the Baker Ranch weather station in Kingsbury. You can view local conditions and all the other weather stations in the TexMesonet network.

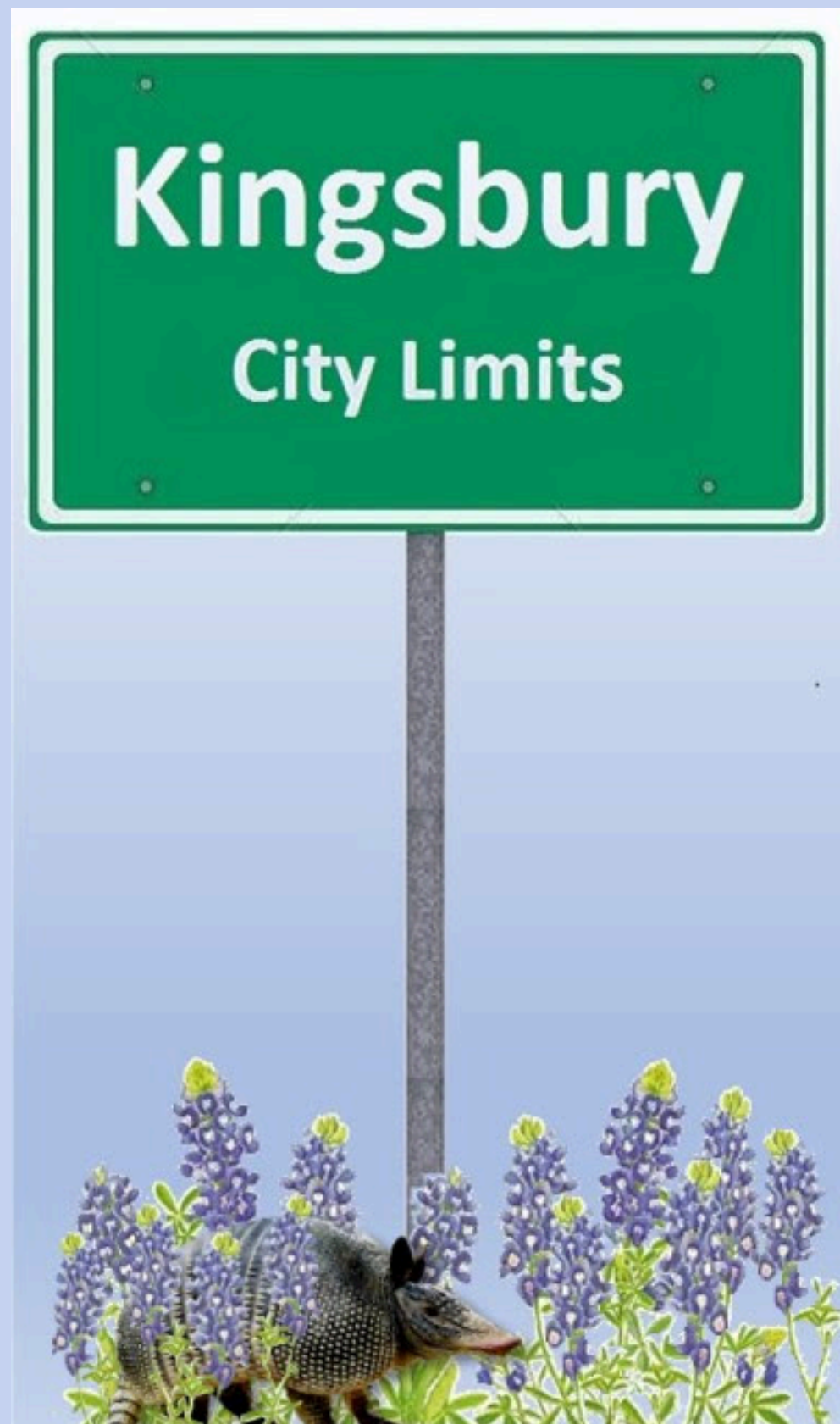


Kingsbury City Limits

Do you have property in the Kingsbury area but not in the **official** Kingsbury city limits? Would you like it to be a part of the new city of Kingsbury? Let Kingsbury know! It's a simple "Voluntary Annexation" petition form to fill out and you can be on the list to be part of our Kingsbury.

Check out the "Kingsbury City Limits" page on the Kingsbury [website](#) to see the current map, get a petition form, and find more information on voluntary annexations.

Also, check out the Kingsbury "[Blog](#)" to see pictures of the first voluntary annexations! Need more information? Just fill out the "Contact" page on the Kingsbury [website](#) and a city official will get it to you. It's so easy!



Burn Ban Lifted

Guadalupe County lifted its burn ban Feb. 14 after a "considerable amount" of **rainfall** in all or parts of the unincorporated areas of the county.

The official notification can be found on the Guadalupe County website at <http://www.co.guadalupe.tx.us/>



The City of Kingsbury has a "trigger" ordinance where a burn ban is in effect in the city limits whenever there is a burn ban issued by the county.



As always, please take precautions and report any fire hazards immediately to the Kingsbury Volunteer Fire Department at 639-4499 or to the Guadalupe Fire Dispatch at 379-1224. To report a fire, please dial 911.





Fellowship

The Kingsbury Lutheran Church will be having weekly Fellowship gatherings every Thursday.

These get-togethers start at 6:30 in the Fellowship Hall and the **activities** could be a mix of food, Bible study, games, etc.

Everyone is welcome!



Model T Olympics

The Model T Olympics are a series of games and activities involving the Ford Model T car and all the fun is at the Pioneer Flight Museum here in Kingsbury on Saturday, March 29th

Activities

Model T-sized teeter-totter: Test your balance by trying to **balance** your car on the teeter-totter

Driver's skills course: Test your skills at parking, turning, and driving in high gear

Potato race and beanbag toss: Team-based games

Backseat driver course: A blindfolded driver navigated by a passenger through a course of cones

Tailgate swap meet: Bring your Model T or parts to sell or trade

Driving lessons: Learn to drive a Model T or improve your skills

Who can attend?

Anyone with a Model T is welcome to participate

Spectators are also welcome

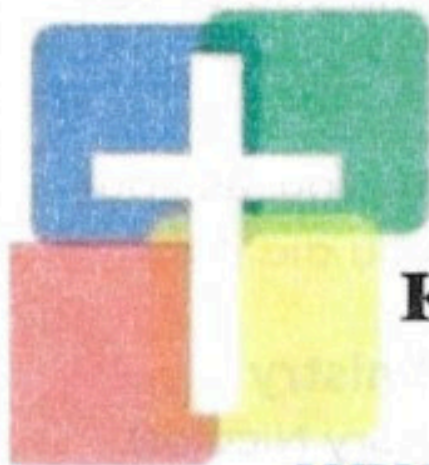
If you don't have a Model T, you can still come for a ride!



Food Pantry & Thrift Store

KINGSBURY BAPTIST CHURCH

FOOD PANTRY & THRIFT OUTREACH MINISTRY



6845 FM 2438

Kingsbury, TX 78638



www.kingsburybc.com

Kingsbury Calendar

Do you have a meeting or public event that you want people to **know** about? Just let us know and we'll get it into the Kingsbury Newsletter and on the [Calendar](#) page of kingsburytexas.org!

Get in touch by replying to this email or by going to the Contact page on the Kingsbury [website](#).

It's a great way to find out what's going on around town and to let others know what meetings or events you have planned that your friends and neighbors might like to attend.

KINGSBURY CALENDAR & WEATHER

Time zone: (GMT-06:00) < February 2025 > Today

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
26	27 Kingsbury Ci...	28	29	30 Fellowship	31	1
2 🔥 Groundh...	3 🐾 Trail Driv...	4	5	6 KVFD Auxilia... + 2	7	8
9	10	11	12 🌞 Full Snow ...	13 Fellowship	14 Valentine's Day	15 🎯 Volunteer...
16	17 Presidents' Day Kingsbury Ci...	18	19	20 Fellowship	21	22
23	24	25	26	27 Fellowship	28	1

Kingsbury Graduates

Since we will be heading into the graduation season soon, here's a great picture of some **graduates** of the Kingsbury High School, Class of 1937.

Left to right are: Viola Kluth, Irma Donsbach, Cora Glenewinkel, and Jane Imhoff.



Know someone that should be on the Kingsbury Newsletter eMail List?

Send them this email! All they need to do is go to the [Kingsbury website](#), click on the weird little **dog** at the bottom of any page, and fill out their name and email address. It's so easy! Let's get everybody to be "in the know" about what's going on in their community.



Thanks!

Kingsbury News & Information

For more information any time

Visit our website - www.kingsburytexas.org

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