

Kingsbury News & Information Newsletter - March 2, 2025

message

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To: "*[FNAME]*" <kingsburytexas@gmail.com>

Sun, Mar 2, 2025 at 11:04 AM

Kingsbury Texas

News & Information Newsletter



Dear Kingsbury,

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

The Siege And Battle Of The Alamo

This week in Texas history in 1836, the siege of the Alamo continues but the defenders inside can sense that the final **battle** is looming . . .

Day Nine - Wednesday March 2, 1836

Travis receives a report that there is corn at the Seguin ranch. He sends a detatchment headed by Lt. Menchaca to retrieve it. Mexican forces discover a hidden road within pistol shot of the Alamo and post the Jimenez

battalion there to cover it.

Unknown to the defenders, Independence has been declared at Washington-on-the-Brazos. . .

Day Ten – Thursday March 3, 1836

James Butler Bonham arrives with news of reinforcements. He reports that sixty men from Gonzales are due and that an additional 600 would soon be en route. The Texians fire several shots into the city in celebration. Santa Anna receives word of Mexican General Urrea's victory at San Patricio. In celebration, the Mexcians ring church bells and there is revelry in the camp.

The lead elements of General Gaona's Brigade arrive. These are reinforcements needed for a successful assault.

Day Eleven – Friday March 4, 1836

Santa Anna gathers his officers for a council of war. It is decided that when the final assault takes place, that they will take no prisoners. The time for the assault will be determined tomorrow. Having been consolidated into two batteries, the Mexican artillery, is brought to within 200 yards of the compound.

More Texian reinforcements arrive in the late hours.

Day Twelve – Saturday March 5, 1836

Saturday, March 5, marked a brief departure from the frigid temperatures of the preceding days, as the air warmed to between 50 and 68 degrees. That morning, Santa Anna called another staff meeting and announced that the assault would commence the following day. Again, officers advocated waiting for the arrival of the heavy artillery. According to his aide, Fernando Urissa, Santa Anna responded "What are the lives of soldiers than so many chickens? I tell you, the Alamo must fall, and my orders must be obeyed at all hazards. If our soldiers are driven back, the next line in their rear must force those before them forward, and compel them to scale the walls, cost what it may."

The orders instructed all men to wear shoes or sandals and to properly tie their shako chin-straps. Despite the cold, soldiers were prohibited from wearing cloaks or blankets, as these might limit their movements on the battlefield. Each soldier would receive either 4 or 6 rounds of ammunition and would be given 2 flints.

A messenger arrives at the Alamo compound with the grim news that reinforcements aren't coming.

That evening, James Allen became the last courier to leave the Alamo, carrying messages from Travis and several of the other men. Legend holds that at some point on March 5, Travis gathered his men and explained that an attack was likely imminent, and that the Mexican Army would likely prevail. He supposedly drew a line in the sand and asked those willing to die for the Texian cause to cross and stand alongside him. A bedridden Bowie requested that Crockett and several others carry his cot over the line, leaving only one man, Louis "Moses" Rose on the other side. Explaining that he was not yet ready to die, Rose escaped that evening.

At 10 pm, the Mexican artillery ceased their bombardment. As Santa Anna had planned, the exhausted Texians soon fell into a deep sleep, the first uninterrupted sleep many had gotten since the siege began. Three Texians were sent to act as sentries outside the walls.

Late that evening, the Mexicans begin moving into attack position.

Day Thirteen - Sunday March 6, 1836

At midnight, Mexican soldiers began silently moving towards their places to await the start of battle. The Texian sentries were surprised and killed quickly before they could raise an alarm. At 5:30 am, Santa Anna gave the order for the advance, and his excited troops began shouting "Viva Santa Anna, Viva la republica!" The shouting woke the Texians, but by the time they reached their posts the Mexican soldiers were already within musket range.

Adjutant John Baugh had just begun his morning rounds when he heard the cries. He hurriedly ran to the quarters of Colonel William Barret Travis. He awakened him with: "Colonel Travis, the Mexicans are coming!" Travis ran to the walls and yelled "Come on boys, the Mexicans are on us and we'll give them Hell!" Unable to see the advancing troops for the darkness, the Texian gunners blindly opened fire; they had packed their cannon with jagged pieces of scrap metal, shot, and chain. The muzzle flash briefly illuminated the landscape and it was with horror that the Texians understood their predicament. The enemy had nearly reached the walls of the compound.

The Mexican soldiers had immediate and terrible losses. That first cannon blast ripped a huge gap in their column. Colonel José Enrique de la Peña would later write "...a single cannon volley did away with half the company of Chasseurs from Toluca." The screams and moans of the dying and wounded only heightened the fear and chaos of those first few moments of the assault.

Travis hastily climbed to the top of the north wall battery and readied himself to fire; discharging both barrels of his shotgun into the massed troops below. As he turned to reload, a single lead ball struck him in the forehead sending him rolling down the ramp where he came to rest in a sitting position. Travis was dead.

Amid the Texian cannon fire tearing through their ranks, General Cos's troops performed a right oblique to begin an assault on the west wall. The Mexicans used axes and crowbars to break through the barricaded windows and openings. They climbed through the gun ports and over the wall to enter the compound. General Amador and his men entered the compound by climbing up the rough-faced repairs made on the north wall by the Texians. They successfully breached the wall and in a flood of fury, the Mexican army poured through. The Texians turned their cannon northward to check this new onslaught. With cannon fire shifted, Colonel Morales recognized a momentary advantage. His men stormed the walls and took the southwest corner, the 18-pounder, and the main gate. The Mexican army was now able to enter from almost every direction.

In one room near the main gate, the Mexican soldiers found Colonel James Bowie. Bowie was critically ill and confined to bed when the fighting began. The soldiers showed little mercy as they silenced him with their bayonets. The Texians continued to pour gunfire into the advancing Mexican soldiers devastating their ranks. Still they came.

When they saw the enemy rush into the compound from all sides, the Texians fell back to their defenses in the Long Barracks. Crockett's men in the palisade area retreated into the church. The rooms of the north barrack and the Long Barracks had been prepared well in advance in the event the Mexicans gained entry. The Texians made the rooms formidable by trenching and barricading them with raw cowhides filled with earth. For a short time, the Texians held their ground.

The Mexicans turned the abandoned Texian cannon on the barricaded rooms. With cannon blast followed by a musket volley, the Mexican soldiers stormed the rooms to finish the defenders inside the barrack. Mexican

soldiers rushed the darkened rooms. With sword, bayonet, knife, and fist the adversaries clashed. In the darkened rooms of the north barrack, it was hard to tell friend from foe. The Mexicans systematically took room after room; finally, the only resistance came from within the church itself. Once more, the Mexicans employed the Texians' cannon to blast apart the defenses of the entrance. Bonham, Dickinson and Esparza died by their cannon at the rear of the church. An act of war became a slaughter. It was over in minutes.

According to one of Santa Anna's officers, the Mexican army overwhelmed and captured a small group of defenders. According to this officer, Crockett was among them. The prisoners were brought before Santa Anna where General Castrillón asked for mercy on their behalf. Santa Anna instead answered with a "gesture of indignation" and ordered their execution. Nearby officers who had not taken part in the assault fell upon the helpless men with their swords. One Mexican officer noted in his journal that: "Though tortured before they were killed, these unfortunates died without complaining and without humiliating themselves before their torturers." Despite this one account, most historians agree that there were no prisoners taken. Ben, a former American slave who acted as cook for one of Santa Anna's officers, maintained that Crockett's body was found in the barracks surrounded by "no less than sixteen Mexican corpses", with Crockett's knife buried in one of them.

Santa Anna orders the gathering of firewood from the surrounding countryside and in alternating layers of wood and bodies the dead were stacked. At 5:00 O'clock in the evening the pyres were lit. In this final act, Santa Anna's "small affair" ended.

Santa Anna's cruelty during the battle inspired many Texians - both Texas settlers and adventurers from the United States - to join the Texian Army. The massive "Runaway Scrape" is now at it's height as the civilian population flees eastward ahead of the Mexican forces. It is now joined by the widows of the Alamo.

The Mexican army will move on to Goliad where Colonel James Fannin is defending Presidio La Bahia, which he had renamed Fort Defiance ...



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:

March 2nd - National Finisher's Medal Day, National Banana Cream Pie Day, National Old Stuff Day

March 3rd - National Soup It Forward Day, National Mulled Wine Day, National Cold Cuts Day, National I Want You To Be Happy Day, National Anthem Day, National Read Across America Day

March 4th - National Sons Day, Fastnacht Day, Paczki Day, National Marching Music Day, Fat Tuesday, National Grammar Day, National Hug A G.I. Day, National Pound Cake Day, National Pancake Day

March 5th – Ash Wednesday , National Absinthe Day, National Cheese Doodle Day, National Multiple Personality Day

March 6th - National Slam The Scam Day, National Dress Day, National Oreo Cookie Day, National White Chocolate Cheesecake Day, National Frozen Food Day, National Dentist's Day

March 7th - National Flapjack Day, National Hospitalist Day, National Dress In Blue Day, National Speech And Debate Education Day, National Tartar Sauce Day, National Employee Appreciation Day, National Crown Roast Of Pork Day, National Cereal Day, National Be Heard Day

March 8th - National Oregon Day, National Proofreading Day, National Peanut Cluster Day



Daylight Saving Time Is Coming...

Just a friendly **reminder** - Daylight Saving Time starts again <u>next</u> Sunday, March 9th.

We'll have to set our clocks forward one hour at 2 a.m. ... technically. In reality, we'll just adjust our clocks the evening before. Then have to keep setting clocks over the next few days as we run across ones that we didn't think about and forgot to do!



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.



Texas Independence Day

Today in Texas history, on March 2nd in 1836, Texas became a republic.

On March 1st, 59 delegates from the seventeen Mexican municipalities of Texas and the settlement of Pecan Point met at Washington-on-the-Brazos to consider **independence** from Mexico. George C. Childress presented a resolution calling for independence, and the chairman of the convention appointed Childress to head a committee of five to draft a declaration of independence.

The convention was convened on March 1st with Richard Ellis as president and in the early morning hours of March 2nd, the convention voted unanimously to accept the resolution with no debate. After fifty-eight members signed the document, Texas became the Republic of Texas. Based primarily on the writings of John Locke and Thomas Jefferson, throughout the declaration are numerous references to the United States laws, rights, and customs.

Among others, the declaration mentions the following reasons for the separation:

The 1824 Constitution of Mexico establishing a federal republic had been usurped and changed into a centralist military dictatorship by Gen. Antonio López de Santa Anna.

The Mexican government had invited settlers to Texas and promised them constitutional liberty and republican government, but then reneged on these guarantees. (It did not mention that many settlers, including the author and majority of signatories, were factually uninvited, illegal trespassers.)

Political rights to which the settlers had previously been accustomed in the United States, such as the right to keep and bear arms and the right to trial by jury, were denied.

*No system of public education had been established.

** Attempts by the Mexican government to enforce import tariffs were called "piratical attacks" by "foreign desperadoes".

The settlers were not allowed freedom of religion. All legal settlers were required to convert to Catholicism.

Based upon the United States Declaration of Independence, the Texas Declaration also contains many memorable expressions of American political principles:

"the right of trial by jury, that palladium of civil liberty, and only safe guarantee for the life, liberty, and property of the citizen."

"our arms ... are essential to our defence, the rightful property of freemen, and formidable only to tyrannical governments."

The declaration officially established the Republic of Texas.

UNANIMOUS

DECLARATION OF INDIPENDENCE.

BY THE

DELEGATES OF THE PEOPLE OF TEXAS.

IN GENERAL CONVENTION.

AT THE TOWN OF WASHINGTON



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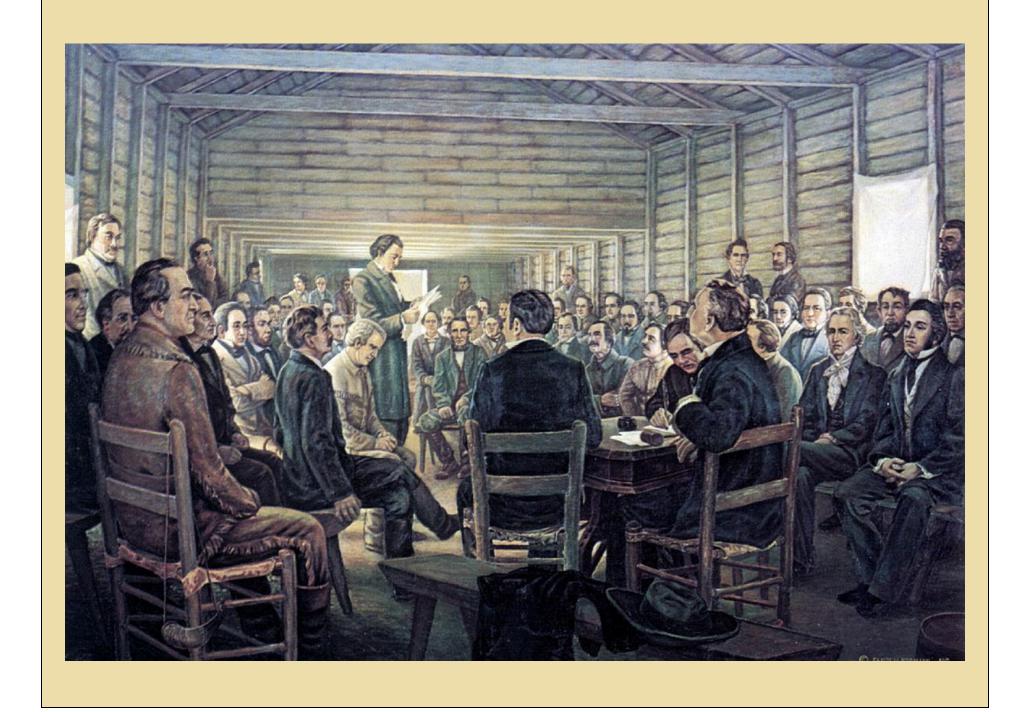
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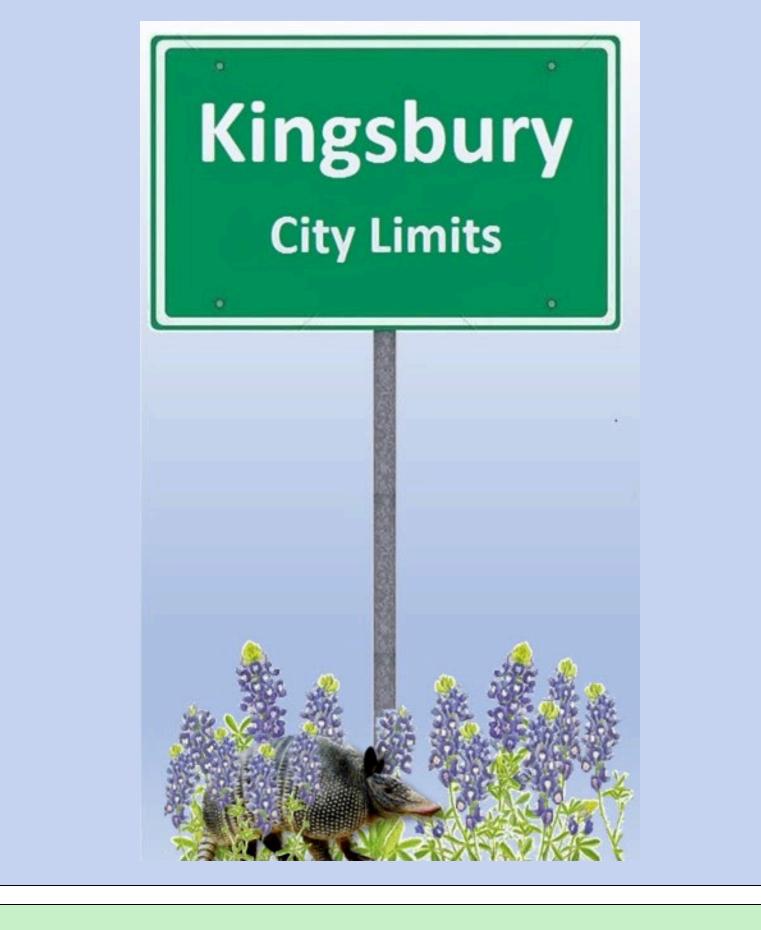


Do you have property in the Kingsbury area but not in the **official** Kingsbury city limits? Would you like it to be a part of the new city of Kingsbury? Let Kingsbury know! It's a simple "Voluntary Annexation" petition form to fill out and you can be on the list to be part of out Kingsbury.

Check out the "Kingsbury City Limits" page on the Kingsbury <u>website</u> 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



Live Music & Dancing



Fat Tuesday

This Tuesday, March 4th, is Mardi Gras, also known as Fat Tuesday!

Mardi Gras (Fat Tuesday) is a festival held the day before Ash Wednesday (Shrove Tuesday), signifying the end of the Carnival season and the start of Lent. Many cities (especially those with large Catholic populations) like New Orleans are famous for their Mardi Gras.

During Mardi Gras, almost everyone takes part in **celebrating** with lavish parades and parties. Many different people celebrate Mardi Gras in their own way, some people have small parties and eat many of the tasty pastries and some people have huge parties and celebrate in a big way. Some of the pastries they eat are called king's cake, hot cross buns, punchskis, tricolor scrolls and thick sugar cookies. There are many more things that other people eat but these are the usual American celebration food for mardi gras. There are so many different parades and kinds of celebrations.

In some countries, including the United Kingdom, Ireland and Australia, the day is called Shrove Tuesday, Fat Tuesday, Pancake Tuesday, or Pancake Day.

Laissez les bons temps rouler! (Let the good times roll!)



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 <u>Calendar</u> page of <u>kingsburytexas.org!</u>

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.

ime zone: (GM	T-06:00) ∨	<	March 2025	>		Today
un	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
23	24	25	26	27 Fellowship	28	1
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Kingsbury VFD & Auxiliary

Regular meetings of the Kingsbury Volunteer Fire Department are scheduled for the first Thursday of each month at 7:30 at KVFD Fire Station #1. The next is

Thursday, March 6th

Stop by to learn what you can do to help your community as a firefighter, a supporter, or as a first-responder.

The KVFD **Auxiliary** has their meetings on the first Thursday of the month. The next meeting of 2023 will be Thursday, March 6th and all meetings start at 6:00 p.m. in the Kingsbury VFD fire station. Come by and be a part of the awesome KVFD Auxiliary!

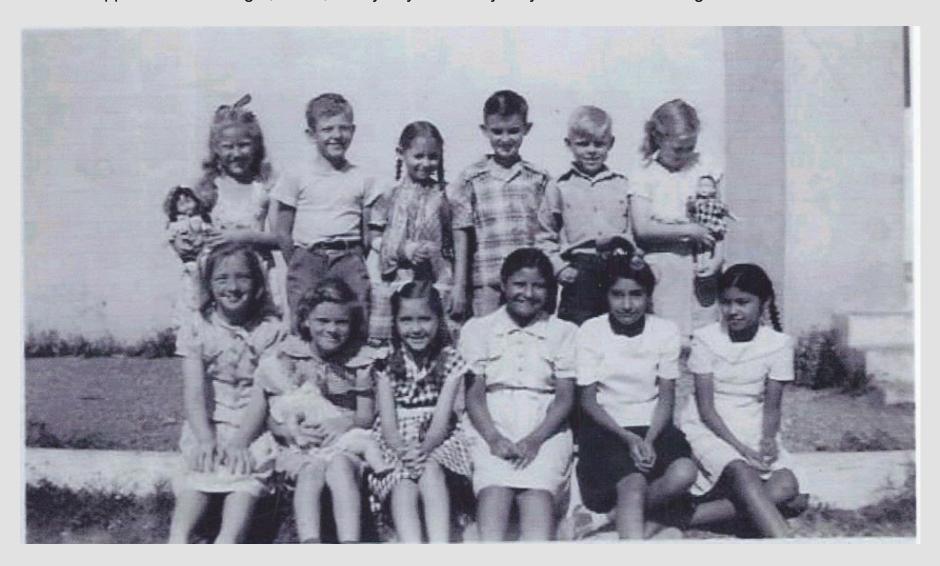


A Happy Group

A group of kids in the 1940s probably in front of the school which was the only white stucco building in Kingsbury.

The girls at the ends of the back row and one little girl in the front row have their dolls with them.

The little pig-tailed girl in the middle of the back row (Jackie Schmidt) has her arm in a **cast** and sling. It appears to be a bright, warm, sunny day and everybody seems to have a big smile on their face!



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

Send them this email! All they need to do is go to the <u>Kingsbury website</u>, 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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Check out the Kingsbury Calendar & Weather











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