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**Kingsbury News & Information Newsletter - December 18, 2022**

1 message

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Sun, Dec 18, 2022 at 11:01 AM

## Kingsbury Texas

*News & Information Newsletter*

*Dear Kingsbury,*

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

### Winter Solstice

This Wednesday, December 21st, is the Winter Solstice. Winter officially begins with the Winter Solstice as it is the astronomical first day of winter in the Northern Hemisphere.

The winter solstice is the day with the fewest hours of **sunlight** in the whole year. In the Northern Hemisphere, it always occurs around December 21 or 22. (In the Southern Hemisphere, the winter solstice occurs around June 20 or 21.)

The word solstice comes from Latin *sol* "sun" and *sistere* "to stand still." In the Northern Hemisphere, as summer advances to winter, the points on the horizon where the Sun rises and sets advance southward each day; the high point in the Sun's daily path across the sky, which occurs at local noon, also moves southward each day.

At the winter solstice, the Sun's path has reached its southernmost position. The next day, the path will advance northward. However, a few days before and after the winter solstice, the change is so slight that the Sun's path seems to stay the same, or stand still. The Sun is directly overhead at "high-noon" on Winter Solstice at the latitude called the Tropic of Capricorn.



*Happy Winter Solstice*

## 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:

**December 18th** - Answer The Telephone Like Buddy The Elf Day, Bake Cookies Day, Flake Appreciation Day, Hanukkah, International Migrants Day, National Crime Junkie Day, National Roast Suckling Pig Day, National Twin Day, Wear a Plunger on Your Head Day

**December 19th** - Look for an Evergreen Day, National Hard Candy Day, National Heroes and Heroines Day, National Oatmeal Muffin Day

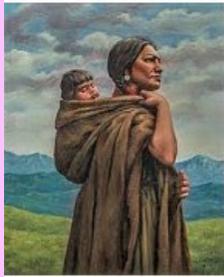
**December 20th** - Cathode-Ray Tube Day, Dot Your I's Day, Games Day, Go Caroling Day, Mudd Day, National Sangria Day, Sacagawea Day

**December 21st** - Anne and Samantha Day, Blue Christmas, December Solstice, Don't Make Your Bed Day, Humbug Day, Look On The Bright Side Day, National Armagnac Day, National Coquito Day, National Crossword Puzzle Day, National Flashlight Day, National French Fried Shrimp Day, National Homeless Persons' Remembrance Day, National Short Girl Appreciation Day, Phileas Fogg Win a Wager Day, Winter Solstice, World Snowboard Day, Yule

**December 22nd** - Forefathers' Day, Mathematics Day, National Cookie Exchange Day, National Date Nut Bread Day, National Short Person Day

**December 23rd** - Festivus, National Christmas Movie Marathon Day, National Forest Day, National Pfeffernusse Day, National Roots Day

**December 24th** - Christmas Eve, Last-Minute Shopper's Day, National Consumer Rights Day, National Egnog Day



## Hard Freeze

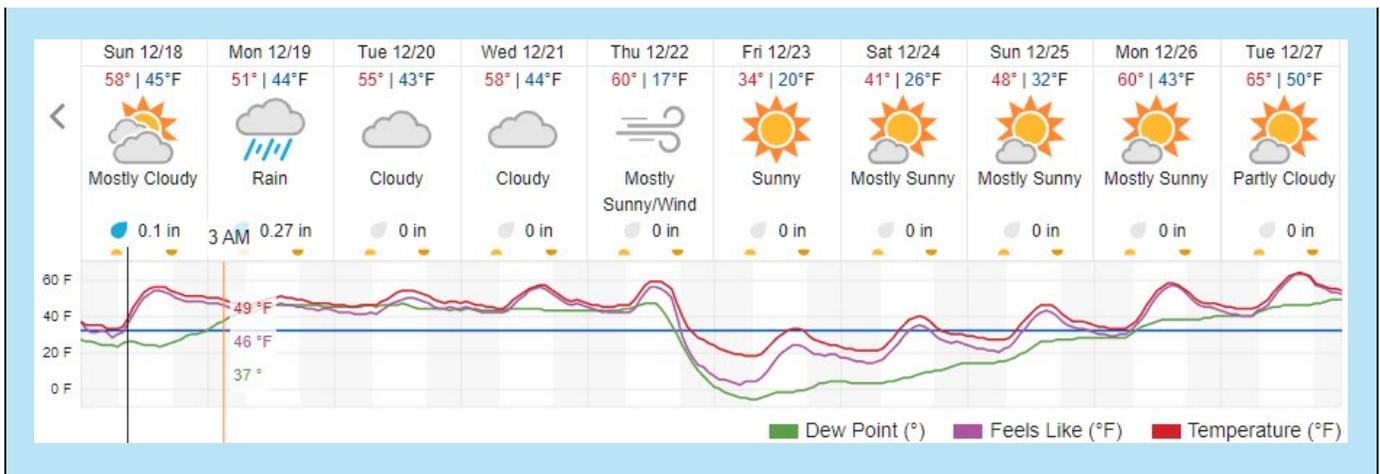
This Thursday night, we will have the first "hard freeze" of the season here in Kingsbury.

A hard freeze is defined as when the temperature drops below 28° for 2 or more hours. According to almost all weather models, the temperature will fall into the **teens** Thursday night.

This is the time to winterize your home and harvest your garden. The growing season will most certainly end at these temperatures. Outdoor pipes or sprinkler systems can be damaged if not protected or drained.

REMEMBER THE 4 P's!

- ❄ People ❄
- ❄ Plants ❄
- ❄ Pets ❄
- ❄ Pipes ❄



## Yule

Are you familiar with the tradition of the Yule log? Or perhaps you like to “troll the ancient yuletide carols”? “Yule” is one of the oldest winter celebrations in the world—celebrated on the winter **solstice**.

Today, “Yule” and “Yuletide” are largely synonymous with “Christmas” and “Christmastide,” but the meaning behind Yule is quite different from that of the Christian holiday.

The word “Yule” comes from Old English *geol*, which shares a history with the equivalent word from Old Norse, *jól*. Both these words referred to a midwinter festival centered around the winter solstice, which traditionally marked the halfway point of the winter season. After the solstice—the shortest day of the year—the days once again begin to grow longer, so it’s thought that Yule was a celebration of the re-appearance of the Sun and the fertile land’s rebirth.

The celebration of Yule is one of the oldest winter celebrations in the world. Ancient people were hunters and spent most of their time outdoors. The seasons and weather played a very important part in their lives. Customs and traditions associated with Yule vary widely. Most commonly, the celebration consisted of a hearty feast and general revelry, which included wassailing (caroling), drinking, and dancing.

Later, when Christianity came to the British Isles, Christians adopted aspects of the pagan festival into a celebration of the birth of Christ. As Christianity began to spread in the 4th century, the Christmas feast day was set on December 25 by Pope Julius I to align with the Roman pagan holiday *Dies natalis solis invicti*, “the birthday of the invincible Sun.” The rest is history.

### BURNING THE YULE LOG



Burning a log in celebration of Yule started well before medieval times. It began as part of the winter solstice festivities.

The candles and lights associated with Christmas, meant to symbolize guiding beacons for the Christ child, may have evolved from the Yule log, which was lit to entice the Sun to return as part of the *jól* (Yule) festival in Scandinavia.

Interestingly, the Yule log was originally an entire tree! Families would bring the trunk of the Yule tree inside and stick the big end of it into the fireplace. The Yule log would feed the fire through the 12 Days of Christmas (from Christmas Day through the evening of the 5th of January—known as Twelfth Night).

The ashes of Yule logs were said to be very good for plants. Wood ashes do indeed have beneficial uses in the garden!

Today, a Yule log is still a Christmas tradition in some cultures; a large log is traditionally burned in the fireplace on Christmas Eve. For others cultures, the Yule log is defined as a log-shape chocolate cake enjoyed as a Christmas dessert.



**New Year's Eve In Kingsbury Hall**

**New Year's Eve**

**In**



**Kingsbury Hall**

*Food by Manny's*

*Live Music*

*Complimentary*

*Champagne*

*BYOB*

*Fun Starts At 9*

*\$10 Cover*



**Kingsbury Items For Sale**

Looking for a neat little Kingsbury gift or want to support your location Kingsbury VFD? The KVFD Auxiliary has tea towels, stemless wine glasses, and coasters available for sale in the Kingsbury Country Store on Railway Street.

Tea towels wine glasses are \$10 and coasters are \$5 and all **proceeds** go to the KVFD Auxiliary for support of our firefighters and first responders.

Come check it all out!



## 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.

 [Click here to check out the Texas Water Development Board "Baker Ranch" weather](#)

### Kingsbury City Commission

The Kingsbury City Commission has a Regular Commission Meeting on the third Monday of each month. The next meeting will be

**Monday, December 19th**

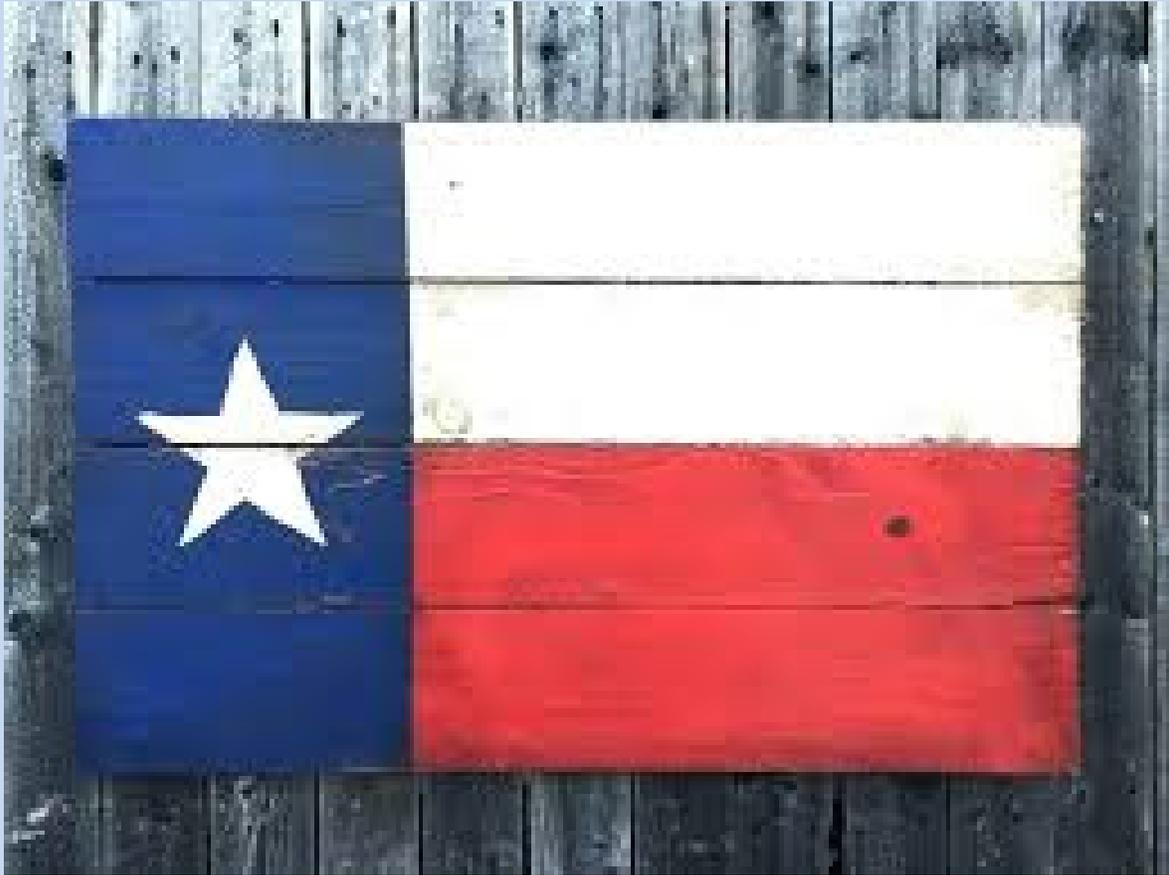
at 6:30 in the Kingsbury Volunteer Fire Department fire station at [1060 FM 1104](#).

Items on the **agenda**:

-  Planning and Zoning
-  Outdoor Burn Bans
-  Check Report

You can always find the meetings in the Kingsbury Calendar on the [website](#).

All city commission meetings are open to the public.



### Days Till Christmas

**Christmas Countdown**

6	13	06	14
DAYS	HOURS	MINUTES	SECONDS

A winter landscape illustration featuring snow-covered mountains, evergreen trees, and a decorated Christmas tree with a yellow star on top and colorful ornaments. Three wrapped gifts are placed at the base of the tree.

### The Kingsbury Windmill

As reported in the December 24, 1878 edition of the *Galveston Daily News*, there was once a "large wind-mill" in downtown Kingsbury.

This street scene in 1913 shows the windmill, a huge cistern, and some local townsfolk (from left to right):  
Traveling salesman (name unknown), Jim Flowers (barber), Walter Hyman of Luling, Bill Averitt (Justice of the Peace), Matt Houchin (deputy Sheriff), Walter Jones, Frank Harris, Edgar Gorden, Dr. Benbow, Oscar Halm, Alex Jones, Emil Schmidt (on porch).

There are a couple of ladies in **bonnets** on the boardwalk, but their names are unknown. Mr. Avert, Dr. Benbow, and Mr. Halm are all wearing sleeve garters. Ever wonder why men wore these? Well it's because ready made shirts at the time came with only one sleeve length - extra long. Sleeve garters allowed men to customize sleeve lengths and keep their cuffs from getting dirty or at the correct length when worn under a jacket.

If you click on the picture to en large it, you can see that the building to the right says "M. Flynn & Co. Gen. Merchandise" and the next building down obviously was the Drug Store. The building down the street on the left was a lumber yard and still has the remnants of a Barnum & Bailey Circus banner still attached and hanging over the porch.

Several of the buildings have additional signs atop the porches and the cistern is marked "Manufactured by Vivroux and Sons" and has a saddled horse waiting patiently on the other side.

Maybe it's just the perspective of the picture, but that really does seem to be one heck of a tall windmill!

*Excerpt from the December 24, 1878 Galveston Daily News:*

scissors-tail, etc.  
—At the town of Kingsbury, on the Sunset route, which was named in honor of the present immigration agent in England, one of the principal features of the place is a large wind-mill.  
—The Rev. Johnson Reed, of San An-



## 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](http://www.kingsburytexas.org), 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](http://www.kingsburytexas.org)

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