

Kingsbury News & Information Newsletter - March 1, 2020

1 message

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Kingsbury Texas

News & Information Newsletter



Dear Kingsbury,

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

March Is Here!

This week sees the first days 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.

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.



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 1 - National Dadgum That’s Good Day, National Fruit Compote Day, National Horse Protection Day, National Minnesota Day, National Peanut Butter Lover’s Day, National Pig Day, Self-Injury Awareness Day, Finisher’s Medal Day

March 2 - World Teen Mental Wellness Day, National Banana Cream Pie Day, National Old Stuff Day, National Read Across America Day (Dr. Seuss Day)

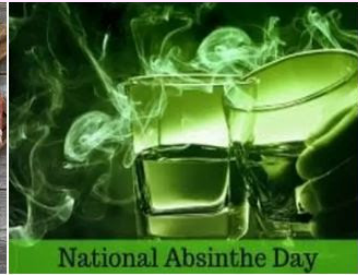
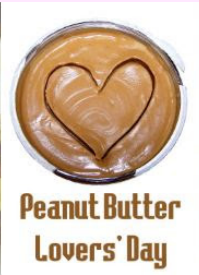
March 3 - National Anthem Day, National Cold Cuts Day, National I Want You to be Happy Day, National Mulled Wine Day, Soup It Forward Day

March 4 - National Grammar Day, National Hug a G.I. Day, Marching Music Day, National Pound Cake Day, National Sons Day

March 5 - National Absinthe Day, National Cheese Doodle Day, National Multiple Personality Day, National Hospitalist Day

March 6 - National Dentist’s Day, National Dress Day, National Frozen Food Day, National Oreo Cookie Day, National White Chocolate Cheesecake Day, National Dress in Blue Day, National Speech and Debate Education Day, National Employee Appreciation Day

March 7 - National Be Heard Day, National Cereal Day, National Crown of Roast Pork Day



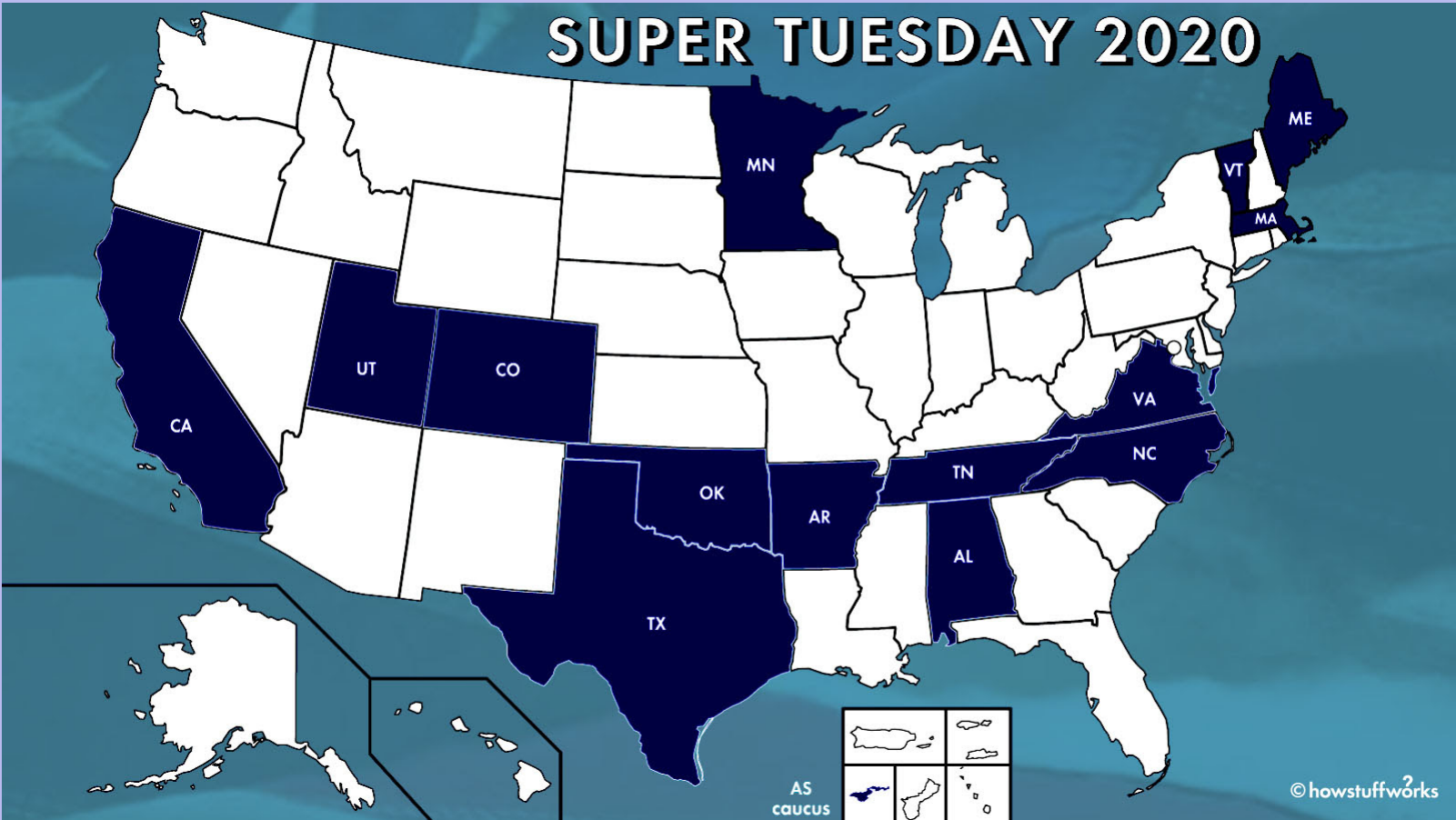


Super Tuesday

The elections for the Primary races will be held March 3, 2020. But Texas won't be the only state busy voting that day, we are just one of 14 states and one territory exercising holding a primary election or caucus.

Besides Texas, the others casting **ballots** will be: Alabama, Arkansas, California, Colorado, Maine, Massachusetts, Minnesota, North Carolina, Oklahoma, Tennessee, Utah, Vermont, Virginia and American Samoa. Voters in all Super Tuesday states will participate in a primary, while Democrats in American Samoa will caucus. Democrats abroad also start voting on Tuesday and can vote through March 10.

Here in Kingsbury, the polling location will be the Kingsbury United Methodist Church at [7035 FM 2438](#). Polls will be open from 7 a.m. to 7 p.m.



Kingsbury Volunteer Fire Department

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 5th

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 most months starting in March. The next meeting of 2020 will be Thursday, March 5th 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!



Fall Of The Alamo

This week in Texas history, on March 6, 1836, was the final battle and fall of the Alamo.

The siege of the Alamo began on February 23 when Generalissimo Santa Anna arrived with his troops to the small Texas mission occupied by the Texian and Tennesian defenders. As the defenders inside the fort and the Mexican army outside wait, Colonel Travis smuggled out a letter that read:

“To the People of Texas and All Americans in the World.... I shall never surrender or retreat.... Victory or Death!”

Since then, some reinforcements have come in, occasional **cannonballs** are volleyed, opposite sides meet in small skirmishes, ... and the waiting continues ...

Day Eight – Tuesday March 1, 1836

Thirty-two reinforcements from Gonzales arrive. Santa Anna's 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.

Day Nine – Wednesday March 2, 1836

Colonel Travis receives a report that there is corn at the Seguin ranch. He sends a detachment 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.

Texas declared it's independence from Mexico on March 2nd at Washington-on-the-Brazos and the compound now lies in the Republic of Texas, but that word has not reached the defenders of the Alamo who have now been under siege for eleven days

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 ...



All Month Long

There are a whole host of things that you can celebrate the **whole** month of March:

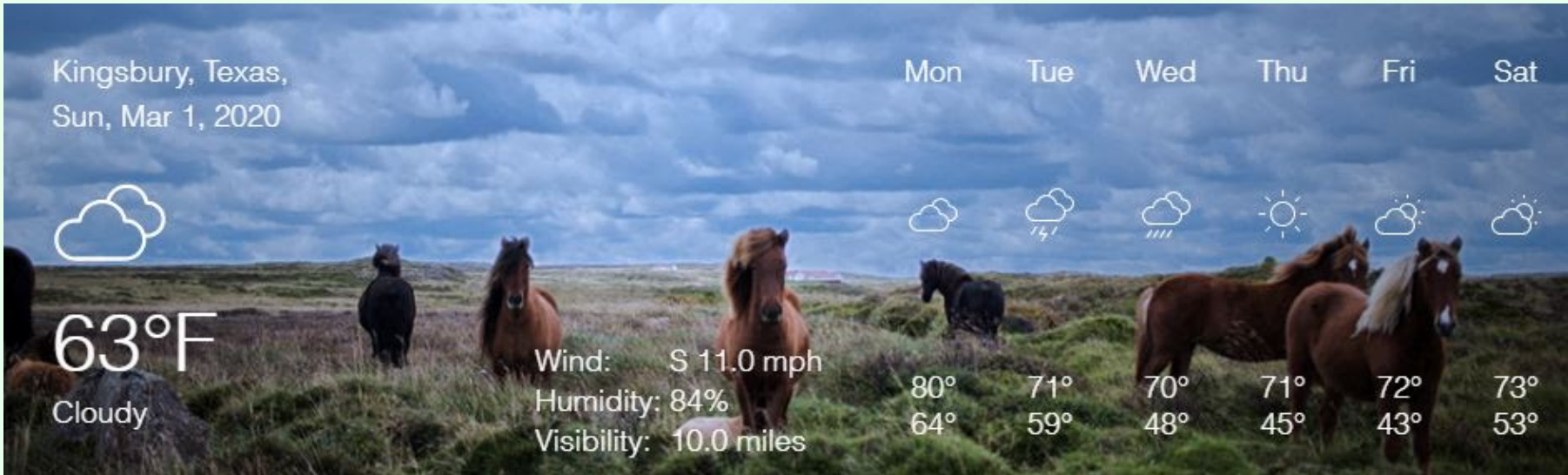
- Irish-American Heritage Month
- National Breast Implant Awareness Month
- Asset Management Awareness Month
- Endometriosis Awareness Month

Multiple Sclerosis Awareness MonthNational Athletic Training MonthNational Caffeine Awareness MonthNational Brain Injury Awareness MonthNational Celery MonthNational Cerebral Palsy Awareness MonthNational Cheerleading Safety MonthNational Craft MonthNational Credit Education MonthNational Flour MonthNational Frozen Food MonthNational Kidney MonthNational Noodle MonthNational Nutrition MonthNational Peanut MonthNational Sauce MonthNational Trisomy Awareness MonthNational Umbrella MonthNational Women's History MonthNational Colorectal Cancer Awareness MonthNational Music in Our Schools MonthNational Social Work 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.

Click here to check out the Texas Water Development Board "Baker Ranch" weather

Daylight Saving Time Coming

Just a friendly reminder - Daylight Saving Time starts again next Sunday, March 8th.

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!



Back To School

School girls posing with a Kingsbury "School Zone" sign in the early 1940s. The sign was on Highway 90 just east of the light. You can see the **garage** on the left and downtown across the tracks to the right.

The girls are (L to R): Glenda Ferrell, Gloria Halm, Joyce Hurt, Janet Coates, and Dorothy Chessher.



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

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