

Kingsbury News & Information Newsletter - December 17, 2023

1 message

Kingsbury Newsletter <kingsburytexas@gmail.com>

Reply-To: kingsburytexas@gmail.com

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

Sun, Dec 17, 2023 at 3:36 PM

Kingsbury Texas

News & Information Newsletter



Dear Kingsbury,

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

Winter Solstice

This Thursday, 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.



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 17th - National Maple Syrup Day, Wright Brothers Day

December 18th - National Twin Day, National Roast Suckling Pig Day, International Migrants Day,
Answer The Phone Like Buddy The Elf Day

December 19th - National Oatmeal Muffin Day, National Hard Candy Day

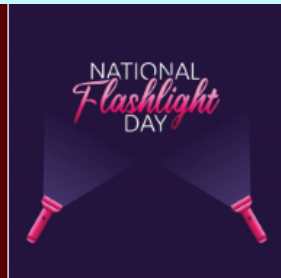
December 20th - National Go Caroling Day, National Sangria Day, National Mudd Day

December 21st - National Maine Day, National Flashlight Day, National French Fried Shrimp Day, Anne and Samantha Day, Yule, Winter Solstice, Phileas Fogg Win a Wager Day, National Homeless Persons' Remembrance Day, Humbug Day, National Crossword Day, National Re-gifting Day

December 22nd - National Date Nut Bread Day, National Forefathers Day

December 23rd - National Roots Day, National Pfeffernuse Day, Festivus



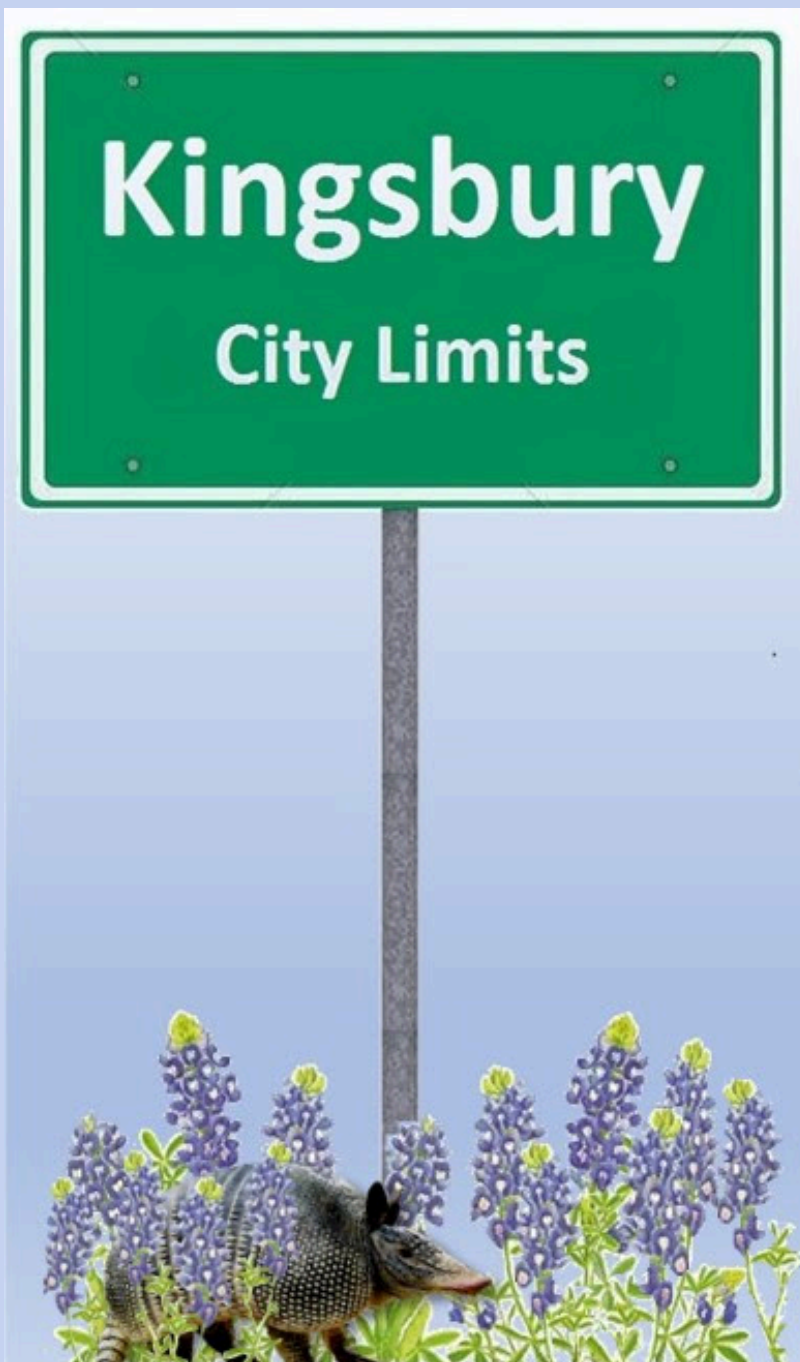


Kingsbury City Limits

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!



Kingsbury Weather

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

Kingsbury, Texas,
Sun, Dec 17, 2023

Mon Tue Wed Thu Fri Sat



69°F

Sunny

Wind: S 8.0 mph

Humidity: 30%

Visibility: 10.0 miles



69°

39°



67°

51°



73°

57°



73°

60°



72°

60°



72°

60°

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](#)

Santa Robs A Bank

This week in Texas history, on December 23, 1927, the Santa Claus Bank Robbery occurred in Cisco, Texas. At noon Marshall Ratliff, Henry Helms, Robert Hill, and Louis Davis entered the First National Bank of Cisco with guns drawn. Ratliff, dressed in a borrowed Santa Claus costume, entered the bank vault. Some of the bank customers escaped and alerted the police and town citizens. Gunfire ensued when the costume-wearing Ratliff came out of the vault with a sack containing money. Police Chief G.E. "Bit" Bedford and Deputy George Carmichael were mortally wounded, and Ratliff and Davis were also wounded, Davis severely.

As their escape car was almost out of gas and one of the tires had been shot out, the robbers commandeered another car, but the driver took the keys with him. They then left the wounded Davis in the car, forgetting the **moneybag**. The fugitives escaped on foot, stole a series of cars, and had more gunfights over the next several days. They were finally captured in Graham, Texas, days after the abandoned Davis died in a Fort Worth hospital.

Helms, Hill, and Ratliff had several wounds apiece and had not eaten for days. All survived however, and soon faced trials. Hill pleaded guilty to armed robbery, took the stand on his own behalf, and in March was sentenced to 99 years in prison. He escaped from prison three times but was recaptured each time. After settling down, he was paroled in the mid-1940s, changed his name, and became a productive citizen. Helms was identified as the one who had gunned down both lawmen and was given the death sentence in late February. After an

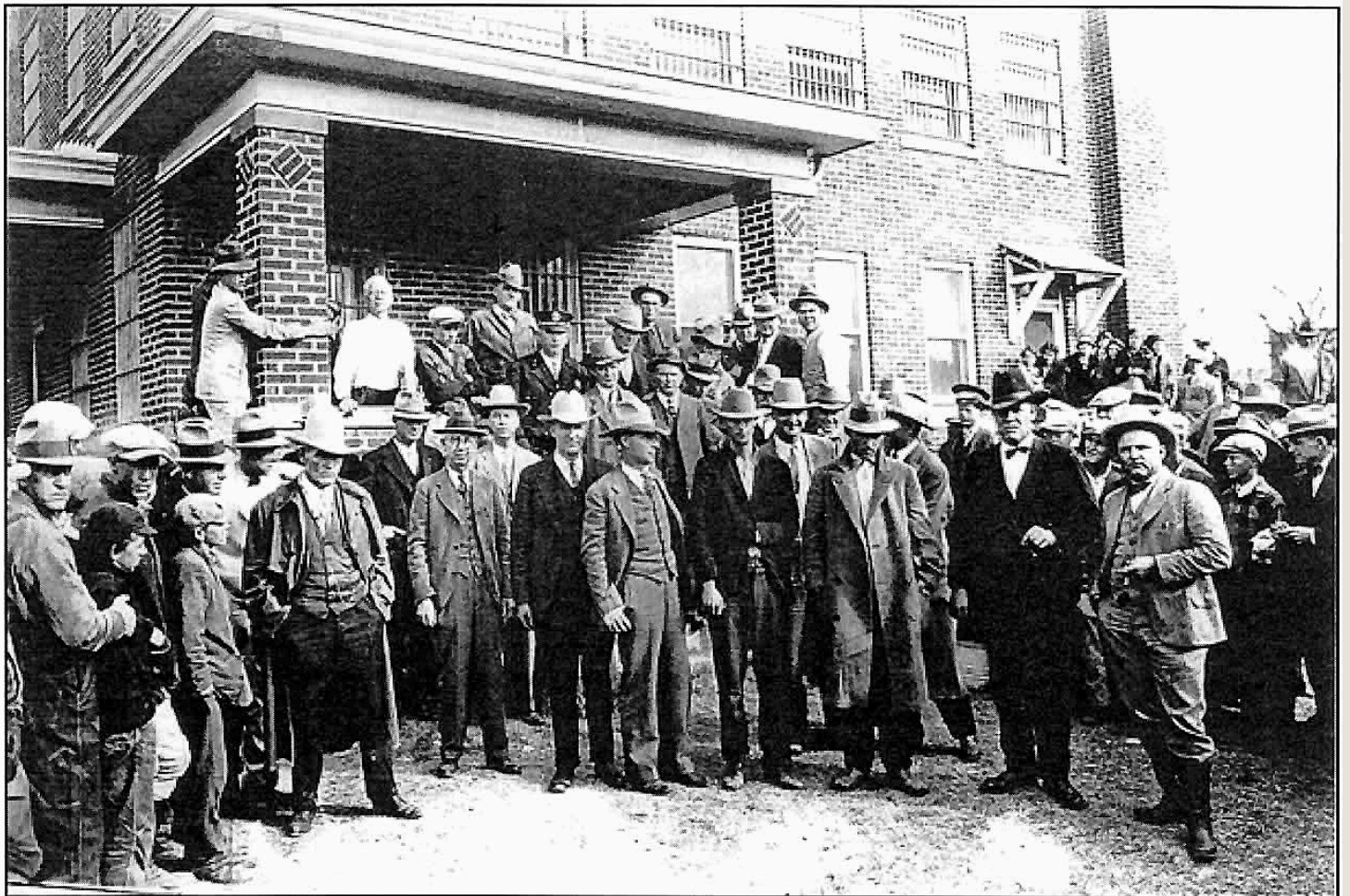
unsuccessful insanity plea, he was executed by electric chair on September 6, 1929. Ratliff was eventually sentenced to execution for his role in the deaths of Bedford and Carmichael, although no one could testify to having seen him fire a gun in the bank. Ratliff appealed his case and, when that failed, went for an insanity plea. He had begun acting insane the day that Helms was executed, and thoroughly convinced his jailers that he was.

His mother, Rilla Carter, filed for a lunacy hearing in Huntsville. On November 18 Ratliff attempted to escape, mortally wounding one of his jailers in the attempt. A crowd began to gather the next morning and by nightfall had grown to over 1,000. They began demanding Ratliff. The mob overpowered the jailers and rushed in and found Ratliff. Dragging him out, they tied his hands and feet and headed for a nearby power pole. The first attempt to hang him failed when the knot came loose and he fell to the ground. The second time, however, the knot did not come undone. So ended the bank robbing Santa.

The infamous Santa Claus Bank Robbery led to the largest manhunt ever seen in the state of Texas at that time. The pictures below are of Cisco in 1927 and some of the posse in front of the bank in Cisco.



MAIN STREET LOOKING NORTH
CISCO TEXAS - 416



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.

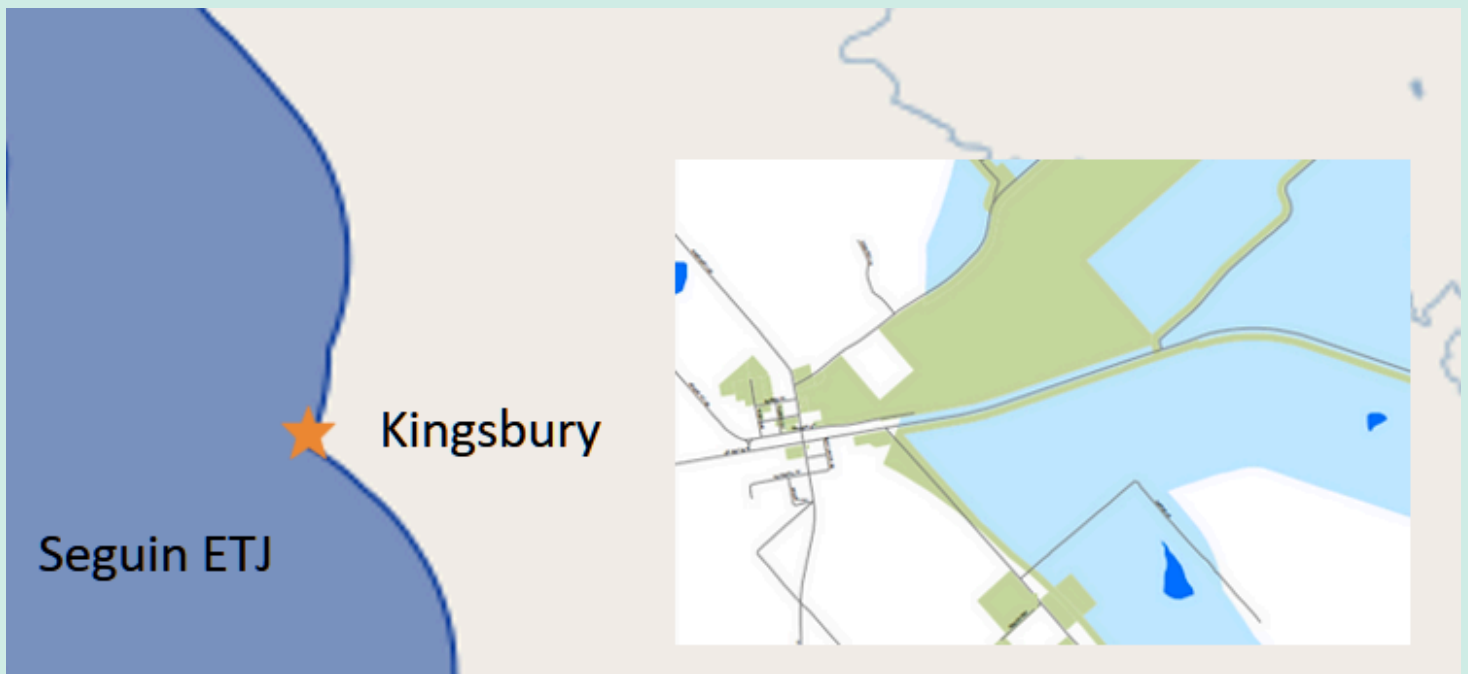


Release From Seguin ETJ

If you live in the Kingsbury area west of FM1104, there is a good chance that you are in the extraterritorial jurisdiction (ETJ) of Seguin. An ETJ is a designated buffer area located outside of city limits used as a method of defining potential growth and the land in an ETJ is **controlled** by certain city laws. Seguin has even defined their future "outer loop" as coming up FM2438 into Kingsbury.

The City of Kingsbury continues to fight against the Seguin ETJ and, as of September 1st this year, landowners were handed a way to help do this. Senate Bill SB2038 became law and now any landowner can just petition a city to be removed from their ETJ. The form is simple and a city has no choice by law but to grant the release.

Forms, information, and assistance are available at the Kingsbury Country Store on Railway Street. The forms will also be available on the [Kingsbury website](#) soon.



Collection Stations

The Guadalupe County Commissioners Court has agreed to a contract with Waste Connections for the landfill on Kohlenberg Road, but that **contract** does not contain the running of the Kingsbury collection station or the station in Marion. These stations will remain closed to trash collection and recycling.

Residents must burn trash or pay for curbside trash collection (with extra for recycling if they so choose) instead of using the collection station. The landfill on FM1150 will take a truck bed load of trash for \$20 but you must have a hard hat and safety vest - both of which can be purchased at the landfill for \$12.81 each.



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) ▾



December 2023



Today

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
26 12:00pm M...	27 Full Beaver ...	28	29	30	1	2
3 12:00pm M...	4	5	6	7 7:30pm KfV...	8	9 10:00am Fa...
10 12:00pm M...	11	12 6:30pm Dev...	13	14	15	16 Booze & Per...
17 12:00pm Ma...	18 6:30pm Kin...	19	20	21	22	23
24 Christmas Eve 12:00pm M...	25 Christmas Day	26 Full Cold Moon	27	28	29	30
31 New Year's E... + 2	1 New Year's D...	2	3	4 6:00pm KfV... 7:30pm KfV...	5	6

Holiday Dinners



HAMS, TURKEYS, & BRISKET SMOKED FOR THE HOLIDAYS

**John Bohannon
Cell 210-269-1108**

**Turkeys Mesquite Smoked
15# average \$75**

**Hams Mesquite Smoked & Honey Basted
6–10# average \$70 - \$85**

**Brisket
Full Briskets \$15.00 per cooked pound**

There are only
007 days 08 hours 28 mins 23 secs
until Christmas!

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 18th

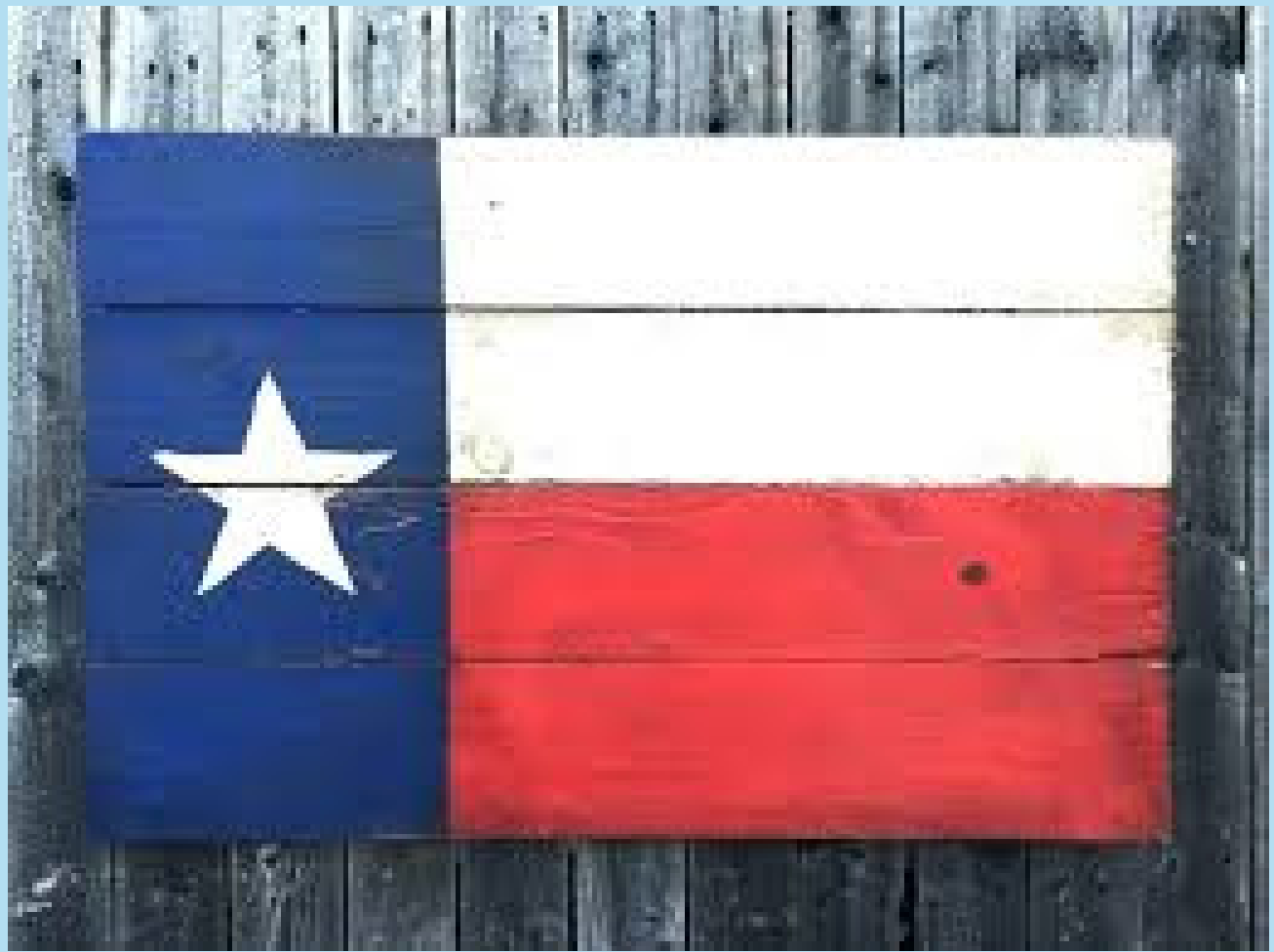
at 6:30 in the Kingsbury Volunteer Fire Department fire station at [1060 FM 1104](#).

Items on the **agenda**:

- ★ Kingsbury Development Committee Report
- ★ Plans for a possible Kingsbury recycling program
- ★ SB2038 informative mailer and public workshop/ Hot Chocolate Social
- ★ City Rainwater Collection Update
- ★ Train Crossing at Gander Slough
- ★ CLFRF money designation
- ★ Possible water leak at Kingsbury Road and US Hwy 90 See less

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

All city commission meetings are open to the public. Meetings can also be viewed on FaceBook at <https://www.facebook.com/KingsburyTexas>



New Years Eve In Kingsbury Hall

New Year's Eve

In



Kingsbury Hall

Live Music By
TWO-WAY STREET!

Food & Setups

Complimentary
Champagne

BYOB

Fun Starts At 9

\$10 Cover



The Dowdy High School basketball team of 1946. There are no names to this picture, but many people in the Kingsbury area attended the Dowdy School in the Darst Creek oil field area while it operated from 1917 to 1951. The school was located on FM 212 just off of FM 1150 south of Kingsbury.

The picture was obviously taken inside the **gymnasium** of the school and the boys all look very serious!



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

Visit us on Facebook - www.facebook.com/KingsburyTexas

[Check out the Kingsbury Calendar & Weather](#)



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