



Kingsbury Texas <kingsburytexas@gmail.com>

Kingsbury News & Information Newsletter - December 20, 2020

1 message

Kingsbury Newsletter <kingsburytexas@gmail.com>
Reply-To: kingsburytexas@gmail.com
To: Kingsbury <kingsburytexas@gmail.com>

Sun, Dec 20, 2020 at 7:43 AM

Kingsbury Texas

News & Information Newsletter



Dear Kingsbury,

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

Merry Christmas

Wishing you a very Merry Christmas and Happy Holidays from the Kingsbury Newsletter!

*We hope your holidays are festive and **bright** as we celebrate and head into the new year.*



Winter Solstice

This Monday, 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 20 - National Sangria Day, Mudd Day

December 21 - Crossword Puzzle Day, Humbug Day, National Maine Day, Phileas Fogg Win A Wager Day, Winter Solstice, National Flashlight Day, National French Fried Shrimp Day, National Homeless Persons’ Remembrance Day, Yule, Anne & Samantha Day

December 22 - National Date Nut Bread Day

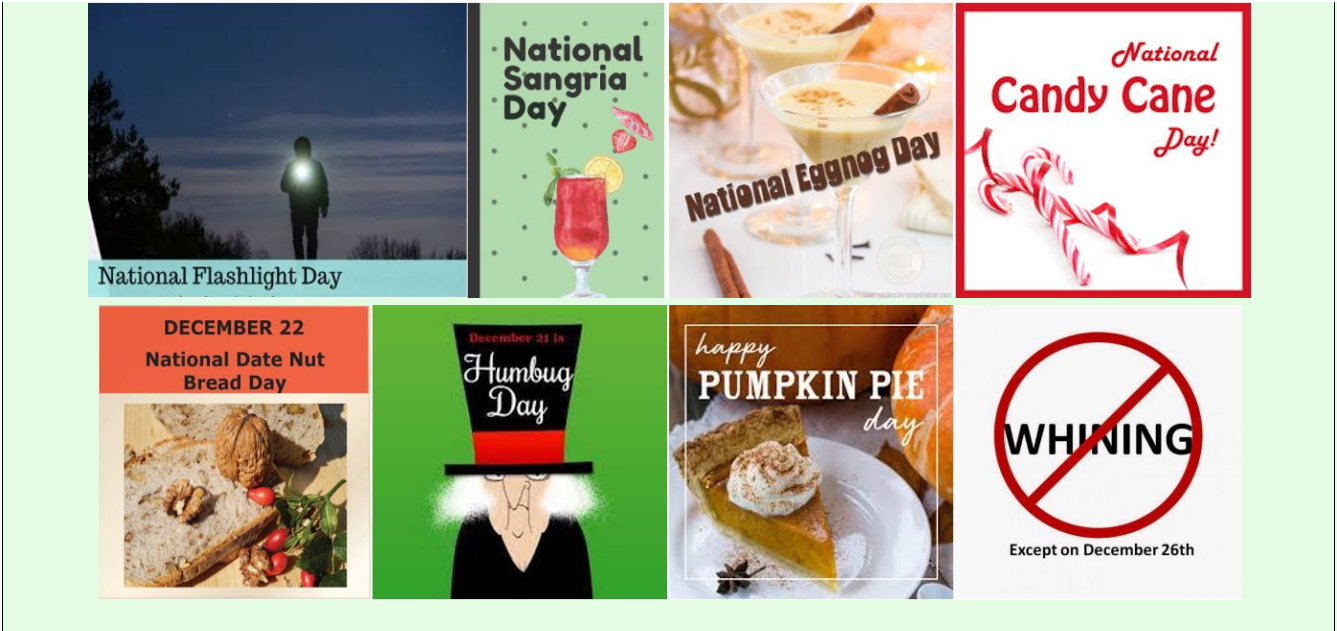
December 23 - National Pfeffernusse Day, National Roots Day, Festivus, Forefathers Day

December 24 - National Eggnog Day, Christmas Eve, National Re-Gifting Day

December 25 - National Pumpkin Pie Day, A’Phabet Day or No “L” Day, Christmas

December 26 - National Candy Cane Day, National Thank-you Note Day, National Whiner’s Day, Boxing Day





The Christmas Star

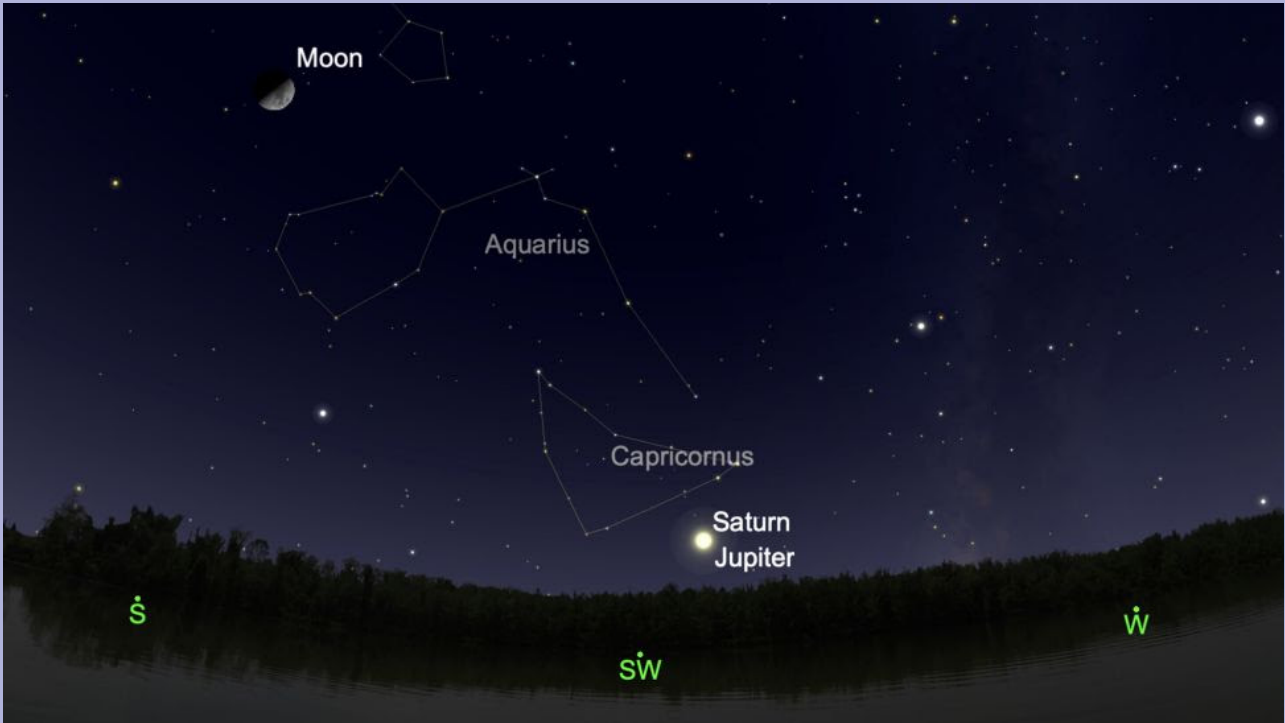
We are now closing in on the long-awaited night of Dec. 21, when Jupiter and Saturn will engage in their "great conjunction."

We call it a "great" conjunction because to ancient skywatchers, these were the two slowest moving planets in the sky. Jupiter takes nearly 12 years to describe a full circle in the **heavens**, spending a year visiting each zodiacal sign in the sky, while Saturn takes 29.5 years to make one full trip around the sun. Because of their respective slow movement, a conjunction or — to the ancients — a "celestial summit meeting," was rather unusual. Such get-togethers happen, in most cases, about every 20 years on average.

So, when Jupiter and Saturn got together it was simply a conjunction, but a "great" conjunction!

Usually when Jupiter and Saturn line up they are separated by about one degree, or twice the apparent diameter of the moon. But on Dec. 21, we see Jupiter and Saturn separated by just 6 arc minutes. That's equal to 0.1 degrees or about one-fifth the apparent width of the moon. This will probably not be close enough to make the planets appear to merge into a single bright star (although some might see that if they remove their eye glasses). But in any case, it will be something exceedingly rare to see.

How often do these two planets come as close as that? The last time these two planets appeared so close was on July 16, 1623, when they were only 5 arc minutes apart — that's actually 397 years ago!



Christmas Shop At Market Day

There will be a Farmer's Market / Market Day in **downtown** Kingsbury today and every Sunday, weather permitting. The event will be in



***Downtown Kingsbury
From noon to 3
Every Sunday***



The event will be outside so you will be able to have the 6 foot safe distancing that is recommended and still be able to pick up farm fresh eggs and produce. Homemade pies, cakes, and other baked goods are also usually available.

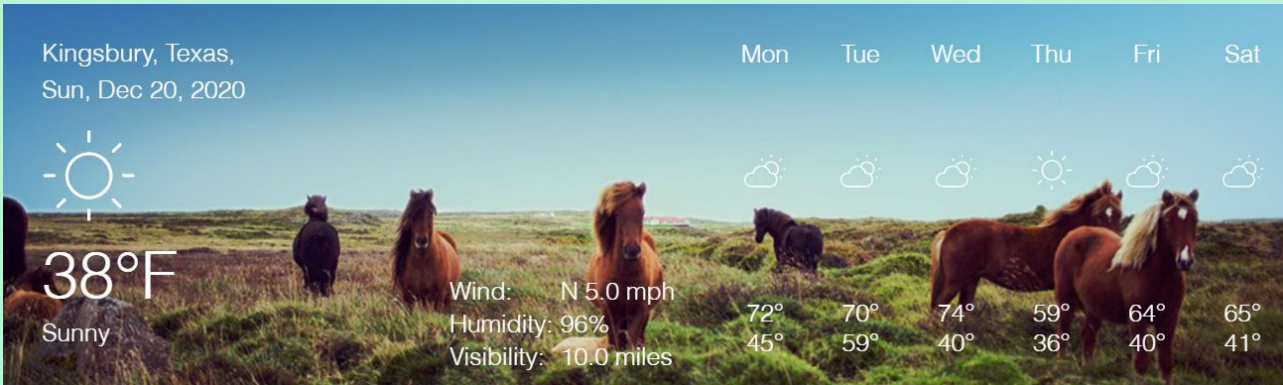


Plant starts, fruit trees, herbs, Kingsbury T-shirts, food, drinks, lemonade, homemade soaps, and colorful face masks are usually on hand also.



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](#)

Santa Robs A Bank!

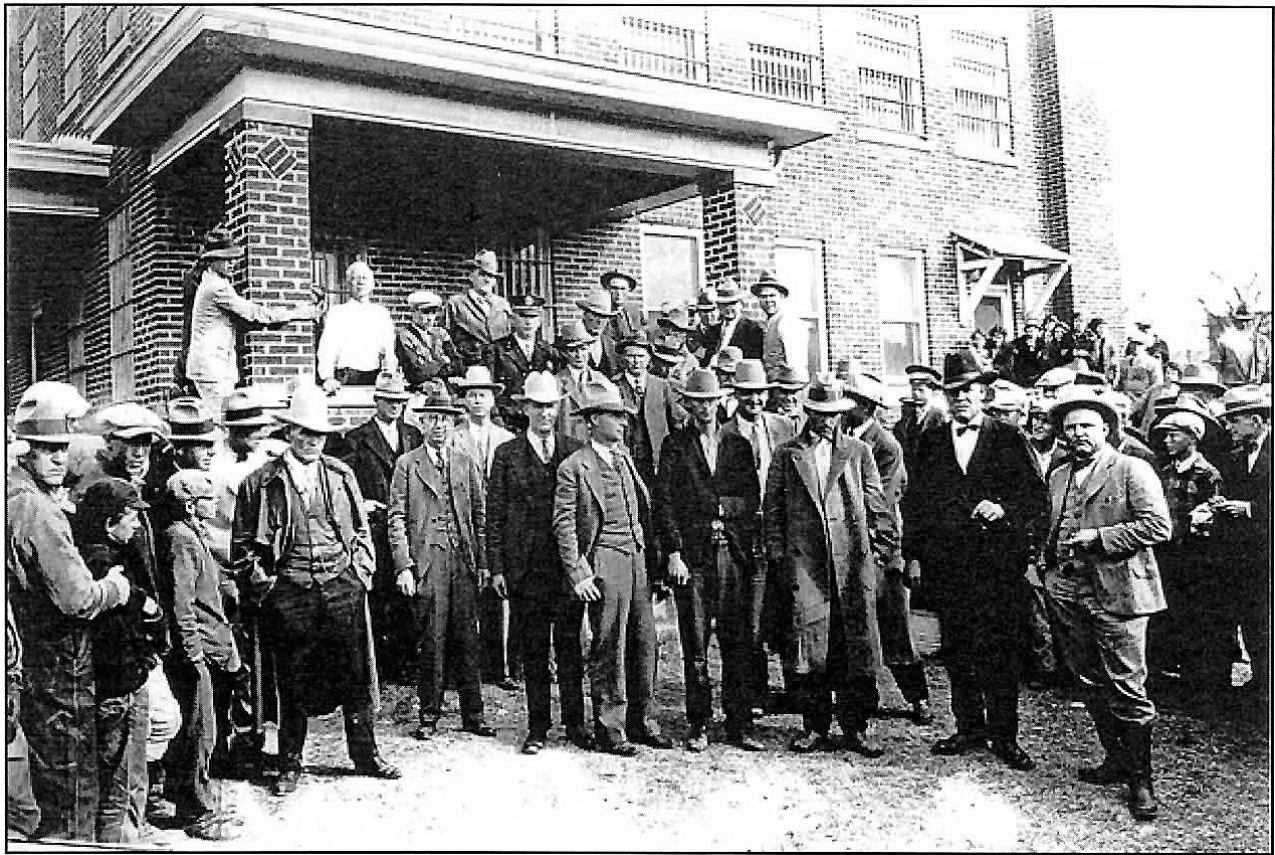
This week in Texas history, on December 23, 1927, the Santa Claus Bank Robbery occurred in Cisco, Texas. At noon Marshall Ratliff, Henry Helms, Robert Hill, and Louis Davis entered the First National Bank of Cisco with guns drawn. Ratliff, dressed in a borrowed Santa Claus costume, entered the bank vault. 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.





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 21st

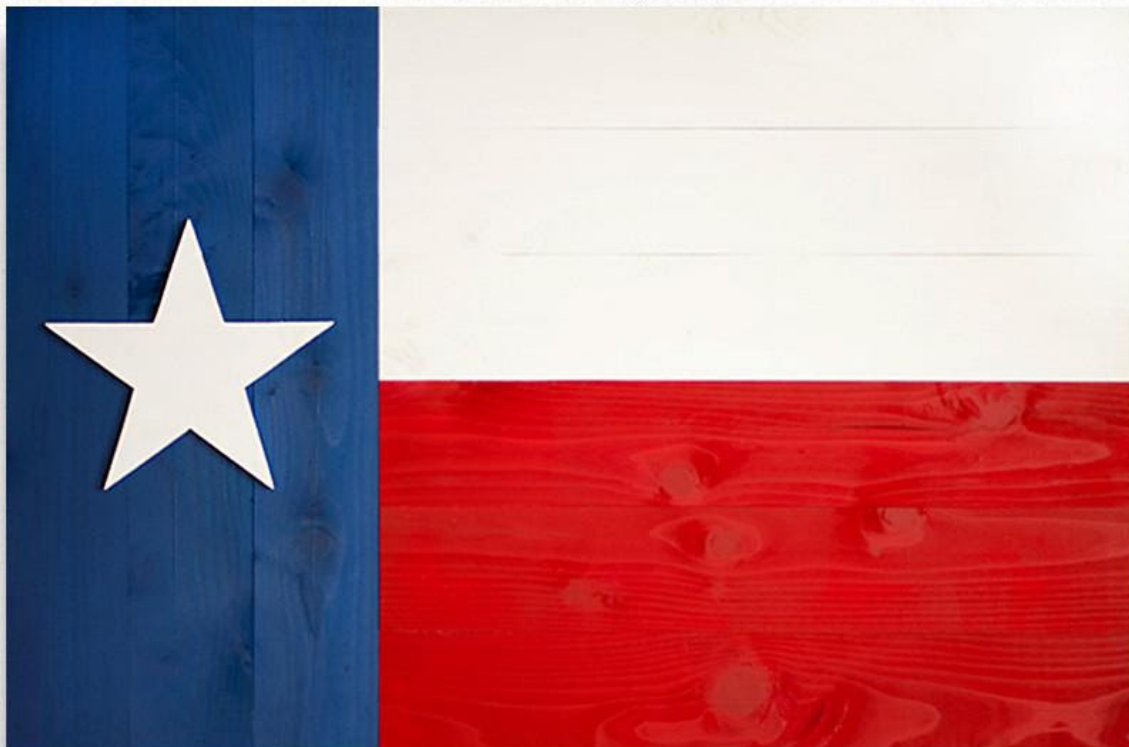
at 6:30 in the Kingsbury Volunteer Fire Department fire station at [1060 FM 1104](#).

Items on the **agenda**:

- ★ Accounts review
- ★ Public comments

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

All city commission meetings are open to the public.



Kingsbury School Daze

A picture of some young Kingsbury school girls with the "Kingsbury District School Bus" in the early 1940s. The "old school" now was the "new school" then, having been built in 1939-1940. The previous school was a **red** brick building built in 1908 at the same site.

The girls are (left to right): Gloria Halm, Joyce Hurt, Mary Jane Appling, and Dorothy Chessher.

The picture of the school is captioned with "Public School Kingsbury Tex. May 15 '14" and has a hand written message across the top that says "Where I taught my 1st & 2nd year".



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](#)



[Check out previous News & Information Newsletters](#)



This email was sent to kingsburytexas@gmail.com
[why did I get this?](#) [unsubscribe from this list](#) [update subscription preferences](#)
City of Kingsbury · PO Box 99 · Kingsbury, TX 78638-0099 · USA

