

Kingsbury News & Information Newsletter - December 15, 2024

1 message

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

Sun, Dec 15, 2024 at 2:31 PM

Kingsbury Texas

News & Information Newsletter



Dear Kingsbury,

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

Winter Solstice

This Saturday, 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 15th - National Wear Your Pearls Day, National Cupcake Day, Cat Herders Day, Bill of Rights Day

December 16th - Chocolate Covered Anything Day, Barbie And Barney Backlash Day

December 17th - National Say It Now Day, National Maple Syrup Day, Wright Brothers Day

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

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

December 20th - National Go Caroling Day, National Ugly Christmas Sweater Day, National Sangria Day, Mudd Day, National Underdog Day

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





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.



Full Cold Moon

Today, December 15th, the Full Cold Moon rises.

This full moon is quite rare! What's unique about it is where it's going to rise and set on the horizon, rising and setting at the most northerly and southerly positions on the horizon. It's a **phenomenon** that only occurs every 18.6 years.

This is called a major lunar standstill.

According to Space.com, it happens because the moon doesn't follow the same path as the sun. "Its rising and setting positions on the horizon change constantly due to the movements of Earth and the moon."

In Native American cultures which tracked the calendar by the Moons, December's Full Moon was known as the Full Cold Moon. It is fittingly associated with the month when winter cold fastens its grip and the nights become long and dark.

This Full Moon is also called the Long Nights Moon by some Native American tribes because it occurs near the winter solstice—the night with the least amount of daylight.



As with all full moons, the December full moon is known by many names:

Zuni - Moon Where Sun Has Traveled Home To Rest Lakota - Moon When The Deer Shed Their Antlers

Passamaquoddy (Northeast) - Frost Fish Moon Comanche - Evergreen Moon Assiniboine (Northern Plains) - Center Moon's Younger Brother Choctaw - Moon Of Sassafras Arapaho - Popping Trees Moon Kalapuya (Pacific Northwest) - Not Bad Weather Moon Cherokee - Snow Moon Cheyenne - Moon When The Wolves Run Together Wishram - Her Winter Houses Moon Hopi - Moon of Respect Shawnee - Eccentric Moon Dakotah Sioux - Twelfth Moon Chippewa - Small Spirits Moon Cree - Young Fellow Spread The Brush Moon Abenaki (Northeast) - Winter Maker Moon Creek - Big Winter Moon Haida (Alaska) - Ripe Berries Moon Mohawk - Time of Cold Moon Shoshone - Winter Moon Tlingit (Alaska) - Unborn Seals Are Getting Hair Moon Winnebago - Big Bear's Moon

> Colonial American - Christmas Moon Chinese - Bitter Moon Celtic - Cold Moon Medieval English - Oak Moon Neo Pagan - Long Night Moon



NIGHT SKY FOLKLORE

If a snowstorm begins when the Moon is young, it will cease at moonrise.

The Shoshone tribe of Wyoming and Southern Idaho tell of the beginnings of the Milky Way, so visible on a dark winter's night. A grizzly bear (Cygnus) climbed up a tall mountain to go hunting in the sky. As he climbed, snow and ice clung to the fur of his feet and legs. Crossing the sky the ice crystals trailed behind him forming the Milky Way.

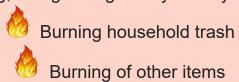


Burn Ban Still In Effect

The Guadalupe County Commissions Court instituted an outdoor burn ban for Guadalupe County for 90 days starting October 2nd. The burn ban imposed by the Commissioners Court has specific guidelines for



Welding, cutting, and grinding or any activity that causes a spark



The official notification with all the guidelines can be found on the Guadalupe County website here.



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.

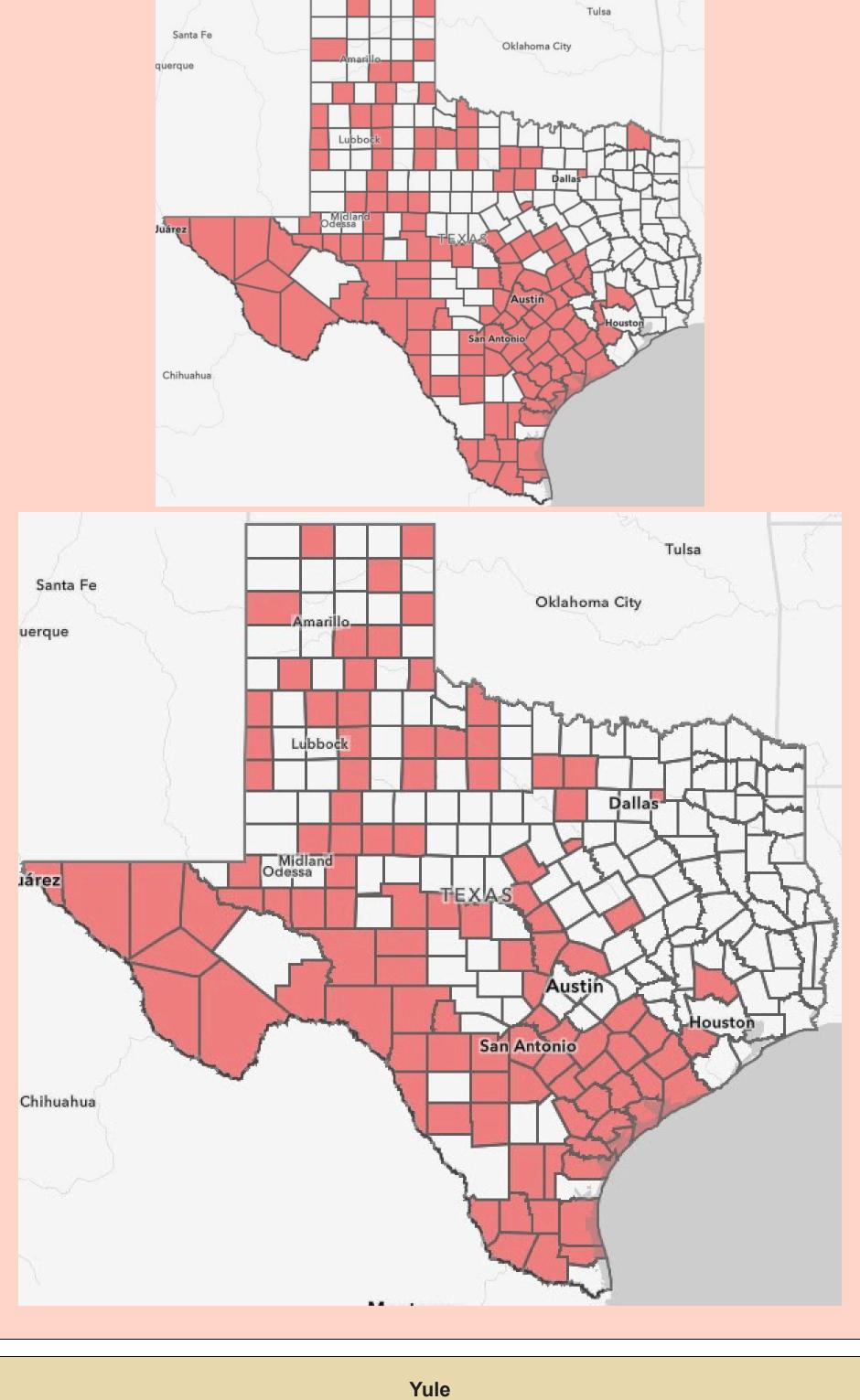


As always, please take precautions and report any fire hazards immediately to the Kingsbury Volunteer Fire Department at 639-4499 or to the Guadalupe Fire Dispatch at 379-1224. To report a fire, please dial 911.



Of the 254 counties in Texas, there are currently 104 that have a burn ban, down from 117 last week. This leaves 150 counties without a burn ban in the state.

Current burn bans by county in Texas last week and this week:



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.

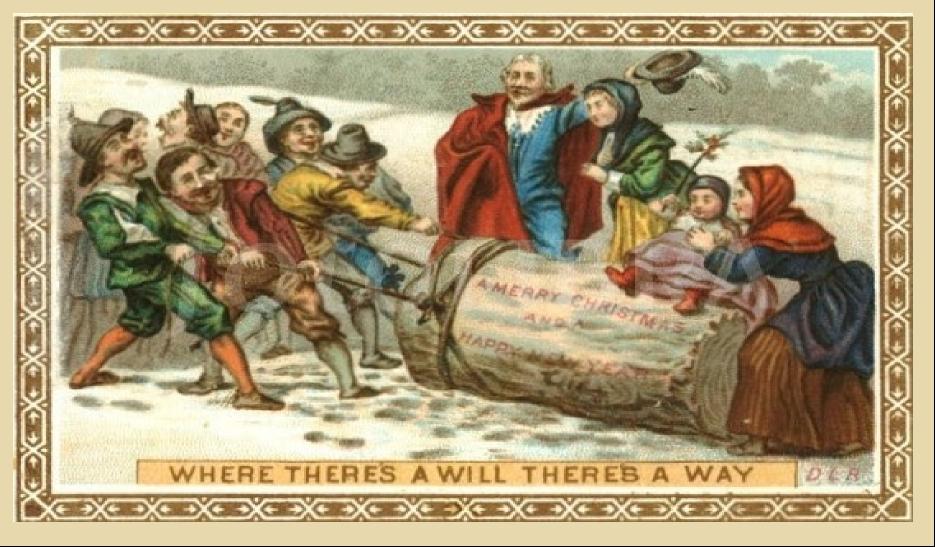
The candles and lights associated with Christmas, meant to symbolize guiding beacons for the Christ child, may have evolved from the Yule log, which was lit to entice the Sun to return as part of the *jól* (Yule) festival in Scandinavia.

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.

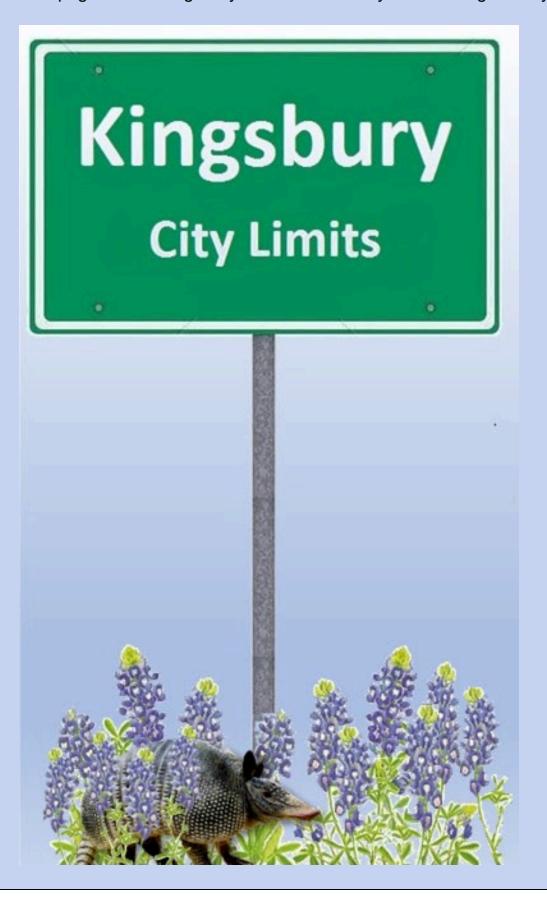




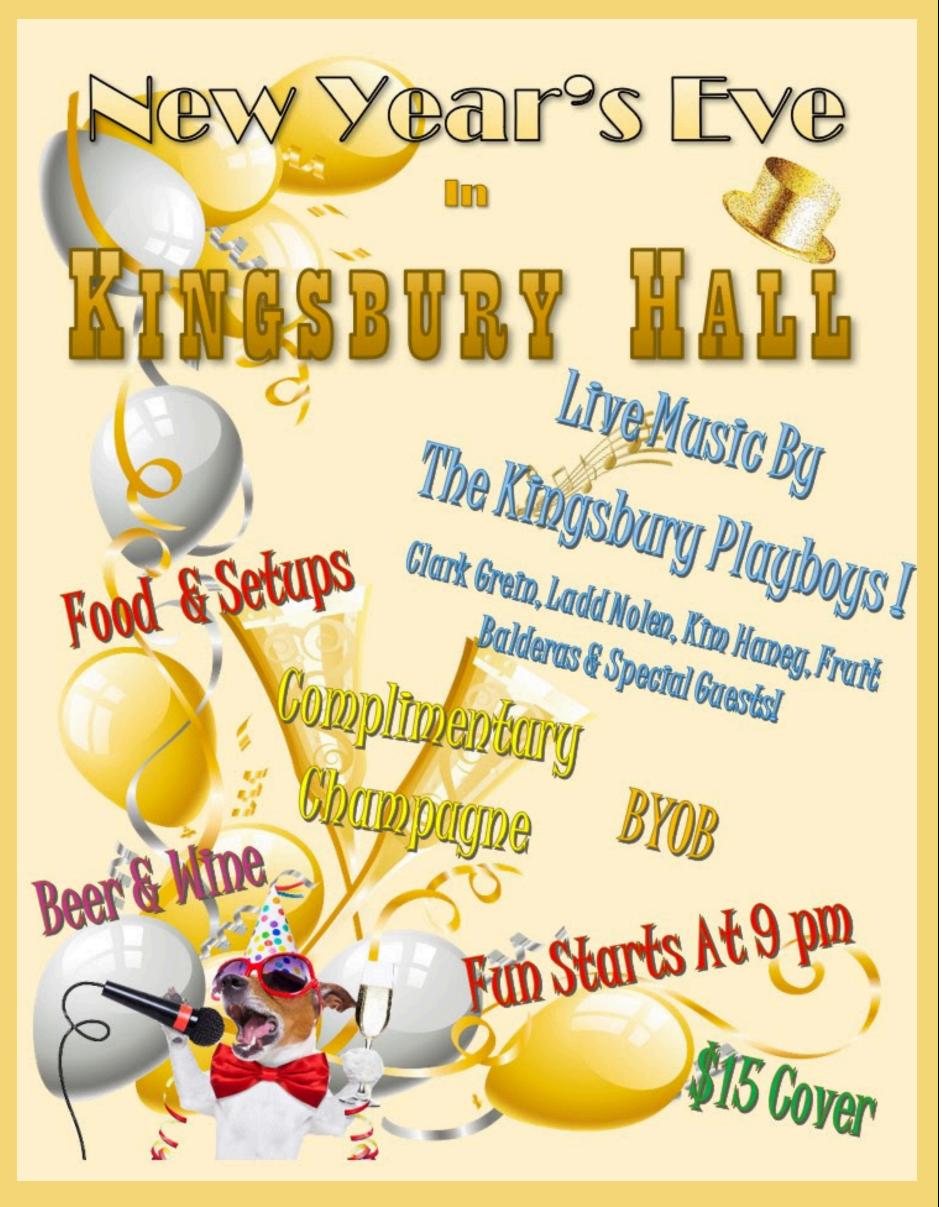
Do you have property in the Kingsbury area but not in the **official** Kingsbury city limits? Would you like it to be a part of the new city of Kingsbury? Let Kingsbury know! It's a simple "Voluntary Annexation" petition form to fill out and you can be on the list to be part of out Kingsbury.

Check out the "Kingsbury City Limits" page on the Kingsbury 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!



New Year's Eve Bash



(979) 248-4884 For More Info and Reservations!

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!



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 16th

at 6:30 in the Kingsbury Volunteer Fire Department fire station at 1060 FM 1104.

Items on the agenda:

Development Committee report

Lease agreement with Kingsbury VFD

X Need and purpose of KDC

🧡 Grant program update

Real estate acquisition

Interlocal agreement regarding subdivision regulation

Clerical questions update

Mission and vision statements



Holiday Food

J&S Catering will be **smoking** hams, turkeys, and briskets for your holiday meals again this year!

Mesquite Smoked Turkey 15 pound average - \$75

Mesquite Smoked and Honey Basted Hams 6 to 10 pound average - \$70 to \$85

Whole Briskets \$15 per cooked pound

Call John Bohannon at (210) 269-1108 and get your order in!



Food Pantry & Thrift Store



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: (GMT	r-06:00) ∨	<	December 2024	>		Today
un	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
1	2	3	4	5 (canceled th + 2	6	7
8	9	10 Developmen	11	12 Fellowship	13 😭 Friday Th	14 S Volunteer
15 Full Cold	16 Kingsbury Ci	17	18	19 Fellowship	20	21
22	23	24 Christmas Eve	25 Christmas Day	26 Fellowship	27	28
29	30 Black Moon	31 New Year's New Year's Eve	1 New Year's D	2 KVFD Auxilia + 2	3	4



A Christmas Carol

This week in history, on December 17, 1843, Charles Dickens' classic story "A Christmas Carol" is published.

Dickens was born in 1812 and attended school in Portsmouth. His father, a clerk in the navy pay office, was thrown into debtors' prison in 1824, and 12-year-old Charles was sent to work in a factory. The miserable treatment of children and the institution of the debtors' jail became topics of several of Dickens' novels.

In his late teens, Dickens became a reporter and started publishing humorous short stories when he was 21. In

1836, a collection of his stories, "Sketches by Boz", later known as "The Posthumous Papers of the Pickwick Club", was published. The same year, he married Catherine Hogarth, with whom he would have nine children. The short sketches in his collection were originally commissioned as captions for humorous drawings by caricature artist Robert Seymour, but Dickens' **whimsical** stories about the kindly Samuel Pickwick and his fellow club members soon became popular in their own right. Only 400 copies were printed of the first installment, but by the 15th episode 40,000 copies were printed. When the stories were published in book form in 1837, Dickens quickly became the most popular author of the day.

"A Christmas Carol in Prose, Being a Ghost-Story of Christmas", commonly known as "A Christmas Carol", is a novella first published in London by Chapman & Hall this week in 1843. "A Christmas Carol" tells the story of Ebenezer Scrooge, an old miser who is visited by the ghost of his former business partner Jacob Marley and the Ghosts of Christmas Past, Present, and Yet to Come. After their visits Scrooge is transformed into a kinder, gentler man.

Dickens wrote A Christmas Carol at a time when the British were examining and exploring Christmas traditions from the past, such as carols, as well as new customs such as Christmas trees. He was influenced by experiences from his own past, and from the Christmas stories of other authors, including Washington Irving and Douglas Jerrold. Dickens had written three Christmas stories prior to the novella, and was inspired to write the story following a visit to the Field Lane Ragged school, one of several establishments for London's half-starved, illiterate street children.

Published on 19 December, the first edition sold out by Christmas Eve; by the end of 1844 thirteen editions had been released.



At The Halm's Red & White

What a wonderful picture of girls and their dog in front of the Halm's Red & White grocery store in downtown Kingsbury in October of 1946.

Leonora Schmidt is holding the little dog and Mary Jane Appling is standing behind her and both girls are all smiles! It looks like a nice summer day with their sandals on and cute little dresses.

Red & Whites were a grocery store chain popular in small towns back in the day. The screen doors have a Dr. Pepper push bar and it looks like a thermometer to the right. The window on the left has the Red & White Foods logo and says **Groceries** and Meats below that. At the bottom of the window is a sign promoting Tschoepe for District Clerk.

The awning front is painted red and white and all of that is still there today, minus the red and white paint. But it's still under there somewhere!



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

Check out the Kingsbury Calendar & Weather



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