



**INSIDE:**  
KVFD LOOK-  
ING FOR NEW  
MEMBERS

See PAGE 5 >



**INSIDE:**  
CITIZEN OF  
KINGSBURY

See PAGE 3 >



**SPRING 2017**

**INDEPENDENT**

**VOL. 4 NO. 1**

## COMMUNITY OF CAPOTE HILLS WILL HOLD INCORPORATION ELECTION

*An Editorial: by Bob Grafe, Editor*

As we are right now readying to go to press with this latest edition of the Kingsbury Independent, early voting has just begun on the question of whether or not a simple majority of slightly more than 700 eligible voters within the boundaries of the proposed new Class C municipality to be known as Capote Hills will vote in favor of or against incorporating Capote Hills.

Several months ago, a group of several concerned citizens living within the area constituting the proposed new city, formed a community committee with the purpose of seeing if there was enough interest to move forward with attempting to form a Class C city to be located to the south of the Extra Territorial Jurisdiction boundary located several miles south of the City of Seguin city limits within Guadalupe County.

The committee adopted a committee name of Stop Seguin South and within a couple of months had gathered enough signatures on a petition requesting permission from the County Judge, Kyle Kutscher, to set a date for an election to decide if a majority of the

area registered voters were in favor or not of becoming incorporated as a Class C city and if the majority voted in favor of the municipality to concurrently elect officials, a mayor and city commissioners, to continue the process of legally forming a State of



Texas compliant Class C city to be known as Capote Hills.

During the past several months leading up to the actual up or down vote to form a municipality, Terry Harper, Chairman of Stop Seguin South consulted with members of the Kingsbury City Commission, the Kingsbury

Incorporation Committee (KIC) and others in an effort to make sure that the efforts being made to incorporate Capote Hills were following along a similar path that the City of Kingsbury successfully followed nearly two years ago. Harper and several members of his committee attended numerous Kingsbury City and KIC meetings where they were able to glean much of the strategy that was employed during Kingsbury's similar efforts to incorporate rather than to be effectively consumed by Kingsbury's land-grabbing neighbor to the west, the City of Seguin.

Those in favor of allowing the citizens of the proposed City of Capote Hills to govern themselves, include many of the same Kingsburians who supported by a landslide the incorporation of Kingsbury.

Early voting on the Capote Hills issue runs from 8 a.m. to 5 p.m. on Monday, April 24 through Friday, April 28, and 7 a.m. to 7 p.m. on Monday May 1 and Tuesday, May 2, at the Sand Hills Volunteer Fire Department. Election Day is Saturday, May 6 with polls open from 7 a.m. to 7 p.m. at the Sand Hills Volunteer Fire Department.

(Continued on page 2)

## Out In the Garden – Kingsbury Style

*By: Bob Grafe, Editor*

Frankly, if I hadn't actually lived (make that survived) through three dozen south Texas gardening summers as well as a half-dozen gardening "summers" in south and central Alaska (for a little contrast not to mention some serious on-going size competition), I'd probably just toss in the towel and move as quickly as I could (before that wall is built) to the outskirts of Guanajuato, Mexico—the land of unquestioned eternal spring and gardening prowess!

But, since the bus has already left the station for Guanajuato and summer in Alaska will be over even before the moose eat all the soft-ball size turnips and 1,400-pound pumpkins—yep, and that's not a Texas Tall Tale either—I guess I'd better get serious about this year's Kingsbury Garden.

Now, if you're not a serious Texas

gardener, you'd might as well just turn the page to check if your name was "spelt rite" in the obit section. Didn't find it? Then, let's keep going.

First things first. Find the grill. It might have been out in the far-40 all winter ... but, find it. Gardening just doesn't get done right until you've located that darned thing. Worst case ... a couple of days before you get serious about starting the gardening ritual, head on over to Home Depot and fetch yourself one—heavy duty! And, hit up H-E-B or Granzin's Meat Market for some well-marbled beef brisket—lots of it! You never have too much good brisket. The next important item to find before the gardening begins is that ugly old Coleman 500-gallon ice chest. Don't bother to clean it now. You might cause the once white interior walls to collapse. Just get those favorite long-necks in place and let the ice just slide in slowly along every empty space.

Shut the lid, if there still is one. If not, find a slice of plywood and a brick or two, put it on top and just go chill ... while it chills!

By now, either the sun has taken charge of the day with the temperature already into the 80s or the "volunteer" work crew (adult children and grandchildren) hasn't arrived as scheduled. Watch it. They might be on to ya!

What is a gardener to do? Here they come in full force: insects, insects and

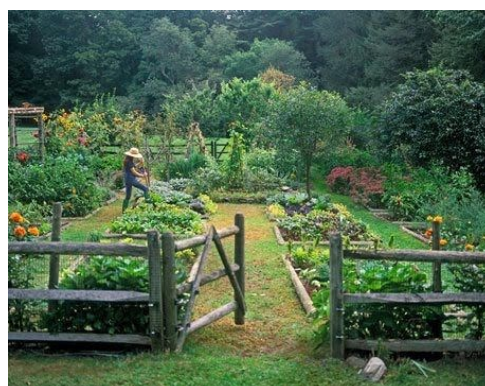
more insects!

Well, for the months of May and June here in Kingsbury, once the food and beverage departments are taken care of, here are a few things to consider in the garden:

By now your spring vegetable garden should be up and running well providing you with lots of fresh produce. Unfortunately, the time is also perfect for some unwanted insects that like your fresh produce and plant foliage about as much as you do.

Get out into the garden early in the morning at around 6:30 or so to talk to your plants and go search for the presence of unwanted insects. Now don't go messing around with those orange ones with black spots on their backside that some folks in these here parts call "lady bugs." Actually, those are lady beetles ... they are predatory insects ...

(Continued on page 4)





FROM THE MAYOR

By Shirley Nolen

God, I love this place! Ain't living in Kingsbury great? I really love coming home every day and I'm not exaggerating one bit. I started thinking about it recently and I just really realized how fortunate we are to live here and live the Kingsbury lifestyle.

Just think about it—how many times have you pulled over to talk to someone that is on their tractor working in the field, picking up their mail from the mailbox, fixing fence, sitting outside, waiting on the train, or just going by in the other truck on the street. Even if you don't stop to talk, you wave. Just a friendly "How ya doin'?" wave. I know I do it all the time. When I was growing up and riding in the car with my mother, she would wave to the people in the cars and trucks we passed and I would ask "Who was that, Ma-ma?" She would sometimes know

who it was but often say "I don't know. Just someone in the other car." Then we'd pass another car and go through the same Q&A. It seemed a little strange to me then as a child, but now it is something we all just naturally do!

Just the other day, I stopped to talk to a couple of guys who were looking at something on the fence line on Prairie Lea Road. I knew exactly what they were doing—picking dewberries. We talked about how good the dewberries were doing this year after being so thin during the drought, and how we've mapped out in our heads where all they were growing by seeing those distinctive little white blooms a few weeks ago. And we laughed about their purple tongues because they had been sampling their pickings.

When I left, I had me a handful of fresh, warm dewberries that I ate on the way home. It's amaz-

ing how something so simple made me so happy.

Living in Kingsbury means helping your neighbor get their cattle back into the pasture when they've gotten out on the road (you stop and help because it could be *your* cattle next time!), taking someone's dog back home after they've followed their nose too far, sharing family recipes that have been passed down, sometimes for generations, and talking with your friends and neighbors about the weather or the amount of water in the creeks and tanks or just the latest goings on as you grab a bite to eat at Edna's or the Café.

And of course living in Kingsbury means living with the trains. Stopping to wait on a train to pass before you can cross the tracks just means you have a few minutes to stop and take a breather (that's what I try and tell myself when I'm running late and get caught waiting). And if you are



on Railway Street and talking with someone, it means that you shut up and just smile at each other as the train whistle blows and the engines go by. You can't hear each other anyway, so you just look at each other and smile.

This all may seems like much ado about nothing to some people living here—it's just everyday life. But I've been fortunate to have travelled to many other places around the world, and I can honestly say that being home in Kingsbury is my favorite place to be.

(Continued from page 1) CAPOTE HILLS

While all eyes right now are on the Capote Hills municipality-creating election, which should be overwhelmingly voted in favor of, the residents of what is informally known as the City of Kingsbury Phase 2 are patiently awaiting their battle with the power hungry City of Seguin. Kingsbury community members seek to restore the 145 year history of the historic downtown Kingsbury neighborhoods with the recently incorporated Phase 1 which effectively drew a line along the eastern edge of Guadalupe County effectively stopping Seguin's land grab efforts.

Many residents of Kingsbury are of the opinion that there was an illegal extension of the City of Seguin's ETJ (based on Seguin's possible illegal strip annexations along IH-10 and SH-130) erroneously overlapping Kingsbury's historic area, being challenged in a court of law. Time will tell. And the clock is ticking.

SPRING ASTRO FORECAST

By: Robert Burak

**Aries**  
You should find money (and the comfort that comes with it) easier to attain. Mars and Ceres both enter materialistic Taurus as the sun enters your sign on March 20th.

**Taurus**  
Spring is a great time to fine-tune your relationships, since your ruling planet Venus will be in retrograde March 4-April 15. While not the best time for new beginnings, it provides an opportunity to look back and learn from past mistakes regarding love.

**Gemini**  
With Jupiter and Venus both in retrograde starting March 4th, you may feel like your love life is going backwards. Know that this is necessary. Imagine an arrow and bow; you can't launch the arrow without first pulling back. The arrow launches April 15th with Venus going direct.

**Cancer**  
With the Sun and Mercury entering your 12th house in late May, you should be experiencing an increase in spiritual epiphanies and subsequent breakthroughs. Pay special attention to your dreams at this time.

**Leo**  
With Venus going direct April 15th and the Sun crossing your mid-heaven on the 19th, you will be ready to tackle matters pertaining to your career in a very powerful way. Use this energy wisely.



(Continued on page 4)



A Lone Star Community Newspaper  
Published quarterly (more or less) since 2014.  
Volume 4, Number 1 April 2017  
Editor: Bob Grafe  
For advertising information:  
Phone: (323) KINGSBURY (323-546-4728)

NOTICE OF MEETINGS  
REGULAR MEETINGS OF THE  
KINGSBURY CITY COMMISSION

Regular Meetings of the Kingsbury City Commission are scheduled for the third Monday of each month at 6:30 p.m. at the Fellowship Hall of the Kingsbury Baptist Church located at 6901 FM 2438, Kingsbury, TX 78638

These meetings are open to the public. Come learn more about your government and the future of our community.  
For more information, visit us at [www.kingsburytexas.com](http://www.kingsburytexas.com)

Kingsbury City Commission

- Shirley Nolen—Mayor
- Janet Ignasiak—City Commissioner
- Alison Heinemeier—Mayor Pro Tem
- Nelda Hotchkiss—City Clerk
- Sam Drugan—City Attorney
- Art Martinez de Vara—City Attorney



# CITIZEN OF KINGSBURY

MARK LORENZ

**What is your full name?**

David Mark Lorenz. But most people know me as “Mark.”

**Where did you go to school?**

I graduated from Seguin High School.

**What is your current occupation?**

I work as a machinist cutting metal and making things out of metal for the company.

**Alaska or Hawaii?**

Alaska. You don’t have to fly as far!

**Houseboat or ski boat?**

Houseboat. I don’t really like going so fast on water.

**RV or tent?**

It used to be “tent” but now it’s “RV”. We will be going all over west Texas this spring in our RV.

**Who would you want with you if you were stranded on a desert island?**

My wife Tammy and Willie Nelson. Maybe Dwight Yokum.

**Where would you like to go that you have never been?**

My first thought is Australia but everything is deadly over there! What I’d really like to do is go up the coast of California on the Pacific Coast Highway. I’d really like to go to the Grand Canyon also.

**What is your favorite memory?**

I’ve got so many great memories! But they all have to do with growing up in Kingsbury and around my grandparents. There’s a lot of good memories with that.

**Do you have a favorite author or book?**

I’m not much of a reader but I read a lot of manuals for all the things and equipment I end up working on. I enjoyed math much more than reading in school, but when I was young I read the book “Jory” and really liked it. I read more now about country music artists.

**What has been your biggest challenge?**

Probably trying not to be negative! But also cooking—I can cook meat on the pit and that’s about it.

**What has been your biggest success?**

Taking my house and turning it in to a really nice place to live. It was my grandparents’ house built in 1945. It took about 6 years and a facelift from top to bottom (and below to the root cellar), but we really made a great house.

**What one thing would you change if you had it to do over?**

Tattoos. I would still have tattoos, but I wouldn’t have them all the way down to my wrists. I’d just stop them about at the sleeve line. The other thing I’d change would be to be more “book smart.” But I guess then I wouldn’t be who I am!

**If you could travel back in time, what year would you travel to?**

Probably back to 1959, the year I was born and be right here in Kingsbury.

**How would your friends describe you?**

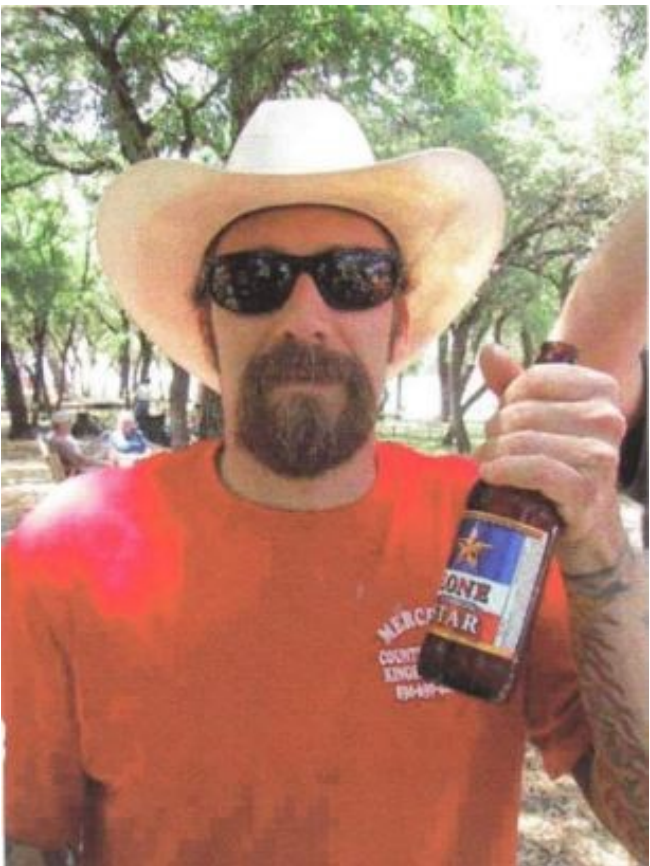
Probably as a “fixer” because I’m always tinkering and getting things running. Maybe also “happy-go-lucky” because my favorite thing to do is laugh.

**What do you do off the clock just for fun?**

Lots of things in the outdoors—camping, hog hunting, hiking, bicycling, and hiking.

**What is your favorite TV show and/or movie?**

I have lots of favorites. There are some movies I’ll watch over and over. One of my fa-



vorites is “The Outlaw Josey Wales.” I can tell you just about every word in that movie. “The Good, the Bad and the Ugly” is another favorite of mine. There seems to be a Clint Eastwood pattern here.

**What is something about yourself that others may not know?**

I can’t think of anything that everybody doesn’t already know! Everyone knows that I drink Lone Star, that I can fix things, and that I’ve rescued and raised a lot of squirrels and other animals. Maybe it’s that I used to have a pierced tongue.

**What is the best advice you have ever received?**

My mom has given me a lot of good financial advice during my life.

And I learned a lot from my father and grandfather from just being around them. They didn’t have to specifically give advice, I just learned a lot from being with them and growing up in Kingsbury.

## BLAKE BERTLING

### Equipment Rental & Repair

851 E. IH 10  
Seguin, TX 78155  
Office (830) 372-2610  
Cell (830) 560-6292



Valuation Service Company  
Founded in Texas - 1982  
Robert E. "Bob" Grafe  
Property Tax Consultant/Appraiser  
State Licensed Property Tax Consultant  
State Certified General Appraiser  
reg@valuationservicecompany.com

P.O. Box 218  
Kingsbury, Texas  
78638

Office: 1-830-743-3399

Call: M-F, 9-5

### Clean-N-Clip Grooming By Nancy

All Breed Dog &  
Cat Grooming  
35 Years  
Experience



Located At  
Crossroads  
Veterinary  
Hospital

1 - 830 - 372 - 4521

## The Derailment

(830) 556 - 2111



Marlene Pullin  
Owner

620 Railway, Kingsbury, TX 78155  
rosebud1309@msn.com



STEPHEN JOHNSON  
Owner  
www.kirbyskornor.com  
Kirbys Korner on Facebook

606 N. 123 Bypass  
Seguin, Texas 78155  
830.379.6031

## SONG RIDERS STUDIO



Ladd Nolen: Owner  
Larry Nolen, Jr.: Engineer

512.557.9959  
songridersstudio@gmail.com  
www.songridersstudio.com



# REMEMBERING KINGSBURIANs We've Lost

**Leslie Baker**—Leslie G. Baker, age 88, passed away on November 25, 2016. Leslie was born on November 5, 1928 in Kingsbury to Patrick Henry and Lola (Govett) Baker. He is preceded in death by his loving wife Joyce Baker and his parents. Survivors include his sons, David Baker and Stephan Baker; grandchildren, Patrick Shad Baker and wife Staci, Sara Elley and husband Colby, Brandon Baker and Jamie Hawkins, Lisa Jubela and husband Kyle, and Josh Baker and wife Rebecca; 13 great-grandchildren; brother, Glenn Baker and wife Ola Mae; sister, Patricia Perryman; numerous nieces and nephews. Private graveside services were held at the Kingsbury Cemetery.

**Jack Lee Herndon**—Jack L Herndon, 71, passed away on December 3, 2016 in San Antonio, Texas. He was born to Earnest and Frances Herndon in Montebello, California on July 20, 1945. During his childhood lived in several states including California, Florida, Colorado, Wyoming, Iowa and Nebraska before moving to Texas with his parents in 1961. He was a proud father, husband, grandfather, great grandfather brother and uncle. He enjoyed spending time with his family and cherished his time with his grandchildren and great

grandchildren. He always made time for those he cared for and made sure they always knew how much they were loved. Proudly served his country in the U S Marine Corps during the Vietnam War; following release from active duty as a Sergeant remained in the U S Marine Corps Reserve through 1976 obtaining the rank of Staff Sergeant. Jack's service in the Marines was a point of pride throughout his life. Was a graduate of Del Mar College and Texas A&M University at Corpus Christi. Married Nancy Tullos on September 6, 1968 at Trinity Baptist Church in Corpus Christi and just celebrated 47 years of marriage. Jack retired from AEP Texas after 43 years in 2011. During his career with Central Power & Light, CSW and AEP held several management positions; Area Manager Port Lavaca, Customer Solution Center Manager, Area Business Manager Portland/Sinton and Meter Revenue Operations Manager AEP Texas. Gladly served the communities where he lived and worked; Corpus Christi Cub Scouts, Ingleside Little League, Ingleside Boy Scouts, Ingleside HS Booster Club, Aransas Pass & Corpus Christi Lions Clubs, Port Lavaca and Portland Rotary Clubs, Port Lavaca, Aransas Pass and Portland Chamber of Commerce director, Port Lavaca Economic Development Committee. During retirement Jack and Nancy enjoyed RV trips to private and state parks in

Texas. From time to time took non-RV trips to Costa Rico, Alaska, Canada, South Dakota, Wyoming, Montana, Idaho, Utah, Washington DC, Arizona and Nevada. Jack was a history buff, especially anything about Texas history. He liked to share his knowledge of Texas history with friends and relatives when the opportunity arose. He is preceded in death by his parents Earnest and Frances Herndon and brothers, James Herndon (Beverly) of Dallas, Texas, Joseph Herndon (Patsy) of Cleburne, Texas.

Survived by his beloved wife Nancy, two sons Randall Herndon of Corpus Christi, and Timothy Herndon (Jennifer) of Kingwood; brother David Herndon of San Diego, CA; five grandchildren Brett Herndon (Ashley), Amanda Jones (Jared), Miranda Herndon, Dillon Herndon, Trent Herndon; two great grandchildren Madi Jones and Callie Jones; numerous nephews and nieces. Internment was in the Kingsbury Cemetery.

**Wesley Paul Medley**—Wesley Paul Medley, age 72, affectionately known as “Papa,” passed away at home in Staples, TX, on Feb. 2,

(Continued on page 7)

(Continued from page 1) **GARDENING**

**GOOD Bugs!**

By contrast, you might also find aphids, beetles, caterpillars, grasshoppers, grub worms, leaf-cutting ants, mealybugs, scale, and even “true” bugs such as the squash bug. Pests that you could do without also include pill bugs/sow bugs, snails and slugs, and spider mites. Get to know the who’s who in the insect world. Use insect field guides or the Internet search features to determine who is living in your backyard!

Be sure to look for insect damage to your plants whether or not insects are present. Injury to plants by chewing leaves, flowers, and stems are usually caused by beetles, caterpillars, pill bugs, grasshoppers and snails. Injury by piercing and sucking plant juices are usually caused by aphids, leaf-hoppers, mealybugs, mites and scale. Injury by boring and feeding inside the plant is usually the squash vine borers. Feeding on roots causing damage is usually the work of grubworms.

In this part of Texas, the top five insect pests to watch for in the garden are: Aphids (a high pressure water spray directly on them early in the morning usually takes care of the problem); Spider Mites are almost microscopic. They are not easily controlled in high populations without the use of systemic insecticides. Small populations can be controlled with high pressure water sprays; Tomato Hornworms need to be captured and destroyed before they conquer your entire tomato patch. They are eating machines. Hand pick them and feed them alive to the chickens or catfish for low-cost entertainment—not counting the psychologist’s bill! If you cannot hand pick them quickly enough to save your tomatoes, then grab the “BT” (it only attacks worms); Grasshoppers are what they are. Little League age kids can wipe them out for an hour or two if they use the hoppers for batting practice. Early in the season you can find grasshopper bait for nymphs at most good nurseries, Home Depot, etc.; and rounding out the top five are thrips. Huh? What did he say? Thrips are small 1/8 inch cigar-shaped insects that feed on flower and leaf juices. Commonly found on roses and vegetable crops. Control is not easy with thrips. You may need to just skip the generally recommended neem oil application and go directly to a systemic chemical insecticide.

It’s time to change out your cool-season annuals with warm-season annuals, such as marigold, penta, periwinkle, portulaca, purslane, and salvia.

We’re out of room and time. So, put on your thinking cap while you seek out shelter this summer atop the closest air conditioning vent you can find. Plan out NOW for your fall vegetable garden. Yes ... you really do plant out your tomato plants in July or early August. Honest. That’s about the same time I used to get the cabin and cache ready for the long icebox season of that 6-7 months of pure invigorating Alaska winter.



Tomato hornworm

(Continued from page 2) **ASTRO FORECAST**

**Virgo**

The solar eclipse on May 20th occurs in your midheaven, amplifying its intense energy. There may be a dramatic change in your favor regarding career as it may affect the personal lives of your (soon to be ex?) superiors.

**Libra**

March and April find the sun in your 8th house of regeneration. While this may indicate less money coming in, it should be balanced out by a prosperous sex-life and more enjoyment from the time you spend at home.

**Scorpio**

With Mars in your 7th house until April 21st you may find yourself quite critical of others. The Venus retrograde may have stagnated your love life for the past 40 days, amplifying your criticism of others. Late April would be a great time to pitch everyone an apology.

**Sagittarius**

April finds the sun in your 5th house of travel. There may be a lot of travel involving you or others in your life, garnering copious amounts of pleasure and happiness.

**Capricorn**

On June 4th, the solar eclipse occurs in your 12th house of spirituality. You may find the foundation of a long-held belief to be completely destroyed and replaced with one that better resonates with you.

**Aquarius**

With Mercury going retrograde April 9th, you may want to hold off on traveling, signing new contracts, or buying new electronics. Retrogrades are a period of observing what you already have and figuring out ways of improving upon them. Do yourself a favor and don’t actually improve on anything until after May 3rd.

**Pisces**

With the Moon’s north node entering your 6th house in May, you may find yourself striving for order, regulation and routine. Remember to take it gradually and not take on too much “organizing” all at once.



## Coming Issues:

“Spotlight” articles on Kingsbury City Clerk Nelda Hotchkiss and Kingsbury City Attorney Sam Dragan.

What makes a person tick that volunteers for a city position? You’ll find out in coming issues of the Kingsbury Independent!





RECIPE CORNER

Man Style Baked Eggs

- 3 Tbsp. butter
- 2 medium onions, sliced thin
- 1 tsp. salt
- 1/4 tsp. pepper

In skillet melt butter and sauté onion slices for about 5 minutes. Arrange in an 8" pie plate and sprinkle with salt and pepper.

- 4 large eggs
- 1 tsp. salt
- 1/4 tsp. pepper
- 2 Tbsp. bread crumbs
- 4 slices sharp cheddar cheese

Scramble eggs and add salt and pepper. Place in pan with onions. Top with bread crumbs and cheese slides.

Bake uncovered for 10 minutes or until eggs are of desired firmness. Serves 4.  
*\*Jalapeno peppers may be added with the onions.*

Roast Beef Hash

*This is a great recipe to use up any left over roast you may have!*

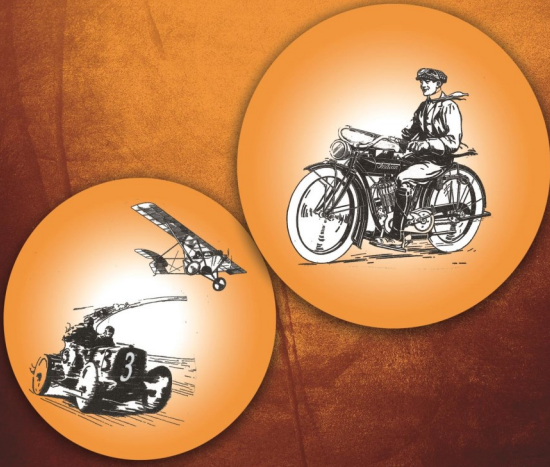
- 4 medium-size potatoes, peeled and cut into 1/4 inch pieces
- 1/4 cup vegetable oil
- 1 large onion, finely chopped
- 1 pound leftover roast, finely chopped (the food processor does a good job)
- 1 tsp. dried thyme, crumbled
- 3/4 cup heavy cream
- or
- 1-1/4 cups leftover gravy, warmed to thin it out.

Combine the potatoes with salted water and bring to a boil in a small saucepan.  
Boil for about 5 minutes or so, until tender, then drain. Heat 2 tablespoons of the oil in a large, heavy skillet and add the onion. Sauté over medium heat for about 7 minutes, stirring often. Add the remaining 2 tablespoons oil to the pan, then stir in the potatoes, beef, and thyme. Stir in salt and pepper to taste. Cook, stirring, for 2 minutes, then pour the cream evenly over the hash. Mash the hash down with a fork to give it the proper slightly mushy texture, then let it cook over medium heat for another couple of minutes before serving. If you want a good bottom crust, put the whole skillet - uncovered - in a 425 degree oven for about 15 minutes-no longer, or it will dry out.

HELP SUPPORT  
PIONEER FLIGHT MUSEUM

WINGS & WHEELS

★ MAY 6TH, 2017 | 9-3PM ★



OLD KINGSBURY AERODROME  
170 PERSHING LANE  
KINGSBURY, TX 78638

Kingsbury VFD Looking For New Members

Staff Writer—Kingsbury

The contractor tested the hoses and equipment on the big truck used for house fires. The few that failed were quickly scrapped. All other equipment passed the testing and scrutiny and was given the green light for continued service.

This is what happened recently during just one of the inspections that Kingsbury Volunteer Fire Department goes through on a regular basis to ensure that everything is in working order to keep those of us in their district safe. In fact, this was just one of the inspections that KVFD has had late last year and in the New



Recent recruits (left to right): Scott Heller (Junior Firefighter), Steve Pitts, Danielle Meyers, and Carl Birdwell.

Year where everything from the pumps to the breathing equipment to the ladders to all the hoses are tested and retested, making sure everything is safe to use.

Preparing for and passing these inspections are part of the efforts of the KVFD to better their ISO (Insurance Services Office) rating that identifies how well the fire department does. ISO ratings affect the insurance rates for our homes and properties. An ISO rating depends on many things including the number of organized and properly trained firefighters, the

reliability of emergency communications, the adequacy of fire station facilities, how well operational records are maintained, and the capability to deliver uninterrupted water flow. The KVFD had an ISO rating of 7/9 (inside 5 miles of the main station / outside 5 miles from the main station) back in February of 2016 and has recently improved to an ISO rating of 6/8B. KVFD Fire Chief Myron Boerger hopes to improve this rating again to a 5/8B or even a 4/8B during the next period which will be in about 3 years.

In order to do this, the KVFD needs more members that can help our area during day-time on weekdays. The Fire Department currently has about 20 active members, almost all of which have full time jobs. In order to respond to a call during a weekday, the KVFD must often call in other fire departments and this is what Chief Boerger would like to see less of.

The kinds of calls that the KVFD responds to include grass fires, vehicle accidents, medical calls, and house fires. So what kind of person can be a valuable member of the fire department? A big, strong man with lots of experience and a medical background? Not at all! Chief Boerger says that is a major misconception by many. Actually, there is no experience required to be a member and any training you may want or need is paid for by the KVFD. Many of the current members are young women that may not be able to heft a 100 pound weight, but have been trained to run the water pumps, use the fire hoses, and park fire trucks to block traffic around a traffic accident. As the Chief says, “You don’t have to be a man to do this job. Women can effectively fight fires and be EMTs - and the KVFD will train them. They can be so useful to us here and they



don’t even know it.” Retirees are another group of people that can also be so useful to the KVFD to answer those weekday calls. Almost anyone can be helpful in so many ways.

Danielle Meyers is a member that joined just last year. Her boyfriend joined KVFD after coming here from Center where he was a member of the volunteer fire department there. Danielle says that seeing his involvement with the KVFD made her want to join also. “It’s such a fun job!” she says, “And it has the added benefit of helping people.” Danielle’s paying job is to climb the communications towers for cell phone companies, not exactly a lead in to being a volunteer fire fighter and first responder. But now after being part of the KVFD, she will be starting EMT school in San Marcos with an end goal of being an RN. Just by being part of the KVFD, Danielle has found a pursuit that she has a real passion for.

Steve Pitts is another new member that joined the KVFD just before the Bar-B-Q in 2016. Steve moved to Kingsbury two and a half years ago and, unlike Danielle, didn’t know anyone in the fire department. But with the upcoming Bar-B-Q, he started to hear more about the organization and wanted to be

(Continued on page 6)



(Continued from page 5) **Kingsbury VFD**

a part of that and part of his new community. That is certainly one of the benefits of becoming a member of the KVFD – you really do become part of the community and in a very



Checking equipment and hoses and the KVFD fire station.

essential way, as someone that others can call on when they need help.

The desire to be a part of their community and to help others is a common trait among members of the KVFD. Member Melissa Boerger is currently a teacher and also the wife of Chief Myron Boerger. But being married to the fire chief doesn't mean she was automatically drawn to being a fire fighter. "I had never done anything like that before," Melissa said, "but I wanted to help and I

asked myself what I needed to do to be able to help." So Melissa joined the KVFD and learned how to drive the trucks and work the pumper. She found that being a person of very small stature does not limit the valuable input she has. "It's really more mental than physical. I'm kind of tiny, so if I can do it, anybody can!" Melissa admitted to being afraid of her own blood before joining the fire department, but now her desire is to go to paramedic school. "It helps if you are a person that loves to learn."

Wanting to learn something new and wanting to be helpful to their community is a common sentiment among members of the KVFD. Whether they grew up in it with family members being part of the KVFD, or as total newcomers to the whole idea of joining a volunteer fire department, the KVFD fire fighters and first responders are there to help. And not only helping the people in the Kingsbury fire district, but helping each other as well– joining the KVFD is like joining a family. "We really look out for each other" Mellissa Boerger says. "And we are always there to support each other."

If you would like to join the KVFD "family" and learn something new, help your friends



Left to right: Chief Myron Boerger, 1st Asst. Chief David Larison, 2nd Asst. Chief and Trustee Rex Ferrell, Chaplain and Trustee Brent Bertling, Trustee James Harborth, President and Captain Sara Harborth, Secretary Melissa Boerger, Vice Pres. John

and neighbors, and really become a part of the Kingsbury community, contact Chief Boerger at (830) 624-6361 or President Sara Harborth at (830) 660-4523. You can also go by the fire station at the corner of FM 1104 and Hwy 90 where they have meetings and trainings on Thursday evenings. The KVFD invites anyone to apply to be a member and is especially searching for those stay-at-home parents, retirees, and non-weekday workers that can help fill in the gaps and answer calls during the day. Kingsbury Volunteer Fire Department fire fighter – the best "job" you might ever have!

# What Constitutional Rights?

## Or What I Didn't Learn in High School

### and what I want YOU to do about it....

**Frank Ignasiak — Kingsbury**

It was just like in World History class in high school. This vessel pulled up, some guys jumped out, stuck a staff in the ground and said "I proclaim this land to belong to the King of Spain." Then got back in their vessel and left, leaving the natives living there asking "What was that about?"

Well, a few years later, they found out. Their lives changed dramatically.

The staff in the ground here, at this time, didn't say "Spain". It said "Seguin". We were way ahead of the Native Americans. We knew Seguin. Heck, we shopped there, dined out there, sent our children to school there, worked there. But we didn't live there, didn't want to. But now? How can they just force us to be in their city, follow their laws that we didn't create, pay their taxes that we didn't vote for, get services that we didn't ask for nor need or want? How can they? The State of Texas says they can. Yep, that is the law.

We, (Kingsbury), incorporated to protect us and our property and our way of life from some big city forcefully annexing us. Not picking on Seguin. It could have been, would



have been, New Braunfels, San Marcos, Luling, Lockhart, somebody I assure you.

You may have heard the term "Liberty City" in reference to small towns incorporating in Texas. But, as of yet, there is no real "Liberty City" municipality recognized by the state of Texas. If the legislation ever passed in the state legislature, perhaps there would be a simple, straight forward easy to understand procedure to incorporate and operate a low tax, low regulation city government that is responsive to the citizens.

Kingsbury incorporated under existing state regulations but tries to model its government around the Liberty City concept. One of the tenants of that concept is a Citizen's Bill of Rights. Kingsbury doesn't have that. I want it to. I want to do it while we still have a City Commission that is in favor of low or no taxes, low regulation, responsive government and understands the "Liberty City" idea. And,

(Continued on page 7)



(Continued from page 6) **Rights**

most importantly, I want your help. Yes, you. If you've read this far you must have an opinion. If you've been talking out loud to me while you read this (good or bad) you do have an opinion. If you are yelling at your spouse or friend about how right I am or what an idiot I am, I invite you to share your opinion.

I need your help because I don't normally

write “Bills of Rights”. I know what I think is just and fair, but I am not sure if I’m correct or if you would agree. I need your help to make a step forward in showing other cities, counties, states, countries that these Rights are not given or granted to us by a government or constitution, but are “natural rights”, “God given rights”. We form governments and write constitutions to help protect those rights from those that would deny them.

So, this is what I want you to do please. Contact me and be a part of this. Help to shore up and reinforce the protection of our individual rights and liberties. You don't have to live in Kingsbury. You can live in any city or not live in a city at all. You can be male or female, teenager or adult, republican, democrat or libertarian. You just need to be a person who wants to be a part of this.

# Opinion

Not to start any rumors- The City of Seguin has no immediate plans for annexing anything. I have no “immediate” plans to eat anything. However, give me a little time and let’s see what happens.

It appears to me that Texas Cities have a voracious appetite. I guess it is just human nature to want to improve things, make them bigger and better, make them grow and accomplish. But in a country and state that were founded upon the rights and freedoms of the individual it strikes me as odd that the law would allow a city to “forcefully” take your property and rule, regulate and tax it without your consent.

I live in Kingsbury, and no, I wasn't sold on "city conveniences without city taxes". I was sold on the "neighborhood" here. I like the quiet. I like the fact that at night it gets dark, no lights everywhere. I like coyotes howling just over the hill. I like my yard with skunks, opossums, raccoons, armadillos, more bird species than you'd believe, even the copperheads and rattlesnakes. I like going out to the tank and catching 15 and 25 pound catfish with the grand kids.

But the city does have things to offer. And even though, from our house, there are 5 sizable cities within the same proximity, we usually choose Seguin. Our church is there, many of our friends, schools that our children went to, our Lions Club, my wife's office, some of our favorite restaurants and businesses, most of the services and things we need to purchase are there. That's where our money goes, into Seguin's economy. That makes jobs, pays wages and oh yes, all that sales tax money. Yes, the city does have a lot to offer but I don't want to live there. I would not be as happy. It would not be the the kind of life I want to live.

Windwood Circle, Deerwood Circle, Tor Village, the Chaparral and Parkview area and Oak Village North, none of these folks wanted to be annexed. But the city needs these areas to participate in this “civic society”. So you make them participate by force? Why didn’t they want to be annexed? What did the city have to offer? If it was so beneficial to those people, well there is a method of petitioning, asking a city to voluntarily annex you into its city limits. I wonder if that happens very often in Texas?

People living just outside the city limits pay no city taxes, but their lives are affected greatly by what the city does. Just outside the city limits, 1/2 mile up to 5 miles (depending upon the size of the city), is the city's ETJ, Extraterritorial Jurisdiction. If you live in the ETJ, even though you are not in the city, the city can and does regulate some aspects of your life. Also, you have lost the ability to, at your request, be annexed into a nearby city unless the first city says OK. Not gonna happen. And yet even worse, you and your neighbors have lost the right to form and incorporate into your very own city. Essentially you just wait until that city finally gets around to forcefully annexing you into a city you didn't choose to live in.

One more bit of information about ETJs that i just don't understand. From the State of Texas Local Government Code: Sec. 42.001. PURPOSE OF EXTRATERRITORIAL JURISDICTION. The legislature declares it the policy of the state to designate certain areas as the extraterritorial jurisdiction of municipalities to promote and protect the general health, safety, and welfare of persons residing in and adjacent to the municipalities.

Why did the state legislature think that if I resided adjacent to a municipality, not necessarily in, but next to a city, that I needed the rules and restrictions of an ETJ to promote and protect my general health, safety, and welfare? I have the State of Texas and the County of Guadalupe already promoting and protecting my general health, safety, and welfare as well as my most ardent promoter and protector of those things.....myself.

It is a lot of work managing money and resources to provide living space for dense populations. But manage what you have. Don't take it by force. Build something people want to buy into. I have no illusions. I know that growth will happen. Someday, someone will want to be a part of your city and offer me lots (maybe) of money so that they can build some houses or businesses here and ask to be annexed into your city and be apart of what it has become. And I'll probably sell. I'll be ready to move. It will be too crowded here by then!

### Frank Ignasiak—Kingsbury

(Continued from page 4) **Kingsburians**

2017, with his family by his side. He was born May 23, 1944, in Mountainair, NM to Joseph and Beatrice (Garrison) Medley.

He is survived by his devoted wife, Julia (Duggins) Medley. They were married in Belen, NM on Nov. 9, 1968.

He is also survived by his son, Shawn Medley of Pigeon Forge, TN and his children, Jacob and Bailey Medley; son, Kirk Medley (Annas) of Wimberley, TX and their children, Colton and Kamryn Medley; daughter, Twanna Person (Gus Person, III) of Seguin, TX and their children, Gus (IV) and Taylor Person; brother, Steve Medley (Zelta) of Colorado; and sister, Debbie Wallace (Steve) of NM.

His parents and one brother, Mike Medley preceded him in death.

A 30 year resident of Staples, TX, Wesley served his country in the U.S. Army during the Vietnam Era. He was a member of the University Church of Christ. He enjoyed bowling, was an avid out-

doorsman and especially loved family reunions.

**Vernon Henry Engelke**—Vernon Henry Engelke, of Kingsbury, passed away on Monday, June 13th at the age of 89. Vernon was born November 21, 1926, in Sullivan, Texas, the son of Alvin and Frieda Engelke.

Vernon was a custom farmer and rancher nearly his entire life and worked in the oil field 30 years. He loved his family, checking his cattle and hunting. He took great pride in the results of his hard work and determination and getting the job done right.

Vernon is survived by his wife of 67 years, Shirley; his sons, Dennis Engelke and wife Elizabeth of Beaumont; Tom Engelke of Austin; Randy Engelke and wife Amanda of Luling; and Terry Engelke and wife Chandy of Kingsbury; his grandchildren Jim, Jody, Dusty, Landon, Ashley, Shirley, Clayton and Btent; 9 great grandchildren; and numerous nieces, nephews and friends.

brother Emrie and sister Dora.

Interment followed at the Kingsbury Cemetery. In lieu of flowers, donations were asked to be made to the Kingsbury Volunteer Fire Department or the charity of one's choice.

**Bret Howell Johnson**—Bret Howell Johnson was born on January 5, 1991. Bret went to be with his Lord on September 11, 2016. He is preceded in death by his grandmother, Lorraine Cheek; grandfather, Gerald Newberry and his beloved uncle, Jeffery Johnson; aunt, Tammy Johnson and Cousin Tyler Johnson. He was a great man with a huge heart that always tried to help others. He gave the gift of life to others by being an organ donor. Bret was a very hard working man who always tried his best at everything. Bret was full of Joy. He always found time for his grandparents who he adored. He was a very sensitive, very smart and very loving person. Bret liked the outdoors. He loved to hunt

(Continued on page 8)





WANT TO KNOW MORE  
ABOUT WHAT'S GOING ON IN  
**KINGSBURY?**

Check out the Kingsbury website at: [www.kingsburytexas.org](http://www.kingsburytexas.org)

◆ Pictures

◆ Facts About Kingsbury

◆ News Articles

◆ Kingsbury Weather

◆ Blog / Journal

◆ Kingsbury Independent  
Newspaper

◆ Upcoming Events



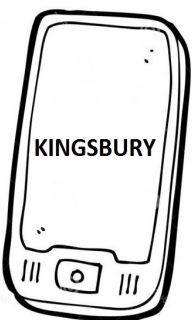
◆ Online Survey

◆ Kingsbury Calendar

◆ Contact Information

◆ City Commission Schedule &  
Agendas

◆ Kingsbury T-Shirts  
& Collectibles



Click on the little dog at the bottom of any page to sign  
up for the Kingsbury eMail Information Newsletter!

and fish. He enjoyed baseball, snowboarding, skiing and swimming. Bret is survived by his daughter, Kyndra Alsacia Johnson; mother, Shari Trost (Tom); his dad, Greg Johnson; brother, Brant and half-sister, Patricia Brewer(Michael); step siblings, Joel, Jennifer and Lauren; grandparents, Bob and Marylon Johnson and Patty Newberry; Presley Krueger and brother-in-law, Patrick W. Krueger; father-in-law, Mark Krueger and mother-in-law, Valerie Krueger; uncle, Robert Newberry and wife Tammy and family; aunt, Susan and husband Richard Sibley and family; uncles, Roger and Jo Bryan; and Krystyn Galvan and her daughter Kaylee and other family members and loved ones. A Committal Service was held on Saturday, September 17, 2016 at the Kingsbury Cemetery.

**John Allen Lewis**—John Allen Lewis, Jr., age 89 of Kingsbury, passed away on March 15, 2017. Visitation will be held on Monday, March 20, 2017 at Tres Hewell Mortuary from 5 to 7 p.m. The recitation of the Holy Rosary will be held on Tuesday, March 21, 2017 at 9:30 a.m. at St. James Catholic Church followed by the Mass of Christian Burial at 10 a.m. with Rev. Msgr. Dennis Darilek officiating. Interment will follow in San Geronimo Cemetery. John was born on December 12, 1927 in Asherton, Texas to John Allen Lewis, Sr., and Zola Alexander Lewis. His career as a production supervisor with Texaco Oil Co. spanned 37 ½ years. After retiring in 1990, he enjoyed raising both cattle and deer. He loved his

family and friends and enjoyed spending time with all of them. He is preceded in death by his son, Freddie Lewis, his parents, his sister, Zolene Curlee and his brother, Joe Lewis. Survivors include his loving wife of 45 years, Katherine Wilke Lewis; children, Jimmy Lewis and wife Sue, Lana Crenshaw, Kathy Dojahn, and husband Ralph, Sheila Mundine and husband John, Becky Warncke and husband Randy, Ricky Abrameit and wife DeAnne, Sharon Bierstedt and husband Blake, and Johnny Abrameit and wife Julia; grandchildren, Jimmy Lewis, Jr. Wendy Valdez, Debbie Blair, Allen Blair, Justin Blair, Dawn Brown and husband J. Scott, Misti Guenther and husband Ben, Johnathan Bierstedt and wife Dawn, D. J. Hart, Shelly Mott and husband Jason, Kristi Ranft and husband Derek, Derek Dojahn and wife Crystal, Zachery Abrameit and Katy Blakley, Lisa Lynn and wife Laura, Kathrine Abrameit, Brooke Abrameit and Brandon Deal, Brittney Abrameit, Cody Abrameit, Christopher Abrameit, Madelyn Abrameit, Elizabeth Abrameit, Stephanie Burkhardt and husband Chad, and Emily Kasmiroski and husband Andy; numerous great-grandchildren, nieces, nephews, cousins, other loving family members and many friends.

**Lydia Angela Dean**—Lydia Angela Dean went to join her husband Stanley Roger Dean on March 26, 2017 at the age of 79. She is preceded in death by her parents, William and Elsie Stautzenberger; and daughter, Vivian Davis. She is survived by her children, Debra Sue Linebarger, Laurie Arms and husband David, Rosie Adcock

and husband Ashley; grandchildren, Trisha and Travis Linebarger, Dylan and Alex Adcock, Brittney and Sierra Davis; and her 6 feline grand-kitties, and other numerous relatives and friends. A Graveside Service was held on Tuesday, April 4, 2017 at the Kingsbury Cemetery,

It's Time Again  
For The  
**Kingsbury  
Birthday  
Bash**

May 20<sup>th</sup> 11 - 2  
In Downtown Kingsbury

BURGERS AND HOTDOGS PLATES \$5  
GAMES FOR THE KIDS  
COME SUPPORT YOUR COMMUNITY, MEET  
YOUR FRIENDS AND NEIGHBORS  
AND CELEBRATE !