

COUPLAND HERALD



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Coupland Civic Organization

Board of Directors

- Susan Schmidt, President
- Mike Schneider, Treasurer
- Becky Sutton, Assistant Treasurer/Hospitality
- Judy Downing, Fundraising
- Jonathan Jones, Building and Grounds
- Barbara Piper, Depot/Caboose Coordinator
- Susan Garry, *Herald* Newsletter Editor, Publicity
- Ruby Wabbel

Additional Committee

- Jennifer Dollins, Community-Wide Communications

We have a very unusual article in this *Herald*. Debrah Candelas, Coupland resident and daughter of Sarah Torleumke, recently went on her own personal mission to help the people of Ukraine. She has written an account of her journey. Part One begins on page 13. Part Two will be in the November *Herald*.

News from the City

By Mayor Jack Piper and Mayor Pro Tem Barbara Piper

As is stated in each *Herald*, the City Council meetings are held the second Thursday of each month beginning at 6 p.m. in the Coupland Volunteer Fire Department Meeting Room. Copies of the Agendas and Minutes from all Council Meetings can be found on the City's website, <http://www.cityofcouplandtx.us>.

Several potholes located on CR 458 have been patched. This is an ongoing challenge, and the city continues to engage with its contractor to make repairs on an as needed basis.

The Muery and South Broad Street project is complete! The ribbon cutting for the much anticipated and completed renovation, which was done by Williamson County as part of its 2019 bond project, is scheduled to be held on August 3 at 10 a.m. Many thanks to Russ Boles, our County Commissioner, and to Williamson County for including this in the 2019 bond issue. Come and join us for this event.

The City Council Strategic Planning Committee, formed to help point out and make recommendations to the council on issues of the city, meets on a regular monthly basis. Announcements of the meetings can be found on the city's website and Facebook pages.

(Continued on page 15)

Choo Choo Fest--Sun., Oct. 2

The Coupland Civic Organization's (CCO) annual Choo Choo Fest will be on Sunday, October 2, in the fellowship hall and on the grounds of St. Peter's Church of Coupland. As always, there will be a delicious barbecue meal prepared by Coupland's Master Chef Peter Wabbel and Pit Master Bobby Hepner. There will be all the usual "sides" of beans, potato salad, and slaw, homemade by CCO board members. Tickets for the meal are \$12 for adults and \$7 for children eight and under. Serving starts at 11:30 a.m. and ends when sold out. It's a good idea to buy your tickets in advance from any CCO board member, as the food can go fast. A bake sale will feature all kinds of desserts and baked goods from the famous Coupland cooks and bakers.



At a past Choo Choo Fest, Mayor Jack Piper and Master Chef Peter Wabbel.

A silent auction will showcase a variety of items—antiques, collectibles, arts and crafts, toys, and fine art.

President's Message

By Susan Schmidt, CCO President

I always knew Texas summers were hot, especially July-September. I never imagined our summer would begin in May with 100-degree weather and continue with 100 and over degrees. Today, as my husband and I were driving, the truck thermometer registered 109. Now, that is way too hot.

Looking through back issues of the *Herald*, I saw in 2001, water conservation was an issue. Property values were continuing to increase. Does any of that sound familiar? Some things never change.

In 2002, a Fish Fry and Bake-Off was scheduled as the main fund raiser of the CCO. The call to conserve water was issued, despite having recent rains.

In 2003, a high-density development was proposed on Pfluger-Berkman/CR 458. It was to be called New Sweden Meadows. This proposed development never happened. What I found interesting was the last paragraph of the article. It said, "eventually the Coupland area will be developed. It is probably one of the best-kept secrets in Central Texas. The first few developments will surely determine the flavor of

how Coupland will look in 20, 50, and 100 years from now." The time has come. There are several developments being planned all around Coupland. Since Samsung and now Applied Materials are coming to the area, we can expect the housing market to be quite strong around the area.

In 2011, the summer was very hot, dry, and windy. The call to conserve water was prevalent. Also in 2011, a horrific tornado event happened in Joplin, Missouri. The Coupland Community banded together and sent a 6' x 12' care trailer full of food items, bottled water, toiletries, diapers, clothes, and linens. Carolyn Lowry, a teacher at Coupland School, had first-hand word of the Coupland donations reaching Joplin residents. Her sister, a resident of Joplin, actually received some of the items sent by our caring community. Another significant happening in 2011 was a celebration of Zada Downing's 89th birthday. CCO honored Zada with a dinner. Zada was a long-time board member and treasurer. Her daughter, Judy Downing, is carrying on her mom's dedication to the community, currently serving as a CCO board member.

Here's hoping for some soaking rains. Hope to see lots of you at National Night Out on August 2.

Susan Schmidt



By Stephen Voelker, President
Coupland Water Supply Corporation

Within the last year, lots of people have been calling asking about availability of sewer service in the Coupland area. With all the questions of whether a property is connected to the local sewer system, the collective network for the sewer system is defined by the Certificate of Convenience and Necessity (CCN) permit issued by the Texas Commission on Environmental Quality. The CCN permit area is as shown on the associated map, right.

The CCN was established within the original 1887 plat of the City of Coupland. It does not cover the entire area of Coupland as currently incorporated. Coupland Water Supply Corporation (CWSC) is a member-owned nonprofit corporation which manages the wastewater service for Coupland residents within the CCN. The city of Coupland and the CWSC are not related other than the CCN lies within the current city limits of Coupland. The CWSC does not receive any tax money and is supported solely by the members' sewage usage as billed by Manville Water Supply Corporation.



Samuelsons' Wood Floor Building Has New Owners

Passing the Torch

M-D Floors is leaving behind a building we've occupied for 22 years. Martin and I ran our wood floor company out of the old "Thompson" building we purchased from Jim Huntington in August 2000. It only seems fitting we will be out by August 1, 2022.

At this time, we will continue M-D Floors from another location. We are ready to start our next chapter, maybe a little more fishing, and, of course, taking care of our growing number of grandchildren. Life is good and we have been blessed.

We are very excited to introduce the new owners, Katie and John Hindman. Katie and John have four children and are looking forward to becoming a part of the Coupland community.

The Hindmans are artisans in their own right. They own and operate Red River Restorations, which specializes in restoring historical buildings and homes. John has asked that anyone having pictures of the building when it was a mercantile to please share. He hopes at some point to be able to restore the building back to its original storefront paragraph

Congratulations to the Hindmans and thank you all for all those years!

Deborah and Martin Samuelson

National Night Out on Aug. 2

By Barbara Piper

IT'S THAT TIME AGAIN! NATIONAL NIGHT OUT!!

It is really hard to fathom that another year has passed since we last joined in the National Night Out celebration. As many of you already know, this is a national recognition and one we observe each FIRST TUESDAY IN AUGUST. This year's observance will be on Tuesday, August 2. The Coupland Civic Organization will be providing its fun feast of hot dogs with all of the trimmings, chips, homemade cookies, and nice cool water.

So, bring a lawn chair and come and celebrate with us. Festivities begin at 6:30 p.m. at the Depot in downtown Coupland. We always look forward to hearing from Matt Kreidel of the Williamson County Sheriff's Department about all of the goings on in our area.

Street Renovation Ribbon-Cutting

The ribbon-cutting for the Muery/South Broad road project renovation is August 3, 10 a.m. South Broad was widened, and there was complete renovation of these streets and drainage work. This project is part of the 2019 Williamson County Bond Project.

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future, so
plan for it.**

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St. Peter's Church News

By Interim Pastor Charles Stark

Recently I read a shared post on Facebook that focused on a person dealing with brain cancer. She related a powerful question posed to her by a Shaman after her second brain surgery. He asked her the following question. "Are you running toward life or are you running from death?" I thought about that question and have pondered it for a few days. I also began to think about it in terms of the life of the local church.

As most of us know, the church in the United States is experiencing significant declines. St. Peter's Church is no longer the strong vibrant congregation that it once was years ago. The question posed by the Shaman plays out in far too many churches today as a congregation "running from death." The reality in that scenario is that the church has a survivalist mentality. Everything the church does is geared toward just trying to survive.

The struggle to survive plays out in every decision being made based on a tight grip in terms of finances and hanging on to the traditions of the past. Too many congregations are living in fear of what tomorrow will bring and anxiety is high. Church Consultant Lyle Schaller once said, "Too many churches are looking forward to the church of yesteryear." If we stop and think about it, we must acknowledge that the 1950's are not coming back.

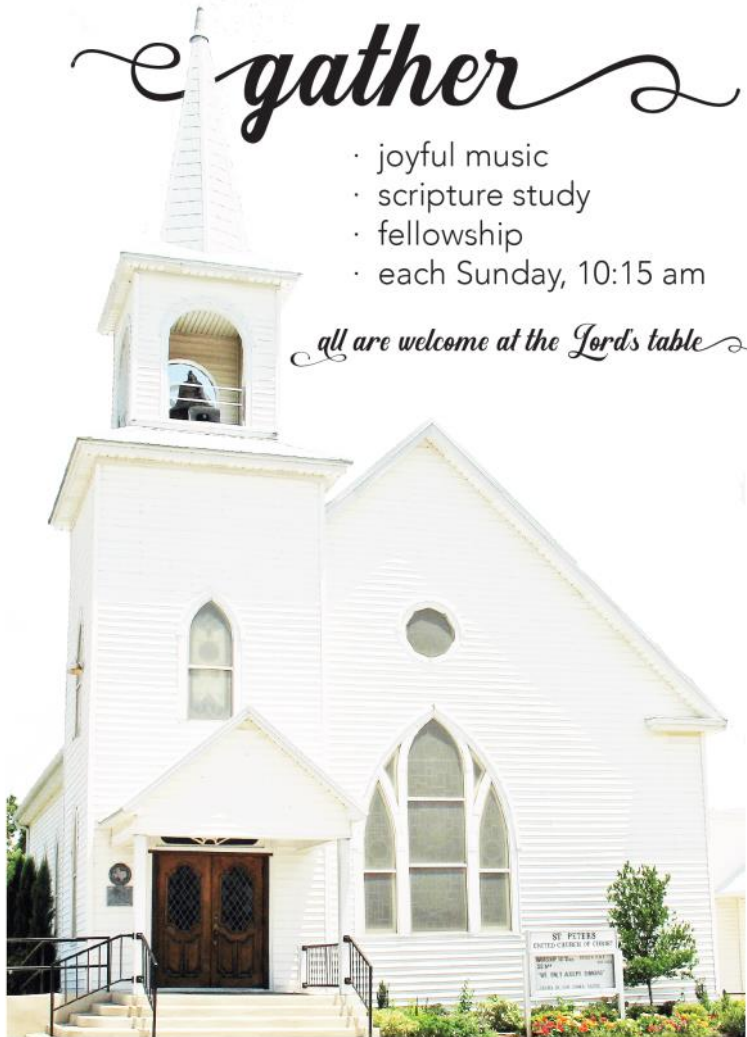
What would it look like to imagine a church "running toward life?" In my opinion, that would be a church truly seeking to live out the Gospel. If you reflect on the ministry of Jesus, you realize that he was one who always seemed to color outside the lines. He never lived in fear, and he never let the power of the past strangle his view of the future. Jesus was always challenging the norms of society. I think that if a church is going to "run toward life," then it will have to be about challenging our modern-day norms.

I hear a lot of anxiety about the changes that are taking place all around us in terms of our community of Coupland and what the large influx of people to our area will mean for the future. It is time that we stop looking at this as something to fear and look for the special opportunities that it presents for the church. If the church is going to thrive in the future, it will have to be willing to adapt to a changing culture. The future may require that we let go of cherished traditions and practices. The bottom line is that as a community of faith, we are not here to serve a "church" but rather to live out the gospel which calls us to serve our neighbors. May God help us as we move into an uncertain future and prompt us to "run toward life."

Next Luncheon Will Be September 20

Our next Luncheon will be on September 20, so don't forget this day!

Lois Schmidt & Sandra Wernli, Co-Chairs



gather

- joyful music
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all are welcome at the Lord's table

St. Peter's Church of Coupland

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Charles Stark, Interim Pastor



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Clean-Up Day Was May 14

On Saturday, May 14, Coupland held a Clean-Up Day with four dumpsters at the tracks in downtown Coupland. Mayor Jack Piper and resident Buz Garry helped residents move their debris into the dumpsters.

Also participating in Clean-Up Day was the Rohlack family who picked up trash on their road, County Road 458. LaVerne Rohlack is Coupland's City Secretary and all of her efforts to benefit the community are very much appreciated.

Left, cleaning up CR 458 were, right, City Secretary LaVerne Rohlack and her family members, granddaughter Amelia Cotterill, daughter Stephanie Rohlack, and son-in-law Andrew Morris.
Photo by Susan Garry



Left, Cecilia Stuchly and Sarah Jezek at their retirement party.
Right, Assistant Principal Kate Knapek and Superintendent Tammy Brinkman.

Photos by Susan Garry



Stuchly and Jezek Retire from Coupland School

The retirement party for Librarian Cecilia Stuchly and for Sarah Jezek was on Friday, May 20, in the Coupland Library. Many parents, students, fellow teachers, former teachers, Superintendent Tammy Brinkman, and former Superintendent Gary Chandler came and thanked these two ladies for their many years of dedication to the Coupland students. They will be missed!

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Erika and Russell Kinder-- New Owners of the Dancehall

By Susan Garry

The venerable Old Coupland Inn & Dancehall is in new hands—Russell and Erika Kinder (pronounced like the “kinder” in kindergarten). They say that they have been dancing for 20 years, and they are eager to preserve their love of dancing here in Coupland. Erika says, “The dance floor full and music on stage, that’s the heart of the building.”

Russell and Erika came to buy the business in an unusual way. Their son had been attending Teen Nights and noticed the for-sale sign. The family was afraid that new buyers would not have the right approach or knowledge. They were afraid that the dancehall would get ruined. Erika says, “Our son said ‘Why don’t you and dad take it over and run it?’” Erika had restaurant experience, and Russell had audio experience, so they decided that they had the background for this endeavor.

There are four sections to this business—the dancehall, restaurant, B&B, and the fourth one is events—business events, corporate parties, weddings. Erika says, “It is like running four businesses. We have to get all of these pieces in place.”



Erika and Russell Kinder Photo by Susan Garry

As Erika believes, the dancehall is “the heart of the building,” so a big part of her job is booking acts. She adds, “So many people want to play Coupland. We want Texas country, not Nashville. People want to rely on it being a dance band.” Russell is the “sound guy,” and his goal is to be open

(Continued on page 10)

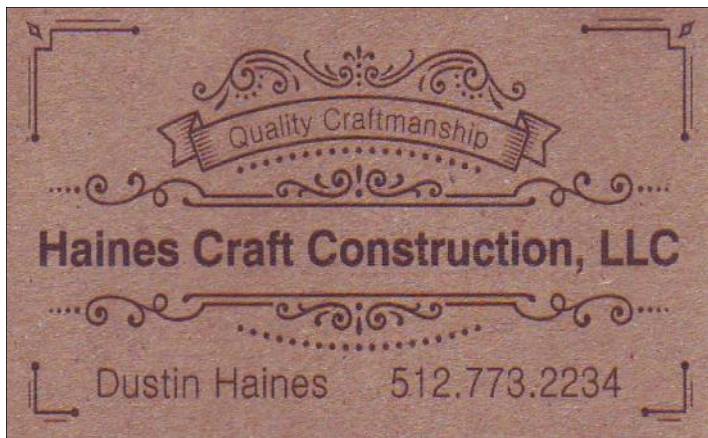
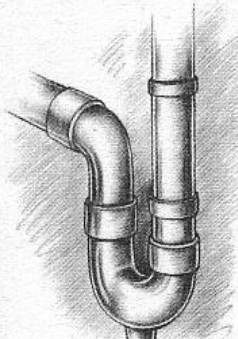
Coupland School News

By Assistant Principal Kate Knapek

Coupland School continues to experience unprecedented growth. Student enrollment for the 2022-2023 school year is expected to reach 300. A portable was added this summer to help address the overcrowding in middle school. Since the May 2022 bond election failed, the Coupland ISD Board of Trustees is in the process of determining what their next steps will be. They will decide at the regular board meeting in August whether they will call for a bond election in November. You are encouraged to register to vote and let your voice count.



Meet the Teacher: August 11, 6:30-7:30
1st Day of School: August 17
Looking Ahead:
Harvest Fest: November 5

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Post Oak Island Historical Marker Dedicated--By Susan Garry

Charlene Hanson Jordan has been working for years to commemorate the early community east of Coupland called Post Oak Island. She finally achieved a Post Oak Island historical marker which was dedicated on May 14. It is near the Type Cemetery marker; the dedication was held at the Type Church pavilion.

Pastor Terry Kennedy gave the opening prayer. Trey Smith brought some historic artifacts and spoke. Trey has restored the Lawhon Springs School and has established a museum in it, info@lawhonspringmuseum.com. Thanks to Trey who put up the money necessary for the Post Oak Island marker.

Also speaking was Mickie Ross who is Chairman of the Historical Markers Committee of the Williamson County Historical Commission and President of Preservation Georgetown. She spoke about the steps necessary to get a marker and praised Charlene's efforts. Sandy Murphree, President of Elgin Historical Association, complimented Charlene's contributions to the Elgin Depot Museum. Charlene explained her years of efforts to get the marker and she discussed the earliest families in the area. Some of their descendants were in attendance.

(Continued on page 9)



Pastor Terry Kennedy of Type Church gives the opening prayer.



Right, Mickie Ross, preservation official, praises Charlene's efforts.

Below, Sandy Murphree, President of Elgin Historical Association, compliments Charlene's work over the years.
Photos by Susan Garry

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Emergency Services District #10 News--By Maranda Cummings

Board Meetings are being held in person at the Coupland Fire Station each second Tuesday of the month. The meetings are also available via telephone conferencing. This information is available each month on the meeting notice posted at the Coupland Fire Station, Coupland Post Office, Citizens National Bank in Coupland, Thrall Fire Station, and Thrall Post Office. The approved minutes, meeting notice/agenda, and audited financial report are also posted on the ESD's website at www.wcesd10.org.

The Board of Commissioners is excited to introduce Mark Moellenberg as the Fire Chief of Williamson County ESD #10, Jared Cummings as the Assistant Fire Chief, John Roulston-Bates as District 1 Chief, and Zach Hall as District 2 Chief.

The Board approved the purchase of vital rescue equipment from Metro Fire, which includes a set of battery powered Holmatro rescue tools (jaws of life) and two sets of Holmatro stabilization struts. The jaws of life will replace a non-working set that is currently out of service. The two sets of rescue struts will be an additional tool in the rescue equipment and a set will be placed on an engine in Coupland and Thrall. The Board also approved the purchase of new Phenix helmets from Fuego Fire Center.

If any of our area residents are interested in joining Williamson County ESD #10, please contact Jared Cummings at jcumings@wcesd10.org. Please check the Coupland and Thrall Volunteer Fire Departments' Facebook pages for updates and upcoming events.

As always, we extend our appreciation to our volunteer ESD Commissioners and the volunteer firefighters of Williamson County ESD #10. We would especially like to thank those volunteers that provide training to better the district. The ESD is proud to support the Coupland and Thrall volunteer firefighters as they serve our area residents.



Trey Smith speaks as Charlene looks on.

(Continued from page 8)

Charlene has a new book out which is about Post Oak Island, *The Vanished Plantation*. To acquire this book as well as previous books by Charlene, email her at charlenehanson-jordan@yahoo.com.

Charlene spoke to Swedish historical society

Charlene discussed her books regarding her Swedish ancestors and the history of our area via a zoom meeting with the Järvsö Hembygdsförening (Järvsö Historical Society) in Sweden. The Swedish members were very interested in what Charlene had to say. Listening to the discussion in Swedish, one can hear the similarity in languages. Charlene explains, "There are many words in common between Swedish and English, usually the short basic words, like come (kom) and go (gå), yes (Ja) and No (Nej).



Now there are two historical markers at Type Cemetery. Photos by Susan Garry

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Type Church

By Rachel Kennedy

Waiting . . .

Greetings friends. I don't know about you, but I have a hard time with waiting. We are in between homes and living with one of our children and their three children. I confess, while I want to trust in the Lord, I want the waiting to end . . . now. We tend to focus on our objects of waiting rather than on the One who can and will provide for us. Truth be told we are really always just waiting . . . on God. Waiting for God to answer that prayer of a want, or a need, or a desire. While waiting for God to intervene we often times become restless for an answer. Waiting can be hard for me, but God always shows up to teach me a lesson in my times of impatience.

The devotional scripture He has brought to me recently is found in Isaiah 40:31 *"but they who wait for the Lord shall renew their strength; they shall mount up with wings like eagles; they shall run and not be weary; they shall walk and not faint."* After all, the Scriptures go on to declare in James 1:17 that *"Every good gift and every perfect gift is from above, coming down from the Father of lights, with whom there is no variation or shadow due to change."*

I love how the Lord meets us where we are, in every situation for our every need. He is faithful to bring us back to centering our attentions on Him rather than despairing in our heart. Friend, the Lord God is Faithful. I encourage you to get to know Him through His word the Bible and speak to Him in prayer. Build your relationship with Him, and He will comfort you in your times of uncertainty and waiting. You can start by reading the entire chapter of Isaiah 40 and allow His comfort to embrace you today.

Blessings in Christ to you,
 Pastor Terry & Rachel Kennedy
Type Church, 1200 CR 466, Elgin, TX 78621
10:30 a.m. Worship & Children's Church Services
Cell 512-599-7761

Isaiah 40:28 *"Have you not known? Have you not heard? The Lord is the everlasting God, the Creator of the ends of the earth. He does not faint or grow weary; His understanding is unsearchable."*

(Continued from page 7)
New Owners of Dancehall

more nights of the week. A son has been redesigning and installing new red strings of lights across the dancehall ceiling.

Russell notes, "We don't kick people out when the band is over. We want to get people out of the mentality that they have to just dance in the dancehall. They can stay and talk and play games."

A planned addition is the Coupland Dance Club—free dance lessons on Sunday at 2 p.m., for all ages. Teen nights have been very successful and will be moving to Sunday nights, 5-9 p.m. Teen nights feature a DJ rather than a live band.

The restaurant is a complicated endeavor. Right now, instead of offering the previous full menu, the Inn is offering barbecue with all the sides, plus appetizers and desserts. Brandy Rutherford is doing all the smoking. In the future, the menu may expand, possibly back to a full-service restaurant. After the kitchen closes, the Inn offers bar food such as barbecue sausage wraps and brisket tacos.

Erika and Russell are excited about their plans for the side room that is to the west of the main Inn room. There is a bar in this room, and they will call it a bar, saloon, or tavern. The bar will offer space for dominoes, card games, and board games. Erika envisions it as a community gathering place that will be open on weekdays. She hopes that this bar will be ready by August. Another possible addition may be Sunday brunch that may be served in this new bar room.

Another part of this business is the B&B, the rooms on the second floor. Erika says that this is not too difficult: "I am already on site. We offer rooms only on weekends. We put breakfast items out." She is considering doing Murder Mystery Nights in the B&B.

Erika notes, "Our most valuable resource is the staff, then the community and neighbors. They educate us. Talking to staff is important. The more input I get, the better I can make the place run." She adds, "Some people have come back. Some staff is from the time of Tim and Barbara. Eve has been here 18 years."

Preserving the historic building and the spirit of Texas Country music and dancing, plus adding a community gathering place are the goals of the Kinder family—Erika, Russell, and their two sons. As crowded as their business gets, their motto is "We try and greet every customer."

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Wells and Jessica Mason Open New Showroom in Taylor

The April 25 Coupland Civic Organization meeting hosted Coupland designer/sculptor Wells Mason and his wife Jessica. Then on Saturday, April 30, at noon, the Masons opened a new showroom at 120 W. Second Street in the McCrory Timmerman Building in downtown Taylor. Wells has won many awards and has been recognized in many publications.

The new Ironwood Gallery features sculpture and furniture by Wells plus displays of high-end home hardware that is sold by Jessica. Guests at the open house included Taylor Mayor Brandt Rydell and Coupland Mayor Jack Piper.



Above, Wells shows his sculpture and furniture to friends. Left, Jessica discusses her high-end hardware with customers.

Below, Taylor Mayor Brandt Rydell, Becky Sutton, and Julie Rydell.

Photos by Susan Garry



Below, Wells speaks to the April 25 meeting of the Coupland Civic Organization.



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New Sweden Church News

By Barbara Carisalez

New Sweden Lutheran Church has continued to stay busy with numerous activities. The Evangelism Committee entered a float in the Elgin Western Day parade. A lot of fun and fellowship was had decorating the float.

New Sweden Lutheran Church was proud and blessed to be able to host the God & Country Program this year. We are thankful to all those who participated and attended the celebration and stayed for ice cream afterwards.

We continue to host the Ladies Bible Study the first Thursday of the month at 6:30 p.m. and then the 2nd and 4th Tuesday mornings at 10:30 a.m. with Rev. Hans Lillejord. Game nights at New Sweden Lutheran Church are the 2nd, 3rd, and 4th Thursday evenings at 7 p.m.. We welcome all to join us!

We are currently doing our annual School Supply Drive to fill backpacks for a couple of nearby school districts to assist those in need. We are looking forward to the startup of our Sunday School classes at 9:30 a.m. every Sunday starting in September.

**New Sweden Evan.
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Flag Day at Mager Cemetery

By Bonnie Kaderka

The Mager Cemetery sits on a quiet acre of land at the top of a low hill shaded by scattered live oak trees a mile or so south of Beyersville. For Flag Day, members from Hermann's Sons Lodge in Coupland and some family members spent the morning dressing up the cemetery. Members placed small U.S. flags on each grave. The Lodge took on this project as a way to mark Flag Day and to show respect for the historical cemetery.

The land for the cemetery was donated by Reinhold Mager, a German immigrant. He noted the plot was for a cemetery and school, which also served from time to time as a Lutheran Church. The school house no longer exists, but the cemetery is home to 55 grave sites including those of Reinhold Mager and his wife, Francisca. Reinhold died in 1930. His wife died in 1951 and was the last person to be buried there. The first burial in the cemetery was that of Albert Mager in 1900.

Most of the tombstones in the Mager Cemetery bear inscriptions in German and 14 mark the graves of infants. Six are unmarked. Many of the grave sites tell stories including a spate of markers put in during the Influenza Epidemic of 1919 when at least four people were buried in a two-week span. Bonnie, Robert, and Russell Kaderka currently maintain the cemetery. The site was marked by a Texas historical marker in 2001.



Members of Coupland's Hermann's Sons Lodge and family members on Flag Day at Mager Cemetery.

Photo courtesy of Bonnie Kaderka

A Ukrainian Adventure

By Debrah Candelas

Earlier this year, Coupland resident Debrah Candelas and her partner Jeff Teasdale volunteered their time and efforts, and risked their safety and even their lives, to help the Ukrainians. Debrah and Jeff were able to provide more help than most people could because she is a nurse and he is a retired paramedic with 13 years in that field. Also Jeff is a retired police officer with 13 years of service. They arrived in Poland on April 6, worked in Ukraine from April 13 through April 20, and left Poland on April 22 to return home. Debrah has written the following account about their experience. This article is the first part of the account. The second and concluding part will be in the November Herald.

Our story begins when Jeff and I decided that instead of taking our summer vacation in some place warm, we would rather spend our resources doing some good for those going through a difficult time. I had been in contact with a group that was organizing people to deploy to a refugee camp just inside the Poland-Ukraine border. We arrived at the camp and found the group we were planning on working with. They had recently been blessed with additional help and did not really have anything for us to do, so we found the Polish National Guard medical tent, and volunteered our services.

After settling into the routine of the day, we would divide our time between helping displaced people with any immediate medical needs, such as high blood pressure issues because they had to leave home without their medication, dehydration, hypothermia from the nights spent outside during their journey, children with various complaints such as upset stomachs and fevers. At that time of year, the temperature was still falling below freezing overnight, and some of these people had traveled for a week or more with little more than the clothes on their backs.

When we weren't providing medical attention, we would walk across the border with wheelchairs to assist the elderly and disabled navigate the long lines and get them to the camp faster. Sometimes, people were waiting outside for up to 10 hours to cross on foot. We would walk across several times a day for this reason. We also helped collect requested supplies and walked them across the border to a car on the other side waiting to take them to the front line in the east of Ukraine. Walking across was much more efficient than waiting in the car line for an entire day.

After a week or so, we were approached about a mission going in to take supplies and to evacuate disabled children from a rehabilitation center in Chernihiv, a small city about 30 miles from the Belarus border that had spent 35 days under siege. Its residents were in desperate need of supplies. For the trip, we were taking a retired metro bus loaded with supplies, an armored personnel carrier loaded with cans of fuel and a water purification system, and a passenger van. After several delays, we arrived at the border at 5 a.m. and spent the next 15 hours in line. After finally clearing all of the vehicles and people through the border, we started the journey of 1,000 miles.

Because of the long wait at the border and because there was a curfew in effect starting at dark, we were only able to make it as far as Lviv the first day. We were housed by a young family in their small, Soviet-era apartment. They didn't have much, but they gladly shared with these strangers that came to help. We were up before the sun so that we could make the most of the travel hours.

Our next stop would take us to a small town with a factory that, while still in production, had converted most of their warehouse into a distribution center for supplies. We were given a tour and provided with a reception. We were treated to a nice assortment of local treats and met several people from the local government and the army. We were provided with a nice meal at a local



Debrah organizes supplies. Behind her is Gordon who went with Debrah and Jeff on the trip into Ukraine.


restaurant that feeds the soldiers free of charge. Our hosts arranged for our laundry to be washed, showers, and a warm place to sleep. As we were lying down, we heard what would be the first of three air raid sirens throughout the night. We were up before the sun again and off on the final leg of the trip into Chernihiv. This was supposed to be a 5-6 day trip and we were behind schedule. We met our army escort, Roman, who would help us keep up with road closures and any hostilities on the route. He helped expedite the nu-

(Continued on page 16)

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"An overhead view of dancehall on teen nights. Lots of pickups means lots of teens."--Karen Marosko. Photo by RaptAir



Helping at the Clean-Up Day dumpsters were Alderwoman Karen Marosko, Mayor Jack Piper, and Buz Garry.

(Continued from page 1) News from the City

Several meetings have been held with developers requesting Coupland's approval for subdivisions. Each project is different with one wishing to have a MUD (Municipal Utility Districts) and the other a PID (Public Improvement District). Several special council meetings have been held with the city's attorney regarding both of the aforementioned. No final decisions have been made as of this date.

Coupland held its annual clean-up day. The city provided four dumpsters and all were filled to the top. The city did request that once again no mattresses be included. Once again, people did not adhere to this request which caused additional fees the city had to incur. Also, someone dumped tires as the city paid extra for this as well. These unfortunate things may cause the city to cancel any future clean-up days.

Please contact me or one of your council members for questions or concerns.

THE CITY IS LOOKING FOR A CONTRACTOR TO MOW ITS RIGHT-OF-WAY PROPERTIES. PLEASE CONTACT ONE OF THE COUNCIL MEMBERS IF YOU KNOW SOMEONE WHO MIGHT BE INTERESTED.



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**Deadline for the next issue,
November 2022, is October 10.**

(Continued from page 13) Ukrainian Adventure

merous check points and roadblocks we encountered, especially around the capital, Kyiv. They had the main roads through the city closed, either by design for traffic control or by destruction from the month-long bombardment they endured, so we had to drive around the city. As we drove, we saw evidence everywhere of the events that they had witnessed--destroyed buildings and cars, burned and abandoned tanks and other armaments, and blown-up bridges and roads.



Jeff has given bubble soap to a little Ukrainian girl and they both are enjoying blowing bubbles. This helps distract her from all the terrible things that are going on around her.

This has been Part One of Debrah Candelas's account of her trip to Ukraine. Stay tuned for Part Two which will be in the November Herald.

Debrah says, "We felt the need to continue to assist the Ukrainians. We have sent care packages to the center, funded a trip for a fellow humanitarian to take supplies in and bring people out, and we are hosting a mother and her 10-year-old son. I can help navigate the process for anyone else who might be willing to open their home to sponsor a person or a family. [Email mom4baseball69@gmail.com.] On Independence Day, as we celebrated our freedom with family and friends, I was reminded of my week in Ukraine, and I realized how much sweeter freedom tastes this year and how easy it is to take it for granted."