



COUPLAND HERALD

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- Susan Garry, *Herald* News-letter Editor, Publicity
- Ruby Wabbel

Additional Committee

- Jennifer Dollins, Community-Wide Communications

City of Coupland News--By Mayor Jack Piper

City Council meetings are held the second Thursday of each month beginning at 6 p.m. in the Coupland Volunteer Fire Department Meeting Room. Please see the City of Coupland Website at [http:// www.cityofcouplandtx.us](http://www.cityofcouplandtx.us) for copies of the Agendas and Minutes of previous Council meetings. Feedback is always welcomed.

Following is a list of Council members whose terms will expire in November 2019:

- Mayor: Jack Piper, Nov. 2019
- Alderwoman, at large: Karen Marosko, Nov. 2019
- Alderwoman, at large: Susan Garry, Nov. 2019

A "Notice of Deadline to file applications for a place on the Ballot, form AW3-2a", has been posted at the Coupland Post office, Citizens National Bank, and the Coupland Fire Station. The notice indicates the filing dates and procedures. Start date is July 20, 2019, through August 19, 2019.

Should a person wish to serve, an "Application for a place on the City of Coupland General Election, Form 2-21" must be completed which will also specify the requested position. The Application needs to be completed and submitted to the Coupland City Secretary. Council members are elected for a two-year period which means that current Council members whose terms will expire and wish to continue serving will also be required to submit the Application form.

Since the last *Herald*, the following items were discussed by the City Council.

1. The City Council is reviewing a Nuisance Ordinance for the City and has sent it to the City attorney for review and comments. It is specific and will help make Coupland a clean and welcoming community.
2. The City has completed the expected task of mowing our right-of-way. It has been and was once again noted that there are still items placed and/or parked in our right-of-way. Please note that it is impossible for the City to maintain right-of-way property when it is not accessible. If you are one of the residents with obstacles in the City right-of-way, please move them. The next step will be for the City to have a wrecker move these obstacles (at the owner's expense).

The contractor did however comment on the number of right-of-way properties mowed by some Coupland residents. Thank you for your assistance in helping to make and keep Coupland welcoming.

3. TX Dot has informed us that construction on the historic bridge located on CR 456 will begin soon. The bid to do the work was accepted and construction was scheduled to begin in late June. The project will take approximately three months to complete.

The City Council felt like the clean-up day was a successful event. Council members who manned the site were treated to breakfast tacos made and delivered by Peter W.

(Continued on page 3)

Choo Choo Fest will be Sunday, October 6. More on page 11.

President's Message--By Susan Schmidt, CCO President

Summer weather is here! I have to admit the weather has actually been quite pleasant with no 100 degree temps yet. Since June was so rainy, everything is still green.

Our Second Annual Golf Tournament was a success. We had more teams participating, and everyone seemed to enjoy the outing. Here's to having another successful tourney in 2020.

National Night Out is on August 6. Despite it being in August, we generally have good weather, and it actually is quite cool on the Depot grounds. I hope everyone in the area will join us. This is a wonderful time to get to know your neighbors. Remember you don't have to live right in the City of Coupland. We welcome all in the surrounding areas. See articles on page 10.

How many of you remember the controversial Trans Texas Corridor? It has been 15 years since that disaster was introduced. This created an uproar, particularly since TxDOT was less than forthcoming about information concerning the project. That, included with the lack of information and complicated citizen input, made many residents angry. The next year, 2005, the Corridor was still in its planning stages. The Coupland Civic Organization formed a committee to oppose corridor/rail through the Coupland area. Thankfully, the rural citizens of the area, along with politicians, managed to put the brakes on this boondoggle. Unfortunately, our neighbors to the west of Coupland, in the Norman's Crossing area, are experi-

encing a smaller version of the Corridor. Williamson County wants to put a major roadway through farmland, connecting toll road 130 to Hwy. 79. This is supposedly to ease traffic problems. (See article on page 6, "New Route Announced for Southeast Loop.") I propose when you move out to a rural area, you can expect commuting times and you adjust. I commuted to Round Rock for 25 years and had to adjust times to fit the growing traffic. It's just something to expect when you move out of the cities.

Don't forget about National Night Out on Tuesday, August 6. Choo Choo Fest and Trunk or Treat are right around the corner. Stay cool and hope to see you at NNO.

Susan Schmidt

BPCCA Solar Meeting September 9

Marilyn Samuelson reports that representatives from Recurrent Energy are scheduled to attend the September meeting of the Blackland Prairie Concerned Citizens Association to present their design of the solar farm that is planned for Manda-Carlson Road. The meeting is Monday, September 9, at 7 p.m. at the Parish Hall of the New Sweden Church.

Coupland Clean-Up Day

The City of Coupland sponsored a spring Clean-Up Day on April 27. The City provided two dumpsters along the tracks in downtown Coupland. This is a needed service; the dumpsters filled up early in the day. Mayor Jack Piper, Mayor Pro Tem Barbara Piper, and Alderwomen Karen Marosko and Sarah Torleumke supervised the dumpsters. Master Chef Peter Wabbel provided delicious breakfast tacos to the volunteers.

Residents along CR 458 had a litter pick-up along the road. Thanks to Gary Bigley and Kevin Dollins who shredded the right-of-way. That evening, Kevin and Jennifer Dollins hosted a CR 458 get-together for neighbors to celebrate the end of Clean-Up Day.

The City will continue to hold Clean-Up Days as part of ongoing efforts to clean up and beautify Coupland.

Right, Buz Garry and BJ, Ernest, and LaVerne Rohlack, Coupland City Secretary, participate in the CR 458 clean up.



Photos by Susan Garry



Left, Coupland City Alderwomen Sarah Torleumke and Karen Marosko, and Mayor Pro Tem Barbara Piper supervise the dumpsters. Right, Celsa Ruiz, Sarah Torleumke, and Karen Marosko discuss Clean-Up Day.



September 30 CCO Program--**ALL** Residents Are Urged to Learn The Best Responses to an Active Shooter Event

The September CCO meeting will feature CRASE training taught by Deputy Brandon Schaefer, Lead Instructor and Program Coordinator at the Williamson County Sheriff's Self-Defense Academy.

CRASE stands for Civilian Response to Active Shooter Events, and is a course designed and built on the Avoid, Deny, Defend strategy that is a proven plan for surviving an active shooter event. It is the National Standard in Active Shooter Response Training. We are indeed fortunate to host Deputy Schaefer, as this popular program stays booked up.

Deputy Schaefer will cover the history of active shooter events, civilian response options, medical issues, and considerations for conducting drills. The Sheriff's Department is working to train as many citizens as possible, and we hope that **all Coupland residents** will avail themselves of this valuable knowledge.



Deputy Brandon Schaefer teaches the Civilian Response to Active Shooter Events course.

(Continued from page 1)

Both dumpsters were completely filled by early afternoon. When the dumpster doors were closed, signs were placed on each one indicating that the event was over and more items could not be added. Evidently some people did not read the signs and continued to pile "stuff" on the top and on the sides of each dumpster. **Several residents volunteered and climbed on the top of each dumpster to stomp down and try to make room for these items. We have previously stated this: the company will not pick up the dumpsters if items are piled on top. Also please remember that TIRES are not acceptable.**

If you have any comments, questions, or would like to have an agenda item added for discussion at the next Council meeting, please notify one of your Council members or me at 512-557-8159 or mayor@cityofcouplandtx.us.

The meeting is Monday, September 30, in the fellowship hall of St. Peter's Church of Coupland. Refreshments are 6:30 p.m., and the program begins at 7.

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St. Peter's Church News

By Pastor Martin Garrison

September 17—St. Peter's will host our Senior Luncheon. There's no qualifying age for 'senior.' Anyone is welcome to come have lunch at 11:30 a.m. and stay to play Bingo and 42.

September 22—St. Peter's will celebrate our annual church picnic. We'll worship outside on the pavilion (weather allowing). After worship we'll unfold tables and eat hamburgers and homemade desserts. Last year we had an outstanding Polka band play for the picnic; hopefully we'll have them again this year.

October 27—St. Peter's observes Kirchenfest, German for church-feast. Kirchenfest is St. Peter's annual homecoming event. We'll have a special worship service when we recognize the generations of the church before us. After worship we'll feast on chicken fried steak dinner. Kirchenfest this year will also be a celebration of 125 years since the church's founding.



St. Peter's summer program was June 24 - 28. Kim Nelson was the director, and her helpers were Kaylee Nelson and Aubrey Shuttles. The kids had a great time!

Photo by Kim Nelson

Seniors Luncheons Were May 21 and July 16, Next Luncheon Will Be September 17

St. Peter's Senior Luncheon was held on May 21 at 11:30 a.m. There were 42 Senior Citizens there including hostesses and helpers. We thank all these wonderful people for helping us with the May Luncheon. We thank Charlotte Albert for the beautiful decorations. There were lots of ladies playing Bingo and four tables of "42" Dominoes. It was a beautiful day after the morning rain.

Our Seniors Luncheon was Picnic Style on July 16. Bingo and "42" Dominoes were played.

Our next Luncheon will be on September 17. We thank our Menu Planners, Cynthia Wittliff and Marge Gebhardt!

Lois Schmidt and Sandra Weruli, Co-Chairmen

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Martin Garrison, Pastor

Hermann Sons Life Coupland Places Flags At Mager Cemetery On Flag Day

To celebrate National Flag Day, local volunteers from Hermann Sons Life Coupland gathered Friday, June 14, at Mager Cemetery to place flags in the cemetery. The cemetery is about 5 miles east of Coupland. Spokesperson Glenda Gebert said, "National Flag Day celebrates our nation's symbol of unity and stands for our country's devotion to freedom, to the rule of law, and to equal rights for all." Hermann Sons Life is a fraternal benefit society that carries out community works and donates to charitable programs that support community service projects.

Mager Cemetery has a historical marker. Mager descendants identified the site of the original Mager homestead that can be seen from the cemetery. They also pointed out the grave of Franciska Mager, buried in 1951, the last person to be buried in the cemetery.



Top right, William Lawson and his flag at Mager Cemetery. Above, left to right, Kyngdon Ging carefully places a flag at a marker. Charlotte Albert, Licensed Lay Minister at St. Peter's Church of Coupland, places flags. Zac Ging, Janice Ging, and Lena Ging, President of Hermann Sons Life Coupland. In front is Gwendalyn Lawson.

Photos by Susan Garry

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New Sweden Evangelical Lutheran Church

By Marilyn Samuelson

New Sweden Lutheran Church has continued to stay busy this summer; all actions are to the Glory of God and lots of fellowship.

On June 16, the women served breakfast to everyone in honor of all Fathers. Game nights with cards and dominoes on the second, third, and fourth Thursdays at 7 p.m. continue to be enjoyed. On the fourth Tuesday at 10 a.m. the senior citizens (Keenagers) enjoy a covered dish meal, devotions, and playing cards. Also we have monthly Bible study on the second Tuesday at 10 a.m. All are welcome to all gatherings.

On June 23, New Sweden held the annual God and Country patriotic event. At 5 p.m., people enjoyed hamburgers or hot dogs. There was also a cake walk and silent auction. At 7 p.m. the patriotic program and sing-a-long was held in the sanctuary. The touching part is always when all men and women who have served or are serving in the military come forward as their branch song is sung and their flag is brought forward. They receive a standing ovation. Following the program, it's back to the Parish Hall for ice cream, and the bidding is closed on the silent auction.

ROAR, An African Adventure, Life in the Wild, "God Is Good," was the theme of Vacation Bible School held from Sunday, July 14, through Thursday, July 18. The children enjoyed crafts, stories, food, play time, singing, and more. We appreciate the parents sharing their children with us for those evenings, and we are thankful for the volunteers who help, teach, prepare food, and do all the other tasks that make the event a success.

The annual congregational picnic will be Sunday, July 28, at the Ramm home. Games, water slide, and more will be enjoyed, plus there will be a delicious covered dish meal.

New Sweden will again be participating in the "fill the bus" school supply drive and will be collecting donations of the requested supplies until August 10 when we will meet to assemble the supplies for delivery to the Manor Independent School District. Last year, we delivered \$600 worth of school supplies to the Aransas Pass ISD that had severe damage from the hurricane.

New Route Announced for Southeast Loop--Corridor Closest to Coupland Is Suspended

By Ted Wittliff

Williamson County held an open house in Hutto on June 24 to present information on the **Southeast Loop Study**. This study is a follow-on to the Wilco Long-Range Transportation Plan and previous studies of various transportation corridors. The proposed Southeast Loop is a partial loop around the south side of Hutto which runs from the SH130 tollway at Gattis School Road on the west to Highway 79 at FM 3349 on the east.

This study suspends activity on the "A2" Corridor which would have provided a connection to Highway 95 just south of Boggy Creek.

The purpose of the 24 June meeting was to share a preferred route concept and gather public feedback. There was no formal presentation but the project materials presented can all be viewed on the wilco.org website at the following web address:

<http://www.wilco.org/Departments/Infrastructure/County-Engineer-Road-and-Bridge/Corridor-Projects/Southeast-Loop>

Click on "Southeast Loop Route 6.24.19" to see a detailed map which shows the "preferred route concept". On that map you can see exactly which homes and farms fall within the "preferred" right-of-way.

Click on "Open House Boards 6.24.19" to see the rest of the material presented at the meeting.

After a challenging last fall and spring, it appears that God has blessed us with good crops this year and by the time you receive the August *Herald*, the combines will be running long hours harvesting the grain crops.

It is hard to believe that in mid-August, area schools will be opening for the 2019-2020 school year. We hope teachers and children have a successful and fruitful year. Remember to watch for children at school bus stops and street crossings.

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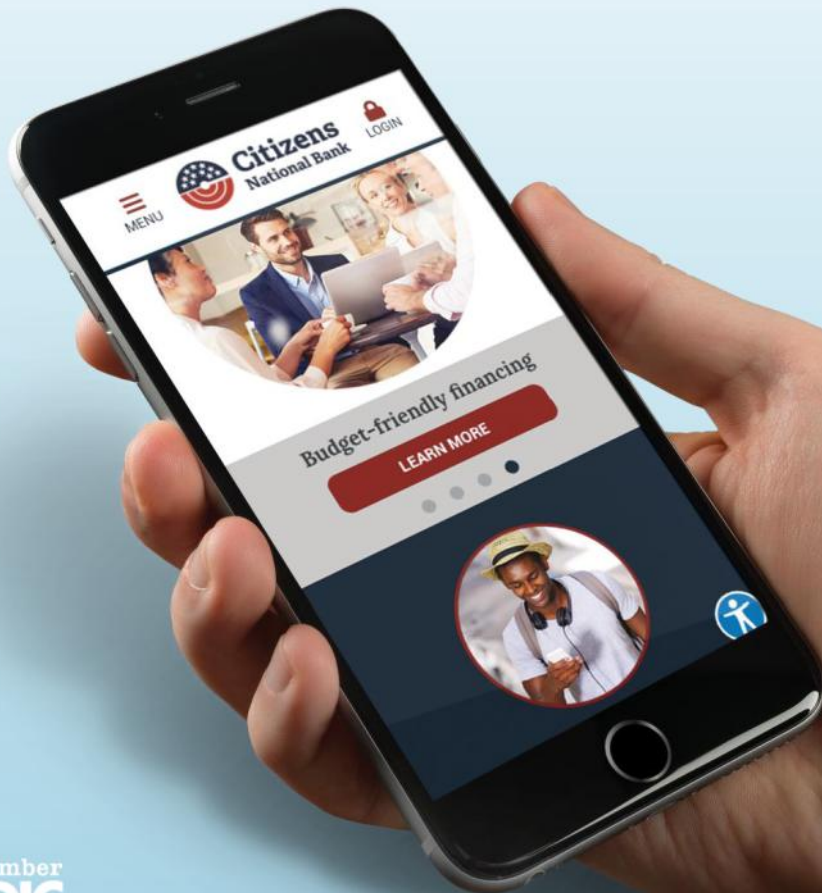
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Second Annual CCO Golf Tournament A Big Success and Lots of Fun

By Jonathan Jones and Susan Garry

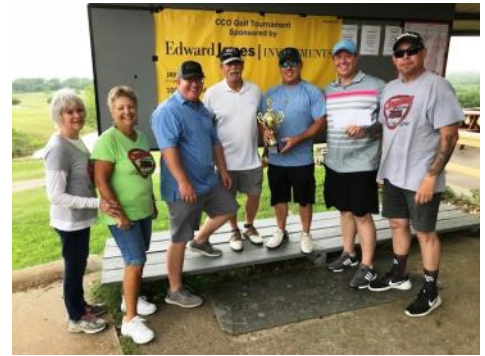
The second annual CCO Golf Tournament fundraiser was Saturday, May 18, at Taylor’s Mustang Creek Golf Club. Luckily, the showers that were forecast did not materialize.

First place, \$500, was captured by the Sandbagger team with members Jesse Randall, Keith Kuzel, Justin Tucker, and Paul Yockey. The Black Stallion team of Robert Lopez, Lee Martinez, Adan Ascanio, and Keith Repa won second, \$300. The Black Stallion team also came in second last year at the first CCO golf tournament. Third place, winning a round of golf, was Out of Phase with team members Charley Keating, Jim Smetzer, Scott Herzog, and Michael Renner. Other teams were Danny Hughes Insurance, Mullets, Pied Pipers, Wright & Greenhill/Taylor Press, and Wildfire Lawn Company.

Winning the closest to the pin contest was Keith Repa, and longest drive winner was Sean Pavlicek.

This year, Ewald Kubota sponsored a trophy. Winners’ names will be engraved on the trophy, which will be on display at Ewald Kubota’s Taylor location until next year’s tournament.

The CCO greatly appreciates our sponsors. Jay Sutton, financial advisor, Edward Jones, Elgin, was the overall tournament



First place Sandbagger team is presented their prize by Judy Downing, Becky Sutton, and Jonathan Jones.



Second place Black Stallion team.



Jonathan Jones presents the closest to the pin award to Keith Repa.



Jonathan presents the award to Sean Pavlicek for the longest drive, as Judy Downing looks on, holding the trophy.



Coupland resident Charley Keating accepts the award for his team, third-place winners Out of Phase.

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sponsor. Sponsoring holes were Citizens National Bank, Central Security, Coupland Veterinary Hospital (Dr. Graef), Danny Hughes Insurance, McCrary Insurance Agency, Old Coupland Inn & Dancehall, Patschke & Patschke Real Estate, Plant Process Equipment, Solid Tattoo, Williamson County Equipment, and Williamson County Grain.

Solid Tattoo sponsored closest to the pin. The CCO sponsored the longest drive, and board members contributed door prizes. Associate sponsors were Burrow Chiropractic Clinic, Taylor Duck Car Wash, Ewald Kubota, and Sirloin Stockade. Taylor Duck Car Wash and Ewald Kubota also donated door prizes. Following the tournament, everyone enjoyed a build-your-own sandwich lunch with homemade cookies.

Thanks to volunteers and CCO board members President Susan Schmidt, Becky Sutton, Judy Downing, Ruby Wabbel and granddaughter Elizabeth, Barbara Piper, and Lloyd Langston for making sure that the tournament went smoothly. Mayor Jack Piper also volunteered. Special thanks to board member Jonathan Jones for his overall organization of the tournament.

The CCO is a 501(c)(3) non-profit organization, and funds raised by the golf tournament go to maintain the historic Coupland Depot and Caboose. Mark your calendars very early: the third annual CCO Golf Tournament is scheduled for May 16, 2020.

Below, Jared Cummings, Coupland Volunteer Fire Department Chief, signs up his team Wildfire Lawn Company with CCO President Susan Schmidt, and board members Judy Downing, Ruby Wabbel, and Lloyd Langston. Below right, Judy takes Ruby and Elizabeth on a ride.

Right, volunteering to help at the tournament --Becky Sutton, Susan Schmidt, Ruby Wabbel, and her granddaughter Elizabeth. Below, Elizabeth Wabbel was a big help in getting the tables ready for lunch.



Right, Jason Hennington, Publisher of the *Taylor Daily Press*, addresses the ball. Right below, Coupland Mayor Jack Piper and Coupland resident Kevin Dollins, captain of the Mullets.



Photos by Susan Garry



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Caboose To Be Open for National Night Out on August 6

By Barbara Piper

Just when we thought that things were proceeding along with no hitches, we have discovered that when the caboose was moved forward and then back into its present position some of the bolts securing the iron brackets on the exterior of the caboose had become just loose enough to enable moisture to seep into the interior. I guess it is a good thing that this was discovered before we did more interior work because all of the upcoming and planned interior work could have been ruined with more rain and moisture seeping inside. We are now in the process of getting all of this resolved.

I don't know whether you have noticed, but the walkway from the end of the Depot to the Caboose has been completed. Antelmo Flores did an excellent job of installing additional personalized brick pavers along with blank ones. We're

hoping that some day we can do the original walkway with footers on each side to prevent movement. When an additional shipment of personalized pavers has arrived, we will install all that we have ordered and received. It's not too late to order a personalized paver. Contact Judy Downing for ordering information.

We'll have the Caboose open on National Night Out on August 6 so one can appreciate the newly installed windows, doors, and flooring and walkway. As was previously reported, one of the exterior doors had to be made, and it matches perfectly the original one that was in the Caboose.

The bottom line is that work is continuing to be scheduled and done. We are always appreciative of the support from the community in our fund-raising activities which enable us to do this work. Thank you!

Coupland's National Night Out will be August 6 on the Depot grounds.

As always, NNO will feature delicious hot dogs grilled on site, with all the fixin's, plus homemade cookies, and water and tea. The Sheriff's Department

will provide information about guarding against criminal activity, and the Coupland Volunteer Fire Department will discuss fire safety.

As mentioned in the article above, the historic Caboose will be open to show the progress that has been made on the restoration.

Historic Items Donated To Depot Museum By Coupland Descendant

By Ted Wittliff

In May, driving through town, I noticed three folks standing by the depot and looking kind of lost. I stopped and talked to them. It turned out it was a couple from Oracle, Arizona, and a relative of theirs. The couple was Craig and Debbie Schreiber. Their relative was Margaret Coupland Joiner, who was born here in 1927, and is a direct descendant of Major Coupland who started this town. They had just called CCO board member Judy Downing who arrived with a key to show them the Depot.

They had a number of historic items to donate to the museum, including some Civil War uniform buttons from the Major himself. They also had a hand-sewn white dress from Coupland of earlier times. Margaret has a lot of memories about Coupland and various folks who lived here. It was very interesting to talk to her.



At last year's National Night Out, the children played around the caboose. This year, they will get to go into the caboose, thanks to the progress that has been made on the restoration.

Photo by Susan Garry

Mark Your Calendars--Choo Choo Fest Will Be Sunday, October 6

The annual Choo Choo Fest, fundraiser to restore the historic caboose, will be held on Sunday, October 6, in the Fellowship Hall and on the patio of St. Peter's Church of Coupland.

There will be a delicious barbecue dinner, also delicious, a bake sale, a silent auction, Choo Choo Fest merchandise for sale, and free Kiddie Express train rides for the kiddies and their parents.

Choo Choo Fest is always great fun, so come out and enjoy the food and visiting with friends and neighbors.



Free rides for kiddies and their parents on the Kiddie Express train. It wouldn't be Choo Choo Fest without the Choo Choo.

Williamson County ESD #10

By Karen Van Buren

Jared Cummings, fire chief for the Coupland department, asks any local citizens to consider joining a new Volunteer Auxiliary Unit they are organizing. There is no training involved, and citizens can assist the fire fighters in a number of ways. Jared can be contacted at jcumings@couplandfire.org for more information.

The ESD has identified the top 3 budget priorities for the year as (1) fleet maintenance of \$10,000 to begin bringing fire department vehicles up to State standards over several years, (2) replacement of expiring Self-Contained Breathing Apparatus. The ESD received a quote of \$31,706 to replace 4 SCBA kits, air cylinders and masks; and (3) replacement of new radios required by the State. The radios cost approximately \$8,000 each and the ESD will purchase two radios a year until all radios have been replaced. These few items demonstrate how your property taxes are being used by the Emergency Services District.

Both the Thrall and Coupland Volunteer Fire Departments have grant applications in place for two fire trucks each, although the grants have not yet been awarded.

The Thrall Volunteer Fire Department is remodeling their bathroom and kitchen with the help of volunteers.

The Thrall and Coupland fire departments have been training in Radio & Vehicle Procedures, Wild Land Training, and Swift Water Awareness. Both departments have 3 volunteers training at the Fire Academy.

Unexpected expenses which tend to arise within any budget include repairs to one of the Coupland station's bay doors due to a snapped cable, and brake work on two vehicles.

Agreements are now in place between Williamson County and the ESD whereby the County will enforce the ESD's Fire Code.

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Coupland Fire Department 40th Anniversary Fun Day Saturday, October 19, from 4 p.m.

By John Roulston-Bates, Assistant Fire Chief

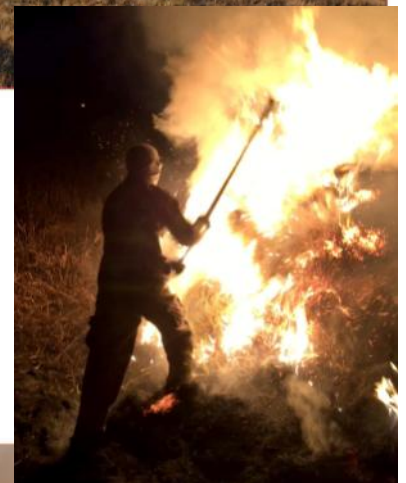
To celebrate 40 years of the Coupland Volunteer Fire Department, and to show our appreciation for the community’s support down the years, we’d like to invite you to a community appreciation fun day on Saturday, October 19, starting at 4 p.m.

We’ll be hosting a series of events throughout the afternoon, including:

- A fire truck pull (teams of 12 compete in a tug-of-war with a fire truck)
- Outdoor games
- Fire truck and station tours
- The “Are you smarter than a firefighter” challenge
- Hose bowling competition (bowling with a fire hose, straightest throw wins)

In the evening we’ll be serving food and hosting a movie night in the fire station apparatus bay, we’ll run an online poll closer to the time of the event to decide which movie we’ll show.

Attendance is free of charge. Y’all have supported us for forty years and we’d like to throw you a party to say thank you. You can find out more at www.couplandfire.org/40 or by following us on Facebook.



Fighting fires then and now. Vintage photos below. Three photos to the right are more recent.

Photographs courtesy of the Coupland Fire Department



Photos on this page are from the Old Fire Station.

Fire Truck Pull Team Entry

A fire truck pull is essentially a team of 12 people playing tug of war with a fire truck, towing it over a short course. The winning team is judged on time.

A team can be made up of you and your family and friends, or themed . . . can the teachers beat the farmers? Will the firefighters win against the police? Are you up for a little friendly competition?

You can find out more at www.couplandfire.org/40

Thank you to all our firefighters

We would like to thank men and women who have volunteered as firefighters in Coupland since C.W. Pfluger, Ewald Ging, Sr., and A.F. Becker signed our incorporation documents back in 1979. You have all given your time in the service of your community. You have missed countless meals, time with family and more hours sleep than we could count. You have responded to many thousands of calls and attended a similar number of hours of training. You have saved lives, saved property, and saved the tax payers millions of dollars. The first of you listened to Merle Haggard on 8-track tape, the most recent of you stream the same songs on Pandora. You don't get a pay check, but we all know this unpaid job is rewarding in other ways. Thank you.



Right, the future of volunteer firefighting.
Photographs courtesy of the Coupland Fire Department





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History at Post Oak Island-- Marker and Church

By Charlene Hanson Jordan

The historical marker for Post Oak Island has been approved and is in the end stages of completion. The dedication will most likely be some time in the Fall.

The marker will be placed near the Type Cemetery marker on County Road 466, and the dedication ceremony will be in the adjacent Yegua Creek Church.

The church and cemetery are in the heart of the early community of Post Oak Island. It was named not for a watery island, but an isolated 10-acre grove of post oaks at the edge of the prairie.

The cemetery and church are located on the headright land grant of the Robertson Colony surveyor, Thomas A. Graves, who was awarded the 3409-acre grant for his service during the Texas Revolution, including at San Jacinto in 1836. He died in 1841, but his widow, Celette, remarried to Ibry Jasper Kidd, took up the grant in 1848.



Yegua Creek Evangelical Free Church at Type.

Post Oak Island was a thriving community until the Civil War after which most of the early residents moved away, some to California. The Masonic lodge, Post Oak Island No. 181, moved to Beakiss; the school moved to Woodrow and later to Coupland, Thrall, and Elgin. The store moved to town. The post oak trees, too, are all gone.

The surrounding area is again in the midst of change. The big farms are becoming ranchettes and there is an influx of new residents. About the only things that haven't changed are the huge rose hedges along County Road 464 that were planted in the 1800s.

Regarding the location of the marker, the Swedish Free Mission Church and its cemetery were established in 1908 when the community was called Type.

The Yegua Creek Church was started on the other side of the cemetery in 1987 and it is changing as well.

Having entered a harmonious happy period with Pastor Terry Kennedy, Sunday morning services start at 9:15. The address is 1200 County Road 466, in the pleasant countryside northeast of Elgin, and about five miles east of Coupland.

Everyone is welcome.



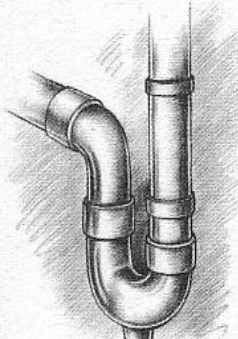
Pastor Terry Kennedy and his wife, Rachel. Telephone 512-599-7761. TWK3032@gmail.com.

Photos courtesy Charlene Hanson Jordan

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Arts Convergence: Art Book Reading Room Opens in September

Greetings Friends of the Arts!

Coupland's art scene has been quietly defining its new directions since our sad loss last May 18, 2018, with the passing of one of AC's founding Board members, acting President, Jeffrey Allen Basinger. Basinger hailed from Grand Junction, Colorado, where he had served his community in uncountable ways. For the last 21 years he led Colorado Health Network's Western Colorado Aids Project as executive director, serving 27 counties in his region with prevention and assistance programs for the citizens there. Letitia and Jeff teamed up in 1981 with their ideals for the arts and health initiatives which produced many years of collaboration, culminating in the foundation of Arts Convergence 501C3 here in Coupland. Their expressed purpose was to set in motion a rural arts organization with goals of higher education in the arts, production and display opportunities, and a permanent facility holding art collections. We miss him. And with his absence, we felt the need to reassess our steps toward those long-term objectives.

And we have good news. First, with the generous help of local and long distance donors and clients, Art Book reading room has been moved to location and is swelling on the shelves. For assistance and financial contributions, we thank Larry Raper and Judith Estrada Garcia of Georgetown, Jeffrey Basinger, Jeff Hamrick and Becky Balcom of Fort Worth, Katie McGrail of San Antonio, and Connie Heineke of Taylor. Recent book acquisitions: *Collision*, by Pete Gershon, a gift from Jules and Lee Benner (Houston); *The Romans-their Gods and Belief*, *The Triumph of the Baroque Architecture in Europe*, and *Barcelona Architectural Details and Delights*, offered by Martha Poldrack from Jim Franklin's collection--days of old; Donna Yarrell, former Taylor artist now working in Parumph, Nevada, sends us a volume of Garden Mosaic techniques, which will be enormously helpful in the continuing workshops to produce our Sketcher's Garden here at Coupland House on ArtBloc; and *Monet the Late Years*, a gift from Buz and Susan Garry. We thank them all!

For several months, we proudly housed pastel works by Donna Yarrell during her transitions, and further look forward to her annual October 2019 visit, when we will exhibit a fresh selec-



Author and archivist Pete Gershon who recently interviewed and videotaped Letitia is the author of *Collision: The Contemporary Art Scene in Houston, 1972-1985*. Letitia was one of the artists in the Houston art scene at that time, and there is a picture of her in performance in the book. Gershon is now working on an online archive of Houston and Texas artists, and his taped interview with Letitia will be in this archive. Photo by Susan Garry

tion of her recent works and host a reception in her honor. Yay! Donna! Karl Senn, AC artist working out of Taylor, has his newest large gouache work on display in the gallery (picture below). Lee Benner of Houston brought us two more of the Benner Eldredge custom accent tables, with more art tables under construction here.

And finally, but not least, we have had enormous assistance from boots on the ground; with Ivan and Jackie De la Garza of Taylor/Houston lending hands with the grounds, equipment, installations, and toting large quantities of art for exhibition. Larry and Judith offered labor this spring along with the production of our new signage. Chad and Delinda Savoy provided transportation to and from exhibition and help with heavy tasks of shelving books,



Gouache by Karl Senn

equipment repair, and facility modifications. Buz and Susan Garry stepped in to remove brush and tree limbs just in time for the Houston Curatorial visit to the archives by Pete Gershon, which resulted in a video for his online video historic archives of Houston/Texas artists.

So, in summary, Arts Convergence looks forward to open door Art Book Reading Room and exhibition viewing weekends, beginning this September. Watch for the Sign! Come on in.

Warm regards,
Letitia Eldredge



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www.newswedenelca.org

CCO April 29 Meeting--Steve Schiller Discussed the Secret Lives of Bees--By Susan Garry

At the April 29 meeting, we were fortunate to hear from Steve Schiller, Coupland Honey Company, who presented a very interesting program on bees, beekeeping, and honey. We also enjoyed visiting with his wife Nancy.

Steve brought samples of honeycomb and queen bees, plus his local honey for purchase. He explained that he manages his bees "like cattle, like livestock." He added, "If the queen gets old or injured, the bees start making queen cells with two to three dozen eggs. The first one to hatch will kill the rest of them. There are mating flights, then they never leave her." The attendants feed sugar to the queen. There are 10-50,000 bees in a hive.

The queen can be identified by a bigger abdomen. Steve noted, "Drones are the only males. In fall, things slow down, so they kick the drones out. If you don't manage the bees, the hive will swarm."

He said, "Right now is the peak of when they swarm. There may be eight to ten scouts. If you see several bees flying around your house, they are scouts looking for a good place. Two hours later there may be a big swarm hanging in a tree."

Interestingly, "Bees get attitude like people. They let you know. If they are running out of food, they get mad." Steve uses a honey extractor to get honey from the hive. There can be 40-60 pounds in a hive. He also uses protective gear, but "Once in a while, a prick will get you through gloves. They can crawl through the suit somewhere. Sometimes some can get on the inside of the mask."

Steve noted, "The bee population is lower than it has been. There were losses through the wet winter." He buys queens: "We got twenty-five queens today from Georgia. They cost \$30 a shipment." He is considering trying to raise his own queens.

The Schillers get honey once or twice a year, and the kind of honey depends on where the bees are. He says, "They usually eat more of their honey through the winter. We feed them sugar water with a feeder that fits inside." Another interesting fact: "When you walk by, you can hear them fanning the hive to get fresh air in." Also, the bees have guards at the door to discourage predators.



Above, Nancy and Steve Schiller display honeycomb and their local honey, as Judy Downing, back, looks on. Right, a queen bee. Photos by Susan Garry



Shortly after this program, a Coupland resident called upon Steve for help when a swarm appeared over her front door. She was very pleased with his methods and success in removing the bees.

You can keep up with Coupland Honey Company on Facebook. They are located at 850 CR 470, Coupland, Texas 78615, and their phone is 512-801-2747.

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New Historical Museum in Old Lawhon Springs School

Editor's note: Lawhon Springs is about 13 miles east of Coupland on FM 619. John L. Smith arrived in 1848 and was probably the first settler. However, the community was named for David B. Lawhon, who bought land there that included springs. Some of the Lawhon descendants lived in Rice's Crossing. By 1900, there was a school at Lawhon Springs that also served as a church and meeting place. The community never developed, and the school building fell into disrepair. Descendants of original settler John L. Smith, including Trey Smith, have restored the school house and have founded a museum there. See their website at www.lawhonspringsmuseum.com. Trey has sent the following information about the museum's grand opening in September.

Please join us for the Grand Opening of The Lawhon Springs Museum

and experience a part of our local history
at the newly renovated Lawhon Springs School.
A Food and Drink Concession will be available.

Date: Saturday, September 21

Time: 10 a.m. to 5 p.m.

Location: 2263 FM 619, Elgin, TX 78621



Lawhon Springs School before its restoration. Photo by Trey Smith

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Novel Approach to Local History by Bill and Beverly Kemp . . . *Forbidden Love*

Review by Jimbro Lutz

Local authors and artists Bill and Beverly Kemp have written an engaging novel, *Forbidden Love*, which is based on their research of John F. Webber and Sylvia Hector, an interracial couple from New England, who in the early part of the nineteenth century migrated to what was then known as Tejas.

In 2005, accompanied by a representative from the Texas Historical Commission, the Kemps, along with University of Texas Anthropology Professor Claude Bramblett, found ruins of the original Webber homestead which inspired the creation of *Forbidden Love*. This book of historical fiction tells the amazing, perilous journey of John and Sylvia as they searched for a home . . . a place where they could live in peace.

It was in 1821 when John and Sylvia arrived in Tejas, a land then ruled by the Mexican government, which prohibited slavery. *Forbidden Love* is rich with descriptions detailing life in that era, which included the Texian struggle for independence from Mexico, the eventual statehood of Texas, and the War Between the States. For the Webbers there was more than the usual hardships of frontier life to overcome. As a result of their biracial union they had to suffer prejudice and scorn from the early white settlers, which makes for a compelling drama. Without malice toward those individuals portrayed or an agenda to sell, *Forbidden Love* details the many difficulties the Webbers endured in a wild and lawless land.

The over-riding theme of *Forbidden Love* is 'starting over.' Up against the turmoil of settling in a foreign country, John and Sylvia survive and prosper, only to be thrown off their land time and again. *Forbidden Love* offers a new perspective of Texas history while examining a tumultuous period of racial tension that still reverberates to this day. I recommend *Forbidden Love* to all those interested in a fast-paced book that explores timeless love.

The reader can find more information concerning the story of the Webbers, and buy *Forbidden Love* at www.bb Kemp.com.



In the photo, author Bill Kemp points to the adjacent field where the Webbers first built a cabin overlooking the Colorado River watershed. Inset is Jimbro Lutz. Photos courtesy Jimbro Lutz

Editor's Note: Lots of History and Interesting Coincidences

Jimbro Lutz, author of this book review, has an unusual connection to Coupland. His house on FM 973 was built by Joseph Meier in 1914. Meier also built St. Peter's Church of Coupland.

Jimbro interviewed the son of Meier in 1984 and has a written record of the interview: "Joseph F. Meier, master builder, was a perfectionist. Today, the family home he built still stands, testament to his skill and experience as a building contractor who designed and constructed many homes and churches in Central Texas. . . . Mr. Meier built many churches, one of which still stands in Coupland."

Jimbro is known for hosting the Singer/Songwriter music series at the Good Luck Grill on FM 973, near where he lives. Also, he and his wife Alex Carrillo hold the annual Quicksand Farm Square Dance at their home.

Long-time friends of Jimbro, Bill and Beverly Kemp, pen name B. B. Kemp, have published a book about the history of Webberville and its founders John F. Webber and Sylvia Hector, who may have been the first non-native settlers in what is now Travis County.

Webberville's post office, established in 1846, was named Webber's Prairie in honor of John F. Webber. Webber was in Austin's Colony as early as 1826 and received his land grant in 1832. Webber's Prairie was sometimes referred to as Smithwick's, for Noah Smithwick, the first postmaster. (Handbook of Texas Online) The name became Webberville in 1853. Interestingly, Webber was a friend of Smithwick, who also knew the famous Gail Borden, who patented condensed milk and founded the Borden dairy company.

*Smithwick wrote **The Evolution of a State: Recollections of Old Texas**. Quoted in the Statesman, Elizabeth Jones says, "His dry humor and his self-effacing descriptions of being in Texas at pivotal points in early Anglo-Texas history are priceless." The book was originally published in the 1890's and republished in the 1980's. In 2015, the book was reproduced from the original artifact and is available on Amazon. It has been called culturally important by scholars.*

(Continued from page 20)

Please visit couplandisd.org or call 512-856-2422 if you have any questions.

- Superintendent Tammy Brinkman and the CISD School Board continually search for ways to prepare for growth, improve campus safety, and address infrastructure and site concerns for CISD. Stay aware of upcoming informational meetings for CISD’s Proposed Improvement Plan.
- CISD’s Regular School Board meetings are typically held on the second Tuesday of every month at 7:30 p.m. in the

school library. On occasion, the meetings are changed, so please check the school calendar to verify the meeting each month.

- On Friday, June 28, Coupland ISD’s first Summer Theatre Camp presented *Rock Around the Block: A 1950s Musical Comedy* directed by Annie Violette with Brenna Floyd and Savanna Miller as the Assistant Directors and choreographed by Victoria Wallin. Twenty-four Coupland students entertained the community with their acting, dancing, and singing talents. See picture on back page.

In picture of Coupland School musical on back page:
 From left to right: Jourden Violette, Addison Ward, Bradie Suarez, Abbey Viktora, Jayden Johnson, Kamryn Hill, Kennadee Prinz, Jaxon Larson, Elise Adrian, Rose Simons, Brenna Floyd, Landry Middaugh, Callie Molineux, Savanna Miller, Aubrey Flores, Ella Adrian, Abigail Bristoll, Cassidy Viktora, Avery Ward, Laurel Floyd, and Juliette Havens.
 (Not pictured: Bradley Smith, Laramie Galloway, and Kody Smith)

Photo by Kathy Hill



Coupland student Bella Slauson and her pig at the Houston Livestock Show.

Photo Courtesy of Slauson Family



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Coupland Herald, August 2019

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Contributors to this issue: Letitia Eldredge, Pastor Martin Garrison, Kathy Hill, Jonathan Jones, Charlene Hanson Jordan, Jimbro Lutz, Kim Nelson, Eileen Niswander, Barbara Piper, Jack Piper, John Roulston-Bates, Marilyn Samuelson, Lois Schmidt, Susan Schmidt, Trey Smith, Karen Van Buren, Sandra Wernli, Ted Wittliff, and Susan Garry, editor.

**Deadline for the next issue,
November 2019, is October 10.**

Coupland School News--By Kathy Hill

- The Coupland PTA-sponsored Meet the Teacher night is Thursday, August 8, from 6:30-7:30 p.m., and the first day of school is Wednesday, August 14.

(Continued on page 19)



Above, on June 28, Coupland School's first Summer Theatre Camp presented *Rock Around the Block: A 1950s Musical Comedy*. Twenty-four Coupland students entertained the community with their acting, dancing, and singing talents. See names on page 19.

Photo by Kathy Hill

A World-Class Artist in Small-Town Texas

Photographs and Essay by Andy Sharp



Not long after coming home to Texas in Summer 2009, I got to know the area around Taylor, taking both long drives and bicycle treks around East Williamson County. One afternoon that stays firmly encased in my memory is arriving in Coupland, a ten-minute drive from Taylor. Taking a left off Texas Highway 95, I crested a hill. On the right was something magnificent. I felt as if I'd arrived in the small-town Texas version of Stonehenge. There before my eyes were these massive granite creations, some combining metal, firmly rooted in the Blackland Prairie soil. I'd arrived at the Huntington Sculpture Garden, created by Coupland's Jim Huntington.

A couple of years later, I briefly met the artist, but didn't spend much time photographing him. Since I like to catch the action as it happens, it became a waiting game to catch Huntington at work. That happened recently, resulting in these photos (taken for the *Williamson County Sun*). Jim lives in a sturdy metal building onsite. Since the sculptures weigh anywhere from 5,000 to over 10,000 pounds, he doesn't have to worry much about someone running off with one. When a piece is done, he has a forklift handy to get that job done. And a young assistant helper nearby.

Born in Elkhart, Indiana, Huntington recently turned 78. He's lived a few places along the way, including Los Angeles, Boston, New York, and San Francisco. While living in New York in the early 90s, he considered relocating south. Austin was ruled out when, even in 1994, he found the cost of living there prohibitive. Then he found Coupland, where he's been since then.



A World-Class Artist in Small-Town Texas



A few years ago, the inevitable advance of maturity presented him with arthritis. He's still working, but hopes to scale back after finishing work on another 88,000 pounds of granite. Then, he says, he will probably continue the smaller pieces, but also try sketching and painting again. That's how he started so long ago. He's got a good website huntingtonsculpture.org. Years ago, he added the Huntington Sculpture Foundation, a non-profit that will assure his work will continue to be appreciated well beyond his time on the planet.

My photos don't even come close to representing his talent. You have to see it up close. Coupland's easy to find. And you don't have to fight traffic.



Editor's Note: Andy Sharp is a free-lance photographer now based in Taylor. We thank him for allowing us to use his beautiful photography in the *Herald*. This essay first appeared on his blog *Andy's Ramblings* on his website andy-sharp.com. Andy grew up in Northeast Texas and has a degree in photojournalism from the University of Texas at Austin.

He interned at the *Fort Worth Star-Telegram* and worked at the *Tyler Morning Telegraph* and the *Shreveport Journal*, before he spent 29 years at the *Atlanta Journal-Constitution*. He returned to Texas, but is not retired; he does work for the *Williamson County Sun*, the *Austin American-Statesman*, and *Texas Highways* magazine.