

COUPLAND HERALD



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- Jennifer Dollins, Community-Wide Communications

- Susan Garry, *Herald* Newsletter Editor; Publicity

City of Coupland News--By Mayor Jack Piper

Just as a reminder, 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. Please see the City of Coupland Website at [http:// www.cityofcouplandtx.us](http://www.cityofcouplandtx.us) for copies of the Agendas and Minutes of Council meetings. Feedback is always welcomed.

As indicated in the October Coupland City Council Regular Meeting Minutes, Susan Schmidt chose not to run for another term on the Coupland City Council. Susan served on the Council for 6 years, (since our incorporation). She will be missed. John Roulston-Bates submitted an application for the position. Since no other application was submitted by the August 20 deadline, John was granted an Alderman's seat and administered the Oath of Office at the January 10 meeting.

I continue receiving calls concerning the storage of junk, trash, and vehicles on property in the City limits. The reason I continue posting the nuisance information below again is our hope that our citizens will solve this issue voluntarily. This has worked to some extent. However, we still have a long way to go. The City Council continues discussions concerning the need for a Public Nuisance Ordinance to set guidelines for citizens as well as help to eliminate and correct specific issues along with giving the Council authority and legal means to correct specific situations. **The City will once again provide 2 dumpsters during the Spring to help residents with this issue.** Not any of us want to diminish the property value of our neighbor(s). Could this be a detriment to visitors who drive through our city? The City is actively trying to be proactive in attempts to provide a friendly and welcoming place to all.

The following narrative is from the Texas Health and Safety Code:

A public nuisance is:

(1) keeping, storing, or accumulating refuse on premises in a neighborhood unless the refuse is entirely contained in a closed receptacle;

(Continued on page 3)



Left, City Secretary LaVerne Rohlack swears in returning Alderwomen Barbara Piper and Sarah Torluemke before the November 8 Council meeting. Piper is also Mayor Pro Tem. New Alderman John Roulston-Bates was out of town for the November meeting, so (right) he was sworn in by Rohlack at the January 10 meeting. Photos by Susan Garry

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

Happy New Year! Hope everyone had a memorable holiday season. December was quite a wet month, and January seems to be following the same pattern. Thankfully, mosquitoes are not active this time of year.

The Coupland Civic Organization (CCO) Board hopes to accomplish much in 2019. The caboose project is slowly but surely moving forward. The Depot needs some TLC. That project will commence in the spring. We are always looking for interesting programs. Contact any board member if you have ideas for a program. Remember the CCO Board always provides a meal before the programs.

Looking back to 2018, we had several successful endeavors. Our National Night Out was very successful. I think there were more people attending than ever before. It's a perfect time to get to know your neighbors and to find out the happenings in community and surrounding areas. CCO sponsored our first Golf Tournament. It was a fun learning experience so we will be having the 2nd Annual Golf Tournament on May 18. Watch for more details closer to the date. Trunk or Treat was a lot of fun, both for the trick or treaters and the trunk people. It's always a treat to see how the various trunks are decorated. See photos on pages 10 and 11. Choo Choo Fest was great! The meal, provided by Abbey Road of the Coupland Inn, was delicious. The Silent Auction was fun. Remember we are always looking for donations for this auction.

It's interesting to look at past issues of the *Herald* to see what was taking place in Coupland. Seventeen years ago, the Brushy Creek Water District split into two parts. In hindsight, that was probably not a very good idea. The Upper Brushy Creek district grew in population and had funds to spend on maintenance of the dams. The Lower Brushy Creek district did not have any available funds because they had no revenue coming in via taxes. Thankfully, this situation was corrected by the passage of a dam tax in the last election. Be-

cause the Lower Brushy Creek District will have available funds, the District has been able to obtain grants for dam repair and maintenance.

Seventeen years ago, there was a concern about loose dogs and unwanted animals being "dumped." Sadly, this is still an issue today, particularly with dumped animals. If you have a pet, please be a responsible owner and keep your pets in a fenced location.

Sixteen years ago, Susan Garry started her editorship of the *Coupland Herald*. She is still the editor (and a very fine one). She spends multiple hours getting everything just right for the *Herald* production. I, personally, thank her for her dedication to this difficult job. Not only does she wear the editor hat, she also submits articles to the *Taylor Press* and the *Elgin Courier*. When we have special events happening, Susan contributes additional articles to the papers. She's also our publicity guru. Thanks again, Susan. I don't know what we would do without your expertise.

Ten years ago, the Coupland Volunteer Fire Station had their official groundbreaking ceremony. It's hard to believe it's been 10 years. The Fire Station meeting room is not just used by the firefighters. Community meetings are held there as well. The Coupland City Council holds their monthly meetings there. While the church auditorium was undergoing renovations, the CCO held their meetings there.

Stay warm and I hope to see many of you at our future CCO meetings. Remember they are the last Monday of the month. The CCO Board hosts a free light supper at 6:30 p.m. The programs begin at 7. All Coupland residents are invited to attend. Come visit with friends and neighbors and hear interesting information about your community.

Susan Schmidt

All Are Invited to Supper, CCO Annual Meeting, Jan. 28

The Coupland Civic Organization will hold its official annual meeting on Monday, January 28, in the Fellowship Hall of St. Peter's Church of Coupland. The board of directors will host a supper at 6:30 p.m. followed by the meeting at 7.

President Susan Schmidt will give a recap of 2018 activities, and Caboose Coordinator Barbara Piper will report on progress in the restoration of the historic caboose. Treasurer Mike Schneider will present the financial information. Coupland Mayor Jack Piper will discuss "the state of the City." Attendees will vote on new board members.

All Coupland residents are invited to come. By the time this *Herald* arrives, the meeting may have already occurred.

CCO Golf Tournament, May 18, At Taylor's Mustang Creek Golf Club

The CCO sponsored our first Golf Tournament on May 19, 2018, at Taylor's beautiful Mustang Creek Golf Club. Organized by CCO board member Jonathan Jones, it was a successful fundraiser that helped maintain the historic Depot and continue work on the caboose.

Thanks to Mike Welch, Buz Garry, Jonathan Jones, and Lee Young who played for the CCO team. The CCO provided a light breakfast and a build-your-own sandwich lunch with homemade cookies. The big raffle item was a Yeti cooler provided by the CCO, Tractor Supply donated a large yard swing, plus there were numerous door prizes.

This year's Tourney is scheduled for May 18. Mark your calendars for this new and fun CCO tradition—the Annual Golf Tournament.

Caboose Renovation Update

By Barbara Piper, Caboose Coordinator

The new roof was completed! It was just in time because we have endured some very wet weather lately. The cold and wet weather has caused us to pause in our work.

We hope the community will be as interested as we are in future work of the restoration. Some of this will include the installation of electrical power as power had to be cut when the levelling was done this past year.



An important part of the function of a caboose--the observation windows around the cupola have been restored.

The most recognizable work will most likely be installing the exterior windows. Letting on the east and west sides of the caboose will be done. As many will recall, this is a Rock Island Caboose. In keeping with the history of this relic, we will recognize it as such. Stay tuned for more! We are hoping to begin work within the next couple of months!

(Continued from page 1)

- (2) keeping, storing, or accumulating rubbish, including newspapers, abandoned **vehicles**, refrigerators, stoves, furniture, tires, and cans, on premises in a neighborhood or within 300 feet of a public street for 10 days or more, unless the rubbish or object is completely enclosed in a building or is not visible from a public street;
- (3) maintaining premises in a manner that creates an unsanitary condition likely to attract or harbor mosquitoes, rodents, vermin, or other disease-carrying pests;
- (4) allowing weeds to grow on premises in a neighborhood if the weeds are located within 300 feet of another residence or commercial establishment;
- (5) maintaining a building in a manner that is structurally unsafe or constitutes a hazard to safety, health, or public welfare because of inadequate maintenance, unsanitary conditions, dilapidation, obsolescence, disaster, damage, or abandonment or because it constitutes a fire hazard.

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 mayer@cityofcouplandtx.us.

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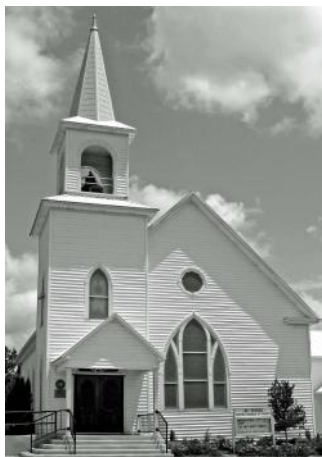
St. Peter's Church News

By Pastor Martin Garrison

Skip Church and Come to Potluck

On the fourth Sunday of almost every month, St. Peter's hosts the feast of deliciousness we call 'Potluck.' If on the off chance, you didn't grow up with this custom, let me explain it to you: anyone who feels up to it brings some food stuff to share with everyone else. That's pretty much it. We lay all those dishes out on the counter and everyone grabs a plate. We don't plan. There's no organizing who's bringing meat and who's bringing vegetables. We just let it happen, and enjoy what comes. There was one month when we had two pots of beans, a bag of Fritos, and eighteen wonderful desserts. It was a glorious Sunday.

St. Peter's Church of Coupland, UCC



Founded in 1894 by German and Swiss immigrants, St. Peter's Church of Coupland is a vibrant community dedicated to Christian education, ministry to those in need and outreach to our neighbors.

With programs for children, youth, active adults and seniors, there's something for everyone at St. Peter's!

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Martin Garrison, Pastor

For those who only walk through the church doors once in a blue moon, might I suggest you do it during potluck. There are wonderful cooks in residence at our church. There are also others of us who bring a bag of Oreos and help make the iced tea. We certainly don't mind if you skip the worship service and just come for the meal. (The service starts at 10:15 a.m.; if you're just coming for grub, show up a little after 11 a.m., and get in line.)

Aside from a great meal, the potluck is one of the best times to get to know folks in the community. It's a chance to pull up a chair next to a neighbor you don't know well and ask them about their hobbies or their kids or their favorite team. We hope St. Peter's can be a place to connect, with each other, and also with the rest of the community.

The early church centered their worship around the 'Lord's Supper.' For us this is a ritual, where we eat a bite of bread and drink a sip of wine and say prayers that recall Jesus's instruction to his students. Two thousand years ago this was a shared meal. The meal centered around that same bread and wine, but it was a full meal. It was also a community event, where the church welcomed everyone to the table, and everyone, beggar, banker, soldier and priest, was given the same serving.

In the 23rd Psalm we read, "The Lord prepares a table before me, in the presence of my enemies." I think that looks like potluck. In the midst of our present political discord, in the midst of all the stress of life; in the presence of heartache and grief: the Lord sets a table and puts good food on it, and friendly faces around it. We hope you'll be at that table with us.

St. Peter's Potluck is almost always on the fourth Sunday of the month. Upcoming potlucks will be on January 27, February 24, March 24, and April 28.



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St. Peter's Luncheon Was January 15--Next Luncheon Will Be in March

The St. Peter's Senior Citizens Luncheon was held on January 15 at 11:30 a.m. Following the meal, Bingo and "42" Dominoes were played. Those playing Bingo brought prizes under \$10. The next luncheon will be in March.

Lois Schmidt and Sandra Wernli,
Co-Chairmen

Right, an annual tradition at St. Peter's is the "hanging of the greens," decorating the church for Christmas. Above, left to right, Jonathan Dupy on the ladder, Sandra Wernli, Tammy Wellings-Sane, and Peter Wabbel.

Photo courtesy of St. Peter's Church



Congratulations to Coupland student Bella Slauson, who won a blue ribbon for her pig at the Williamson County Youth Fair on December 6.

Photo courtesy Slauson family

Yegua Creek Farms Selling Schedule

Check our Facebook page for details:

- Every Saturday - Texas Farmers Market at Lakeline, 9-1
- Every Sunday - Texas Farmers Market at Mueller, 10-2
- Sat., March 2 - Sunshine Gardens Plant Sale, Austin
- Sat., March 2 - Round Rock Market Days, Baca Center, Round Rock
- Sat., March 2 - Pine Street Market Days, Downtown Bastrop
- Sat., April 6 - Round Rock Market Days, Baca Center
- Sat., April 6 - Pine Street Market Days, Downtown Bastrop
- Sat., April 27 - Burton Cotton Oil Gin Festival, Burton
- Sat., May 4 - Round Rock Market Days, Baca Center
- Sat., May 4 - Pine Street Market Days, Downtown Bastrop
- Sat., May 18 - Art Studio Tour, Elgin

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New Sweden Evangelical Lutheran Church

By Marilyn Samuelson

Happy, blessed New Year! Hope 2019 will be a good one for all. New Sweden Lutheran closed out 2018 with a very busy but great time. The church hosted the Elgin area community Thanksgiving service, Saint Lucia/Country Christmas sing-a-long, Christmas Eve candlelight service, and Julotta (Christmas morning) candlelight service. All events were well attended and very inspirational.

Sunday, January 13, at 10:30 a.m., members of the church council for 2019 were installed and on January 20 the congregation held their Part II annual meeting, hearing reports, adopting a budget, and more. Following fellowship lunch on Sunday, January 27, a planning meeting was held, planning all activities to be held for the year other than the regularly scheduled worship services.

The Easter season begins with Ash Wednesday, March 6, with services and Holy Communion at 7 p.m. Each Wednesday thereafter during Lent, a meal will be served at 6 p.m. and the service will be at 7 p.m.



The Maundy Thursday service with Communion will be on April 18, 7 p.m. The Good Friday meal will be at 6 p.m. with a movie at 7 p.m. Easter Day, sunrise service will be at the cemetery at 7:30 a.m. followed by breakfast at the Parish Hall and Festive Easter Worship at 10:30 a.m. in the sanctuary. Everyone is welcome to any and all services and events at New Sweden Lutheran located at 12809 New Sweden Church Road.

Mark your calendar now for Saturday, April 27, for the New Sweden Heritage Center annual celebration. The committee is working on the plans. Watch for details in bulletins, announcements, and newspapers.

Emergency Services District#10

By Karen Van Buren

Please join the ESD in congratulating Matthew Selby of the Coupland Volunteer Fire Department for passing the arduous training and testing necessary to become a State Certified Fire Inspector. Mark Moellenberg, fire chief for the Thrall Volunteer Fire Department, is also a State Certified Fire Inspector. The ESD will be paying tuition for two more firefighters to attend the school during the coming year.

The Coupland fire station now has an Ops-Cad program that is shown on several screens and laptops within the station which allows the firefighters to see a list and map of every emergency call throughout the ESD service area.


The Coupland and Thrall volunteers have taken part in training classes for wild land fires, vehicle rescue, and extrication. They also participated in a game of dodge ball while wearing their full bunker gear.

As part of their ongoing fire prevention program, the Coupland volunteers had Liberty Hill Fire Department Clown Brigade present a program at the Coupland School. They were asked to perform again during the next school year. The Coupland volunteers also presented a program at the Coupland School Harvest Fest where they ran the children through a "smoke house" provided by the Taylor Volunteer Fire Department. Both events were well received.

The Thrall volunteers have been supplying the Thrall schools with "Stop the Bleed" kits. They will furnish each classroom and each school bus with a kit. Once they have furnished the schools in Thrall, they will begin providing the kits to the Coupland School.

The ESD has instituted a \$20,000 Group Term Life Insurance Policy for each of the Coupland and Thrall volunteer firefighters and ESD Commissioners. Their volunteer work is much appreciated and otherwise uncompensated.

The Thrall Department has received a grant from the Texas Forest Service that will reimburse them for fire equipment purchased through April 2019. They will be able to replace worn equipment and tools with the funds. And the Coupland Department received a grant of \$10,761 that will reimburse them for the purchase of bunker gear. The average cost for a coat and pair of pants is \$1,800, so they will be able to replace worn and/or out-of-date bunker gear with the grant monies.



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Big Exciting Change Coming For Free Churches in Type and Elgin

By Charlene Hanson Jordan

In just a few Sundays, the two Evangelical Free Churches in Type and Elgin will re-combine their efforts. From 1908 to 1954, Type and Kimbro shared a pastor and then they joined each other to form the Elgin Evangelical Free Church. Now they will again share pastors. This time, it will be under the names of the Yegua Creek Evangelical Free Church at Type and the Elgin Evangelical Free Church.

That pastor is Terry (Terrence) Kennedy. He, together with his wife, Rachel, serves the Elgin Evangelical Free Church. The times are being coordinated so that Sunday morning services will be held, one after the other, at both Type (Yegua Creek EFC) and Elgin while the rest of the pastor's week will be split between the two churches. The good news is

that Pastor Terry will devote full-time to the Lord's ministry. It will be like going from one room to the next to deliver an exciting message.

Pastor Terry was born to a Royal Canadian Air Force physician in Zweibrucken, Germany. That physician, Pediatrician Douglas Kennedy, and his wife, Eila, a nurse and descendant of Finns, settled in Houston, Texas. Both of them passed away in 2017, one month apart. Their son, Pastor Terry, attended the University of Houston and graduated from Dallas Theological Seminary.

Pastor Terry was ordained in the Southern Baptist church and also, meeting the strict requirements of the Evangelical Free Church, he was ordained there as well.

The Evangelical Free Church of America was founded by Scandinavians in Iowa in 1884. The Evangelical Free Church espouses unity in what is important and harmony in what is secondary. The denomination was an off-shoot of the Lutheran church that found a happy middle ground between Baptists and Lutherans. Being part of a traditional diocese or governing body offers assurance that a pastor stays within the boundaries of that belief instead of potentially going off in a different direction.

Pastor Terry and his wife, Rachel (a New Jersey native, but Texan since she was 17), have been married for thirty-three years. They have two grown children who have children of their own. Daughter Laura (31) is a supervising nurse in Austin at St. David's South, Cardiac Critical Care. Their son, Douglas (29), works in Workers Comp for Texas Mutual Insurance Company.

Pastor Terry has served as a minister for many years and he has additional special background showing empathy and love for others in his having worked for two years with troubled youth at the Giddings Correctional Facility. He categorized it as a wonderful ministry to help these unfortunate young people aged 14 to 18 who were in the correctional facility for everything from sex crimes to murder. Pastor Terry spent time and effort on the other end of the spectrum as well, by uplifting people at the end of life by working for two years as a hospice minister for Cameron Standards Home Health Care.

Yegua Creek Evangelical Free Church welcomes Pastor Terry and his wife, Rachel, as we bid farewell to Pastor Paul who will soon return to his family in Virginia.



Pastor Terry and his wife, Rachel, before attending a performance of the Austin Symphony.

Photo courtesy Yegua Creek EFC.

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Letitia Eldredge To Be Featured In Ornette Coleman Book . . .

Coupland artist Letitia Eldredge was a friend of jazz great Ornette Coleman. Coleman was a jazz saxophonist, violinist, trumpeter, and composer. He was a founder in the 1960's of free jazz, inventing the term for his album *Free Jazz: A Collective Improvisation*. He received the 2007 Pulitzer Prize for music for his album *Sound Grammar*.

Letitia's drawing of the Fort Worth house that Coleman grew up in will be used in an upcoming book about Coleman. The book is by Maria Golia; the author was General Manager at Fort Worth's Caravan of Dreams when Coleman and Letitia were both featured artists there during the 1980's. Letitia says, "I am honored that my art is included. Ornette was a Fort Worth native. We had this in common, as well as a mentoring friendship when times permitted." Coleman was born in Fort Worth in 1930.

Letitia drew the house before she knew Coleman and before she knew that it was his family's house. She explains, "The little drawing? I did it in 1961 as a high school student out on a solo exploratory sketch trip in my '57 Chevy. That I saw it and drew it was pure coincidence."



She explains, "Ornette Coleman's homestead was identified by his son Denardo Coleman as 'my Grandma's house' and Ornette himself in 1985

while we were all in-house artists at the Caravan of Dreams."

The Caravan of Dreams was a performing arts center in central Fort Worth that was active in the 1980's and 1990's. Founded by Ed Bass, it featured new forms of music, theater, dance, poetry, and film. The opening celebration centered around performances by Coleman and coincided with the mayoral proclamation of September 29, 1983, as "Ornette Coleman Day." The venue closed in 2001.

. . . and Adds Local History Books to Archive

Letitia has an archive of art books and journals that she makes available to interested readers. Friends and art collectors who come from out of town to visit and view her artwork often ask her about the history of our area, so she is adding books to her library about Coupland history. She was recently presented with two books for her collection by Jim "Kicker" Garry. He is a native of our area but lives in Wyoming. His two books—*This Ol' Drought Ain't Broke Us Yet* and *The First Liar Never Has a Chance*—include stories about our area's history as well as stories about the West. The books are important additions to Letitia's art and history archive.



Letitia and Jim Garry, who gave her his two books for her collection, are looking over another book that she recently acquired-- *Collision: The Contemporary Art Scene in Houston, 1972-1985* by Pete Gershon. 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.

Photo by Susan Garry

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Annual Trunk or Treat-- Lots of Scary Fun!

Trunk or Treat was on Saturday, October 27, in front of St. Peter's. Residents in costumes handed out candy to Trick or Treaters from the backs of their decorated vehicles. Everyone enjoyed inspecting the fire truck that the firefighters brought. Pastor Martin Garrison and wife Emily offered a pumpkin game for the little ones. Once again, Coupland families had a fun and safe Halloween event.



Above, Becky Sutton in costume with her decorated SUV is ready for the Trick or Treaters. Below, Daniela Wabbel and daughter Elizabeth look fabulous, as usual.



Top, Pastor Martin Garrison and wife Emily and their pumpkin game, which was a big hit with the little ones. Middle, a unicorn visits the firefighters. Right, Trunk or Treat boasted two unicorns.



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Left, Shawn Burroughs as the Prisoner of Azkaban and family.

Right, "Death" silhouetted against the sunset.

Below, two "Supermen," Thomas Klanika and Mayor Jack Piper, with Barbara Piper.



Below, Coupland Fire Chief Jared Cummings, wife Maranda, and daughter Katelynn.

Photos by Susan Garry



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Map of the Coupland Water Supply Corp.--See Article on Page 13



Coupland Water Supply Corp.-- Flushing Unacceptable Items Will Cause Rate Increase

By Wells Mason, CWSC President

First, I'd like to thank Cindy Wood for serving on the board of the CWSC for the last three years. And I'd like to welcome Daniel Noji as our newest board member. Daniel moved to Coupland from Delaware last year, and he joined the board when Cindy's term ended. Thanks to you both! The wastewater system could not operate without volunteers like you.

Second, I need to explain a serious problem we're having with our wastewater system. In recent months, some customers have been flushing unacceptable items like diapers, wet wipes, shop rags, blue mechanic towels, underwear, and cigarette butts down their toilets. Our wastewater system simply cannot handle these items. If this does not stop, your wastewater bill will increase.

Here is a map of the CWSC area (**map to left, on page 12**). If your property is inside the dotted line, you have access to the CWSC wastewater system. If your property is outside the dotted line, you're probably on a septic system. If your property is inside one of the areas marked off by the solid dark lines, that means your property is serviced by a "lift station" that transfers your wastewater to the treatment plant on FM 1466. Whether your property is inside the dotted line or inside one of the lift station areas, please make sure you properly dispose of the unacceptable items listed above. Please speak to your family and your neighbors about it, too.

Let's all do our part to keep our wastewater rates low and our quality of life high in Coupland!

CWSC has a website: couplandwatersupplycorp.org

New Developments On Solar Farm Just West of Coupland ETJ

There has been renewed activity on the 940-acre solar farm on Manda-Carlson Road, just west of Coupland, just outside of the Coupland extraterritorial jurisdiction (ETJ). The solar farm is in the Pflugerville ETJ, and Pflugerville has renewed an agreement with RRE Solar to extend the construction deadline for another year and to prohibit Pflugerville from annexing the solar farm for 35 years.

The project broke ground in 2010, but did not proceed. It is now planned to be finished by the end of 2020.

As reported by the *Austin Statesman*, Austin Solar CEO Daven Mehta said they had previously been unable to get a buyer for their energy. However, in November, Austin Energy agreed to purchase power for 15 years from Recurrent Energy, the overseer of the solar farm. The completed solar farm is supposed to provide 144 megawatts of energy to power more than 23,000 homes. The project may provide 250 jobs during construction and two full-time, permanent jobs during operation.

The Blackland Prairie Concerned Citizens Association is trying to arrange for Mehta to speak to residents during the first part of this year to give them more details.

The BPCCA meetings are announced through the email list maintained by Jennifer Dollins. If you are not on Jennifer's list, but want to get on it to receive meeting notices, let her know at jennifer@couplandtx.org.

RCR Taylor Logistics Park

Projected to open this summer, RCR Taylor Logistics Park is a large project--750 acres located on Highway 79 at FM 3349. It is not too close to Coupland, but considering the impacts on neighboring areas and on traffic, it is something to be aware of.

RCR is a logistics and industrial park with service by Union Pacific and BNSF, providing switching, transload, and storage services. Their brochure states: "Direct access to Texas SH 79, Texas SH 130 Toll Road, Interstate 35 and two Class 1 rail carriers provides unmatched access to Central, South and North Texas; ideally located between the D/FW Metroplex and Mexico." It will receive cars from Union Pacific and BNSF's inbound and outbound mainline service, offering manifest switching, unit train services, transload, storage and other rail service to customers.

RCR would go over Hutto's water lines. Also RCR is near the proposed Southeast Corridor highway. It is possible

that the RCR project will be delayed because of the water lines and the highway issues, and conversely the highway could be delayed because of RCR. Some have speculated that the December 10 open house on the Southeast Corridor Study was postponed in part because of this conflict. No new date has been set yet.



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Coupland Volunteer Fire Department--40th Anniversary, Chili Supper

By John Roulston-Bates, Lieutenant, Coupland Volunteer Fire Department

40 Years of the Coupland Volunteer Fire Department

We hope 2019 is treating y'all well so far. It's a big year for the Fire Department as we celebrate our 40th anniversary. The department was formed back in 1979, with our incorporation documents signed by C.W. Pfluger, Ewald Ging, and A.F. Becker.

If you or a relative were in the department in the early years we'd love to hear from you with any stories, memories or photos you might have. Contact us by email at 1979@couplandfire.org or by phone at 512-856-0237.

Annual Chili Supper – Everyone's Invited! Saturday, March 2, from 5 p.m. at the Coupland Fire Station

We'd love to welcome you to our annual Chili Supper fundraiser. We thoroughly enjoy putting on this event and welcoming everyone into our house, and after 31 years we've gotten pretty good at the chili.

We really appreciate the whole community coming along to support the department. Volunteer Fire Departments depend on this type of fundraising to operate. Your donations go towards training, equipment, and other essential supplies.

Come enjoy our signature chili (available in Medium, Hot, and 3-Alarm), desserts,

and iced tea, as well as a silent auction, fire truck tours, and photo ops.

2018 was a record year, which is not necessarily a good thing

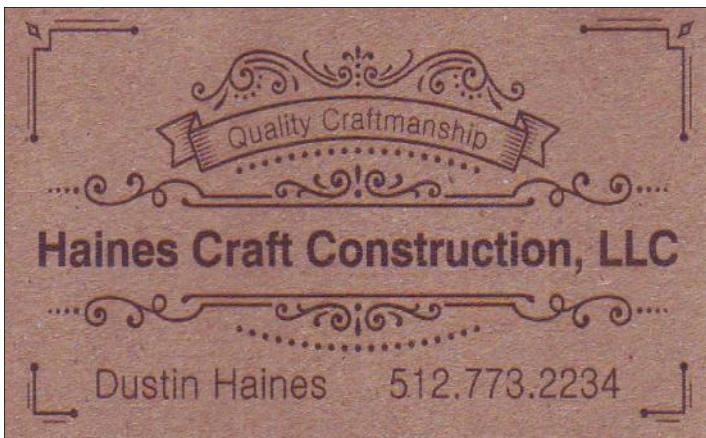
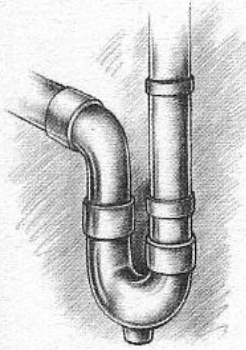
In 2018 we were toned out for 457 calls, up from 406 in 2017. Of those the majority were medical and motor vehicle accidents, followed by outside fires, citizen assist calls, and structure fires. We currently have 18 people in the department, covering an average of 1.25 calls a day, all providing this service to the community on an entirely volunteer basis.

Coupland VFD Chili Supper Saturday March 2nd Starts at 5:00pm



Coupland Volunteer Fire Dept
403 FM 1466, Coupland
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www.couplandfire.org

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Left, grades K-2 perform.

Below, grades 3-5.

Coupland School Christmas Program

Coupland School held its Christmas program on the evening of December 18, with performances by grades K-2, 3-5, and 6-8, directed by Annie Wallin Violette.



Right, grades 6-8.



Below right, director Annie Wallin Violette and student Kamryn Hill.

Photo by Kathy Hill



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www.newswedenlca.org



Coupland School News, Including UIL Results--By Kathy Hill

Coupland School has been hopping in the Fall Semester, and the Spring Semester started with a bang!

- Student Council led Red Ribbon Week and a Glow-in-the-Dark Dance in October, and in December they held a Food and Toy Drive and sold Candy Cane Grams. Their next focus will be with the National Junior Honor Society where they will help Mr. White complete the Courtyard Project on February 2. They also have a Candy Gram Sale and a Valentine's Dance coming up in February.
- Coupland's PTA is by far the most supportive organization for the school. Their November Harvest Fest was a huge success and they held a second annual Breakfast with Santa on December 15.
- Coupland School competed against Holland, Granger, and Westphalia at the U.I.L. District Competition in Holland and Granger on December 11 and 12. Coupland placed 2nd Overall, Middle School 2nd Place, and Elementary 4th Place.

For elementary, 2nd grade Levi Harkins placed 3rd and Natalia Sandoval placed 6th in Chess, and they earned 2nd place as a team. In Creative Writing, Juliette Havens was 4th and Addison Suchomel was 6th.

In **3rd grade**, Logan Middaugh was 6th in Chess, and the Chess team earned 3rd place. In Music Memory, Makayla Cooper was 6th place, which helped her team win 3rd. In Spelling, Mason Beran placed 6th, and Hailey Wilhelm placed 3rd in Storytelling.

In **4th grade**, Kody Smith earned 6th place, making his team 3rd, and Elijah Gould placed 2nd in Number Sense, creating a 3rd place win for his team. In Oral Reading, Abigail Viktora won 4th, and Jackson Havens placed 6th. Kody Smith also placed 6th in Spelling.

In **5th grade**, Ethan Waiser placed 6th in Chess. Braide Suarez placed 3rd and Ethan Waiser placed 5th in Dictionary Skills. Their team won 2nd place. In Listening Skills, Jaycee Chandler placed 6th. Ben Kanten placed 1st in Spelling causing his team to also place 1st. Also, Maps, Graphs, and Charts had



Hartlyn Ging and Santa at the Breakfast with Santa.

a 3rd place team, Music Memory had a 2nd place team, Number Sense placed 1st, and Social Studies placed 2nd.

For middle school, 6th grade Callie Molineux won 2nd place and Gabriella Sandoval won 4th in Calculator. In Chess, Christopher House placed 4th, and Chloe House placed 6th. They earned a 2nd place in team. In Dictionary Skills, Lele Jackson won 4th, and Braide Nelson 6th. Their team was 2nd. The Impromptu Speaking team swept with 1st place Andrea Cedillo, 2nd place Elise Adrian, and 3rd place Gabriella Sandoval. In Oral Reading, Kamryn Hill wowed us with 1st place. In Ready Writing, Callie Molineux won 3rd place, and Kamryn Hill placed 6th. In Number Sense, Laramie Galloway

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placed 1st, and Braide Nelson placed 2nd, earning their team 1st place! In Social Studies, Gabriella Sandoval placed 2nd, and Jackson Satterfield 3rd. Their team was 2nd. Lastly, the Music Memory team placed 3rd.

In **7th grade**, Barret Suarez placed 4th in Chess, and Layne Harkins was 6th. Their team was 2nd. In Dictionary Skills, Rose Simons was 4th, Payton Grant 5th, and Barret Suarez 6th. They placed 2nd. In Editorial Writing, Rose Simons placed 1st, Lele Jackson 2nd, and Emily Reed 5th. In Impromptu Speaking, Rose Simons placed 2nd, Braxton Craven placed 4th, and Barret Suarez 6th. In Modern Oratory, Rose Simons placed 1st. In Oral Reading, Callie Molineux placed 3rd and Barret Suarez was 5th. In Ready Writing, Rose Simons was 1st. In Listening Skills, Kassidy Viktora placed 1st, and Gabriella Sandoval placed 3rd on their 1st place team. Maps, Graphs, and Charts also won 1st place with Rose Simons 2nd, Payton Grant 3rd, and Braxton Craven 4th. In Science, Barret Suarez placed 2nd and Rose Simons 6th. Their team was 2nd place. The Social Studies team had a nice sweep at 1st place since Rose Simons placed 1st, Barret Suarez 2nd, and Kye Haisler placed 3rd. In Spelling, Barret Suarez placed 2nd and Rose Simons placed 3rd, and in Art Smart, the team earned 2nd place.

In **8th Grade**, the Ready Writing team swept the event with Brenna Floyd 1st, Hayleigh Brown 2nd, and Taylor Clarke 3rd. They also earned a 1st place team in Social Studies with Taylor Clarke 1st, Bradley Smith 4th, and Kaden Haisler 6th. In Science, Savanna Miller placed 1st, and Taylor Clarke

2nd for their 2nd place team. In Modern Oratory, Savanna Miller placed 1st, Arianna Hernandez 3rd, and Taylor Clarke 4th. In Music Memory, Jaxon Larson placed 4th, and Bradley Smith placed 6th. In Calculator, Taylor Clarke placed 5th. In Chess, Beau Bolinger placed 3rd. In Dictionary Skills, Brenna Floyd placed 3rd causing her team to earn 3rd place. In Editorial Writing, Brenna Floyd placed 2nd, Savanna Miller 3rd, and Taylor Clarke 6th. In Impromptu Speaking, Jaxon Larson placed 1st, Brenna Floyd 2nd, and Taylor Clarke 5th. On the 2nd place Listening Skills team, Savanna Miller placed 2nd, and Beau Bolinger placed 3rd. Brenna Floyd placed 1st, and Bradley Smith 4th on the 2nd place Maps, Graphs, and Charts team.

What a feat to compete against the larger area schools! We're so proud of all of our Coupland Cowboys! We appreciate all of the sponsors, the support from Superintendent Brinkman, and all of our parents!



Supt. Tammy Brinkman greets guests arriving for Breakfast with Santa. Photos by Susan Garry

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Coupland's Annie Violette Directs Another Award-Winning Show

By Kathy Hill

Coupland School earned 2nd place at the One-Act Play Competition on January 10 at the Mary Alice Marshall Performing Arts Center at Temple College in Temple. According to the judge, *Wild Strawberries* by Jerry Ayers as a published internet script was “an excellent show that connected with actors and the audience into the crazy and chaotic world with fantastic comedic timing and funny gags intertwined into the plot.” He loved the entire ensemble and complimented the way each actor helped the others in presenting a fantastic story, which says plenty for Director Annie Violette.

This hilarious comedia includes all of the stereotypical characters we’ve all come to know and love. The tale is narrated by starving attendant Truffledina, played by Brenna Floyd, who won Overall Best Actress in the District. Her boss, Nikolette, played by Gabriella Sandoval, was recognized as an All-Star Actor as she has to disguise herself as a man to earn her family’s inheritance since she thinks her brother, Nikolus de Nikoli, played by Payton Grant, has been shot by Flora, played by Andrea Cedillo, who also earned an All-Star Actor Award. A fickle man, Dimitri Pallindrosini, played by Jaxon Larson who was also recognized as All-Star Actor, is supposedly in love with Leyla, played by Francesca Cedillo.

Leyla’s aunts, played by Callie Molineux, Daniella Osorio-Perez, and Savanna Miller were all awarded Honorable Mention. Also in the show, Signor Pallindrosini, played by Kamryn Hill, juggles between signing legal papers and flirting with all of the older women. All of them enjoy dining with Xebenia, played by Rose Simon, whose desserts are known far and wide by the Company played by Elise Adrian, Jackson Satterfield, Barret Suarez, and Kristi Ortiz.

In addition to the above awards, the Tech Crew, sound man Bradley Smith, light crew Taylor Clarke, Stage Manager Katelyn Chambers, Patricia Barrientos, and Kassidy

(Continued on page 19)



All-Star Actors Jaxon Larson, Andrea Cedillo, and Gabriella Sandoval



Honorable Mention Daniella Osario-Perez, Savanna Miller, and Callie Molineux



Left, Best Crew: Kassidy Viktora, Katelyn Chambers, Taylor Clarke, Patricia Barrientos, and Bradley Smith

Photos by Kathy Hill



Left, Cast and Crew: Payton Grant, Katelyn Chambers, Taylor Clarke, Daniella Osario-Perez, Francesca Cedillo, Jaxon Larson, Layne Harkins, Bradley Smith, Barret Suarez, Savanna Miller, Brenna Floyd, Lele Jackson, Kristi Ortiz, Summer Leal, Rose Simons, Callie Molineux, Kassidy Viktora, Kamryn Hill, Patricia Barrientos, Gabriella Sandoval, Elise Adrian, Andrea Cedillo, and Jackson Satterfield.

(Continued from page 18)
 Viktora, earned the Best Crew Award. Alternates for the show were Lele Jackson, Summer Leal, and Layne Harkins.

On January 11, the ensemble treated the community with their Home Show in Taylor at the Main Street Events Center Auditorium in front of a very supportive and welcoming crowd. Look for Violette's next production for Coupland School, *The Adams Family, the Musical*, on April 12 in Taylor at the Main Street Events Center Auditorium.



Overall Best Actress in the District, Brenna Floyd



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**Deadline for the next issue,
May 2019, is April 10.**

A Coupland Christmas scene: Wynne Breece's horse, a Gypsy Vanner named Irish, stands under the beautiful star on Lynne Payne's stable.

Photo by Wynne Breece

