



COUPLAND HERALD

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Board of Directors

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- Mike Schneider, Treasurer
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- 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

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.

Since the last *Herald*, the following items were discussed by the City Council. The City Council is continuing to review a Nuisance Ordinance for the City. It is specific and will help make Coupland a clean and welcoming community. A lengthy complaint was recently received from concerned citizens. Some of the issues addressed in their complaint are also stated in 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;
- (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.

We have tried to assist residents with their cleanup by sponsoring clean up days. Dumpsters were available for residents' use. This endeavor has failed. Following the adoption of a Nuisance Ordinance, the City will take appropriate actions for residents who fail to comply.

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.

Coupland School Bonds Pass

On November 5, Coupland Independent School District voters passed \$5,000,000 in bonds; this was the first bond proposal in the history of Coupland School. It passed with 124 (63.27%) voting for it and 72 (36.73%) voting against. Previously, the school was able to finance expansion of their facilities using careful management, operating funds, and a one-time grant from the state. However, expected population growth and increased security requirements resulted in the need for a bond election.

(Continued on page 12)

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

Happy New Year! It's hard to believe this is the start of a new decade. I hope everyone had a nice holiday season. It's hard to believe two years ago, we had snow showers. Today we're just hoping for rain.

Looking back to 2019, the CCO was quite busy. The year started with our second annual golf tournament which was fun, plus we had more teams sign up for the tournament. As the golf tournament grows, so does the knowledge of golfing and tournaments grow for some of us on the CCO Board. You can count me in that group. Our National Night Out had lots of people and speakers turn out for our traditional hot dog meal. Connections were made with old friends and new friends. Choo Choo Fest was successful. Peter Wabbel was back as our master chef, along with Bobby Hepner as pit master. Trunk or Treat was a blast. There were lots of kids and adults in costumes trick or treating from car to car. Coupland Volunteer Fire Department was there with one of their trucks, so the kids really had a good time exploring the fire truck. We're looking forward to an even more successful year in 2020.

As most of you know, I enjoy looking back through past issues of the *Herald* to see what was happening in our community. Nineteen years ago, the Coupland Community Club became the Coupland Civic Organization to "better reflect the nature of the organization as a community-wide group of civic-minded volunteers rather than a 'club'." This is a direct quote from the March 2001 *Herald*. The Club was also an ac-

tive civic-minded entity. In the 1970's, the Club restored the depot, purchased the first fire truck, and established a volunteer fire department. 1987 was the 100th birthday of Coupland, which was celebrated by dropping \$100 bills and one hundred \$1 bills from a helicopter which flew over the town.

In the January 2002 issue of the *Herald*, an article appeared about Animal Control in Williamson County and specifically about "dumping" unwanted animals. I wish I could say this issue has been resolved but unfortunately, it's still as bad if not worse in some areas of the county. East of Coupland seems to be the place where people dump their unwanted animals. It is a very cruel practice which doesn't even have to take place. You can call Animal Control to pick up unwanted pets or you can take them to the various animal shelters in the area. The puppies, kittens, and older dogs who are discarded in such a heartless way are simply prey for coyotes and feral pigs. If you have a dog or puppies or kittens you cannot afford, take them to a shelter.

I encourage everyone in the area to attend our CCO meetings which are held the last Monday of the month. Food is always served at 6:30 p.m. and the programs start at 7. It's a great time to reconnect with your neighbors and get to know people in our community. I hope to see you at our next meeting.

Susan Schmidt

Herald Completes Second Decade-- Volume 20 To Begin the Year 2020

Our *Coupland Herald* newsletter is named for a weekly newspaper published in our community about 120 years ago. The current *Herald* was founded in 2001 by Dana Smith, its first editor, who had the vision to realize the value of a newsletter to Coupland and the energy to carry it through. Susan Garry, the current editor, became editor in January 2003.

It's hard to realize that the *Herald* is entering its 20th year. The *Herald* has endured for so long because of the support of the community. Thank you to all the authors who contribute articles and the photographers who contribute photos. A special thank you to our advertisers. Without their support, we could not print and mail the *Herald*. Other than the advertising revenue used for printing and mailing, the *Herald* is a totally volunteer effort. A current advertiser is Jay Sutton, who is the financial advisor at Edward Jones in Elgin. Jay was the very first advertiser in the *Herald*; his first ad is in the second issue, June 2001, and he has been an advertiser ever since! Thank you Jay!

The *Herald* is mailed to every address in our 78615 zip code, about 600 addresses. It is also mailed to about 100 people outside of our zip code who have asked to receive it. Another 200 are hand-delivered to Coupland School, Old Coupland Inn, St. Peter's Church, New Sweden Church, the

Taylor and Elgin newspapers, the Taylor and Elgin Chambers of Commerce, and more. An additional 300 are emailed out. The email version shows the photos and ads in color. If you would like to receive the *Herald* by email, contact Jennifer Dollins, Community-wide Communications Chair, jennifer@couplandtx.org.

The *Herald* comes out quarterly—February, May, August, and November. The deadline for each issue is the 10th of the previous month. For instance, the next issue will be May with a deadline of April 10. If you wish to contribute an article or to advertise, please let the editor know at susan_garry@hotmail.com.

With the help and support of the community, we can keep the *Herald* going for many more decades into the future.



Ten years ago, celebrating the 10th anniversary of the *Herald*, left, founding editor Dana Smith, and right, current editor Susan Garry.

Official Annual Meeting of the Coupland Civic Organization on Monday, January 27

Monday, January 27, in St. Peter's Fellowship Hall, is the official annual meeting of the Coupland Civic Organization (CCO). This meeting may have already occurred by the time you get this *Herald*. President Susan Schmidt will recap the events of the year 2019. Treasurer Mike Schneider will present the financial report. Barbara Piper, Caboose Coordinator, who manages the caboose restoration, will discuss the work that was done in 2019 and the plans for 2020. Mayor Jack Piper will give "the state of the city." Come at 6:30 for a soup supper with cornbread and homemade desserts. The program begins at 7. All Coupland residents are considered members of the CCO and are urged to attend meetings, which are usually the last Monday of the month.



At last year's annual meeting, Mayor Jack discussed the city, and Barbara Piper presented the caboose situation.



The beautifully restored caboose, and the CCO board members: On the porch, left to right, Caboose Coordinator Barbara Piper, Assistant Treasurer Becky Sutton, President Susan Schmidt, Treasurer Mike Schneider, Fundraising Ruby Wabbel and Judy Downing. On the ground, Grounds Jonathan Jones and Secretary Lloyd Langston. Not pictured, Susan Garry, Newsletter Editor. Photos by Susan Garry

To receive emails about community news, sign up with Jennifer Dollins, the Community-Wide Communications Chair at jennifer@couplandtx.org. You can also follow the Coupland Civic Organization on Facebook. And thanks to Stewart Spencer for maintaining the website, couplandtx.org.

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St. Peter's Church News

Annual Congregational Meeting was Sunday, January 12. Voted on new Church Council members and Committee members, reviewed annual committee reports, and reviewed the new church budget.

Annual Church Council Retreat was Saturday, January 25.

Annual garage sale will be in April. Start bringing items to Fellowship Hall. More details in upcoming church newsletters.

Angel Tree Project a great success, as reported by Doreen Streit. St. Peter's helped children in our community have a Merry Christmas. A total of 14 angels this year.

Brett Hart has applied to become an ordained minister in the United Church of Christ. St. Peter's has agreed to sponsor Brett.

Potluck lunch is on last Sunday of the month after worship.

Bible Study--Sundays at 5 p.m.

Lectionary Discussion--Mondays at 10 a.m.

St. Peter's Easter Events

Lent:

The first day of Lent, Ash Wednesday, begins Wednesday, February 26. Please join us every Wednesday during lent for Lenten Service at 6 p.m. followed by Soup Supper at 6:30 p.m. Choir will start around 7 p.m.

Holy Week:

Holy Week, the last week of Lent, begins Sunday, April 5, and goes through Saturday, April 11. Events for the week include Palm Sunday Service on April 5, Thursday, April 9, Maundy Thursday Service at 6:30 p.m. with a meal to follow, and Friday, April 10, Good Friday Service at 6:30 p.m.

Easter Sunday:

Join us on Sunday, April 12, for Sunrise Worship Service at 6:56 a.m., followed by Easter Breakfast hosted by the Men's Brotherhood at 7:30 a.m. Worship Service, beginning at 10:15 a.m. will include the Children's Easter Pageant. After worship, the children will have an Easter Egg Hunt.

New Church Email Address

The old email addresses secretary@spcucc.org and spcucc@spcucc.org are no longer active. Please save the new address StPetersCoupland@gmail.com to your contact list.

St. Peter's is on Facebook and the new website is www.CouplandChurch.org.

Yegua Creek Farms Selling Schedule

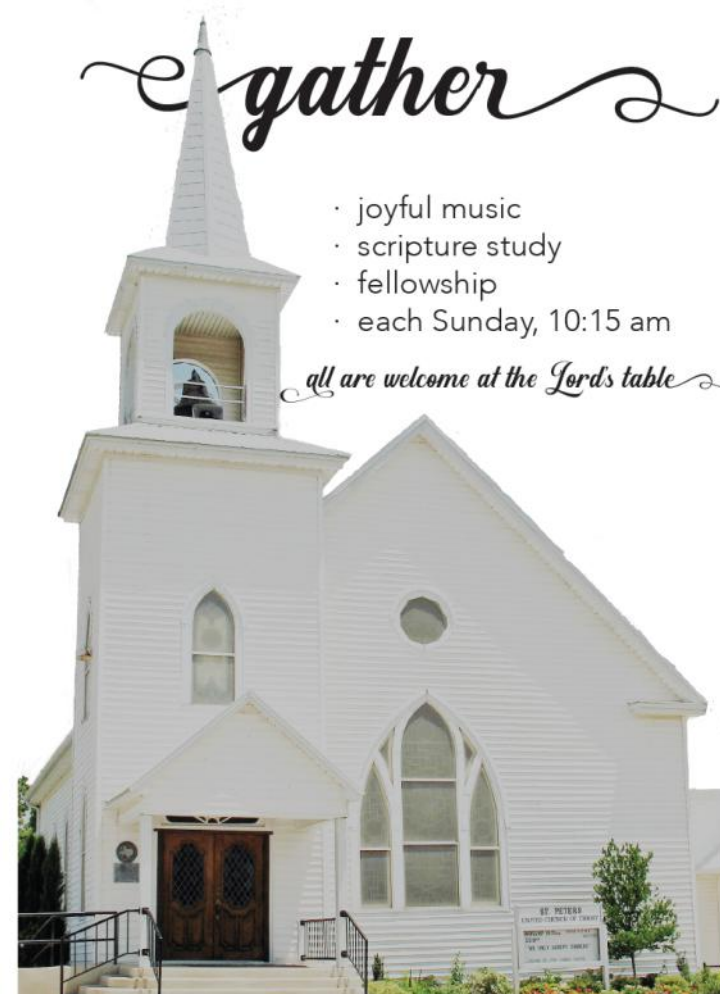
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Thursdays, Elgin Farmers' Market, 5-8 p.m.
Saturdays, Texas Farmers' Market at Lakeline, 9-1
Sundays, Texas Farmers' Market at Mueller, 10-2

March 7, Sunshine Gardens Plant Sale, Austin
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Martin Garrison, Pastor



The annual horseback caroling.
Photo by Prissy Rumel.



The Children's Program.
Photo by Dean Rumel.

Seniors Luncheons Were Nov. 19 and Jan. 21, Next Luncheon Will Be March 17

Our Thanksgiving Luncheon was held on November 19, 2019, at 11:30 a.m. Forty-eight Senior Citizens including Hostesses and Helpers attended.

We thank Sandra and Don Wernli, Joyce and Arthur Henze, Marge Gebhardt, Cynthia and Teddy Wittliff, Karen Rhoades, and Nancy and Tommy Alexander for being Hostesses. Helpers were Wanda Walther, Janet Doss, and JoAnn Ging. Thank you to Nancy and Tommy Goodlett for bringing fruit plates. We thank Charlotte Albert for helping and decorating. Thanks to Joyce for calling Bingo.

There were bunches playing Bingo and three tables of "42" Dominoes.

Our January Luncheon was on January 21, 2020, at 11:30 a.m., and the next Luncheon will be on March 17.

Lois Schmidt and Sandra Wernli, Co-Chairmen



Danny Smith worked with his Chandler Concrete crew to pour a parking pad and sidewalks at the St. Peter's Cemetery pavilion. They also made concrete pads for the new granite benches that will be installed around the cemetery soon.
Photo courtesy Dana and Danny Smith.

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Coupland Volunteer Fire Department

By John Roulston-Bates, Assistant Fire Chief

**We've been Cooking this Chili since 1980.
Annual Chili Supper Saturday, February 29, from 5 p.m.
at the Coupland Fire Station**

We look forward to welcoming y'all to this year's Chili Supper, which is on the last Saturday in February. We've been cooking chili since 1980 and we're getting pretty good at it. Every year we host between 100 and 200 people and it is the highlight of our year. Everyone is welcome.

As well as our signature chili (available in Mild, Medium and 3-Alarm), we serve desserts and iced tea. In addition we have an auction, fire truck tours, outdoor games and a raffle drawing.

Volunteer Fire Departments depend on this type of fundraising to operate. Your donations go towards training, equipment and other firefighting and community fire safety initiatives.

2019 Calls for Service

In 2019 we received 427 calls for service, a little down from 457 in 2018 and up from 406 in 2017. We respond to calls with our 100% volunteer staff of 15 firefighters.

Starting 2020 with a Ton of Training

Our team is starting the 2020s with an impressive list of training.

In our first in-house training session of the new decade we took the jaws of life to a Mazda 6 for vehicle extrication training. Thank you to Randy's Wrecker in Taylor for hauling what was left of the car away.

In February we have students and instructors at the annual Fire Academy for state firefighter certification, while in March six of our firefighters are giving up three weekends in a

(Continued on page 12)



Vehicle extraction training with the jaws of life at the Fire Station.
Photo courtesy Coupland Volunteer Fire Department



Success!
Photo courtesy Coupland Volunteer Fire Department

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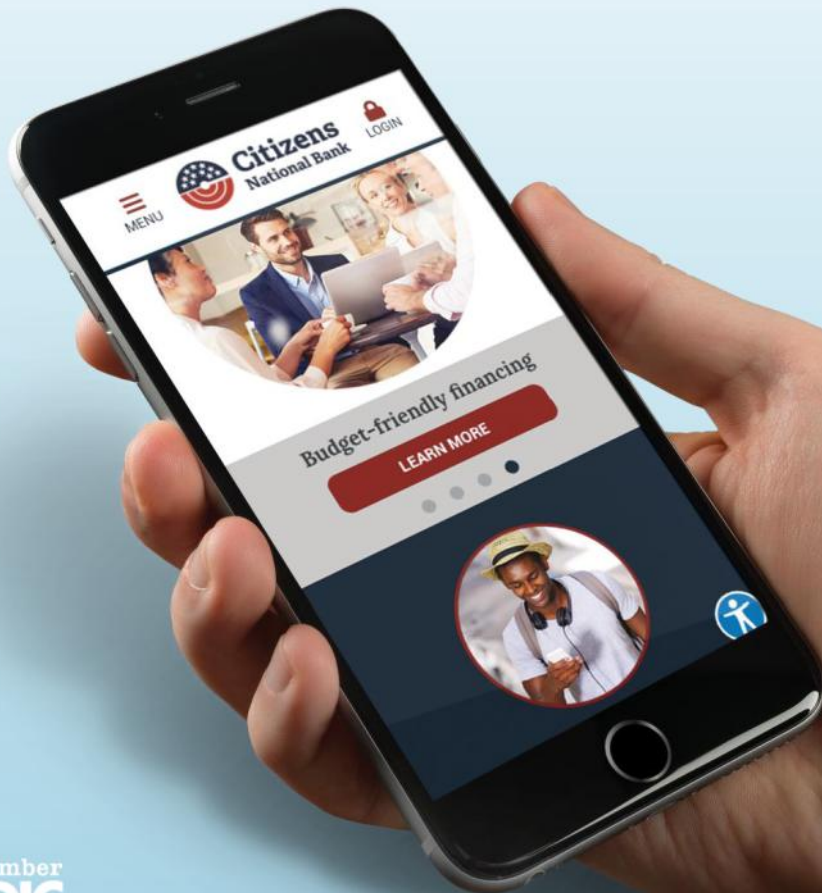
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CHOO CHOO FEST, OCTOBER 6, A SUCCESSFUL FUNDRAISER

By Barbara Piper

Civic Organization Board Members along with Volunteers assembled on Saturday evening, October 5, and began to get ready for the annual fundraising event the following day. By approximately 9 that evening, the last of the silent auction items had been set up and we were ready.

The tent was set up on Friday; tables, table coverings, chairs, etc., were set up early Sunday morning. I might add that we were really blessed with beautiful weather that day, warm but not too hot, sunshine with just a bit of a breeze. Baked goods, T-shirts, and last-minute items found their spot while we eagerly awaited the yummy smell of the food which was being prepared by our Master Chef Peter Wabbel.

We began serving the food at about 11:30, which of course consisted of pork loin, sausage, chicken drumsticks, potato salad, pinto beans, coleslaw, pickles, onions, and bread. Iced tea was readily available. People had the opportunity to browse and bid on silent auction items before as well as after the meal. Baked goods and T-shirts sold rapidly! Kiddies and parents alike enjoyed free rides through Coupland on the Kiddie Express train. It wouldn't be Choo Choo Fest without a choo choo.

CCO did very well this year, thanks to all who annually support this fundraising effort. We anticipate moving forward with the caboose renovation in the early Spring of 2020. The next step is being planned and we are anxious to have the opportunity to begin!

Again, on behalf of all of the Board Members of the CCO, thank you for your support!



Ready to serve the barbecue dinner, left to right, Kyla Weess, Coupland Civic Organization President Susan Schmidt, Sandra Wernli, Coupland Mayor Jack Piper, Caboose Coordinator Barbara Piper, and Master Chef Peter Wabbel. Below, JC Callis and his Kiddie Express train. Photos by Kyle Hensley



At the 2015 Choo Choo Fest: Lupe Garcia, center, with her daughter Teresa Garcia-Schuster and family friend Buz Garry.

Lupe Garcia, Cook at Original Old Coupland Inn, Passes Away

Long-time Coupland resident Lupe Garcia, passed away on January 11. Over the years, she was famous for her cooking. Lupe was the cook at the original Coupland Inn. Becky Sutton, who, along with husband Jack Sutton, founded the original Inn, says, "Lupe was our cook for over eight years, did a fantastic job, and was such an important Coupland resident."

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Before -- The historic bridge damaged and closed.
Photo by Karen Marosko

Historic Iron Brushy Creek Bridge on CR 456 Open for Service--By Karen Marosko

As many of you know, the century-old iron truss bridge crossing Brushy Creek on CR 456 just northeast of Coupland had been closed for 5 long years. It officially reopened for vehicular traffic on October 14, 2019. With the long and wonderful legacy of this historically significant bridge, it is great to have it put back in service.

You may recall, that the now famous Brown and Root Company built the bridge in 1912, and there are many generations of friends and neighbors who fostered fond memories of the bridge over the years. Once this type of truss bridge was very common throughout Texas but now, according to the Texas Department of Transportation's culture resources department, there are very few such bridges remaining in service. We, as a community, can be justly proud of having one of these historic bridges here.

A special vote of thanks goes out to the many supporters who came forward back in 2014 signing the petition and offering comments as to why the bridge should be kept in service. Likewise, we are thankful that the Coupland City Council passed a supporting



After -- The bridge is repaired, and the ribbon-cutting ceremony was on October 14, 2019. Among others, pictured are Commissioner Russ Boles, his Chief of Staff Michael Cooper, Mayor Jack Piper, Mayor Pro Tem Barbara Piper, Coupland Fire Chief Jared Cummings, Assistant Fire Chief John Roulston-Bates, TxDOT Georgetown Area Engineer Bobby Ramthun, Helen Boudny Fremin (whose farm is near the bridge) and her little dog, and Coupland resident Karen Marosko, whose tireless efforts to save the bridge were finally successful.
Photo by Susan Garry

resolution. We want to thank Williamson County Precinct 4 Commissioner Russ Boles for his support and we want to express our appreciation to the Texas Historical Commission and the Williamson County Historical Commission for their strong support in helping keep the bridge open. Last but not least, we want to especially thank the Texas Department of Transportation for its efforts in securing the grant funding and contracting to get the job done and to Fuqua Construction of Navasota for their excellent work in repairing and restoring the bridge. We also want to thank Williamson County Roads and Bridges for the fresh gravel on CR 456—old timers say the road is in the best condition they've ever seen.

Again to all, thank you for your support and patience in our successful effort in being able to retain this bit of Texas history right here in Coupland.

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Yes, There ARE Pelicans in Our Area

By Susan Garry

At National Night Out on August 6, 2019, I was startled to see what looked like a flock of pelicans flying over downtown Coupland. See photo at right. On Nextdoor and the CCO Facebook page, I asked if anybody else had seen pelicans in our area. I received photos from Steve Schiller and Sherri Pagel showing that there are indeed pelicans around here. Marcy Buffington pointed out, "Here in Texas we have both resident breeding populations of white pelicans that venture far inland, as well as migratory populations that winter along the Gulf! Sometimes we get up to 50 on our ponds in the fall and spring!"

Steve Schiller sent photos and said, "We had some visitors last fall [2018]." Glenn Schiller commented, "They are very possibly pelicans. Looks like them to me. There is a small lake over on CR 139 south of Hutto where the pelicans came and covered the entire lake."

Sheri Pagel also sent photos and noted, "There has been a family of three to seven pelicans visiting our



Above, pelicans flying over National Night Out in Coupland, August 6, 2019.

Photo by Susan Garry

ponds since right before Thanksgiving last year [2018]. We are near Roemer and Hwy. 95 in Elgin. It started out as three for a couple of months. Two more joined them for about a month. Then two more came, but only for a couple of weeks. I was so excited to see them because I had no idea they came this far inland."

Susan Schmidt, who lives right outside Coupland, said, "We usually have them on our lake several times a year."

Thanks very much to the readers who contributed to this interesting discussion of pelicans in our area.



Left, photo from Steve Schiller, who said "We had some visitors last fall [2018]."

Below, photo from Sheri Pagel, who said, "This was the largest flock in February [2019], but they only stayed like this for two or three days."





Kristi Ortiz Has Horseback Quinceanera

Coupland saw an unusual event on Saturday, January 18, when Kristi Luisa Ortiz held a horseback Quinceanera. Kristi and friends and family rode through Coupland to St. Peter's Church, where Pastor Martin Garrison spoke and offered a prayer. Upon arrival at the church, Kristi was presented with a bouquet and a beautiful formal sombrero. In addition to friends on horseback, the Chamberlains of Kristi's Corte de Honor rode along with the group in a trailer.

Following the horseback celebration in Coupland, the Quinceanera was held in the evening in the Knights of Columbus Hall in Taylor, where guests were entertained by Mariachis and a DJ and live band. Kristi is the daughter of Coupland residents Gregorie and Lee Ortiz.



Coupland residents A.P. and Loretta Patschke (below) recently received honors in the Taylor Press poll. They were voted Best Real Estate Co. and A.P. was voted Best Realtor.



Photos by Susan Garry

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CVFD Continued from page 6

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row to attend 60 hours of Emergency Medical Responder training.

In January, our Chief and Assistant Chief attended the TEEC Fire Service Leadership conference in San Marcos; we're always on the lookout for ways to improve.

Last but not least, one of our Firefighter/EMTs became qualified to run CPR classes to the level needed for first responders, so we can now offer that training in house as well.

We're always looking for new volunteers, and as you can see you'll get all the education you need. Come along to the Coupland Fire Station any Thursday night at 7 p.m. if you're interested.



At the Fun Day celebration of the CVFD's 40th Anniversary on Saturday, October 19, Assistant Fire Chief John Roulston-Bates assists a young participant in the Duck the Fire Chief game. Fire Chief is Jared Cummings.
Photo by Susan Garry

Sunday Brunch and Steak Nights At the Old Coupland Inn

Abbey Road announces expanded restaurant hours at the Old Coupland Inn, which will now be open every Sunday for brunch, 11 a.m. – 2 p.m. Abbey says, "Large groups are welcome." You may make a reservation at 512-856-2777 or email info@couplanddancehall.com

Steak nights are the first and third Sunday nights. The first Sunday features music by Jarrod Birmingham. Weldon Henson performs at the third Sunday. Restaurant hours are 5:30 – 8:30. Dancing starts at 7. For dancing only, the price is \$10. Abbey calls it "a little last minute honky tonkin' to start your week."

To arrange a party or other special event, email info@couplanddancehall.com. The saloon room holds up to 80 people.



Lena Ging, President of Hermann Sons Life Coupland, presents a donation to Assistant Chief John Roulston-Bates. Hermann Sons raised \$3,900 through a bake sale and raffle to benefit the CVFD.
Photo courtesy Hermann Sons Life Coupland

(Continued from page 1)

School Bonds Pass

The school plans to add three new standard classrooms and one new Pre-Kindergarten classroom. Existing portable buildings will be replaced with two standard and two specialty classrooms. Security features will be added, such as enclosed connecting corridors and a secure entrance. Parents have long wished for a new gym with a standard sized court; a new gym will be built as a separate building to the south of the current facility.

Superintendent Tammy Brinkman says, "The passage of this bond marks a significant investment in the future of Coupland ISD and ensures that our students will have a facility that supports learning in the safest environment possible. The Board of Trustees and I thank the community for your support and commit to being good stewards of your tax dollars as we move forward with design and construction."

Kandice Samuelson, President of the school's Board of Trustees, states, "The message is clear that our community and its citizens support the important work of our school to educate our children!"

Coupland Civic Organization President Susan Schmidt notes, "Coupland School continues to be an excellent place to get an education."

Always Chillin' and Thrillin', Trunk or Treat

On Saturday, October 26, the CCO hosted its annual Trunk or Treat Halloween celebration. Held at 6 p.m. in front of St. Peter's Church of Coupland, costumed residents decorated their vehicle trunks or the backs of SUVs and distributed candy to the trick or treaters. Jonathan Jones set up a ring toss game, and the firefighters brought a truck for the kids to play on. It was a beautiful evening—the kids enjoyed trick or treating and parents enjoyed visiting with friends and neighbors. CCO President Susan Schmidt said, "This is such a fun event. I think the grownups enjoy dressing in costumes more than the kids."



Running with Tyrannosaurus!



Looking fabulous as always, Daniela Wabbel and daughter Elizabeth.



Firefighter Shaun Maserang and daughter Brynlee.



Princesses playing ring toss.



Tyrannosaurus in the sunset.

Photos by Susan Garry



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150-Year-Old Foundry That Has Always Made Texas Historical Markers Has Gone Out of Business--Historical Marker for Post Oak Island Is in Limbo

By Charlene Hanson Jordan

People have been putting up markers ever since it became important for them to remember something about a place, a person, or an event. Monuments, statues, tombstones, memorials, rock drawings, rune stones, buildings, are among them. It might also be a sign identifying a place, like Andre Jordan's work on the Type Cemetery sign. He carved the letters from a soft wood and sent them to the Southwell Foundry to be cast in iron. Then he mounted them in an attractive frame and it stands at the entrance to the cemetery. See photo at right.

The Official Texas Historical Marker program started in 1962 and approximately 1600 markers have been placed along Texas roadsides and other sites. The marker program is administered by the Texas Historical Commission.

Travis Jordan and I are responsible for the Williams-Buck Cemetery Marker near Liberty Hill and the Type Cemetery Marker. I submitted an application for a Post Oak Island marker and it has been approved, but has not yet been fabricated by a foundry, despite the almost \$2,000 fee paid by Trey Smith almost a year ago.

The reason it hasn't been finished is that the more than 150-year-old foundry went out of business. The Southwell Company in San Antonio had fabricated all 1600-plus markers until a family feud led to a lawsuit and then to the sale of the company.

The Texas Historical Commission is possibly in a bind, because all of the Texas markers have been produced by the Southwell Company using a process that another company may not be able to reproduce on the same terms.

Trey Smith paid about \$2,000 for the marker on February 5, 2019, about a year ago. Trey is a direct descendant of



Type Cemetery sign by Andre Jordan, cast by Southwell Foundry. Yegua Creek Evangelical Free Church at Type. Photos by Susan Garry

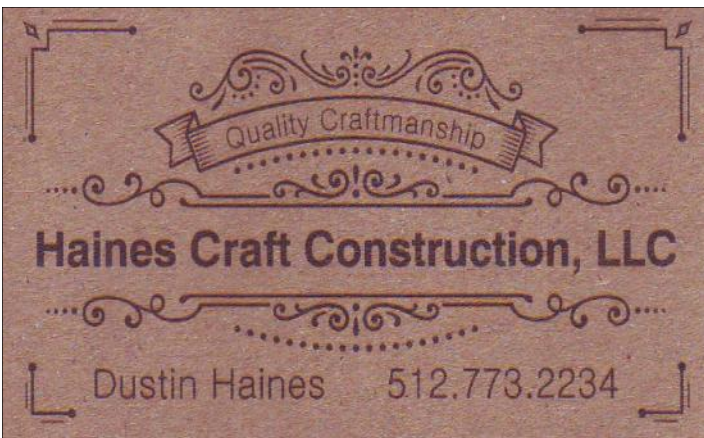
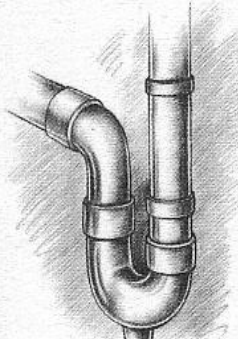


Sam Smith, an early member of the Post Oak Island Masonic Lodge and original resident of what is now Lawhon Springs. Trey is responsible for restoring the Lawhon Springs School building and turning it into a museum (www.lawhonspringmuseum.com), which we covered in the August 2019 *Herald*.

The company started in 1866 when it produced stencils for wool and cotton shipments. George Southwell purchased it in 1914 when it was manufacturing rubber stamps. In 1936, Wilson Southwell helped create the Texas Centennial markers' bronze stars and wreaths with Gutzon Borglum (Mount Rushmore) according to an article "The Marker Maker's Marker" in the Winter 2016 issue of *The Medallion*.

The company was being operated by the brothers, Scott and Billy Southwell. The trouble started when their sister, Deborah, and their father accused them in court of fraud when they allegedly persuaded their parents, under duress, to turn the business over to them. The suit was settled, but the company was sold to a Corpus Christi firm.

The THC still has not found a company to produce the markers. Thus, the Post Oak Island marker, although approved, is in limbo. It will be placed near the Type Cemetery marker because the cemetery as well as the Yegua Creek Church are near the heart of Post Oak Island. The date for the installation of the marker and its dedication will be announced.

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New Sweden Church News

By Marilyn Samuelson

The last month of 2019 was a busy one at New Sweden with many Christmas events and services. They were well attended and inspirational to close out the year.

The Year 2020 seems to be flying by. Wishing all of you a good, healthy, and Blessed 2020. At New Sweden we have had our annual meeting, council members installed, are working on the 2020 schedules, and are continuing to share God's love and His word.

Monthly schedules remain pretty much the same. Game nights continue on the second, third, and fourth Thursdays at 7 p.m. On the second and fourth Thursdays dominos are played, and on the third Thursday, a card game. Keenagers (senior citizens) continue to meet on the fourth Tuesday at 10 a.m. A covered dish meal is served, devotions shared, and games and fellowship enjoyed. Bible Study is the second Tuesday of each month at 10 a.m. The second Saturday of each month at 8 a.m. the men join the men of St Peter's, Elgin, and Bethlehem, Lund, for breakfast at Lucy's Kitchen in Elgin.

The Evangelism Committee meets the third Monday of each month and the Church Council the third Tuesday of each month at 7 p.m. The fourth Sunday of each month, following worship service, we have a covered dish meal. All meetings and events at New Sweden are open; we welcome you to come join us any time. Sunday morning schedule remains the same: Bible Study at 9:15, children's Sunday School at 9:30, worship service at 10:30.

The Lenten season begins with Ash Wednesday, February 26; we will have Lenten worship each Wednesday at 7 p.m.

Also, our annual Heritage Day will be Saturday, April 25. The theme this year is "Quilts and Cars." The Heritage Center will be open with displays, and the traditional Swedish home-cooked meal will be served. Meal tickets will be sold in advance. Watch church newsletters, church bulletins, and local newspapers for more information as the events become closer. On February 23, New Sweden Lutheran Congregation will be 144 years old. No celebration is planned this year.

(Continued from page 20)

- ✓ Please check out the new CWSC website. The address is www.couplandwatersupplycorp.org/. It's a great resource for residents and newcomers alike.
- ✓ In the next *Coupland Herald*, you'll meet the volunteers that make up the Board of Directors for the Coupland Water Supply Corporation. These individuals receive no compensation and they do it in service to our community.

Through thick and thin, the CWSC continues to manage all the aspects of the wastewater system in Coupland. This includes working with sub-contractors, filing reports with the Texas Commission on Environmental Quality, reviewing insurance policies and equipment costs, and responding to inquiries from the community. If you would like to get involved, please join us at one of our upcoming meetings on February 3 (this meeting may have already occurred by the time you receive the *Herald*), May 4, and August 3 at 6:30 p.m. at the Coupland Fire Department.

Third Annual CCO Golf Tournament Scheduled for Saturday, May 16

The second annual CCO Golf Tournament was May 18, 2019, at Taylor's Mustang Creek Golf Club, and was a successful fundraiser with more teams than the first tournament. Everyone received a door prize and enjoyed a sandwich lunch with homemade cookies. Special thanks to CCO board member Jonathan Jones who organized the tournament.

Funds raised by the tournament go to maintain the historic Coupland Depot and Caboose. **The third annual CCO Golf Tournament will be Saturday, May 16.**

Photographer Klanika Wins Awards

Congratulations to Coupland photographer Jennifer Klanika who has won two awards for her image, "Boys Will Be Boys," which won Honorable Mentions in the Professional Divisions in both the "Children's" and "Cell Phone" categories in the 14th Julia Margaret Cameron Awards.

Jennifer says, "This is the first time I have competed in this competition. My image will be on display during March 2020 in the FotoNostrum Gallery in Barcelona, Spain." The image features her son Thomas, their late dog Nanook, and a yellow chicken that was one of Thomas's favorites.

New Sweden Evan. Lutheran Church

12809 New Sweden Church Road
9:15 a.m. Adult Bible Class
9:30 a.m. Sunday School, Youth
10:30 a.m. Worship Service
Hans Lillejord, Pastor
Office 281-0056 Cell 947-9044
Ofc. Hours 9 - Noon Tues. & Thurs.



www.newswedenelca.org

Williamson County ESD #10

By Karen Van Buren

The Emergency Services District has retired all of the debt related to vehicles. They have two open grants in place with the Texas Forest Service for both a large and a small engine. As they age, there are more repairs and maintenance necessary to keep the existing vehicles operational.

There is a new House Bill that requires every school in Texas to have Stop the Bleed kits on hand and provide training for the upper grades. The Thrall Volunteer Fire Department has already provided the kits to each class and each bus in their ISD. The ESD will be purchasing required chest seals which were not included in the original kits. The ESD has ordered ten Stop the Bleed kits for the Coupland ISD.

Both the Thrall Volunteer Fire Department and Coupland Volunteer Fire Department have hosted fire prevention training at their respective schools. Coupland borrowed a "smoke house" in September which is a small house on a trailer that the students pass through to experience a smoke-filled house.

The two fire departments have been training on wild land firefighting, communications protocol, hose deployment, catching hydrants, and pump operations. The Williamson County Fire Chiefs Association will be conducting County-wide training in the future. Three volunteers have passed the necessary training and testing to become certified fire fighters. There has been an increase in medical calls over the past several months and Thrall has personnel training for EMS credentials.

The Coupland station needs repairs to the bay doors and the air conditioning unit in the dormitory area.

The Thrall volunteers have purchased some new bunker gear. It costs about \$800 each for new bunker gear for fire fighters. The two fire departments also purchased two new mandated radios for each of the fire chiefs. The radios will be required by the State and additional radios are in line to be purchased before the requirement deadline.

Sons of Hermann Life Coupland hosted a bake sale for the Coupland Volunteer Fire Department which generated much-needed funds. The department and the ESD appreciate their continued support.

Nancy's Keys, Locks & More-- Familiar White Van Has a New Look

By Susan Garry



Nancy and her new sign that shows that help is on the way!
Photo by Susan Garry

If you are locked out of your car, the welcome sight of Nancy Barron in her white locksmith van has just gotten more distinctive with a new large sign painted on her van. She is the owner of Nancy's Keys, Locks & More, and is able to take care of most key and lock needs.

Nancy has served the Coupland, Elgin, and Taylor area since 2001, and she is available at any time for emergency service. Also, she can totally re-key your home or business, with new locks on all your doors. She offers a selection of new locks and knobs or she can install ones that the customers provide. She also installs deadbolts.

She can fix sticky locks, open most safes, and duplicate most keys. She recently opened a vintage wooden file drawer for me—very much appreciated! Also, she makes keys for cars and motorcycles.

Nancy is licensed by the state of Texas and is a member of the Texas Locksmith Association. Her numbers are 512-470-KEYS (5397) and 512-281-KEYS (5397). Call Nancy's Keys, Locks & More for fast and friendly home-town service.

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“Art by Story” Lecture Series
By Coupland Artist Letitia Eldredge

Arts Convergence Season 2020 opens with a new studio gallery lecture series created and presented by Coupland artist, Letitia Eldredge. Her "Art by Story" program is composed of excerpts from Arts Convergence archives, **Letitia Eldredge in Ink**, a portfolio of topical art essays produced alongside her visual arts expressions. It is through drawings, paintings, performance, and ceramic arts that Letitia has imagined a unique mythic fantasy, "The Changing Stories Child." This unending story depicts a global culture of characters and their collective subconsciousness related through spoken word, prose, poetry, and theatrical sculptural antics.

Each program will be followed by a period of discussion addressing how individuals might shift their own experiences into greater well-being through creativity, and to become more engaged in their stories, old and new. Through an enriching practice of creative disciplines, for example, the process of art making can serve to express ideas by Self-awareness and where the Seer becomes the Seen.

Universal mythology, fairy tales, identity, are all part of this, as "Art by Story" tells us. While each of us is making pictures in our experiences each day, we may not recognize that this distinction constructs our realities. Is that because We are not 'artists'? Not at all. It is simply that an artist is one most often openly viewed blazing his trails in concrete art works which also serve as his statement of personal communications. The artist's medium may be what she chooses whether that be painting, music, dance, a specialized career, poetry, community service, sculpture, home-making . . . in life it is the Soul's journey.

Let it be said here as common knowledge that all people have a 'unique' story, and that we are also living in them together as we are creating ourselves.

"Art by Story" Session 1 begins Sunday, February 2, 2020, scheduled to continue in course for seven sequel events, with an eighth "Mystery Meeting" for a guest speaker, to be announced. That final wrap up will be on March 29. The meetings will be held at AC Little Museum and Gallery, located at Arts Convergence headquarters, 207 Herrin Street, Coupland, 78615. Seating is limited to 12 by reservation. To reserve your



Letitia Eldredge in Little Museum and Gallery. Photo by Susan Garry

place, please contact Letitia Eldredge at artsconv@gmail.com or Judith Estrada Garcia, AC's "Art by Story" series producer/program manager at estradagarciagallery@gmail.com or call 210-727-9975.

A \$10 donation is suggested. All proceeds will go to the AC educational foundation fund for Arts Convergence, Inc., 501 (c)(3) non-profit, development and community outreach.

Light refreshments will be served. Potlucks are welcome.

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Coupland School News--By Kathy Hill

- Coupland ISD has shown excellence and improvement in the Texas Accountability Rating System. According to the Accountability reports, the school “Met Standard” in the 2018-19 school year again with an overall score of 90/A, which is an improvement from last year’s 86/B. Areas recognized for Recognition include “Top 25% Student Progress,” “Top 25% Closing the Gaps,” “Postsecondary Readiness,” and “Academic Achievement in Mathematics.”
- After getting approval from the bond election, Superintendent Tammy Brinkman and the School Board are moving forward with the proposed **bond projects**. Consideration for the Construction Manager at Risk firm is taking place this month. This year’s School Board Goals include being responsive to the needs of the community to ensure a healthy, safe, and secure environment for all students, staff, and visitors, and building a strategic plan and phased approach for expansion in the school facilities that prepares them to manage district growth. They will soon be ready to implement Phase 1 of the Facilities Plan. Regular school board meetings are 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.
- In 2020, the **Coupland School Board election** will be held on November 3 at St. Peter’s Church. The following trustees’ terms of office expire in 2020: Sheri Gipson, Rachel Roepke, and David Young. The first day to file for a place on the ballot is July 18. The last day to file is August 17 at 5 p.m. If you are interested in serving as a trustee, you must meet the requirements found on the Coupland ISD website or TASB.
- **U.I.L. Academics.** Coupland Middle School placed 2nd overall in the District U.I.L. Academic Meets held in Holland on December 4 and Granger December 11. All of our students in middle school and elementary did an amazing job representing our school! For a list of placings, contact Superintendent Brinkman.
- **U.I.L. One-Act-Play.** Director Annie Violette and her budding stars performed the school’s OAP, *She Kills Monsters*, at the Mary Alice Marshall Performing Arts Center at Temple Community College in Temple on December 17. The Crew (Ben Kanten and Katelyn Chambers) landed 1st place! Other honors were All-Star Actors Gabriella Sandoval, Jayden Johnson, and Payton Grant and Honorable Mention Actors Jackson Satterfield and Jourden Violette. Director Violette said, “I’m so proud of this cast and crew. They took a very challenging script with deeply-rooted emotions,



One-Act Play Cast and Crew. Photo by Crystal Ward

wild characters, and complicated technical requirements and made it their own. We are blessed to have such talented kids in Coupland.” The home performance of the show was January 17 in Taylor at the Main Street Event Center.

- **Cowboy and Cowgirl Athletes.** After flag football and volleyball season, our basketball teams are on the move! Track will be next in the spring. Coach Kyle Rinderknecht and Coach Stayci Burris are awesome!
- **Student Council News:** In October the Council sponsored a middle school dance and Red Ribbon Week. In November the Council sponsored a Food Drive. Classes donated almost 500 pounds of non-perishable items. The Kindergarten class collected the most and won an ice cream party. In December, the Council sold Candy Cane Grams. Council President is Beau Bollinger, Vice-President Callie Molineux, Secretary Rose Simons, and Treasurer Abigail Bristoll. Representatives from 8th grade are Malachi Haisler and Barret Suarez, 7th grade Kamryn Hill and Laramie Galloway, and 6th grade Adriana Sandoval and Ava Schnutenhaus. Kathy Hill is the sponsor.
- **National Junior Honor Society News:** Coupland’s NJHS collected shoe boxes filled with gifts for Operation Christmas Child. NJHS serves the school in many ways throughout the year. This year’s President is Barret Suarez and their sponsor is Paul Brinkman.
- Coach Rinderknecht is coordinating **Jump Rope for Heart** for the American Heart Assn. from January 14 through January 31. Jump Rope For Heart is a fundraising program that is one of THE premier events for elementary and middle schools, with thousands of schools and millions of kids participating across the U.S. Jump Rope for Heart is a fundraising and physical activity program based on skipping. It teaches children how to keep fit and healthy while having fun and raising funds for heart research and education.



Left, Beau Bollinger and award from the Livestock Show. Photo Courtesy of Bollinger Family



Right, Coupland School Supt. Tammy Brinkman and her husband/Technology Director Paul Brinkman and their grandson Zander at the PTA's Breakfast with Santa. Photo by Crystal Ward



Hunter Bollinger and ribbons from the Livestock Show. Photo Courtesy of Bollinger Family



Bella Slauson and ribbons from the Livestock Show. Photo Courtesy of Slauson Family



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**Deadline for the next issue,
May 2020, is April 10.**



By Wells Mason, President

Greetings Coupland! Here's news from the Coupland Water Supply Corporation (or CWSC). The CWSC, as you know, is the town's wastewater management system. The CWSC works closely with Manville Water to make sure that your water and wastewater needs are met in Coupland, Texas.

- ✓ There are three "lift stations" in Coupland that transfer wastewater to the treatment plant on 1466. In March of 2019, after nearly 20 years, because of equipment failures that were costing us thousands of dollars, we upgraded the equipment at that lift station. Moving forward, we're planning to upgrade the equipment at the other two lift stations in a phased approach. Again, please do not flush inappropriate materials down your toilets, including brown paper towels, blue cleaning towels, underwear, feminine products, and cigarette butts. This kind of irresponsible behavior costs all of us.
- ✓ Please check out the new logo for CWSC (see above). The logo was designed for CWSC at no charge by one of our residents. Thank you, Jessica Mason!

(Continued on page 15)