



COUPLAND HERALD

INSIDE THIS ISSUE:

<i>St. Peter's Church</i>	4
<i>Coupland School News</i>	5
<i>New Sweden Church</i>	6
<i>Caboose and Pavers</i>	8,9
<i>CVFD, ESD#10</i>	10
<i>School Musical Theatre</i>	12
<i>Yegua/Type Cemetery</i>	14
<i>CCO Annual Meeting</i>	15
<i>Feb. Meeting, Polocrosse</i>	16

Board of Directors

- Susan Schmidt, President
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- Jonathan Jones, Building and Grounds
- Barbara Piper, Dept/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 Council meetings. Feedback is always welcomed.

The following is a list of the current Council members along with their term expiration date. The Council members all serve two-year terms:

- Mayor: Jack Piper, Nov. 2019
- Alderwoman, at large: Karen Marosko, Nov. 2019
- Alderwoman, at large: Susan Garry, Nov. 2019
- Alderwoman, at large: Barbara Piper, Nov. 2020
- Alderwoman, at large: Sarah Torluemke, Nov. 2020
- Alderman, at large: John Roulston-Bates, Nov. 2020
- Laverne Rohlack: City Secretary

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

1. The Council approved the passage of a Zoning Ordinance for the City. Briefly, it specifies definitions, zoning districts, zoning regulations, and standards for the development and use of land within the City of Coupland in promoting the health, safety and general welfare of the City. The ordinance is posted on the City web site.

(Continued on page 3)

CCO Golf Tournament, Saturday, 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 to maintain the historic Depot and to continue work on the caboose.

This year's Tourney is scheduled for May 18, again at Mustang Creek Golf Club, with registration from 7 to 7:30 a.m. Play starts at 8 a.m. The format is 18 holes/4-person scramble, includes cart and green fee, shotgun/select shot. Prizes are \$500 for first, \$300 for second, and third place receives golf for four with cart. The longest drive in fairway #7 wins one dozen balls; closest to pin #4 receives a \$100 gift certificate from Solid Tattoo. And there are door prizes.

Entry fee is a \$300 donation per team. For more information, call Judy Downing, 512-293-0501, Becky Sutton, 512-269-8571, or Jonathan Jones 512-792-6082.

If you need to reach Mayor Jack Piper, the Coupland City phone is 512-557-8159 and the City email is mayor@cityofcouplandtx.us.

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

Spring is here! Bluebonnets and Indian Paint Brush are blanketing the fields and roadsides all over Texas. Ah, the smell is wonderful. There's nothing like the smell of spring in Texas.

CCO's Second Annual Golf Tournament takes place on May 18. Dust off your golf clubs, form a team, pay your entry fee, and start golfing for prize money. Lots of door prizes await as well. If you notice more activity around the Depot and Caboose, restoration efforts on the Caboose continue. Also, the personalized brick pavers are being installed. If you would like to see your name in the "walk of fame" at the Depot, contact Judy Downing, 512-293-0501 to purchase a personalized brick.

Looking back over the years, I can't believe it's been two years since we started our own Little Free Library. It's well used. Continue to take a book and leave a book. Hopefully by the summer, we will get more children's books so the younger members of the community can utilize the Little Free Library as well.

Eighteen years ago, CCO sent out a Coupland Community Survey. Only 25 recipients responded which was a 4% response rate. It's not surprising that growth was listed as the most important issue facing our community. Now, I think it's even more important as more farm land is being sold and turned into different types of housing developments. As much as I don't like it, growth is coming our way.

Another issue from eighteen years ago was the fact that property values continue to rise. That's another current issue of today, especially if you just received your notice of appraised value from the county.

Fourteen years ago, the Trans-Texas Corridor was the big news. Luckily that never came to fruition. We are still facing road expansion issues that threaten to destroy long time family farms. We also have pipe lines crossing our area. If you drive on FM 1660, you can see the work being done for utilities, etc. It's really rather sad because so many trees have been cut down. Luckily, some of the really big pecan trees have been spared (for now).

Another troubling current issue is vandalism. It seems like every time the City of Coupland installs a new road sign on CR 458, it's stolen. I've noticed some stop signs around town either turned the wrong way or simply hanging by the bottom bracket. The most disturbing of all was the deliberate fire on the old iron bridge off Hardi Road. When I saw the blackened bridge, I was heartsick. Even though it was no longer used, it was still a part of this community. I used to drive across it while carpooling to Taylor High School.

Continue to enjoy this beautiful spring. Watch out for snakes! Attend the Second Annual Golf Tournament on May 18. See you there!

Susan Schmidt

Coupland Clean-Up Day On April 27

It may have already occurred by the time you read this, but Coupland Clean-Up Day will be Saturday, April 27, from 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. There will be two dumpsters along the tracks in downtown Coupland. If you did not hear about Clean-Up Day in time to participate, you can start getting the community news in a timely manner by getting on Jennifer Dollins' community-wide email list: jennifer@couplandtx.org.

Acceptable items: non-hazardous household trash and reasonable amounts of remodeling debris, lumber, and glass. If possible, please break down larger items, such as furniture. **Unacceptable items:** hazardous waste, such as industrial and agricultural chemicals, pesticides and other poisons, petroleum products, vehicle batteries, tires, flammable substances, and paint (empty paint cans with lids off are OK).

Appliances and air conditioners must have had the Freon recaptured; refrigerators must be free of coolant and must have the door off.

BPCCA March 11 Meeting-- Solar Farm Update--By Susan Garry

On March 11, the Blackland Prairie Concerned Citizens Association meeting featured information about the solar farm that is proposed for Manda/Carlson just to the west of Coupland. Coupland area resident Jack Atterstrom moderated the meeting. He pointed out that the original ground breaking had occurred 10 years ago with no activity since, because nobody would purchase the power. Now, Recurrent Energy, a wholly owned subsidiary of Canadian Solar, has a long-term contract with Austin Energy to purchase the electricity. Officials from Recurrent provided information about the project.

Recurrent expects to start construction in the fourth quarter of this year, and construction will take about one year, with 400 full-time employees on site during the peak of construction. Recurrent owns about 1,000 acres, called Phase 1, and they are planning to acquire more land toward the east of the current site, Phase 2. Total acreage for both phases will be 1,800 acres. The plant will produce 144 megawatts, enough to

(Continued on page 14)

April 29 CCO Meeting will be held in the fellowship hall of St. Peter's Church of Coupland. Come at 6:30 p.m. for refreshments. Program, topic to be announced, will begin at 7 p.m.

New Taylor Gallery with a Coupland Connection

Judith Estrada Garcia, good friend of Coupland artist Letitia Eldredge, has opened her own gallery with fine art instruction in downtown Taylor. The Estrada Garcia Gallery is at 120 W. Second Street, Ste. D, next to the 120ART Gallery run by the Taylor Artists Guild, TAG120ART Guild. Judith announces, "Great news! I have partnered with Cordavon Art School to have fine art classes in all mediums." You can email Judith at estradagarciagallery@gmail.com.

(Continued from page 1)

2. The Council approved a final plat request for the Barndo Single Lot Subdivision located at 550 CR 458.

The City Council plans to continue discussion concerning the need for a Nuisance Ordinance for the City. Please see the last Coupland *Herald* for a more complete definition of a Nuisance Ordinance.

It's almost time to begin the task of mowing right-of-way land within the City. Most of the streets in the City have a 40' right-of-way. Further explained, it means 40' from the center of the street. It is essential that the City have access to all of the property it is required to mow. In driving the streets of Coupland, it became very obvious that many people are parking vehicles, boats, trailers, etc. on city property. Please move these obstacles so that we can attempt to properly and efficiently mow. The City is asking people to move obstacles rather than have them moved by a wrecker (at the owner's expense).

Construction is expected to begin on the Historic Bridge on CR 456 in June and will take approximately 3 months.

Clean-up Day . . . the *Herald* may have reached you after the clean-up day on Saturday, April 27. We had two 30 yard dumpsters located just west of the railroad tracks. Several notices were posted around the City advertising this event in hopes of encouraging residents to participate in the city-wide clean-up. I will let everyone know the results in the next *Herald*.

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 gallery is hosting an art exhibit, "Beyond the Wallz," running now until Saturday, May 11. The show features hip hop and street art.

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St. Peter's Church News

By Pastor Martin Garrison

We had a big rain a few weeks ago. Emily and I heard some rustling and leaves blowing in the night. We came out in the morning and found one of our trees had fallen mostly over. Evidently those hackberry trees aren't known to live a long time, and as it gets older it gets more susceptible to various problems, like root rot. The roots got weak, the ground got wet, the wind blew hard and the tree ended up lying across the back yard.

My friend Danny and my son helped me chop it up. I've got a nice little stack of firewood by the garage. Zach and Justin Krieg helped me, by carrying the small limbs to their burn pile. As someone whose work mostly involves sitting at a computer or talking over coffee, I enjoyed playing with a chainsaw. I also enjoyed watching my son work.

There's a little less shade over the back porch. The stump is still pretty big and I need to keep cutting on it. I like seeing it there though. It seems like a good reminder: trees fall down,

trends shift, technology advances, friends move, and loved ones die. Things change. Sometimes change is exciting. Sometimes change is melancholy. Always change carries with it stress.

Around-about the year 150 C.E. (A.D.) a guy named Justin wrote a memo to the emperor of Rome. He was trying to make the argument that the emperor should quit killing Christians. We aren't so bad, he tried to say. Give us a chance. Justin would later be known as Justin the Martyr. The emperor didn't find his case compelling.

In Justin's writing he laid out what the Christians of 150 C.E. did and believed. In one section he says they gather together from all over town on one day: Sunday. He says, when they gather, they greet each other by passing the peace of Christ. They say prayers and sing psalms. Then someone reads the "writings of the apostles," what we now call the gospels. Then one person talks about those readings and encourages the gathered to live into their teachings; we call it a sermon. Then they take up an offering. Then they share the Lord's Supper and they give thanks. If Justin were to walk into St. Peter's (or most any church) on a Sunday morning, he'd be a little confused by the English language and the PowerPoint projection, but he'd recognize much of what we do on Sunday morning.

Each generation must face and accept that change is constant. At the same time, we hope to identify and cling to our core values. We hope to remember in the midst of an ever shifting world, that a loving God calls us to love God and to love each other. Since at least 150 C.E. one way we remind each other is by passing the peace, saying prayers, singing hymns, reading the gospels, listening to a sermon, sharing the Lord's Supper, and giving thanks.

The St. Peter's Summer Children's program will be held June 24 through the 28. Kids from 1st grade to 8th grade are welcome from 9 a.m. to noon. We play games, make crafts, learn a Bible story and eat lunch.

St. Peter's Luncheon Was March 19--
Next Luncheon Will Be May 21

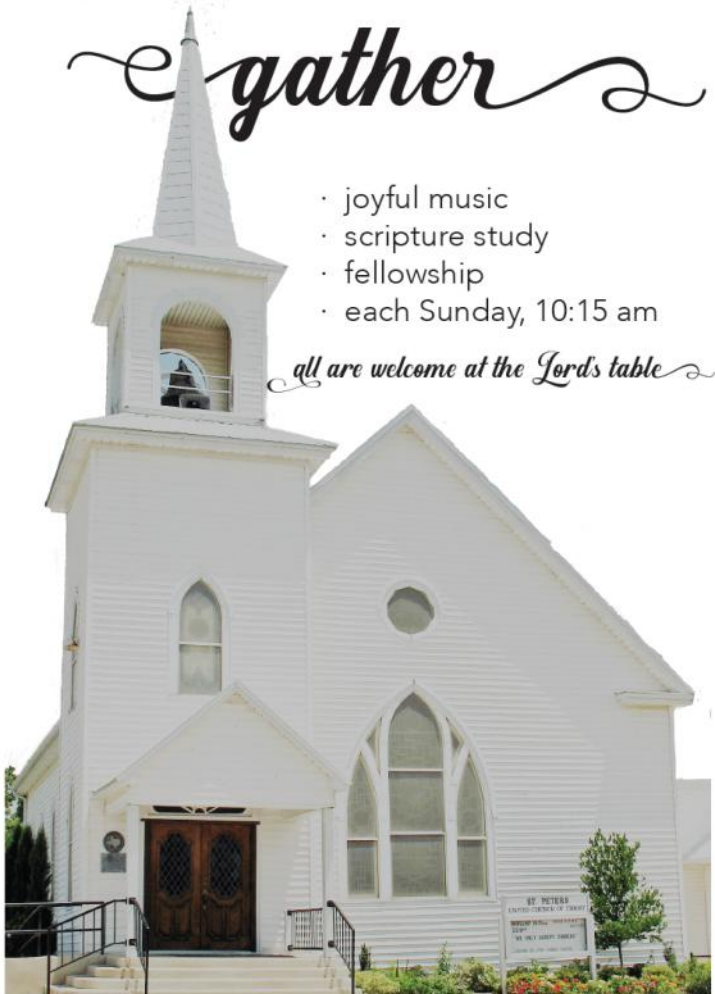
Forty-five Senior Citizens including hostesses and helpers attended our Spring Luncheon on March 19. Hostesses were Sandra and Don Wernli, Janet Doss, Becky Sutton, Karen Rhoades, Bonnie Sladek, and Lois Schmidt. Helpers were Wanda Walther, JoAnn Ging, Cindy Alexander, and Arthur Henze.

We thank Charlotte Albert for decorations and Joyce Henze for calling Bingo. There were three tables of dominoes and lots of Seniors playing Bingo!

Our next Luncheon will be May 21 at 11:30 a.m. Bring a friend to enjoy the day with you. See you there!

Lois Schmidt and Sandra Wernli, Co-Chairmen

Dawn Fischer, Graphic Design teacher at Taylor High School, has created the beautiful new ad (left) for St. Peter's Church.



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St. Peter's Church of Coupland

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Martin Garrison, Pastor

Coupland School News--By Kathy Hill

On April 9, The Coupland ISD School Board recognized the 2019 Track Boys' Team District Champions. They competed in Gause, Texas, on March 26. The teams competing were Coupland, Gause, Westphalia, and Buckholts. Below are the team results:

Boys

- 1st Place - Coupland (164 points)
- 2nd Place - Gause (158 points)
- 3rd Place - Buckholts (89 points)
- 4th Place - Westphalia (67 points)

Girls

- 1st Place - Westphalia (168 points)
- 2nd Place - Gause (119 points)
- 3rd Place - Coupland (76 points)
- 4th Place - Buckholts (58 points)

Individual results:

Boys

- Bradley Smith 6th 400m
- Jaxon Larson 3rd Triple Jump, 1st 1600m, 1st 800m
- Braxton Craven 1st Triple Jump, 2nd 1600m, 1st Long Jump, 4th 100m
- Miguel Nino 4th Triple Jump
- Ethan Muniz 1st Shot Put, 1st 110m Hurdles, 6th Discus, 3rd 200m
- Dillon Robson 2nd 110m Hurdles
- Malachi Haisler 5th 110m Hurdles, 4th 300m Hurdles
- Barret Suarez 1st 300m Hurdles, 2nd 800m
- Payton Grant 5th Discus
- 4x100 4th Braxton Craven, Malachi Haisler, Dillon Robson, Payton Grant
- 4x200 2nd Barret Suarez, Ethan Muniz., Jaxon Larson, Kaden Haisler
- 4x400 2nd Bradley Smith, Kaden Haisler, Miguel Nino, Dillon Robson

Girls

- Julie Pos 6th 100m, 300m Hurdles, 3rd 100m Hurdles
- Taylor Clarke 4th Shot Put
- Francesca Cedillo 4th Triple Jump, 3rd 400m
- Kassidy Viktora 1st Triple Jump, 2nd 400m
- Katelyn Chambers 5th 200m, 5th 400m
- Daniela Osario-Perez 5th 100m Hurdles, 6th 800m
- 4x100 3rd Daniela Osario-Perez, Francesca Cedillo, Kassidy Viktora, Katelyn Chambers
- Rose Simons 4th Discus



Coupland Boys' Track Team 2019 District Champions!

Back, Coach Kyle Rinderknecht, Jaxon Larson, Braxton Craven, Bradley Smith.

Front, Dillon Robson, Miguel Nino, Barret Suarez

Photo courtesy of Coupland School

Coupland's Student Council has been busy this year with many events provided for the school. In February, the Council held its annual Candy Gram Sale followed by a middle school dance. In April, the Council ran the annual Egg Decorating Contest and gave out prizes to the 9 winners from K-8th grades! In May, the Council will host the last dance of the year where the 5th graders will be invited along with 6th-8th grades. On the last day of school, the Council will emcee Coupland School's Variety Show. What a great job these young people are doing in our school and community!

CISD School Board. 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. This month they have been busy with ordering curriculum, approving contracts, and making plans for building expansion and renovation.

More School News on pages 12-13.

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New Sweden Evangelical Lutheran Church

By Marilyn Samuelson

Easter has come and gone and as fast as time is going, it will soon be 2020. Lenten services were well attended, and we always enjoyed good meals prior to the services. Thanks so much to all who prepared and served the meals. It is much appreciated.

A movie was shown on Good Friday, and on Easter Day there was the Sunrise Service held at the cemetery at 7:30 followed by breakfast at the Parish Hall. The children enjoyed the Easter egg hunt. As always, the Easter morning worship was very inspirational.

The women met at 11 a.m. for Seeds of Friendship on Saturday, April 13, and enjoyed good food and fellowship. Seeds of Friendship meets on the third Saturday of even months at 11 a.m.

On Saturday, April 27, the New Sweden Heritage Center held their sixth annual Heritage day celebration. The theme of the celebration was "Music on the Prairie." The event began at 3 p.m. when doors opened to the



Heritage Center. People enjoyed viewing pictures and displays and more. Gifts and baked goods were available for purchase. There was also a May Pole dance with the children. At 5 p.m. a traditional Swedish home cooked meal was served consisting of meat balls, mashed potatoes, gravy, green beans, Swedish Rye bread, rice pudding, and tea and coffee. The rice pudding is from a special recipe that the early Swedish settlers used; it probably came with them from Sweden.

At 6 p.m., a program was held in the sanctuary with special music, instrumental and vocal, and a power point presentation about music. A ticket was drawn for a door price. We look forward to the celebration in 2020.

Citizens National Bank Holds Free Shred Event-- Helping You with Identity Protection

Citizens National Bank will be hosting a free shred week. Bring paper items you would like to shred. We will have your old and unneeded documents professionally shredded to help protect your confidential information.

From Wednesday, May 8 to May 15, 9 a.m. – 3 p.m., come by any of our branches! The shred event is open to everyone in the community with the suggested donation of a children's book to benefit bookspring. You do not need to be a customer to participate in our shred week.

Bring documents such as financial statements, receipts, or old bills for free, confidential shredding and recycling (limit 3 boxes, no binder clips, no binders--stapled paper or catalogs must be under 1" thick.) What a great way to protect yourself and help the environment!

Game night is enjoyed on three Thursday nights each month. On the second and fourth Thursdays dominoes are played, and on the third Thursday cards are played. All are welcome to come and play on any or all of the Thursday nights.

The Swedish Association of Elgin and Vicinity committee is planning their annual midsummer celebration. It will be held on Thursday, June 20, at the Elgin SPJST Hall.

New Sweden's annual "God and Country" event will be held on Sunday, June 23, at 5 p.m. Hot dogs, hamburgers, and drinks will be available to purchase. The silent auction will also begin at 5 p.m. The patriotic sing-a-long and program begin in the sanctuary at 7 p.m. Ice cream will be served following the program. This is always an enjoyable evening. Watch your local newspapers for details.

This year Vacation Bible School will be held beginning Sunday, July 14, through Thursday, July 18. The theme for this year is "ROAR--African Adventure." For more information call the New Sweden Church office 512-281-0056 as the time gets nearer.

Have a great, safe summer.

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Paver Project and Caboose Restoration -- Then . . .

Jordan Newman, Original Paver Volunteer, Graduates from A&M

Thanks to Rebecca Muery for the information about Jordan

Jordan Newman, son of Rebecca Muery and grandson of Talley and Judy Muery of Coupland will graduate May 9 from Texas A&M University. Jordan will be using his Bachelor of Business Administration in Accounting degree at the Exxon Headquarters in The Woodlands, Texas. He completed his degree in three years and will begin his career mid-May. His family is very proud of him and wishes him the best of luck with all his future endeavors.

Jordan and his family were involved in the original installation of the sidewalk pavers in front of the Depot in 2010. As part of his Eagle Scout work, Hunter Matysek of Boy

Scout Troop 167 of Taylor took on the sidewalk project, preparing and reinstalling the old pavers, along with new personalized ones. Hunter and his fellow scouts and their families worked on this project, including Rebecca Muery and her three sons. Her oldest son Jared, was then a junior at A&M; he became an Eagle Scout with Troop 167. Jake, 15, and Jordan, 12, were troop members, and now Jordan is graduating from college.

The paver project has continued as a long-term fundraiser for the Depot and caboose. You can order personalized pavers for a donation of \$35 each. Call Judy Downing, 512-293-0501.



Back in 2010, members of Scout Troop 167 installed the Depot sidewalk with the new personalized pavers. Right, preparation for the new sidewalk to the caboose with additional personalized pavers..



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And Now Caboose Restoration Update!

By Barbara Piper, Caboose Coordinator

Work at the caboose is beginning again! We are excited to report that the Paver Walkway is being extended so that it will now run from the Depot to the stairway of the Caboose. Inclement weather has played a part in the completion of the project, but we are expecting personalized pavers will soon be part of the extended walkway. It's not too late to order a personalized paver! Contact Judy Downing, 512-293-0501, or any board member for information on how to get your personalized paver. Remember, it's a great way to be part of Coupland's continuing history on the grounds of this historic Depot and Caboose.

Exterior windows are being installed on the Caboose. It was simply amazing to see how much light was experienced when all of the windows in the cupola were installed. With

windows on both the east and west sides of the old relic, we fully expect one to be able to fully appreciate the total interior of the structure. Progress!!! We are always appreciative and remember the participation by the entire community in our fund-raising activities which enables this work to be done. Stay tuned as renovations will be continuing.

Thank you to Williamson County for their grant, which has helped us to reach this point in the restoration of the caboose. We appreciate the work of former Commissioner Larry Madsen and his assistant Julia Cooper in helping us get this grant. We also appreciate the efforts of Commissioner Boles and his assistant Michael Cooper in following through and helping us receive the final \$5,000 installment of the grant.



Left, Rosie Haines and Dustin Haines of Haines Craft Construction paint around the new windows. Above, Dustin fits wood trim around the inside of the windows, while Rosie paints outside. Photos by Susan Garry

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Coupland Volunteer Fire Department--Chili Supper, Fire Academy

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

Thank You All – The 2019 Chili Supper was One of the Best Ever!

We wanted to thank everyone for coming out to support us at the 2019 Chili Supper; we had one of our best years ever.

We have to make the financial fruits of our fundraising last an entire year, but we have already allocated some of the Chili Supper money to purchase a couple of new firefighting hand tools for our command vehicle, which often arrives on emergency scenes before an engine or similarly equipped vehicle. We purchased a multi-tool which combines a fire axe, striking tool and hydrant wrench, as well as a vehicle lock out kit. Both of these tools will help us provide a more capable service from the moment our first vehicle arrives on scene.

We're also sending several firefighters to the annual Summer Fire School in College Station. Each summer TEEEX provides top quality training for volunteer firefighters across the state, with thousands of students attending for a week of intensive training. Our firefighters will be attending courses that include hands on firefighting and classroom instruction. Though the cost of tuition is covered by a grant from the Texas Forestry Service, we have to cover the cost of lodging and meals, and the money raised at the chili supper helps us pay for the Super 8!

East Side Fire Academy

The East Side Fire Academy welcomed 15 cadets at the beginning of April. Organized by the Taylor Volunteer Fire Department and their Chief Billy Hughes, this program was created in 2015 to train volunteer firefighters in our area, providing them with the knowledge and skills they need carry out their duties safely and effectively and become a state certified firefighter. We're delighted that Coupland not only has three students in this year's class but also contributes three state qualified fire instructors to the class. It is a real privilege to be able to teach the next wave of volunteer firefighters who give up their time to serve the community.

(Continued on page 11)



Fire Chief Jared Cummings, Assistant Fire Chief Matt Selby, and Firefighter Shaun Maserang

Photo by Susan Garry



Coupland Volunteer Firefighters at the Chili Supper.

Photo by Taylor Maserang



Robert Bland drove his beautiful 1929 Model A Ford to the Chili Supper.

Photo by Susan Garry

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(Continued from page 10)

Sign of the Times

We'd like to thank Hermann Sons Life of Coupland for donating our snazzy new illuminated sign at the fire station; it is great way to communicate upcoming events and fire safety information to the community. We'd also like to thank one of our newer members Randy Remmert and his electrician son Devin Remmert who did all the work to run wiring out to the sign and to lights for our flag pole.

40 Years of the Coupland Volunteer Fire Dept

In this our 40th year we're still looking to hear from anyone who was in the department or who had a relative in the department in the early years. Contact us by email at 1979@couplandfire.org or by phone at 512-856-0237.

ESD #10--By Karen Van Buren

The Williamson County Emergency Services District #10 was formed to assist the Coupland Volunteer Fire Department. It has become increasingly prohibitive for volunteer fire departments to maintain their expensive vehicles and equipment through fund raising alone. The original station across CR 1466 from the new station often flooded in heavy rains. The ESD levied a 10-cent tax on each \$100 of property tax valuation to financially support the volunteer fire department. The tax rate has not changed since the ESD was formed in 2005. The Thrall Volunteer Fire Department was annexed into the ESD in 2017 which increased the annual operating budget.

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 jcummings@couplandfire.org for more information.

The Thrall Volunteer Fire Department is currently researching the cost of new and replacement equipment for the \$20,000 Texas Forest Service grant they received this year.

The Coupland Volunteer Fire Department is getting fittings for their new and replacement bunker gear for the \$9,801 grant they received recently.

The ESD Board of Commissioners has been working with both Coupland and Thrall fire chiefs to prioritize budget

(Continued on page 19)



Above, historic photo of CVFD fighting a house fire, courtesy of CVFD.



Right, Thanks to Hermann Sons Life Coupland for the beautiful new sign in front of the Fire Station.



Left, Theresa Randig serves Bob Gebhardt at the Chili Supper.



Lower left, Theresa shows the T-shirt for the new Volunteer Auxiliary Unit, as described by Karen Van Buren in her article above. Behind Theresa and right is Megan Cargill, wife of Firefighter Justin Cargill.

Photos by Susan Garry



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Coupland Theatre's *The Addams Family* Pulls Us in a New Direction

By Kathy Hill

"Death is just around the corner (Get it? The "coroner"?), so we need to "live before we die" was one of the themes in the amazing musical, *The Addams Family*, directed by Annie Wallin and performed by Coupland School's Theatre Arts class on Friday, April 12, at Taylor's Main Street Auditorium. This musical, written by Andrew Lippa and produced by young@part, was enjoyed by well over 200 people who joined together "to celebrate what it means to be an Addams." Rebecca Vernier, the Music Director, was joined by former Coupland student Victoria Wallin, who choreographed the musical, and Jessica Larson and Elka Durrwachter, who did the costumes and makeup.

The Addams Family is a musical comedy based on the *Addams Family* characters which depict a ghoulish American family with an affinity for all things macabre.

The musical opened with the "Overture," followed by "When You're an Addams" by the entire company, who also sang "One Normal Night," "Full Disclosure," "Crazier Than You," and the "Finale."

Gomez, played by Jaxon Larson, sang "Gomez's What If" and "Live Before We Die" along with his wife **Morticia**, played by Brenna Floyd. Miss Floyd also sang "Just Around the Corner" with the **Female Ancestors**. **Pugsley**, played by Layne Harkins, sang "Honor Roll," "What If," and "Pulled" with

Wednesday and **Lucas Beineke**, played by Gabriella Sandoval and Bradley Smith. **Fester** was played by Callie Molineux, who stole the show as she sang "We Have a Problem," "But Love," "The Moon and Me," and "Fester's Manifesto."

The others in the family are **Lurch**, played by Ethan Muniz, and **Grandma**, hilariously played by Savanna Miller. Rose Simons and Emily Reed played **Mal** and **Alice Beineke**. The ghostly **Ancestors** were Katelyn Chambers, Elise Adrian, Abigail Bristoll, Lele Jackson, Arianna Hernandez, Francesca Cedillo, Kassidy Viktora, Patricia Barrientos, Daniella Osario-Perez, Laramie Galloway, Seth Johnson, Andrea Cedillo, and Summer Leal.

Director Annie Wallin said, "Thank you, Coupland ISD and community for embracing the arts. As a former student of Coupland, I am proud to return home and help this school continue to grow. The arts are invaluable to the developmental growth of our students. While your child may not grow up to be an actor, artist, or musician as a vocation, having experience in these disciplines improves GPAs, lowers dropout rates, and promotes empathy and positive social skills."

Look forward to more things to come from Violette and her young actors and performers! Our community is being pulled in the right direction, and they're leading the way!



Left, left to right, Brenna Floyd as Morticia, Jaxon Larson as Gomez, and Ethan Muniz as Lurch.

Right, "Ancestors," left to right, Kassidy Viktora, Patricia Barrientos, Arianna Hernandez, Daniella Osario-Perez, Francesca Cedillo, and Katelyn Chambers.



Addams Family Photos by Crystal Ward

The Addams Family--Below



Top, Ethan Muniz at Lurch, middle row, Brenna Floyd as Morticia, Jaxon Larson as Gomez, and Gabriella Sandoval as Wednesday. Lower left, Savanna Miller as Grandma. Lower right, Layne Harkins as Pugsley.

Photo by Crystal Ward

Dinosaurs Live. On Monday, February 25, Dinosaurs Live created a ROARING FUN TIME at Coupland School. It was a free event with real life-like dinosaurs, activities, and family fun. Other things offered were a dino-slide, face-painting, concessions, and souvenirs. Many families from our community enjoyed this event!



Dinosaurs Live photos by Madeleine Garry

Ferguson Wins Realty Award

At the 2019 Bastrop County Board of Realtors Banquet, Marquita Ferguson was recognized as a Multi-Million Dollar producer. She is with Winkler and Company Realtors Menley Group in Elgin, and every agent in their office was recognized as a Top Producer.



Marquita and Eddie Ferguson at the Awards Banquet. Photo Courtesy of Bastrop County Board of Realtors

Marquita said, "Multi-Million Dollar Club! Best sounding club I've been in. The four of us made over three million production this year in real estate sales. Thanks to my clients, friends, and family for this accomplishment. As a former teacher, this feels like the line of honor roll students holding our certificates."

Her facebook page is Elgin Land and Home Sales, Marquita Ferguson, Realtor. For more contact information, see card below.

Before Marquita became a realtor, she was a beloved teacher at Coupland School. Her husband Eddie serves Coupland as Oncor's area manager and works with Mayor Jack Piper on franchise matters.



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(Continued from page 2)

power about 25,000 homes. There will be a buffer around the property; from the property boundary, there will be a setback of 50 feet that will be landscaped with native grasses and possibly shrubbery.

The Recurrent executives said that the 1,800-acre plant will be about average size, when compared to the massive ones in West Texas, but it will be one of the largest ones on this side of IH 35.

Following the solar farm presentation, Ruth Hyatt discussed the photography project that will show the legacy of the area as well as undesirable changes that are happening. Ruth is joined in this project by Dan Kleiner, President of the Elgin Arts Association, and Billy Moore, a former LCRA photographer.



Coupland-area resident Jack Atterstrom moderated the BPDCA meeting about the solar farm. Below, Ruth Hyatt, Billy Moore, and Dan Kleiner discuss the photo project.

Photos by Susan Garry



Remembrance Day At Type Cemetery To Be Held on May 19

By Charlene Hanson Jordan



Yegua Creek Evangelical Free Church

The second annual Remembrance Day at the Type Cemetery will take place on the third Sunday in May. The date is May 19 at 3 p.m. The program will be held at the Yegua Creek EFC at 1200 CR 466.

Like last year, music and histories of the people occupying the cemetery will be featured, as well as the sacredness of cemeteries.

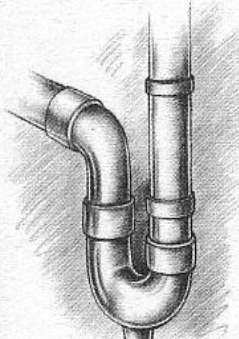
It is important that family members attend, if possible, because the meeting will include cemetery rules and information about upkeep of the cemetery.

The program will be followed by refreshments (cookies and tea or coffee) and a chance to visit. For more information, contact Charlene Hanson Jordan, at 512-856-2562 or charlenehansonjordan@yahoo.com.

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CCO Annual Meeting Held Jan. 28

By Susan Garry

CCO President Susan Schmidt reported on the events that were held in 2018. In May, the first CCO golf tournament was organized by Jonathan Jones and held at Taylor’s Mustang Creek Golf Club. It was a successful fundraiser. The annual National Night Out was held in August at the Depot. Susan thanked Abbey Road, owner of the Old Coupland Inn & Dancehall, for donating the barbecue for the annual fall Choo Choo Fest, another successful fundraiser. Halloween Trunk or Treat was enjoyed by young and old alike, with lots of treats and scary costumes.

President Schmidt noted that the CCO publishes the *Herald* newsletter which helps keep the community informed. Editor Susan Garry thanked all the contributors and advertisers. The *Herald* is a totally volunteer effort; the advertising funds help pay for the printing and mailing. The *Herald* is mailed to every address in the Coupland zip code of 78615; it comes out quarterly—February, May, August, and November. If you ever don’t receive your *Herald*, please let us know at susan_garry@hotmail.com. If you are on Jennifer Dollins’ email list, you also receive the *Herald* by email; the email version shows the ads and photos in color. If you want to get on Jennifer’s list, let her know at jennifer@couplandtx.org.

Caboose Coordinator Barbara Piper gave a recap of restoring the historic caboose. Thanks to volunteer efforts, the CCO was able to get the caboose leveled on new ties. She said, “We were fortunate to have volunteers. We have replaced the doors; one is original, the other one was made to match the original.” New flooring and interior siding has been installed. Eight new windows have been placed in the cupola. The CCO did not have the budget for all eight of these windows, but this project was so important to one resident, who wishes to remain anonymous, that he donated the funds to get all eight windows installed. To protect all of this work, a new metal roof was installed.

Mike Schneider, Treasurer, reported that financially, “This year was about like last year. The CCO received revenue from the golf tournament and Choo Choo Fest.” Fundraising Co-Chair Judy Downing announced that personalized pavers are still being sold for the Depot sidewalk, and more of them are being shipped.

Mayor Jack Piper said, “Since incorporation in 2012, we have spent most of our money on streets and roads. This year, we

(Continued on page 19)



Mayor Jack Piper discusses the “State of the City” as CCO President Susan Schmidt and Caboose Coordinator Barbara Piper look on.



Even the youngest attendees enjoyed the stories told by Kicker Garry. Prissy Rumel holds her grandson Soren Strider.



Following the business meeting, author Jim “Kicker” Garry told stories about the history of our area and the Old West.

Photos by Susan Garry



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CCO February 25 Meeting--Prissy Rumel Discussed Polocrosse--By Susan Garry

Stolen Road Signs

At the February 25 meeting of the Coupland Civic Organization, Mayor Jack Piper discussed the situation relating to the road signs on CR 458 that are the responsibility of the City of Coupland. The City has ordered and has started installing more signs to warn drivers of curves, safe speeds, and possible rough road conditions. One of the new signs was recently installed and was almost immediately stolen—pole and all. These signs are very expensive, and the City has a very limited budget. It is hard to keep buying and installing these signs, trying to insure the safety of drivers. Thanks to Jonathan Jones for installing the signs. If you see anybody other than Jonathan doing something with any of these signs, please get a description, license plate number, etc., and let Mayor Jack know at 512-557-8159 or mayor@cityofcouplandtx.us.

Prissy Rumel Described Polocrosse

Prissy is the president of the Lone Star Polocrosse Club, located on FM 1466 about 5 miles east of Coupland. She explained that polocrosse is similar to polo and lacrosse. A big difference is that the player uses one horse, whereas polo requires six to eight horses. Polocrosse includes divisions A, B, C, and D, with A being the top division. There also is a junior division for players under 18. The youngest player in the Club is seven, and there are about 25 members in the Club.

The polocrosse field is 160 yards by 60 yards. A team has six players, with three playing at a time. Three come off and their horses rest while the other three go on. In polo, there is no rest time, so the player has to have extra horses ready to go.

Prissy showed the sponge rubber ball that is used in polocrosse. She said, "It can hit you very hard without causing injury. Polo uses a hard wooden ball that will cause injury." She added, "In polocrosse, we protect the horses' legs, and we wear helmets." Polocrosse uses a racket that is a pole with a net on the end. Prissy explained, "We use the racket to pick up the ball and to dislodge the ball from other people's rackets.

We pass it to teammates and shoot it through the goal. Each goal is a point." A game can last from 40 to 45 minutes.

A Family Game—Friends Around the World

Prissy said, "My family started in polocrosse in 1988, so I have been involved in it for half my life, and it is a huge part of my life." The Lone Star Club was officially founded in 1990, and they played in their first tournament in 1993.

She noted, "There are so few people playing it in the world that when you travel around the world, you have friends and places to stay. The kids have traveled to South Africa, Australia, and the United Kingdom. You get to know other countries and other cultures." When the Club travels overseas, they don't take their horses; the host country provides a pool of horses.



Prissy showed polocrosse action through a video presentation.

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Tournaments in This Country

Prissy explained, "If a tournament is close--for instance, there is a tournament in March in Mobile, Alabama--we haul horses in trailers. People camp in trailers with their horses right outside in pens made of pen tape. When we have a tournament here, the pasture is filled with trailers and horses. We play all day Saturday and Sunday."

People Are Invited To Watch Local Practices and Tournaments

The Club holds Play Days on many weekends, and, Prissy said, "We would love to have people to come out and watch. We have bleachers and concessions. Everybody is happy to explain the game to those who are not familiar with it."

The Club will host a tournament on October 19-20; teams from the United Kingdom, Australia, and Ireland will come play here. Prissy notes, "They love Coupland. We take them to the Inn and Dancehall."

Demonstration and Video

Sherri Walker asked if the horses get excited about playing. Prissy said, "I think they do. At tournament time, they know that it's not practice. When we are in our uniforms and look real good, they know." A player starts training the horse by throwing the ball and heading the horse toward it. The horse learns that's where you want to go.



Prissy and Hayden Shuttles gave a demonstration of using rackets to pick up the ball, catch it, and pass it. She showed an interesting and beautiful video from the 2017 Tournament: "our field and our players." The video honored Jon Weber, a member who died on the field at the National Tournament at the age of 29. Prissy said, "His family wanted to do something in his memory, so they donated lights for the field. There is also a flag in his honor." Thanks to St. Peter's Pastor Martin Garrison for setting up the audio-video equipment for this meeting.

You can keep up with the Lone Star Polocrosse Club by visiting their Facebook page.

Below, CCO Secretary Lloyd Langston and Prissy discuss polocrosse.

Photos by Susan Garry



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CCO Heard from CVFD and Mayor at March Meeting

By Susan Garry

Firefighter Travis Sanford Discussed the CVFD

The March 25 CCO meeting featured information about the Coupland Volunteer Fire Department and the City of Coupland.

Firefighter Travis Sanford reported that the chili supper fundraiser was very successful, raising \$13,000.

Some firefighters are now going through the Eastside Fire Academy, which trains volunteers in Eastern Williamson County in basic skills, such as hose handling and fighting structure fires. The Academy trains them in all types of fires. This is its fifth year. There are three instructors from CVFD. Chief Jared Cummings, Assistant Chief Matthew Selby, and Treasurer and firefighter John Roulston-Bates.

Travis said, "There are six EMT's in the department, and one individual is almost through with paramedic school." Firefighters are able to administer CPR and first aid. The closest ambulance is Taylor, where there are two of them.

He thanked the Sons of Hermann Life of Coupland for the new sign that is in front of the fire station.

Mayor Jack Piper Presented News of the City

Mayor Jack Piper presented the City of Coupland news. The Council meets the second Thursday of every month, 6 p.m., in the meeting room of the Fire Station. He announced that there will be a Clean Up Day on April 27. The City will provide two dumpsters at the railroad tracks.

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 May 17 - Elgin Art Studio Tour at ATX Jerky
 May 17 - Taylor Food Festival on 2nd Street
 June 22 - Elgin Western Days

And find our products in Taylor at Cherry Tree Creative or shop on-line at www.yeguacreekfarms.com.

He reported that the owner of the 20-acre Barndo Subdivision on CR 458 is going to put more barndominiums behind the one that is already there.

He welcomed veterinarian Dr. Arlon Graef to Coupland. Dr. Graef was a long-time vet in Taylor, he retired, and now he has come out of retirement and founded Coupland Veterinary Hospital, which is behind the house that is behind Stock Up.

Good news from Mayor Piper: TxDOT is going to begin repairs on the bridge east of Coupland on CR 456. They are going to start working on the bridge in June, and repairs will probably take three months.

He discussed the difficulties caused by the Coupland Estates subdivision north of town on Hwy. 95. TxDOT usually does not allow this many driveways to enter a state highway in such a small area. However, Mayor Piper explained, "the county approved the plans, and then the county and TxDOT worked out a deal. They are allowing them seven culverts. The county went ahead with that project and didn't consult the state."

Pro Tem Barbara Piper said, "We attempted to get agreement--couldn't get cooperation from the county." She said that she "told them somebody is going to get killed."

The Council has been considering a zoning ordinance and will vote on it on April 11. The Planning and Zoning Committee wrote the initial zoning ordinance draft. This Committee included Russell Schmidt, John Roulston-Bates, Don Wernli, Mike Schneider, Carolyn Haverland, Loretta Patschke, and Tanya Suchomel.



Firefighter Travis Sanford spoke to the March CCO meeting. Left, Evelyn Draehn, wife of former CVFD Treasurer Luther Draehn, and right, Sam (Samantha) Sanford, wife of Travis.

Photo by Susan Garry

(Continued from page 11)

items for the rest of their fiscal year which ends in September. The first priority items for this year's budget include repairs and maintenance on the vehicles. The engines and brush trucks are 2002-2009 models that are requiring more maintenance to remain operational. They expect that the fleet program may take several years to get all the vehicles brought up to mandated standards. The State of Texas has also mandated the lease or purchase of new radios that will work with the County's dispatch software. This requires replacement of the radios currently in use. Another priority item is the maintenance and replacement air packs and air cylinders that have expiration dates.

The Coupland Volunteer Fire Department is slowly moving up on a list of grant applicants for a small and a large fire engine. They do not expect to win either of these grants this year.

The ESD is currently in negotiations with their original mortgage lender to modify the terms of the existing mortgage loan by acquiring a lower interest rate. The final mortgage payment for the new Coupland fire station will be made in 2028. The lower interest rate will save approximately \$20,000 over the remaining life of the loan.

The Thrall and Coupland fire departments have participated in both Wildlife and CPR training during the month of March. Their volunteerism and service to the community are always appreciated.

(Continued from page 15)

will do the sidewalks on Commerce Street. We fixed the one at the Inn last year."

He noted that the City will have two dumpsters for this year's Clean Up Day. The Council is considering a zoning ordinance and a nuisance ordinance. All of the information is on the City's website, which is cityofcouplandtx.us.

Regarding Coupland's alleys, he said, "We are going to start surveying this year. Also, we have received a new federal flood plain map from FEMA. They keep changing it. We have two houses in the flood plain. The latest map is preliminary; it will take the rest of the year to get the final map."

Following the official business, author Jim "Kicker" Garry gave an entertaining and informative talk with stories about the history of our area and of the Old West. He is a native of our area, but now lives in Wyoming. He has published three books: his two western folklore books are *This Ol' Drought Ain't Broke Us Yet* and *The First Liar Never Has a Chance*. His third book is *Weapons of the Lewis & Clark Expedition*, which is being reprinted.



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Coupland Herald, May 2019

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Contributors to this issue: Pastor Martin Garrison, Madeleine Garry, Kathy Hill, Charlene Hanson Jordan, Taylor Maserang, Rebecca Meury, Eileen Niswander, Barbara Piper, Jack Piper, John Roulston-Bates, Marilyn Samuelson, Lois Schmidt, Susan Schmidt, Karen Van Buren, Crystal Ward, Sandra Wernli, and Susan Garry, editor.

**Deadline for the next issue,
August 2019, is July 10.**

Dr. Graef!

Coupland residents have been very happy to hear that veterinarian Dr. Arlon Graef has come out of retirement! His new clinic in Coupland is open! Coupland Veterinary Hospital is behind the house that is behind Stock Up. Hours are 7 to noon and 1 to 6 p.m., Monday, Tuesday, and Wednesday only. Phone is 512-856-0045.

Welcome to Joni Rice, Receptionist; Jeremy Moldenhour, Technician; and Holly Devore, Technician.

Right, Dr. Graef and Evelyn Draehn. When Dr. Graef opened on March 25, Evelyn's little dog, who was one of the first patients, managed to lock himself in the car but was quickly rescued.

Photos by Susan Garry



Coupland's Jim Huntington--Sculptor Extraordinaire

Jim Huntington Honored In Hometown of Elkhart, Ind.

Coupland sculptor Jim Huntington was honored in February in his hometown of Elkhart, Indiana, where the Midwest Museum of American Art displayed his works in an exhibit entitled "Jim Huntington: The Graphic Works."

Jim was born in Elkhart in 1941. The Museum commentary says: "A graduate of Elkhart High School, Jim Huntington made his way east as a young man and developed an international career as a modern sculptor." He designated the Midwest Museum as his official graphic archives in 2000. He donated 139 drawings to the Museum, plus 30 sculptures and early paintings—some from as early as 1964, through to the early 2000's. The Museum describes the exhibit as "a survey of works not seen



Above, early photo of Jim surrounded by his graphic art.

Below left, an untitled early piece of graphic art by Jim.

Photos courtesy of the *South Bend Tribune* and Jim Huntington



in almost twenty years . . . a reminder of the important art world contributions made by an Elkhart-born artist."

Jim made his latest "quarry run" to Colorado last May and selected 88,000 pounds of granite that was delivered to him in Coupland in two large trailers. He has been working on what he calls his "art supplies" since then and has about 40,000 to 50,000 pounds left. He estimates that he has gone through hundreds of tons of rock throughout his career.

Working with the massive pieces of rock may have caused him to have arthritis. He uses natural supplements and works with an orthopedist. The May trip might have been his last visit to the quarry to get such a huge amount of rock. He estimates that when he has gone through this last shipment, he will be 79 or 80, and may have to quit working on his monumental pieces. He says, "I'm going to have to seriously curtail what I'm doing and work only on small pieces. Do drawings and stuff like that. I don't want to, but the reality is that I just can't keep hammering away at my body."

"I started out drawing, and I'll probably end up drawing . . . hopefully I'll still be able to draw. I've always loved drawing, and I think that it's the basis for everything." Much of the Elkhart exhibit is of his early sketches

(Continued on page 2)

(Continued from page 1)

plus some sculptures. Accompanying the sketches and small sculptures are documentary photos of Jim at work. The exhibit also displays drawn renderings of some of his large sculptures, which are displayed all over the world.

Jim says that it was an easy choice for him to donate the pieces displayed at the Midwest Museum for their permanent collection. "I get to leave a small part of my legacy in my hometown." His legacy of monumental works will survive because his Sculpture Garden in Coupland is set up as a foundation.

Some of the information above was excerpted from an article in the South Bend Tribune by Becky Malewitz.

Right, an early piece by Jim entitled "Leaf Series #10."

Below, an early small sculpture entitled "Cave (Beyond)."



Below, this sketch of a sculpture was part of the exhibit.

