



COUPLAND HERALD

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- Barbara Piper, Depot/Caboose Coordinator
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- Jennifer Dollins, Community-Wide Communications

Coupland City 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.

1. Our last Council meeting was in March. We elected to cancel the April meeting due to COVID-19. We have yet to determine if there will be a May meeting. During this uncertain time, we are cognizant of the measures to halt the spread of the coronavirus and will continue to follow orders placed by the County Judge and by the Governor.
2. During the March meeting we discussed the necessity of having dumpster(s) available during the summer. As you recall, we had several tires dumped along with items dumped before and after hours. Thanks to several local citizens, we were able to restack the items into the dumpsters so they would be picked up. The company will not pick up any dumpster if trash and debris is over the top. Of course, tires are not allowed and should never be left inside or adjacent to the dumpsters.
3. Speaking of the tires that were left after the dumpsters had been picked up, including several additional ones: a big thank you goes to Tony Morgan, AKA "Tony the Tire Man." He volunteered and donated his time and cost for getting rid of the tires. THANKS, TONY!!!

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

ALERT! Thefts from Mailboxes

By Barbara Piper, Mayor Pro Tem

We have just become aware that person or persons are stealing mail from rural mailboxes. An incident recently occurred; a very observant citizen noticed the vehicle and occupant or occupants removing mail from people's mailboxes. When apprehended by law enforcement, the person or persons had in their possession a white trash bag full of mail.

Please notice strange occurrences, make note of anything that seems out of the ordinary and CALL 911. Many folks get checks through the mail, not to mention bills and other important data. This could be devastating for the innocent. Let's all do our part and watch out for each other!

President's Message

By Susan Schmidt,
Coupland Civic Organization President

Greetings to all.

This column is proving to be a very difficult one to write. Carrying on as usual is not feasible. It's hard to express my thoughts and feelings about this whole situation. The world has drastically changed since the last *Herald*. It's quite amazing when you think about it. Events happening in the Far East affect us in some ways in terms of peace and trade, but this event has affected the entire world. Suddenly, all types of businesses are closed; it's dangerous to be around a lot of people; you're not going out to eat; you don't want to go to the grocery store or Walmart. Everything has changed.

For me personally, I can do curbside at both HEB and Walmart (if you can get a time slot). That doesn't bother me. What really is bothersome is not seeing my children and grandchildren. Facetime is not the same as being able to give your family members big hugs. On the other hand, I feel lucky to live out in the country where I can go outside and walk around without encountering anyone else. I have also discovered the magic of Zoom. I have two different yoga instructors who are conducting yoga classes online via Zoom. I know religious services are being conducted via Zoom or by other means.

I wish I had a magic ball to show me when all this is going to be over. I have a suspicion that getting back to normal is going to be getting back to a new normal. Who knows what that's going to look like?

Until we can all get together again at CCO functions, I urge you to stay home and stay safe.

Susan Schmidt

In this Time of the Coronavirus, How Can I Help My Community?

By Wells Mason

Coupland is a small community that represents the best of rural living. More than ever, because of the health crisis, it's important to protect our families and our neighbors and our friends in the community. Here's a list of things you can do:

- ✓ Stay home if possible. The Shelter-in-Place Orders are designed to protect you and everyone in your community.
- ✓ If you are working away from home, practice social distancing and follow government guidelines.
- ✓ Check on your elderly neighbors daily.
- ✓ Open the lines of communication with your neighbors. Make sure they know you are home. Make sure you exchange phone numbers and email addresses.
- ✓ If you see something irregular at a neighbor's house, contact your neighbor right away.
- ✓ Support small businesses in your area whenever possible. They are your neighbors and your friends and the fabric of our communities. They need your help.
- ✓ If you have extra personal protective equipment (PPE), please consider donating it to a nearby hospital. PPE includes N95 masks, safety glasses, and nitrile gloves.
- ✓ As part of an emergency preparedness plan, help us identify buildings in the Coupland area that might serve as temporary hospitals in the event nearby hospitals and clinics are at peak capacity.

Think about what you're doing to help? We can all play a role to make our community safe and healthy!

Different Times--

Affecting Caboose and Depot Work

By Barbara Piper,
Coupland Civic Organization
Caboose Coordinator

I'm sure we will all agree that we are certainly experiencing different times. Stay home, stay safe is the cry these days. For all of us in Williamson County, this measure seems to be working and for that we are grateful. It will be a happy day when businesses can begin to reopen and we can return to a "normal" routine and life.

The COVID-19 virus has halted the Civic Organization (CCO) from doing any work on the caboose. CCO's board has stopped meeting until it is safe for us to gather and formulate the next step in the caboose renovation.

Speaking of the renovation, we did meet (prior to the stay home stay safe directive) with Kruse Electric to see about electricity to the caboose. I think we were all concerned because the original conduit had been severed when the caboose was moved and the tracks redone. Rather than try to find the conduit and splice the wires, we were advised that it would be better and much safer to just run new wires. So . . . when the time comes and if that is the next phase the board wishes to undertake, we know where to begin and what needs to be done.

At the same time that an inspection was done at the caboose, we also had the exterior lights checked at the depot. Old parts were removed, and we now have the ability to turn exterior lights on when needed.

STAY HOME AND STAY SAFE!!!

Looking forward to getting together again.

This is a difficult time for our community, as it is for the country and the world. We look forward to the time when we can resume all our community activities and meetings. Remember that the Coupland Civic Organization is not a closed club. It includes all Coupland residents. We hope that EVERYBODY will come to the CCO meetings when we

can have them again. The board members host FREE home-cooked suppers followed by interesting programs. The meetings are the last Monday of each month, 6:30 p.m., in the fellowship hall of St. Peter's Church of Coupland. To receive meeting notices, get on Jennifer Dollins' community email list, jennifer@couplandtx.org. See you there!

Golf Tournament, Other Meetings Cancelled

The Coupland Civic Organization (CCO) has had to cancel what would have been its third annual Golf Tournament in May. The tournament is a fun event and a good fundraiser for the CCO. We hope that it can be re-scheduled for a later date.

Also at this time, the CCO has cancelled its regular monthly meetings and its board meetings. We hope that everyone will stay safe during this dangerous time.

Responding To the 2020 Census

The census count started in March. For those who haven't responded yet, there are a few more dates to be aware of.

Mailing 5: "It's not too late" postcard, April 20-27

May 13 - July 31
Non-Response Follow-Up

July 31
Last day for households to self-respond online, by phone or by mail

Following these dates, census takers may be coming to residences in person. This may depend on the coronavirus situation at this point. The website 2020census.gov says, "As we continue to monitor the evolving COVID-19 outbreak, we will adjust census taker operations as necessary in order to follow the guidance of federal, state, and local health authorities."

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St. Peter's Church News

As of this writing in mid-April, all services and activities at St. Peter's Church of Coupland remain suspended. We continue to minister to our community and to share God's message online.

St. Peter's video messages average 8 to 12 minutes each and include music, scripture readings, and inspirational commentary from Pastor Martin Garrison and Pastor Brett Hart. To find our channel, go to YouTube.com and search for "stpeters coupland" (no space between stpeters).

The church office remains open from 8 a.m. to Noon on Monday through Thursday. Our phone number is 512-856-2433. If you would like to receive our email newsletter with links to the weekly videos, please contact StPetersCoupland@gmail.com. The email is normally sent monthly, but is distributed weekly right now.

Thanks to Dana Smith for the news from St. Peter's.

St. Peter's Seniors Luncheons Cancelled Until Further Notice

Because of the coronavirus, Senior Citizens Luncheons are cancelled until further notice; we will let everyone know when the next Luncheon will be.

Lois Schmidt and Sandra Weruli, Co-Chairmen

Yegua Creek Farms Products At Farmers' Markets, Online

By Eileen Niswander

For Yegua Creek Farms, we are business as usual except for our retail stores. Most of our sales now are either online or at farmers' markets. Since farmers' markets have been deemed essential (just like grocery stores), we can continue to meet our customer's needs. Truly, shopping at a farmers' market is one of the safest places to get your groceries as the products sold there go through a minimum amount of handling and processing. All markets are requiring strict social distancing, sanitation routines, no sampling, and minimal handling of products.

At all markets, we encourage pre-ordering and payment via credit card to minimize your time at the market. Call us at 512-856-0192 to place your order. Orders should be placed at least a day before the market. To see our products (or to order online), check our website at yegucreekfarms.com.

Our biggest challenge at this time is the Texas weather, which is providing lots of wind and showers. Since this impacts our outdoor markets, please check the markets' Facebook pages for up-to-date information on the markets.

Pick up at The Orchard is also available by pre-arrangement. And we still have about 100 square bales of chemical-free hay for \$8/bale, picked up at The Orchard.

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Yegua Creek Farms Selling Schedule

Pecans, Flavored Pecans, Breads, Cookies, Gift Baskets
Check our Facebook page for details:

Thursdays, 5-8, Elgin Farmers' Market, Depot Museum Parking Lot (FB: Elgin Texas Farmers' Market)

Saturdays, 9-1, Texas Farmers Market at Lakeline, Lakeline Mall in NW Austin (FB: Texas Farmers' Market at Lakeline)

Sundays, 10-2, Texas Farmers' Market at Mueller, Mueller Airport Hangar Complex in East Central Austin (FB: Texas Farmers' Market at Mueller)

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St. Peter's Church of Coupland

www.couplandchurch.org
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Martin Garrison, Pastor

Paints, Palettes, and Plans: Coupland Art News from a Social Distance 2020

Greetings artists, friends and neighbors,

I hope each and every one of you are safely tucked away for now with your best folk and plans to guard your good health throughout this strange round of COVID-19 social separation. The sacrifice of our normally interactive lives may offer an occasion for a creative resurgence, above all else, to avert the slow descent into boredom.



One of Jim Huntington's latest sculptures with the timely name of "Lockdown." It is argillite, 50 x 50 x 32.

Photo courtesy of Jim Huntington

News from Coupland Artists

Arts Convergence has sought out reports from Our Coupland Arts Big Guys, Jimbo! Jim Huntington and Peter Julian, to find them each traversing their solo art game tables. Jim has his creation candles ablaze with pastels; with color and fresh eyes he is forming a series of drawings he says, remind him of his former days as a painter! With a limited palette using yellow ochre, sienna, ultramarine blue, cad red, white, et al, Jim mines his new ideas in preparation for his next delivery of carving stone due anytime soon from the Colorado quarry. Bravo!

Peter J Studio, on the opposite west corner of ArtBloc, reports his research in solitude has led him to put brush to gouache paint alongside his trusty charcoal drawing techniques in an effort to pare down his thinking for more woodcutting. Julian has a long suit in woodcut print imagery as well as large log carving of stand-alone statuesque forms. This season's goals are to hit both drums simultaneously. In contrast to Huntington's abstract art, Peter often shows us a more figurative narrative. Both artists delve into their practice for their inspiration to make the most beauty during a very special time.

Arts Convergence Lectures

News from Arts Convergence Coupland House, when the "Art by Story" lecture series was suddenly interrupted by social distancing recommendations, Letitia Eldredge (I) took a step into curriculum review that would reinstate the program with more hands-on media demonstrations. The relaxed schedule has allowed for a revival of oil painting techniques, storyboard development, and Art Book Reading Room program courses to be continued in open forum when the season re-opens. Let that be in safety and in good health for us all.

All Are Welcome to Arts Convergence Studio

Further, I want to mention, with thanks, our 2020 sustaining supporters, Larry Raper and Judith Estrada Garcia of Georgetown, Karen Van Buren of Structure, Lori and Tom

(Continued on page 9)

How Coupland VFD Is Responding in a COVID-19 World

By John Roulston-Bates, Assistant Fire Chief

Firstly, we'd like to say thank you to all the residents of our corner of Williamson County. We've all been dealing with the type of public health restrictions not seen here in living memory. The restrictions brought in by Williamson County and the adherence to them by our residents have helped keep the number of COVID-19 cases in the county relatively low. Great work.

By the middle of March we'd already seen fire departments in other parts of the country suffering problems due to large numbers of staff being quarantined. From March 12 onwards we implemented several measures to protect our volunteers, with the aim of ensuring we could continue providing service to the residents of our district.

We split our volunteer firefighters into two branches, Fire response and Medical response. As the names suggest one branch is tasked with responding to medical calls, the other to fire calls. We replaced our weekly training meetings with online video calls and adopted a strict "don't feel well, stay home" policy. The annual fire academy in which we participate (alongside Weir, Thrall, and Taylor VFDs) has also moved its instruction online. All of this has been done with the aim of compartmentalizing our operations and reducing the risk of any possible COVID infection spreading throughout the department and impacting our ability to respond.

In our response to medical calls we operate under Dr. Jarvis, Williamson County EMS Medical Director. Wilco EMS quickly introduced a number of new protocols for Fire Departments, designed to protect patients and first responders. These include additional PPE and changing the way we interact with patients. Our community is fortunate to be served by the excellent Wilco Paramedics; for this area they are based in Taylor and southeast Hutto. Coupland VFD will continue providing support to this team with our EMTs and firefighters.

We look forward to weathering this storm along with y'all. Our dedicated 100% volunteer team will be there when you need us. We look forward to being able to resume our regular in-person Thursday night training and being able to interact with our whole team in person again, hopefully before too many more weeks have passed.

March 2020 Calls for Service

During March we responded to 39 calls: 20 medical calls, 15 motor vehicle accidents, 3 structure fires/alarms and 1 outside fire.

Below, pictures from the annual Chili Supper, held on February 29, before the current era of the coronavirus.



Fire Chief Jared Cummings and his daughter Katelynn.



The community filled up the tables in the Fire Station bay.

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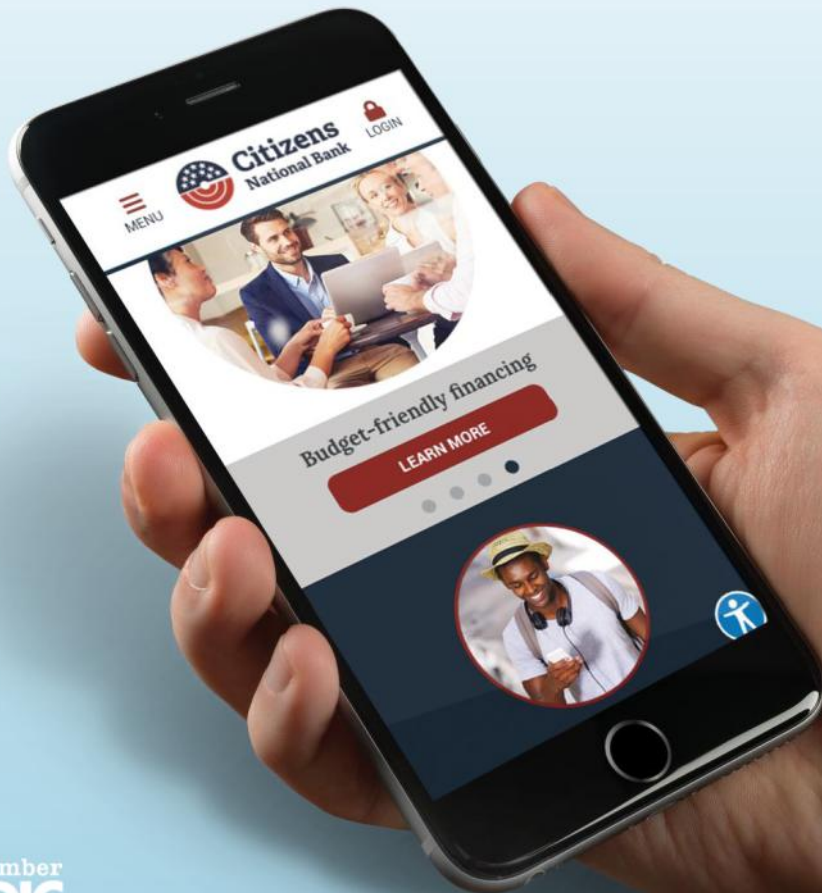
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Type Church--New Name Of Yegua Creek EFC

By Charlene Hanson Jordan

The Yegua Creek Evangelical Free Church congregation voted unanimously to change the church name to Type Church on March 8, 2020.

What's in a name? In the case of the church at Type, "Yegua Creek" showed history, not location. The first congregation led by Pastor Mark Nygard had met in the Lawhon Springs School from December 1984 to December 1987. That location was close to the Yegua Creek.

The Yegua Creek EFC set up their church on the other side of the Type Cemetery from where the original 1908 Type Free Mission Church had stood. The earlier Type congregation had joined with the Kimbro Free Church to form the Elgin Free Church in 1954 and the location next to the cemetery had been abandoned.

As the years went by, the first meeting place of the Yegua Creek congregation went from a Camp Swift barracks to a 300-seat sanctuary dedicated in 1996. It was built with the help of the TBM (retired Texas Baptist Men), average age 71.

Pastor Terry Kennedy and his wife Rachel serve the Type Church. They and the congregation heartily welcome everyone to join them.

Because of the coronavirus, Pastor Terry Kennedy is preaching online as long as the virus lasts. The sermons can be accessed on Facebook at Type Church. Friend the page and join the Type Church in worship. For more information, call Pastor Kennedy at 512-599-7761 or email him at twk3032@gmail.com. Type Church is at 1300 CR 466.

Day of Remembrance Will Be Rescheduled

The third Annual Day of Remembrance was scheduled to take place on May 17, but because of the coronavirus, will be changed. An email will be sent to all of the people who would have attended and to anyone who would like to receive the email. For those who do not have email, please call Charlene Hanson Jordan at 512-856-2562 (texting not available) or write to her at 1361 CR 464, Elgin, TX 78621. The email address is charlenehansonjordan@yahoo.com.

Post Oak Island Marker To Be Placed Near Type Cemetery Marker

The Post Oak Island historic marker will be placed near the Type Cemetery marker shown in the photograph below. The marker has been approved, but information regarding when it will be finished and dedicated is not yet available.



Above, the Post Oak Island marker will be placed near the Type Cemetery marker.

Photo by Helen Boudny Fremin



Left, the newly renamed Type Church.



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

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At one of her lectures, Letitia discusses a drawing by her grandmother that inspired her lifelong artistic endeavors.

(Continued from page 5)
Odum of Taylor, Lee and his fine son Leo Ortiz for their help in care of the facility grounds, and Susan and Buz Garry for their kind attention and generous participation over the long hauls.

Please take care of yourselves good neighbors . . . now, while you have this rare opportunity to dig into your creative imaginations for a new dream of what "normal" can contain . . . be well with enthusiasm. I send warmest regards from the Arts Convergences; all are Welcome!

Yours truly,
Letitia Eldredge
Director, Arts Convergence/Coupland Artist 2020



By Wells Mason
CWSC President

The Coupland Water Supply Corporation (or CWSC) is the town's wastewater management system. Throughout the year, CWSC works closely with Manville Water to make sure your water and wastewater needs are met in Coupland, Texas. Because of COVID-19, CWSC and Manville Water have implemented even more measures to ensure that residents in Coupland will continue to have water and wastewater service throughout this health crisis.

We remind everyone to do their part to protect themselves and their community from this virus. We also remind everyone to not flush disposable wipes down their toilets. Even the "flushable wipes" will damage our system. Since the beginning of this health crisis, the City of Austin has experienced a problem with increased flushing of disposable wipes and it has resulted in costly damage to their system. With your help, we can avoid this damage to our system - which ultimately costs all of us. Please tell everyone in your household about this. Be safe Coupland!



Cote Azure, a recent work by Letitia, featuring shades of blue and yellow, 24" x 24" oil paint on canvas. Reminiscent of the Cote d'Azur, the French Riviera, a cheerful image during this depressing time.

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New Sweden Evangelical Lutheran Church

By Marilyn Samuelson

At this time, there is not much to report. Since the coronavirus pandemic arrived, New Sweden has followed orders and has cancelled all services and activities until May 1. At that time we will see what the status is and where we go. Pastor is continuing to record his Sunday morning sermons, and you can listen to them on our web page, newswedenelca.org. We were previously recording the sermons each Sunday. Even though there is no congregation in attendance, his sermons are provided. If after May 1, orders are lifted, we will resume our Sunday morning schedule and our monthly activities--life as before.

Sunday, June 28, our annual God and Country event (July 4 celebration) will be held. Hot dogs and hamburgers will be available to purchase beginning at 5 p.m. At 7 p.m. a patriotic program will be held, and ice cream will be served after the program. Watch your local newspapers for more details as the time gets closer.

There will be no Sunday School classes in July. Vacation Bible School dates will be announced. The annual congregation picnic is planned for Sunday, July 26.

Hope all are well. Stay home, stay safe, and please remember to pray for those who are ill, the doctors and nurses and medical personnel, our government leaders, and our country.

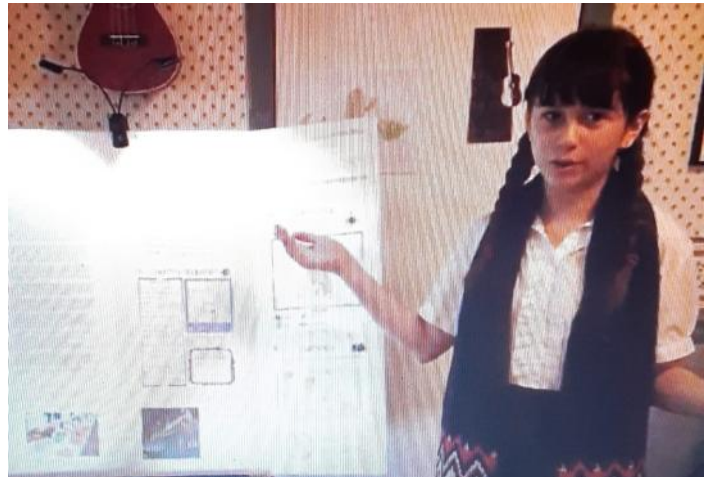
Coupland School News

By Kathy Hill

Just because the school buildings are temporarily closed doesn't mean learning and enrichment aren't taking place for Coupland students. Social Studies teacher Rebecca Vernier assigned a Countries Around the World Project to her students in 3rd, and 6th-8th grades.

(Continued on page 14)

Laurel Floyd, a 6th grader, presented the country of Sweden.



New Sweden Evan. Lutheran Church

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Williamson County Emergency Services District #10

By Karen Van Buren

Amid the coronavirus precautions, the Emergency Services District (ESD) will hold future Board Meetings by telephone conferencing. The approved minutes and meeting notice/agenda will be posted on the ESD's new website at www.wcesd10.org.

The Williamson County Dispatch operators are screening all medical calls for possible infections of any kind. This will allow the medical team to arrive with the necessary personal protective gear for themselves and their patients.

The Coupland and Thrall Volunteer Fire Departments have established an Emergency Response Protocol for the virus. They have divided their small departments into a medical response team and a firefighting team in order to prevent the spread of the virus and to protect the volunteers from unnecessary exposure that could reduce their staff.

The ESD has entered into a Purchasing Cooperative Interlocal Agreement with Williamson County for the purchase of goods, services, and materials under each party's competitively bid contracts.

The State of Texas has mandated an upgrade of the radios used by the fire departments by 2022. Both fire chiefs for the Coupland and Thrall Volunteer Fire Departments have one of the new radios which cost about \$8,000 each. The ESD is in hopes of filing with the County for a grant next year that would help the ESD with the cost of purchasing new radios for all fire fighters as required.

The fire departments have written a Response Protocol for active shooter incidents. Additional supplies have been added to the Stop-the-Bleed kits provided to the Thrall and Coupland schools. The school staff will receive training regarding the use of these kits in the event of an emergency. The kits will be a valuable asset in the event of other injuries as well.

The volunteer fire fighters have been training on vehicle extraction, wildland fire in Burton, Texas, and emergency medical response. The grain bin rescue training scheduled for April 2020 has been cancelled at this time. There have been a number of volunteers who have completed training at the Fire Academy.


A budget priority for this year is continuing to provide repairs and maintenance to the vehicle fleets for the two departments. Worn tires have been replaced and repairs made to various vehicles on a rotating basis. Coupland's Engine Two is currently experiencing a steering problem although the vehicle is still operable. That engine will be sent in for repairs in the near future. Both Coupland and Thrall departments have been able to share vehicles as necessary.

As for building repairs and maintenance, Coupland has repaired issues with the station's bay doors, the air conditioning unit, and plumbing. Thrall is in need of a lighting upgrade in the truck bay that has been put on hold for the present.

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Civic Organization Held Official Annual Meeting January 27

The Coupland Civic Organization (CCO) held its official annual meeting on January 27. The board members hosted a supper of delicious homemade soups and cornbread, plus desserts. Then, the officers presented recaps of 2019.

President Susan Schmidt discussed 2019 CCO activities. Treasurer Mike Schneider spoke about finances. Caboose Coordinator Barbara Piper explained the 2019 work on the historic caboose and the plans for further work in 2020. Coupland Mayor Jack Piper presented "the state of the city" and took questions from attendees.



Right, CCO President Susan Schmidt discusses the 2019 events.



Left, Coupland Mayor Jack Piper presents "the state of the city."



Above, CCO Treasurer Mike Schneider reports on finances.

Right, Caboose Coordinator Barbara Piper speaks about 2019 work on the caboose and plans for 2020.



Photos by Susan Garry

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February CCO Meeting-- All About Chocolate

For its February 24 meeting, the Coupland Civic Organization (CCO) heard an entertaining and informational program from Bob Williamson, who owns the SRSLY Chocolate shop at 117 E. Third St. in downtown Taylor. He grinds his own cacao beans to create his large and ever-changing selection of chocolate bars, and he brought delicious samples that everybody enjoyed tasting. The process that results in the chocolate that we know and love is very interesting and more complicated than you would think. He also discussed the history of chocolate.

Before the program, CCO board members hosted a supper of Southwestern casseroles and homemade desserts.

We appreciate Bob coming to speak to us, and we are sad to report that the coronavirus situation has affected SRSLY Chocolate, as it has so many businesses. Their retail shop will be closed for a while. However, you can get chocolate from their website srslychocolate.com. They are offering free shipping on orders over \$35 from the website. We hope that the community will support this wonderful local business.

Bob says, "The next few months are going to be especially challenging for small businesses. We ask for your support. A lot of businesses are at risk of collapsing and we are no exception to that. Please think of us when you are buying that birthday gift, anniversary present, or gift for any other event that might go great with some handcrafted chocolate."

Right, Bob Williamson holds a cacao pod while he explains chocolate making.

Photos by Susan Garry



Above, the CCO board members hosted a supper of home-made Southwestern-style casseroles. Below, Bob Williamson discusses chocolate with Virginia Howell and Tessa and Ryan Strider.



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Here is Italy, presented by Isabella Slauson, a 6th grader.

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Mrs. Vernier said, "I miss these kids so much! When I opened each video, I cried because I was getting to see them even though were quarantined. I am extremely proud of their hard work!"

All of the middle school classes are doing their work online at this time. Though this uncertain time and events loom around us, school is providing the best normalcy it can. Students are having class by video gatherings, instructional videos, and programs online.

Right, on page 15, 8th grader Katelyn Chambers covered the Cayman Islands.

Right, 8th grader Barret Suarez presented Bermuda in his Bermuda shorts.



Left, 6th grader Byron Rabel presented the fascinating country of Thailand.



Thanks to the families for providing these pictures of the students and their projects, submitted by Mrs. Vernier.

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Dancehall Gains Support from Community and SBA

She explains that the government is trying to help small businesses and the music and service industry employees who have been severely affected. She adds, “We have applied and we continue to seek relief from available sources. We have been encouraged to ask for support from our community as well. We understand that so many people have been affected, and we do not take this asking lightly.”

Of course, with such a business, there are many expenses that continue, even though the Inn and Dancehall are closed. Abbey started a Go Fund Me account. She notes, “Our

hope is to supplement our staff during this time as well as the musicians that had paying dates with us. Our vendors are also affected.” She greatly appreciates the support that this effort has received. You can find information about this account on the Facebook page Coupland Dancehall.

In addition to that support, she has also received some SBA funding. She says, “I’m thankful for all of it! We want to be here when this is over so we can give back through fundraisers and benefits and any other way we can support our community.”

Dancehall Merchandise

Now, Abbey has put the dancehall merchandise online, and purchasing it is another good way to support the dancehall. Abbey points out, “People have asked for it, so here it is. You can buy from Facebook or our website couplanddancehall.com.”

Support of and from the Community

Abbey says, “As soon as we hear we can go again, we will celebrate! And we will gladly help anyone in Coupland at that time.” She concludes, “I would like to say thank you to everyone in this town who supports this dancehall. We are gonna be OK! I think this has made us all stronger.”



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The *Herald* reaches 700 Coupland-area addresses. Business card ads \$25. Other sizes available. Contact Susan Garry, editor, at susan_garry@hotmail.com.

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We are pleased to welcome a new advertiser to the *Herald*, April Haines, who does painting, faux finishes, and more. Her ad is on page 13.

**Deadline for the next issue,
August 2020, is July 10.**

Dancehall Impacted by the Coronavirus Pandemic

One of the results of the sad time that we are all experiencing is that the Old Coupland Inn & Dancehall has had to close indefinitely. Owner Abbey Road says, "This dancehall has been so quiet since March 16. The support that everyone is showing during this time is incredible."

The Inn and Dancehall have been fixtures of our community for many years. Abbey is the latest owner to take on the big responsibility of running this complex business, which encompasses dancehall, restaurant, and bed and breakfast. However, she is the first who has had to face a pandemic like the coronavirus. Abbey has helped the community by such efforts as supporting Choo Choo Fest, and now she herself is asking for support.

(Continued on page 15)



Susie Garry enjoys Ray Benson and Asleep at the Wheel, one of the top acts that Abbey has booked for the Dancehall.