



# COUPLAND HERALD

## City of Coupland News

By Mayor Jack Piper and Mayor Pro Tem Barbara Piper

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### Board of Directors

- Susan Schmidt, President
- Mike Schneider, Treasurer
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- Barbara Piper, Depot/Caboose Coordinator
- Susan Garry, *Herald* Newsletter Editor, Publicity
- Ruby Wabbel

### Additional Committee

- Jennifer Dollins, Community-Wide Communications

As is stated in each *Herald*, the City Council meetings are held the second Thursday of each month. Beginning time has been changed to 5 p.m. in the Coupland Volunteer Fire Department Meeting Room. Please remember that copies of the Agendas and Minutes from all Council Meetings can be found on the City's website, <http://www.cityofcouplandtx.us>.

Coupland's **CLEAN-UP DAY** has been scheduled for Saturday, June 12. Location will be the same (beside the railroad tracks in downtown Coupland). More information will be posted prior to the actual date so residents will be aware of acceptable and unacceptable items along with opening and closing times. We will have four dumpsters this year to assist residents with their late spring and early summer clean-up.

Right-of-way issues have been discussed at the last several council meetings. Most of the streets in "old town Coupland" (the original Coupland townsite) are 80-foot streets with the exceptions being North Main and Broad being 100 feet and Commerce being 150 feet. It has become increasingly difficult to mow the right-of-way on city streets because of vehicles, trailers, boats, etc. parked on city property. Prior to action being taken, letters will be sent to all residents informing them of any position the council may choose to take.

Road issues continue to be a problem. We have discussed issues with the road repair people and they will patch potholes on CR 458 as well as fill in edges of the road to hopefully mitigate the loss of pavement. Murray and South Broad Streets are on the schedule for Williamson County, and we anticipate the project to begin soon. It is also noteworthy that existing culverts will be replaced.

Speaking of road issues and culverts, there are several within the city limits that are needing attention. A request has been submitted for reputable companies to do this type of work.

At our March 11 council meeting, council unanimously passed the Interlocal Agreement between the City of Coupland and Williamson County for Fire Code and Investigations.

Please contact us or one of your council members for questions and answers. We certainly look forward to a better 2021.



Last year's Clean-Up Day. Supervising the dumpsters are Mayor Jack Piper, Mayor Pro Tem Barbara Piper, Karen Marosko, and Sarah Torluemke. This year's will be on June 12. Article on page 5.

Coverage and photos of Coupland's new Farmers & Artisan Market on page 10.

## President's Message--By Susan Schmidt, Coupland Civic Organization President

Hello Spring! After the brutal February weather, it is so nice to see green again. I hope everyone weathered the deep freeze without too much damage. I know everyone has lost trees and other plants but hopefully, not too many. Frankly, I do not care if I ever see snow again!

Our monthly CCO meetings are still on hold due to COVID concerns. I anticipate our next gathering will be in August for National Night Out. We are hopeful Choo Choo Fest can resume as well as Trunk or Treat. I miss seeing all our friends, near and far for these events.

I was perusing old issues of the *Herald*. I had to chuckle over an article from 20 years ago. The article was about property values and how they continue to rise. I do not have the statistics from twenty years forward, but I am positive the property valuations have risen well over 200%. Driving in any direction from Coupland, you will have land subdivided and housing being built or brought in on tractor trailer rigs. As a native of Coupland, this is astounding. Communities in every direction from Coupland are building subdivision after subdivision. It is somewhat disheartening to see so many places change in such a drastic way.

Did you know Coupland Civic Organization is a non-profit corporation? We attained this status in 2002. This has

enabled us to take advantage of the status given to nonprofit organizations in Texas. Your individual donations to CCO are tax deductible. We can apply for grants from foundations who strictly fund 501(c)(3) nonprofit organizations. This has been advantageous to our organization.

Have you checked out the new Farmers Market next to the Depot? CCO is a proud sponsor of this market. This is such a unique experience for Coupland and a delight to attend. The food offered is fantastic! Abby of the Old Coupland Inn has graciously allowed the public the use of the Inn's facilities, plus she is serving some delicious sandwiches. The bar is also open in the Dancehall. I hope everyone takes advantage of this market. As the weeks progress, I foresee a lot of produce being offered. I cannot wait!

Until we can be together again, please continue to practice CDC safety measures. Wear your masks and social distance. Be sure to get your vaccine! It is now open to everyone 16 years and older. I am proud to say I got mine! See you soon.

*Susan Schmidt*

## National Night Out Planned for August 3

By Barbara Piper, Neighborhood Watch Chair

It's just around the corner! National Night Out is always observed by our Neighborhood Watch Group the first Tuesday of August. It had to be cancelled last year because of COVID, but we are PLANNING a comeback this year.

It is such an important event as it gives our neighbors a chance to mingle and visit with one another. We also learn of crime issues within our county and immediate area. MARK YOUR CALENDARS NOW!!! NATIONAL NIGHT OUT WILL BE OBSERVED ON TUESDAY, AUGUST 3, AT THE DEPOT. More information will be posted prior to the event.



Left, hot dog supper and visiting at a past National Night Out. Right, Deputy Matt Kreidel speaks at a past NNO. Photos of a previous NNO by Angela Griffin

## Manda School Revitalization

By Susan Erickson

The Friends of Manda School have recently initiated the Manda School Revitalization Project at the historic 1915 building on Manda-Carlson Road. It is their hope that after the complete painting of the building inside and out and other necessary repair work, all citizens in the area will take advantage of having a facility like this in the neighborhood. The mission is to preserve and maintain the historic building and make it available for celebrations and meetings. The Friends group is also looking for Manda School attendees or any photos or historical information about the school. For more information, please contact David Erickson at [newsmeden@aol.com](mailto:newsmeden@aol.com).



## New Shipment Of Stones For Sculpture Garden

Coupland sculptor Jim Huntington has received a new shipment of what he calls his "art supplies."

Jim says, "Ten stones from Colorado, 22 tons total. Yippee! Work as solace in this era."



See more Coupland art news on pages 12 and 13.



By Steve Voelker, President  
Coupland Water Supply Corporation

We have good news! The CWSC treatment plant survived the recent frigid weather with only minor damage thanks to our always reliable plant operator, Ken Lockard. We thank him for his personal attention in winterizing when and where necessary.

We will be mailing our letters of nominations to Coupland property owners whose property is connected to the CWSC system for our annual Board of Directors' election in the month of June. If you are such a property owner you are eligible to send forth your name, and only individuals can nominate themselves. Volunteers are always welcome, so if you are interested in serving on the board of directors return the requested information included with the original letter.

We thank all members of CWSC for continuing to refrain from putting anything into the sewer that is not degradable. Please continue to do so, and we on the board of directors will continue to work to maintain low expenses.

# You can't predict the future, so plan for it.

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## St. Peter's Church News -- Pastor Martin and Emily To Leave


St. Peter's Church welcomes all in the Coupland community into a deeper relationship with each other and with God. Join us at 10:15 a.m. each Sunday morning for Worship. Indoor services have resumed, with social distancing and masks recommended. We continue to broadcast the service in the parking lot on 106.7 FM radio for those who prefer to remain in their cars.

It's with great sadness that we announce that Pastor Martin Garrison and his wife Emily will be leaving St. Peter's, effective June 30, 2021. They will be greatly missed in our church and our community, and we wish them well in their new home in Galveston.



Pastor Martin delivers the children's message. He and his wife Emily will be greatly missed.

Photo courtesy of St. Peter's Church.



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## Clean-Up Day on Saturday, June 12

On Saturday, June 12, there will be four dumpsters along the tracks in downtown Coupland for Clean-Up Day. Last year the City provided three dumpsters, which were quickly filled to overflowing. Please follow the rules as to what items are acceptable and what is unacceptable.

**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.

**Mattresses are unacceptable! The dumpster company will not take them.**

Please take advantage of this opportunity provided by the City to clear trash from property and make Coupland a neat and clean community.

Right, Tim Worthy, Rufus, and Barbara and Jack Piper at a past Clean-Up Day. Below, the dumpsters always fill up quickly.



### Yegua Creek Farms Selling Schedule

Pecans, Flavored Pecans, Breads, Cookies, Gift Baskets

Thursday, Elgin Farmers Market, 4 - 7 p.m.  
 Saturday, Texas Farmers Market at Lakeline, 9 - 1  
 Saturday, Taylor Farmers Market, 10 - 2  
 Sunday, Texas Farmers Market at Mueller, 10 - 2  
 Sunday, Gateway Farmers Market, Austin, 12 - 4

Saturday, May 1, Round Rock Market Days, 9 - 4  
 Saturday, June 26, Elgin Western Days, 10 - 4

Retail Stores: Taylor Sporting Goods on Main Street, Taylor, and ATX Jerky on Main Street, Elgin

On-line: Yegua Creek Farms Pecan Orchard and Kitchen. Yes, we SHIP!

## St. Peter's Senior Luncheons Resume on July 13

St. Peter's Church Council has approved starting up SENIOR CITIZENS LUNCHEONS. Our FIRST LUNCHEON will be at 11:30 a.m. on July 13, 2021. Bingo will be played, so bring a prize under \$10 if you're playing Bingo. "42" Dominoes also will be played.

We hope to see you there!! If you have questions, please contact Lois Schmidt or Sandra Wernli.

Thanks!

*Lois Schmidt & Sandra Wernli, Co-Chairmen*



# Coupland Volunteer Fire Department News

## Chili Supper Successful Fundraiser

The Coupland Volunteer Fire Department had a very successful Chili Supper fundraiser on Saturday, March 27, even though it was a drive-thru event with no silent auction. There were two drive-thru lanes through the fire station bays with the pots of chili in the middle. For donations, firefighters served their homemade chili with cornbread and dessert. Assistant Chief John Roulston-Bates says, "Thank you to everyone who came to the chili supper drive-thru. We served around 300 portions and sold out in 90 minutes. We hope to see y'all in person in 2022."

## New Fire Training Academy for Eastern Williamson County

Williamson County ESD#10, which includes Coupland and Thrall, has founded a new fire academy, Ignis Fire Academy, to train local volunteer firefighters. The academy will be operated by Coupland and Thrall volunteers, along with instructors from ESD#6, Weir VFD, City of Taylor Fire Department, and Hutto Fire Rescue. Much of the training will take place at the Coupland Fire Station.



Above, firefighters served delicious chili from in between the fire station bays.

Left, precision training with the extrication tool.

Photos courtesy Coupland Volunteer Fire Department



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## Post Oak Island Historical Marker To Be Dedicated Next Year at Type

By Charlene Hanson Jordan

The Texas Historical Commission's newly-cast historical marker for Post Oak Island will be placed near the Type Cemetery marker. They complement each other and it will be easy to stop to read the text on each. The dedication is tentatively set for April 23, 2022 (one year from now); the ceremony will probably take place inside the Type Church. There should also be a new book about the societal changes at Post Oak Island.

The Type Church and the Type Cemetery are located on land that used to belong to Jesse Bailey. The Bailey family came to Milam County, Texas, in 1835, from Alabama. Jesse's sister, Celete, married the surveyor, Thomas A. Graves, in 1837. The Graves grant at Post Oak Island was 3,409 acres. It was property that had been awarded Graves for his service in the Texas Revolution.

Graves, the surveyor and owner of the grant at Post Oak Island, was also the first sheriff of Milam County before Williamson County was formed out of Milam. So, Graves was the sheriff of a vast territory that included our area.

In 1837, Graves started marketing part of the land by going into partnership with O. B. Smith (ancestor of the Jarmon family from Elgin and the area), and a couple of others. Jesse, too, would own land on Graves' survey in 1837, but he never lived on it because he died a short time later in a massacre at Post Oak Springs, now called Ad Hall in Milam County. He was part of a small ranger force at Little River Fort when he and four others were ambushed by Comanche. Their slaughtered bodies were found on the prairie near a grove of post oaks.

Graves, himself, would die in 1841. His widow, Celete, married Ibry Jasper Kidd in 1849 and they moved to Post Oak Island in about 1855. I. J. Kidd was the moving force behind the thriving community: postmaster, storekeeper, and Masonic Lodge founder (Post Oak Island No. 181, now at Beaukiss). This pro-Confederate society would last until the Civil War when the community more or less disintegrated. The railroad's bypassing Post Oak Island in favor of Coupland also contributed to the changes.

*(Continued on page 9)*



Type Cemetery historical marker dedication, April 1999. Photo probably taken before or after the actual dedication. The Post Oak Island marker that will be dedicated next year will be placed near the Cemetery marker.

Photo courtesy of Type Church

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*(Continued from page 8)*

Jesse Bailey's heirs deeded Jesse's property at Type to his sister, Celeste, on July 27, 1875. The Kidds had moved to Comanche County and the property went through a couple of transactions until it was purchased by Peder K. Nygaard and his wife. The Nygaards deeded about an acre and a half to the Swedish Free Mission Church and its cemetery at Type in 1908. The church eventually became an Evangelical Free Church which in the 1950s joined with the Kimbro Free Church and the congregation moved to Elgin. Mark Nygard moved the Yegua Creek congregation to the adjacent property in the 1980s.

The church on the land that belonged to the ill-fated Jesse Bailey has gone through a name change to Type Church and its pastor is Terrence Kennedy. It is at 1200 County Road 466. The services, socially distanced, are at 10:30 every Sunday.

Email and telephone numbers are: [twk3032@gmail.com](mailto:twk3032@gmail.com) and 512-599-7761.

Church facebook: [Typechurch.1](https://www.facebook.com/Typechurch.1) to listen to sermons and communicate.

Left, work day/spring cleaning at Type Church on Saturday, April 10. The Church now is starting Sunday Potluck and a new series on the Holy Spirit.

Photos by Sarah Cardwell





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# Coupland's New Farmers & Artisan Market

By David Harrison, Market Manager

Well, it isn't just a farmers' market; it is a farmer and artisan market. The market thrives on locally made, grown, and created. It has become our unofficial motto. We're allowing vendors to sell other items that don't fall into that category as long as they don't exceed 15% of their inventory. Vendors need that little something extra to draw more people to their tables.

We have several market days under our belt so far, with several vendors participating every week. As a new market, the challenge is predicting how busy the market will be any given day. Still, the assistant market manager, Meghan Smith, and I are working the social media and neighborhood forums to their max to try and draw more customers. It would be nice if we could get the weather to cooperate. However, you know what they say about Texas weather. If you don't like it, wait a few minutes, and it will change. But don't let the weather discourage you from visiting the market on Sundays. We operate rain or shine. High winds may cause us to remove our canopies, but we're still open for business every Sunday starting at Noon.

We want to give special thanks to Barbara Piper and Becky Sutton for donating the fine picnic tables at the Depot. Thank you to Coupland Mayor Jack Piper and Russell Schmidt for assembling them when they came in. Mid-week as I drove through town, I noticed a family sitting at one of the tables having some lunch. It was a wonderful sight to see someone enjoying some open-air time at the Depot, even though it wasn't market day.

Below, this great aerial shot of the Market on its opening day of March 21 was taken by Max Marosko III. See his ad on page 15. The Market will be open every Sunday from noon to 5 p.m.



Below left, opening ceremonies included presentation of the U.S. and Texas flags by representatives of Elgin VFW Post 6115. Below, ribbon-cutting by Mayor Jack Piper and Market Manager David Harrison. Photos by Buz Garry







Above, Valentina, who found the \$100 Golden Easter Egg, and family. Market Manager David Harrison in middle. Photo courtesy of the Market



Above, Abbey opens the Inn & Dancehall while the Market is open for lunch and refreshments. Photo courtesy of Inn & Dancehall



Our Easter Egg hunt was a huge success. David's Studio Farm donated a \$100 Grand Prize Golden Egg, which Valentina and her brother found. Sorry, we missed her last name, but the smile on her face says all. Congratulations Valentina.

On April 18 Wild Things Zoofari came to the market with a petting zoo at Noon and a LIVE animal show at 3 p.m. It was a WILD DAY!

If you have allergies, we ask that you refrain from visiting the market until June. The trees are budding, and one of our vendors has had a severe reaction from it. Please be safe.

As the Founder and Market Manager of the Coupland Farmers and Artisan Market, I am incredibly humbled to serve our community. I call the market CFAM for short, and the acronym of the name of the market is appropriate as standing for our Coupland Family. It is lovely to see people coming together, especially after a whole year of distancing from others because of the pandemic. I see new friendships developing, friendly bartering between vendors, and the praises and comments from the locals visiting the market are, to say the least, very uplifting. I believe that I speak for all of the vendors when I say we're happy to be here, and we look forward to getting you fresh, creative, and exciting new items, making your outdoor market shopping experience its best.

Whoops, I almost missed the opportunity to tell you about the Coupland Inn & Dancehall. Abbey Road has been opening on Sundays to provide the market with restrooms, and she's open for lunch with a fantastic menu. She has also generously donated gallons of hand sanitizer for the market. There is no need to go looking for lunch after church; drop in at the Dancehall for some good eats and treats before you visit the market. Thank you, Abbey, for your support.

Thanks to the Coupland Civic Organization board, The Coupland Inn & Dancehall, and David's Studio Farm for supporting the market. That's all the market news I have for you at this time. Now, to get you to think about the market, I'm going to put this song into your mind, and you won't be able to get out until you visit the market.

"To market, to market, to buy a fat pig. Home again, home again, jiggy jig." I haven't been able to get it out of my mind for weeks now.

We'll see you at the market.





# Coupland Art News: The Colors of Revival 2021

Artists, Friends, and Neighbors!

Welcome to the fresh season of get out of the house and meetups with other masked bandits. Got your vaccination? Please do! We will look forward to seeing you in person again soon. 207 Herrin location reopens again on weekends in June!

Be assured, the Arts never retreated, even during this severe campaign of public health and mighty weather adjustments . . . the creation troops moved on. Here is what's up with Arts Convergences.

Locally at Herrin Street headquarters, art admiral Colin Nelson popped in from Houston for a spree of porch paint and engineering new lawn seating for future outdoor gatherings. Huge thanks to Colin. His peach and pear trees survived the abominable freeze! Although, sadly, many trees did not.

Jim Huntington, sculptor, celebrating his 80th this year, reminds us, "We just keep watch and do what we can do. We had 10 days of horrid freeze." So now we are pulling for our ligustrums, pomegranates, rare desert breeds, and my own shedding oak. Yet, as Jim adds with verve, Huntington Foundation on April 11 installed three new granite carvings in his Granite Orchard at Hoxie and Broad Street. With expert help from Tod Griffin of Veterans Landscapes their task went like clockwork on that Sunday. Folks, mark your calendars for a stroll among these many enticing sculptures. Jim also has just received 43,000 pounds of uncut stone from Colorado ready to be turned into more sculptures. (picture on page 3.)

*(Continued on page 13)*



Above, glazed terra cotta mask by Letitia Eldredge; it is hot in the kiln having just been fired. Its formal intent is as architectural sconce for a wall light to shine through or simply a decorative piece. Measures 17" x 12" x 5" deep. Sturdy for outdoor porch mounting. Photo by Letitia Eldredge

Below, Letitia's pieces displayed in the show "The Colors of Revival 2021" organized by Judy Blundell at Gallery 120Art in Taylor. Photo courtesy of Judy Blundell

Below, Jim Huntington, assisted by Tod Griffiths, installs new pieces in the Sculpture Garden. Photo by Letitia Eldredge



Below, one of Jim's new works. Photo by Jim Huntington







One of a new series of gouache paintings by Coupland artist Peter Julian.

Photo courtesy of Peter Julian

*(Continued from page 12)*

Our Other Great Guy on Art Bloc, Peter Julian, proceeded with a series of new gouache paintings. (See one at left.) These mid-sized full color works explore botanical themes comprising a fascinating series.

Spreading our lens to the north, we see that Judy Blundell has announced her opening of "The Colors of Revival 2021" at Gallery 120Art in Taylor, which includes paintings by Adam Dav- enport, John Malcolm McCrea, and AC's Letitia Eldredge. A fea- tured display of elaborate beaded jewelry by Katie Gates fills out this exhibit at 120Art Taylor through the first week of June.

I want to mention Leo and Lee Ortiz with thanks for tak- ing the first whack at AC's frozen landscape cleanup. Leo is start- ing up his own "LeO's Landscapes" Service this season, and we highly recommend their prompt and diligent work.

As for myself, artist and neighbor Letitia Eldredge, I want to give special thanks for Susan and Buz Garry, Karen van Buren, and John Evancho who included me in their COVID-19 family circles for this past year, while we were all shut in. Their love and attention definitely carried me through a bountiful year in solitude as Arts Convergence Little Museum and Gallery reset exhibits and renovations for the 2021 schedule ahead.

I send you all best wishes for this year's breakout with the caution to keep yourselves well and safe; hoping to see you in per- son soon.

Warm regards,

Letitia Eldredge, Arts Convergence

Contact: artsconv@gmail.com

## Coupland Sculptor Wells Mason Named to Sculpture Group Board

Coupland designer and sculptor Wells Ma- son has been named to the Board of Directors of the Texas Sculpture Group (TSG), a non-profit arts or- ganization that promotes contemporary sculpture, educates the public regarding the aesthetics of sculp- ture, and promotes and supports sculptors in Texas and beyond.

According to the TSG announcement, "He has already made a huge impact with his enthusiasm and work for the TSG! You know his work from previous TSG shows (the Umasi tables!)." Wells is a multi-faceted artist who works in wood and met- al. He has exhibited his work in galleries and muse- ums around the country, and his work has been fea- tured in countless regional, national, and internation- al publications. Recently he was selected for the 2020 Edition of the London International Creative Competition in the Product Category for The Umasi Collection.

He has a long history of public service. He is the immediate past president of the Coupland Wa- ter Supply Corporation, and he currently serves on the board of the Huntington Sculpture Foundation in addition to the Texas Sculpture Group. His most recent community project challenges architects from around the world to imagine a hopeful, post- pandemic future for everyone.



Left, Jim Huntington and, right, Wells Mason at a Colorado quarry on a previous trip to order stone for Jim's sculptures.

Photo courtesy of Wells Mason

## New Sweden Church News

By Barbara Carisalez

Well, New Sweden Lutheran Church made it through the blizzard with very little damage. A few broken water lines was it.

Spring was in the air as we were able to celebrate the Easter season with Ash Wednesday Services and Lenten Services on the following Wednesdays. We did not serve a meal beforehand as in years past because of the COVID-19. We also were able to observe Maundy Thursday with an evening service. Easter Sunday Services were held beginning with a Sunrise Service first at the cemetery with breakfast following. An Easter Egg hunt followed, then our Easter Worship Service in the Church. The church was adorned with Easter Lilies that the ladies of New Sweden purchased from Down Home Ranch. In keeping with the COVID-19 guidelines, Pastor Hans Lillejord still conducted Sunday Evening Confirmation Class. On Sunday, April 11, the five girls that attended classes were confirmed.

It looks like we are getting back to our regular scheduled events. The Women's Bible Study will start meeting again the first Thursday evening in May at 6:30 p.m. The Swedish Interest Group will start up again the first Monday of the month starting in May. Mother's Day will be observed with a breakfast at 9:30 a.m. prior to morning Worship Service. Fellowship potluck Sunday will also begin in May, the fourth Sunday following Worship Services. We are hoping to continue this schedule for June as well and have a breakfast for Father's Day prior to Worship Service.

### 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  
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Ofc. Hours 9 - Noon Tues. & Thurs.



[www.newswedenelca.org](http://www.newswedenelca.org)

We continue to celebrate the 145th Anniversary of the New Sweden Evangelical Lutheran Church congregation by changing the display in the Foundation Center each month to share the history. In April, we shared how the pipes to the current church organ that is still in use today were hauled by mule and wagon from the Manor train station. Also we shared how families would still conduct Sunday Service in their homes if the weather made it too difficult to travel all the way to the church. If it was going to be a Communion Sunday, they would take a table from the home and make an Altar from which to serve Communion. For the next couple of months, the displays will acknowledge fifth-generation families that are still active today at New Sweden Lutheran Church.

## Thank You Marilyn Samuelson

The *Herald* would like to extend our thanks to Marilyn Samuelson for her many years of reporting the news from New Sweden Church. She has been getting us the news from New Sweden since 2010. Marilyn has decided to retire from writing for the *Herald* and has handed over the reins to Barbara Carisalez, who is the New Sweden Church Secretary. Marilyn, we appreciate your thorough and conscientious reporting and your careful and descriptive writing. In addition to writing for the *Herald*, Marilyn also has been involved in other community activities such as the Blackland Prairie Concerned Citizens Association.

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# Williamson County ESD #10

By Karen Van Buren

Due to the Governor having rescinded the COVID restrictions, the ESD will begin holding future Board Meetings in person at the Coupland Fire Station. The approved minutes, meeting notice/agenda and audited financial report are posted on the ESD's website at [www.wcesd10.org](http://www.wcesd10.org).

Mark Prinz has been elected the Assistant Treasurer of the Williamson County ESD #10.

The ESD #10 was able to secure CARES Act reimbursement for the coronavirus-related purchases. They recently submitted about \$1,700 for reimbursement through the Act.

Both the Coupland and Thrall Volunteer Fire Departments have seen an increase in coronavirus dispatch calls with a younger population contracting the virus. The Thrall and Coupland Volunteer Fire Departments are sending only certified volunteers on medical calls. Both departments have initiated strict mask policies during the pandemic. They have also experienced a rise in other non-medical calls.

The ESD #10 Commissioners have established an Advisory Committee for the Ignis Fire Academy. The Committee members are John Roulston-Bates, Lead Instructor, Coupland VFD Asst. Fire Chief; Kevin Gehrig, Instructor, Weir Fire Department Asst. Fire Chief; Zach Hall, Instructor, Thrall VFD Asst. Fire Chief; Drew Neal, Advisor, Training Captain, Hutto Fire Department; and Charlie Frymire, Advisor,

Weir Fire Department Fire Chief. Classes for the Ignis Fire Academy began on March 22 with eleven students who will train until May 5, 2021.

Hank Jones, the Williamson County Fire Marshall, visited with the Board of Commissioners and reported Wilco has adopted a new Fire Code which both the Coupland and Thrall Volunteer Fire Departments will follow.

Repairs have been made to several of the fire trucks belonging to the Coupland Volunteer Fire Department which have been necessary due to their age and usage. The Thrall Volunteer Fire Department vehicles are fully operational.

The Board of Commissioners met for a Strategic Planning Work Session in April to plan for the next five years, including extreme weather preparations.

During the week-long ice storm in Texas, the departments were staffed throughout. The Fire Station in Coupland could have been used as a storm shelter had it not been for the virus. The Station had MREs and bottled water on hand for community residents in need.

If any of our area residents are interested in volunteering to support our firefighting volunteers, they can contact Jared Cummings, Fire Chief for the Coupland Department, about joining the **Volunteer Auxiliary Unit** which does not require any firefighting involvement (think: "homemade cookies," etc.). Jared can be contacted at [jcumings@couplandfire.org](mailto:jcumings@couplandfire.org).

As always, we extend our appreciation to our uncompensated volunteer ESD Commissioners and volunteer firefighters as well as those certified instructors at the Ignis Fire Academy who are training others to follow their lead.

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## Coupland School News --By Kathy Hill

- On Thursday, March 25, Coupland School celebrated the annual Kids' Jump Rope for Heart Challenge Finale entitled "Slime Time." Mr. Brinkman and Ms. Violette were "slimed" in front of the library by students who met their goal marks. They were:

Callie Cain - 4th total \$1200  
 Julia Mitri - 5th total \$367.86  
 Callie Luce - 2nd total \$252.65  
 Charley Ging - K total \$217.99  
 Landry Middaugh - 3rd total \$210.91  
 Logan Middaugh - 5th total \$200.91

Coach Kyle Rinderknecht sponsored this campaign. Proceeds go to the American Heart Association.

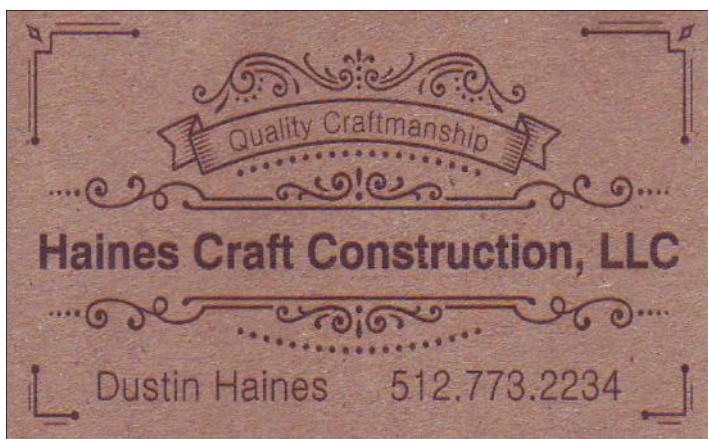
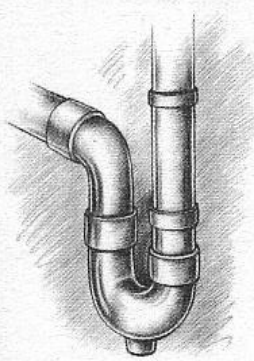
- Coupland's Student Council sponsored a Spring Fling Dance on March 26.
- Bond Construction is looking GREAT! Kindergarten and 1st grade classes will be moving into their new classrooms in May, the new gym is almost complete, and construction on Phase 2 will soon begin!
- Coupland School is growing! Next year look for 6 new teaching positions filled (Pre-K-5th) as well as our newly hired Assistant Principal.
- 8th Grade Graduation will be held on Thursday, May 27, at 7 p.m. in the Gym (COVID permitting).

## School Construction and Personalized Bricks

Much progress is being made on the School's building project, which includes renovation of existing facilities and new construction. The website at [couplandisd.org](http://couplandisd.org) has Construction Project Updates with pictures and graphs.

Brick installation is complete, and windows are installed in the new gym. Work continues on ductwork, plumbing, and electrical. Light fixture and plumbing fixture installation has begun. Interior wall installation continues.

The PTA is offering personalized bricks that will be ordered when the site is ready. Each brick can have up to three lines of text, with 18 characters per line. Each brick is \$50. Please order at [couplandpta.square.site](http://couplandpta.square.site)

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# Coupland School Theatre Rocks in *Rock of Ages*

By Kathy Hill

Coupland’s Fine Arts Department performed the musical, *Rock of Ages - Middle School Edition*, on Friday, April 9, and Tuesday, April 13, to sold-out audiences as a farewell to the Old Main Gym. Through many hours and obstacles, Fine Arts Director, Music Director, and Choreographer Annie Violette, along with Victoria Wallin-Chaney, Jessica Larson, Kathy Hill, and Crystal Ward, led this troupe to stellar performances.

*Rock of Ages*, set on Los Angeles’s famous Sunset Strip in 1987, tells a story of Drew (Andrea Cedillo), a city boy from South Detroit and Sherrie (Abigail Bristoll), a small-town girl, who have both traveled to LA to chase their dreams of making it big and falling in love. Lonny (Jourden Violette) narrates the story, Father (Kody Smith) and Mother (Miranda Herring) have to say goodbye to their Sherrie, the Dupree Room owner Dennis (Jayden Johnson) tries to hang on in hard times, the Mayor (Jackson Bristoll) and Regina (Elise Adrian) try to stop Hilda (Callie Molineux) and her son Franz (Adriana Sandoval) from demolishing the Strip.

As Sherrie and Drew encounter difficulties, Sherrie turns to rock star and lead singer of the rock band Arsenal, Stacey Jaxx (Kamryn Hill), who ends up getting her fired. When Sherrie gets dumped by Dennis, Justice (Gabriella Sandoval) helps her to get back on her feet. Ja’Keith (Laramie Galloway) tries to help Drew, and Constance (Addison Ward) interviews Stacey.

Other cast members include Arsenal Lead Guitarist (Makynna Tanner) and Arsenal Rhythm Guitarist (Kalli Coffey). There for Sherrie are the #1-#3 Waitresses (Reese Thomas, Carol Valdez, and Bella Slauson). Protesters (Maddie Moore, Jayden Clarke, and Seth Johnson) try to stop the demolition of their sacred Dupree Room, and Fangirls #1-3 (Bradie Suarez, Abbey Viktora, and Summer Leal) dazzled the audience. Ben Kanten ran the lights.

Director Violette said, “The music in this production holds a special place in my heart. My father introduced me to ‘real’ rock-n-roll and all of its influences. It led to my love of playing the guitar and performance. This one’s for you, Dad!”

Our community should look forward to more from this cast and Coupland School’s Fine Arts Department. They’re dedicated and truly talented.



Left, left to right, Kamryn Hill (Stacey Jaxx), Elise Adrian (Regina), and Callie Molineux (Hilda Klineman).  
Photo by Kathy Hill



Right, photo by Crystal Ward

## Coupland Inn & Dancehall Is Open-- Adds Sunday Lunch Noon to 5 p.m. While Farmers Market Is Open

The Inn & Dancehall is open on weekends now and is also open during the Coupland Farmers & Artisan Market every Sunday from noon to 5 p.m.

Owner Abbey Road says, “The restaurant is open for lunch on Sundays. Brownies and jerky, cold beer in the Dancehall.”

For the schedule of acts at the Dancehall and to buy tickets, go to [couplanddancehall.com](http://couplanddancehall.com).



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## Coupland Track Wins Second in District--By Kathy Hill

On March 30, Coupland School's 7th and 8th Grade Track Team, led by Coach Stayci Burris and Coach Kyle Rinderknecht, did a fantastic job at the District Track Meet against Gause and Westphalia.

Gabriella Sandoval placed 1st in the Shot Put, Abigail Bristoll placed 1st in the 200 Meter Run, Jackson Bristoll placed 1st in 400 Meter Run, Isabella Slausen placed 1st in the 300 Meter Hurdles, and Gabriella Sandoval, Addison Ward, Maddie Moore, and Bradie Suarez placed 1st in the 4 x 400 Relay.

Andrea Cedillo placed 2nd in the High Jump, and Abigail Bristoll placed 2nd in the Triple Jump. The girls won 2nd in the 4 x 100 Relay with Abigail Bristoll, Andrea Cedillo, Elise Adrian, and Gabriella Sandoval. Also placing 2nd, were Adriana Sandoval and Laramie Galloway in the 800 Meter Run, and Isabella Slausen and Jesus Don in the 100 Meter Hurdles. In the 100 Meter Dash, Abigail Bristoll also placed 2nd, and Jackson Bristoll placed 2nd in the 1600 Meter Run.

Placing 3rd in the Discus, was Gabriella Sandoval. Abigail Bristoll and Jackson Bristoll both placed 3rd in the Long Jump, Gabriella Sandoval placed 3rd in the 800 Meter Run, Andrea Cedillo and Jackson Bristoll both placed 3rd in the 100 Meter Hurdles, Elise Adrian placed 3rd in the 100 Meter Dash, Andrea Cedillo placed 3rd in the 400 Meter Dash, and our 4 x 200 Meter Relay made up of Addison Ward, Maddie Moore, Adriana Sandoval, and Bella Slauson also placed 3rd. Jayden Johnson placed 3rd in the 300 Meter Hurdles, and Jesus Don was 3rd in the 1600 Meter Run.

Other placings in Discus were 4th place Bradie Suarez and 6th place Adriana Sandoval. Elise Adrian placed 4th and Laramie Galloway 5th in the Long Jump. Gabriela Sandoval placed 5th and Elise Adrian 6th in the Triple Jump. Seth Johnson placed 4th in the 800 Meter Run, Jayden Johnson placed 4th, and Jourden Violette 6th in the 100 Meter Hurdles. In the 100 Meter Dash, Maddie Moore and Laramie Galloway placed 4th, and Seth Johnson placed 6th. Elise Adrian placed 4th in the 400 Meter Dash, and Seth Johnson 6th in the 300 Meter Hurdles. Laramie Galloway also placed 5th in the 1600 Meter Run, and Bradie Suarez 5th in the 200 Meter Dash.

Overall, Coupland Track placed 2nd for the Girls and 3rd for the Boys.



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**Deadline for the next issue,  
August 2021, is July 10.**

## Cast of Coupland School Musical--article on page 18



Bottom left: Kody Smith, Ben Kanten, Carol Valdez, Laramie Galloway, Miranda Herring, Makynna Tanner, Abbey Viktora, and Kalli Coffey  
Middle row: Reese Thomas, Summer Leal, Kamryn Hill, Maddie Moore, Adriana Sandoval, Abigail Bristoll, Seth Johnson, Jackson Bristoll, Jayden Johnson, Jayden Clarke, Elise Adrian, Bella Slauson, Jourden Violette, Andrea Cedillo, Gabriella Sandoval, Callie Molineux, and Bradley Suarez  
Top: Director, Music Director, Choreographer Annie Violette Photo by Crystal Ward