



COUPLAND HERALD

Coupland ISD Bond Election

By Ted Wittliff

INSIDE THIS ISSUE:

<i>Coupland City News</i>	3
<i>St. Peter's Church News</i>	4
<i>CVFD 40 Anniversary</i>	6
<i>Post Oak Marker</i>	8
<i>Arts Convergence</i>	9
<i>New Sweden, Lawhon</i>	10
<i>Haines Handyman, Bees</i>	11
<i>National Night Out</i>	12
<i>Coupland School News</i>	14

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Voters in the Coupland Independent School District (CISD) will have the opportunity on November 5 to vote on a very important bond proposal.

In August the School Board approved an order calling for this election. This is in fact the very first time in the history of CISD that the sale of bonds has been proposed. Up to now the district has been able to finance expansion of the school facilities using careful management, operating funds, and a one-time grant from the state. Recent and expected population growth together with other factors such as increased security requirements have driven the need for a bond election.

The quality of education provided by CISD is demonstrated by the number of transfer requests made by residents of neighboring school districts. The district accepts transfers when doing so will not have a detrimental impact on the quality of education provided to all students. When space is available in existing classes transfers can be added with no additional cost. Since the state provides CISD with funding for each transfer student, the district has a net gain in funding due to transfers. Over the past five years from 49 to 60 percent of the students enrolled were transfers.

Coupland ISD was identified as a "property rich" school district some years ago when few transfer students were enrolled here. Local tax dollars were "recaptured" by the state (under the "Robin Hood" law) and sent to other districts that were deemed "property poor". Accepting transfer students has kept CISD from sending locally raised tax dollars to other districts.

For the 2017-18 school year the district served 69 "in district" students. That number has increased to 100 for the current year. Recent studies indicate that by the 2023-24 school year the "in district" student population will fall in the range of 139 to 169 (including Pre-K). While the district has the option of accepting transfer students, they are required to provide service to students living in the district.

The hub of the existing facility is the two-story masonry building erected in 1912. In 1950 the gym/auditorium and kitchen were added. More additions followed between 1966 and 1996, including two portable buildings.

In addition to concerns over the classroom capacity of the existing facility, campus safety and security need improvement. At present students must move between buildings via outdoor walkways which can't be secured from external intruders. Although fences exist, they do not provide acceptable security. The existing gym is smaller than regulation court sizes and there is not adequate room for parents to watch their kids play. There is also an issue with drainage between the existing assortment of buildings.

The proposed improvement plan will add three new standard classrooms and one new Pre-Kindergarten classroom. The existing portable buildings will be replaced with two standard and two specialty classrooms. The current Kindergarten and first grade classrooms will be renovated and have dedicated restrooms added. All classrooms will be accessed via enclosed connecting corridors and all visitors will be required to enter the building via a secure entrance vestibule. A new bus turnaround will be added in the rear where buses will load and unload. The parent drop-off in the front will be rerouted and provided with a drop off canopy. Finally, a new gym will be added as a separate building to the south of the existing facility.

(Continued on page 5)

Early voting starts October 21. Election Day is November 5.

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

Happy Fall! Or maybe it's Happy Extended Summer. I'm not sure which to choose because it seems as though the summer heat will never end. Hopefully, by the time this is read, we will have experienced some real fall weather and rain.

Coupland Civic Organization's busiest time of the year started in August with National Night Out. The attendance was great and we had several speakers including Williamson County Sheriff's Deputy Matthew Kreidel; Constable Candidate Paul Leal; Michael Roepke, School Board Member; John Roulston-Bates of Coupland Volunteer Fire Department; Gary Haston, Commander from Williamson County Sheriff's Office; and Russ Boles, County Commissioner. Hot dogs with all the trimmings and homemade cookies were devoured. It's always a pleasure to meet with old friends and make new ones during this event. Choo Choo Fest will probably be over by the time this edition of the *Herald* is printed. Trunk or Treat will be celebrated on Saturday, October 26, at St. Peter's Church of Coupland. This is such a fun event. I think the grownups enjoy dressing in costumes more than the kids.

Usually, in my column, I look back several years to what was happening in our community. This time, I'm going to reminisce about my experiences at Coupland School. Both my parents attended Coupland School as well as my sisters and brother. Both my children attended the school through the fifth grade. When I started at Coupland School, there were only four classrooms, two grades per classroom. In this atmosphere, I thrived. Because we were a small school, outside community

members volunteered as coaches, and music and drama teachers. I remember the pastor of St. Peter's Church of Coupland was our PE teacher (unpaid). My mother actually taught piano lessons in a small room at the top of the second floor stairs. She also created musical programs for the school.

Our cafeteria was awesome. Mrs. Alice Sakewitz was the marvelous cook. She would remember I didn't like chocolate milk and or hot dogs. She made sure I had white milk and a hamburger when they served hot dogs. On Fridays, members of the community would also eat in the cafeteria. All these memories hold a dear place in my heart. Of course, things change and you don't have shared classrooms anymore. Coupland School was and continues to be an excellent place to get an education.

Unfortunately, they're running out of room, hence the need for a bond election. Having been a librarian in the Round Rock ISD for 25 years, I'm well acquainted with bond elections. When Mrs. Brinkman and the school board informed a cadre of interested citizens the bond would be for \$5 million, I blurted out, "that's all?" I was used to multimillion dollar bonds. The superintendent and the school board are very frugal. They are not asking for all the bells and whistles, just the basics that include new classrooms and security for the children and teachers. I remember a gentleman informing me he didn't want to vote for a bond because he had no children in school. There are a lot of us who don't. However, these students are our future. Without an educated populace, we will be without the

(Continued on page 3)

Editorial

By Susan Garry, *Herald* Editor

Coupland School Receives 'A' Rankings— Let's Continue the Tradition

Coupland School received A rankings in the recent state ratings by letter grades. Superintendent Tammy Brinkman says, "I am very proud of the accomplishments of our faculty, staff and students. Their hard work and effort paid off, and Coupland School received an A on both the Texas Academic Performance Report (TAPR) and the Financial Integrity Reporting System of Texas (FIRST)."

She also reports that Coupland School received four distinctions: Top 25% Comparative Academic, Top 25% Comparative Closing the Gaps, Postsecondary Readiness, and Academic Achievement in Mathematics.

Coupland School remains one of the best, if not the best, school in our area. In the 2019 state letter rankings, in

which Coupland received an overall A ranking, most of the other schools in our area—Elgin, Hutto, Manor, McDade, Thorndale, and Taylor—received B's. The only other area school besides Coupland that received an A was Thrall.

Our school continues to turn out students who go on to succeed in high school and college. Our school is an important part of our community. Students go there whose parents and grandparents went there. It is a tradition that we need to maintain. If our school becomes unable to meet the needs of its students, it may be shut down. There will be no more



Coupland School to teach the children of the community as there has been since 1912. The children and the entire community will be the losers if this happens.

The school board and administration have worked very hard over the years to maintain the facilities in the most economical manner. Now, due to increasing enrollment and needs for increased safety and security, the school requires the money that will come from bonds. The school bonds will be on the November ballot. Please

consider what the school has meant all these years, and Save our School.

(Continued from page 2)

important benefits we get when we get older—Social Security, Medicare. I urge you to vote YES to the Coupland ISD school bond.

There's another bond on the ballot which concerns roads. All I can say about this is we need drivable roads in the far eastern part of the county. I urge you to take a short road trip past Coupland and drive on some of these county roads. Then, decide how to vote on the road bonds.

Hope to see you at Trunk or Treat!

Susan Schmidt

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.

No Application for a place on the City of Coupland Council was submitted. Therefore, the following is a list of Council members whose terms will now expire in November 2021:

Mayor: Jack Piper
 Alderwoman, at large: Karen Marosko
 Alderwoman, at large: Susan Garry

Please see the City of Coupland Organization Chart listing all Council members along with contact information, phone numbers, and terms. You will find this data on the City's website.

Since the last *Herald* publication, the following items were discussed by the City Council.

1. The City Council is reviewing a Nuisance Ordinance for the City and has sent it to the City attorney for review and comments. It is specific and will help make Coupland a clean and welcoming community.
2. Several items were discussed and approved during the September Council meeting:

(Continued on page 8)

CHOO CHOO FEST WAS ON OCTOBER 6--

just after the November *Herald* went to press. We will cover Choo Choo Fest in the February *Herald*.

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St. Peter's Church News

By Pastor Martin Garrison

As they headed out past the mailbox, Jenny thought to herself, "one-thousand-five-hundred-seventy-seven." It sounds specific, but it was really just a rough estimate. They'd been taking this walk almost every evening for 15 years. Jenny and her husband moved into this house anticipating retirement. It is smaller than the home they raised their kids in. It sits in an older neighborhood with more trees. It's really a great place to go for a walk at the end of the day.

They don't say much until they get to the end of the street. Then he asks Jenny about her day. She tells him about her lunch with the ladies from church. He tells her about his phone call with their son. "Do you remember that friend of his Dan, or Don, the tall one? Evidently they've had a new baby?" After a minute politics comes up. He'd read an article in the Journal about tariffs and just thinking about it gets him riled up.

Jenny wants to say, "Well I think it's about time we looked out for our own businesses!" But she holds her tongue.

She waits till he pauses and asks why he gets so upset about it. As he answers she reaches out and takes his hand. As they discuss their differences of opinion. They intertwine their fingers. A physical reminder that even though we disagree, I'm always on your team.

All marriages have conflict. (Which doesn't mean all marriages have fights.) No two people however well suited can agree on everything, or have the same expectations in managing a home, raising children, and living life. Couples that are tender and joyful years down the road have figured out ways to use conflict to learn more about their partners, instead of trying to win arguments. Those couples see their differences with humor and not despair.

In the end of October, St. Peter's Church of Coupland will celebrate our 125th anniversary. The church first met in members' homes in 1894. That's 125 years of conflict and disagreement. It is the thing I love about an old church. The peo-

(Continued on page 15)

Seniors Luncheon Was September 17--
Next Luncheon Will Be November 19

What a wonderful Seniors Luncheon we had! We had 43 plus Seniors including Hostesses and Helpers. Hostesses were: Sandra Wernli, Cynthia Wittliff, Becky Sutton, Marge Gebhardt, Janet Doss, Karen Rhoades, and Lois Schmidt. Helpers were: Wanda Walther, Don Wernli, and Teddy Wittliff.

We thank Cynthia for calling Bingo. Thanks to all of y'all for your help; it was appreciated very much! "42" Dominoes was played also. Our next Seniors Luncheon will be on November 19 at 11:30 a.m. Bring a friend with you to enjoy the day!

Lois Schmidt and Sandra Wernli, Co-Chairmen

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Check our Facebook page for details & more events:

Saturdays - Texas Farmers Market at Lakeline, 9-1

Saturdays - Taylor Farmers Market

Sundays - Texas Farmers Market at Mueller, 10-2

Sundays - Hodgepodge Market - Taylor Gardens 12-5

Tuesdays - Pflugerville Pfarmers Market, 3-7

Oct. 5 - Round Rock Market Days, 9-4

Oct. 10, 24, 31 - Elgin Farmers' Market, 5-8

Oct. 19 - Hutto Olde Tyme Days - Hutto

Oct. 20 - Austin Fermentation Fest-Mueller Hangar-10-4

Oct. 26 - Hogeeye Festival, Elgin - 10-6

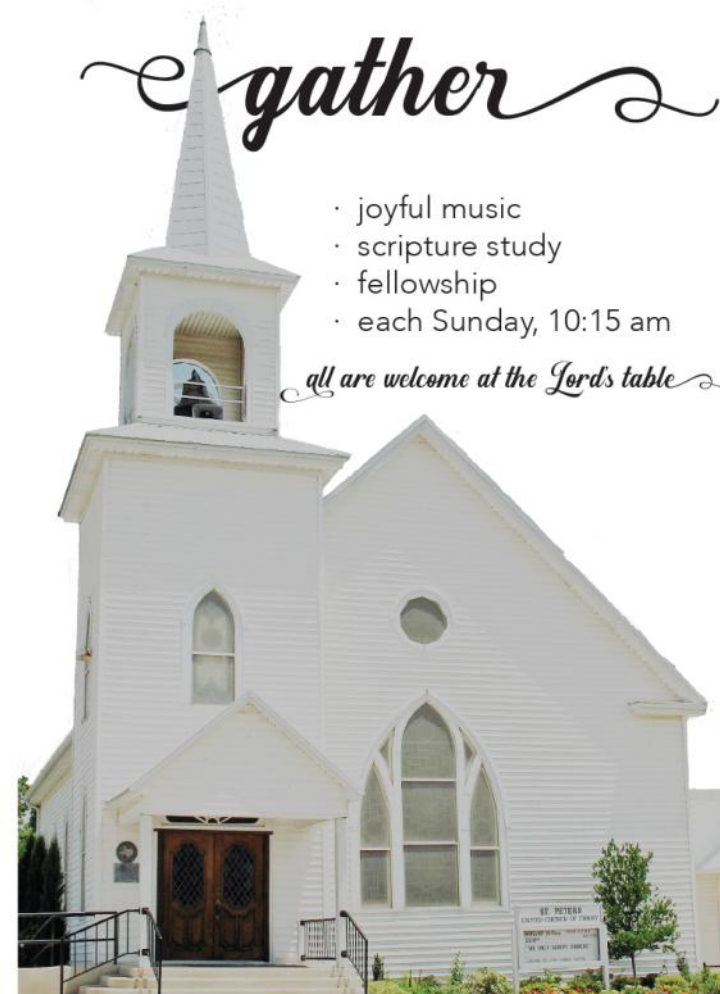
Nov. 2 - Round Rock Market Days - 9-4

Nov. 7-9 - Sleigh Bell Lane, Pflugerville 9 a.m. on

Nov. 23 - Pflugerville Pfall Pfest - Pflugerville Recreation Center, 9-4

Dec. 7 - Round Rock Market Days - 9-4

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Martin Garrison, Pastor

(Continued from page 1)

The improvements will be funded in part from existing funds but \$ 5,000,000 must be raised via a bond issue. The current CISD tax rate is \$ 1.04 but due to new state rules has to be “compressed” to \$ 0.97. That is significantly lower than the rates for Hutto, Taylor, Elgin, Pflugerville, and Manor which are all above \$ 1.50. If the bond measure is passed the new CISD tax rate is predicted to be \$ 1.21. The acceptance of the bond proposal will cause taxes on a \$ 175,000 home (with a \$ 25,000 homestead exemption) to increase by about \$ 30.00 per month.

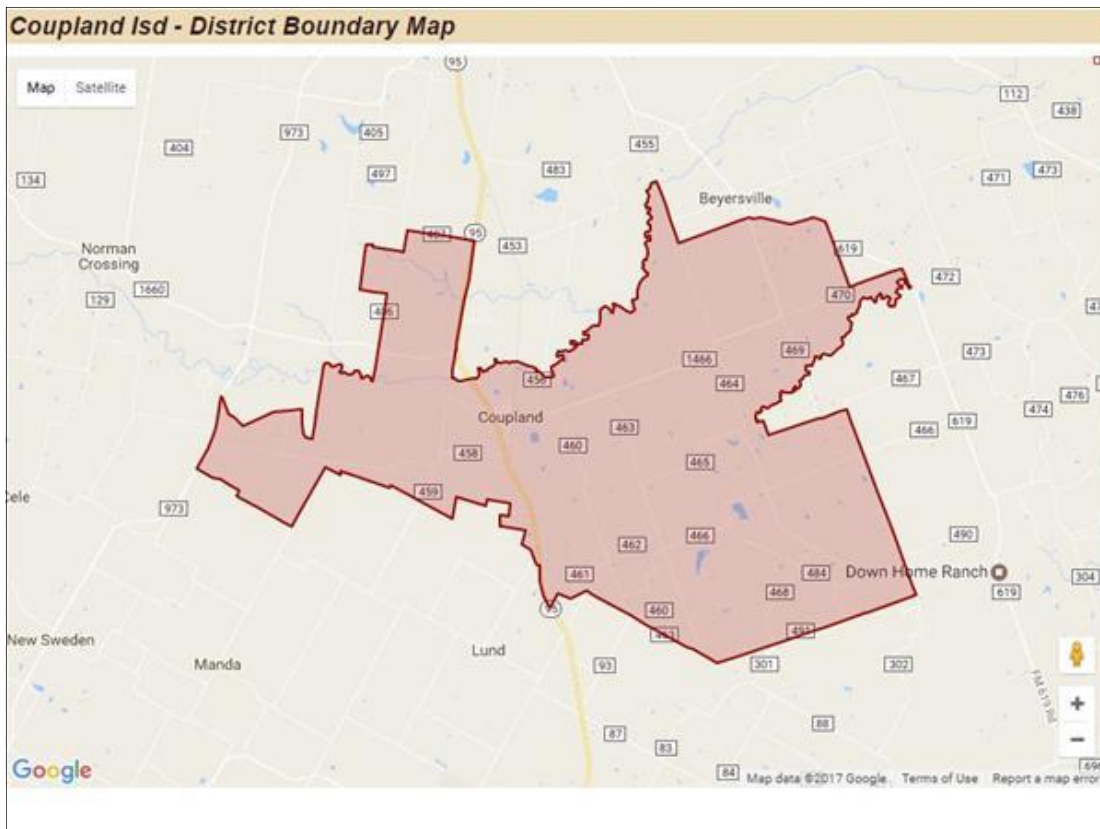
People interested in voting should check their voter registration certificate. A “CS” in the School District box indicates you may vote in the CISD bond election. Early voting begins on October 21 and ends

on November 1 at any of the Williamson County Early Voting locations. On Election Day (Tuesday, November 5) you may vote from 7 a.m. to 7 p.m. at St. Peter’s Church in Coupland.

THE BALLOT LANGUAGE

COUPLAND INDEPENDENT SCHOOL DISTRICT SPECIAL ELECTION
COUPLAND INDEPENDENT SCHOOL DISTRICT PROPOSITION A

THE ISSUANCE OF \$5,000,000 OF BONDS BY THE COUPLAND INDEPENDENT SCHOOL DISTRICT FOR NEW AND EXPANDED CLASSROOMS, NEW GYMNASIUM AND SAFETY/SECURITY IMPROVEMENTS AND LEVYING THE TAX IN PAYMENT THEREOF.



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Coupland Fire Department 40th Anniversary Fun Day Saturday, Oct.19, from 4 p.m.

We'd love to see you all at our Coupland VFD 40th Anniversary Fun Day on Saturday October 19, starting at 4 p.m.

We'll be hosting games, competitions, and a movie night with food in the station apparatus bay.

- A fire truck pull (teams of 6 compete in a tug of war with a fire truck)
- Outdoor games
- Dunk the Chief
- The "Are you smarter than a firefighter" challenge
- Hose bowling competition

In the evening we'll be serving food and hosting a movie night in the fire station apparatus bay, playing *Planes 2: Fire and Rescue*, great for the kids but fun for all ages.

This is not a fundraiser, it is a thank you from everyone at Coupland VFD to the community. Y'all have supported us for forty years and we'd like to throw you a party to say thank you.

If nothing else, it'd be worth your time to show up for the chance to hit the dunk tank target and give the Fire Chief a good soaking.

You can find out more at www.couplandfire.org/40 or by following us on Facebook.

Start at 4 p.m., movie at 6:30 p.m. We look forward to seeing you.

John Roulston-Bates, Assistant Fire Chief



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Everyone Welcome

Not a fundraiser, just a thank you for forty years of support
 Coupland Fire Station, 403 FM 1466, Coupland TX



Shaun Maserang and Chief Jared Cummings present the firefighters of the future.

Photo courtesy Coupland VFD

ESD#10 News

Karen Van Buren reports that at their September 10 board meeting, the ESD adopted the same property tax rate of \$.10 per \$100 valuation for the 2019 tax year.

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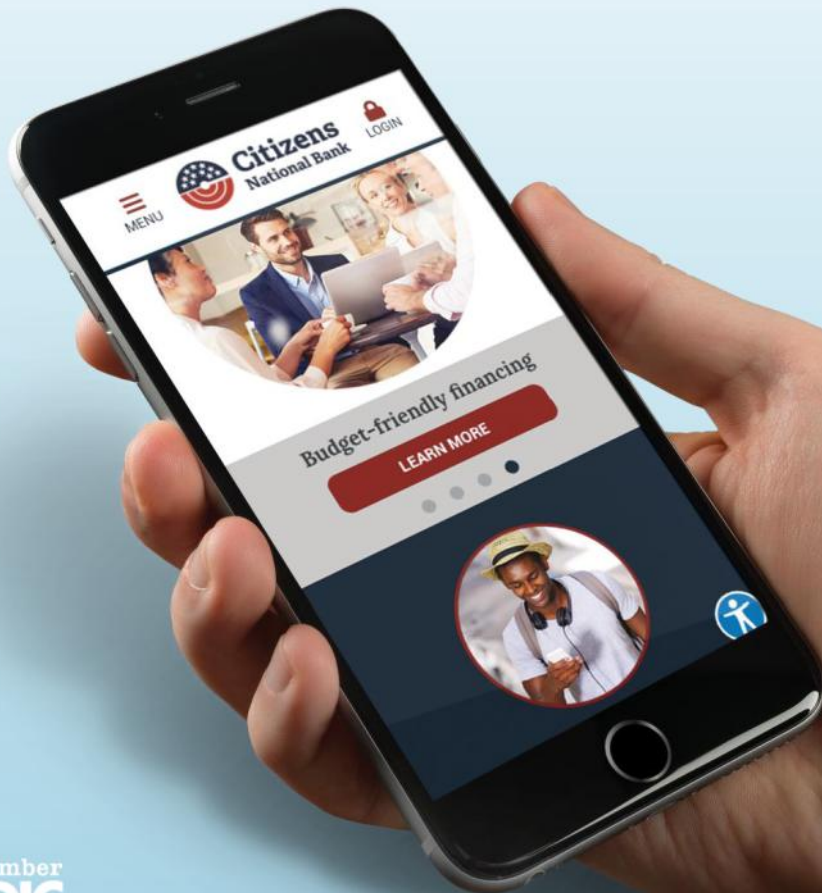
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Post Oak Island Historical Marker

By Charlene Hanson Jordan

The Texas Historical Commission has approved the Post Oak Island historical marker. After it has been cast at the foundry, it will be placed near the Type Cemetery marker because the two complement each other. The cemetery and the Yegua Creek Church are located near the center of the Thomas A. Graves survey where Post Oak Island was established.

There will be a marker dedication with speakers, but the timing is a little complicated because the Texas Historical Commission has had to find a new foundry, and it is uncertain when the marker will be ready to be dedicated. The marker text follows.

Post Oak Island

The community of Post Oak Island was one of the earliest settlements in the area. Thomas A. Graves, who lived in Robertson’s Colony and was a surveyor and the first sheriff of Milam County, received a headright grant including this area on February 4, 1838, when it was in Milam County. Nicholas Adolphus Sterne mentioned the site in his diary entry for December 6, 1840, recording that his party saw many herds of buffalo near a grove of post oak trees which gave the community its name.

Post Oak Island flourished in the mid-19th century at a crossroads for transportation. The site had a spring which was valuable for travelers along a road between Austin and Nacogdoches and a stagecoach run from Bastrop to Circleville. Jacob de Cordova’s 1849 state map depicts Post Oak Island and a grove of trees as one of Williamson County’s earliest place names. In 1855, Ibrey J. Kidd became the first postmaster of Post Oak Island. In the same year, he joined T. Gatlin, P. A. Middleton, Marmaduke Gardner and A. S. Harper to establish Post Oak Island Masonic Lodge No. 181, A. F. & A. M. The village also had an early school and a mule barn that provided mules for county road work.

Many families left during and soon after the Civil War. The Colorado and Post Oak Island Railroad incorporated in 1871, intended to join the Houston and Texas Central (H&TC) at McDade. But it was never built. Instead, new

roads and railroads led to growth in nearby communities such as Elgin and Coupland. The H&TC contributed to other changes such as the transition from large ranches to smaller farms, and an influx of European immigrants who settled the prairies to the north and west. The post office closed in 1880, and the school moved east in 1915 and was renamed Woodrow. The Masonic Lodge moved to Beaukiss in 1901 and retained the Post Oak Island name. Area homes and ranchettes now fill the landscape of one of the area’s oldest named places.

Continuation of City News from page 3.

(Continued from page 3)

- a) The Ordinance to adopt the annual budget for the 2019-2020 fiscal year was approved.
- b) The Ordinance to pass the levy of an ad valorem tax on all property within the corporate limits of the City of Coupland at a rate of \$0.25 on each \$100.00 valuation of property. This tax rate has not changed since we incorporated in 2012.
- c) The Council approved a Resolution to enter into a Purchasing Cooperative Interlocal Agreement with Williamson County. This will enable Coupland to benefit purchasing some items using Williamson County’s volume discount.

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.

Just as an interest item, the historical bridge on CR 456 is now being renovated. The contractor has received the necessary material and has begun work at the site. We look forward to its completion. Also, TxDOT has ordered material to repair damage to the bridge on FM 1466 and will begin this repair upon receipt.

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Arts Convergence Hosts New Works By Donna Yarrell-- Gallery and Studio Open to the Public

October marks the beginning of an exhibit of new works by Donna Yarrell at Arts Convergence in Coupland. It also marks the opening of Arts Convergence to the public for the fall and winter. Letitia Eldredge will host visitors to her gallery and studio.

Donna Yarrell is a Texas-Nevada artist now living and creating in the Mojave Desert. There she also teaches art appreciation online for Temple College as well as conducting live studio courses for a small regional college. Yarrell received a B.F.A. from Texas State University in San Marcos, and her M.F.A. from Claremont Graduate University, Claremont, CA. Her art work is in collections in the Southwest United States, Mexico, and Japan.

Donna maintains a close network of family and friends in the Central Texas area. Arts Convergence is delighted to host her annual homecoming visit with an exhibit of her new desert works. Saturday, October 19, 2019, location:

207 Herrin Street, Coupland, Texas 78615. Arts Convergence Little Museum and Gallery features Donna Yarrell, Celebration 4-8 p.m. Donna will be speaking about her work. All are welcome. Contact: artsconv@gmail.com.

Donna's exhibit will be the debut of the Christmas season for Arts Convergence. The Gallery and Studio will be open on weekends for the holidays—Saturday and Sunday, 1 to 6 p.m.

*Letitia Eldredge,
Director, Arts Convergence*



"Matrix of the Fall," 19"x 25". Mixed media collage by Donna Yarrell. A new work which will be on display at her Arts Convergence salon opening.

Trunk or Treat, Saturday, October 26

Everybody always has a great time at Trunk or Treat! The kiddos trick or treat at decorated vehicles with people in costumes--lots of goodies and wonderful decorations. A family-friendly event. The Coupland Volunteer Fire Department brings an engine for kids and parents alike to explore the fire truck. Usually it is a beautiful evening for everyone to enjoy. So decorate your trunk or the back of your SUV, put on your scariest costume, and bring Halloween treats. Or put on your costume, go from vehicle to vehicle, and collect the Halloween treats! Trunk or Treat begins at 6 p.m. on the street in front of St. Peter's Church of Coupland.

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New Sweden Evangelical Lutheran Church--By Marilyn Samuelson

Our regular schedule is each Sunday at 9:15 a.m. Adult Bible Study, 9:30 a.m. Children's Sunday school, Confirmation Class, and Worship Service at 10:30 a.m. with Holy Communion the first and third Sundays. The Swedish Interest Group meets the first Monday of each month at 12:30 p.m. with a pot luck lunch. Bible Study is at 10 a.m. the second Tuesday of each month. Church Council meets the third Tuesday of each month at 7 p.m. and Keenagers (senior citizens) the fourth Tuesday of each month at 10 a.m.

The Community Wide Thanksgiving service will be at the First Methodist Church in Elgin at 5 p.m. Thanksgiving service will be at New Sweden on Thanksgiving Eve, Wednesday, November 28, 7 p.m. Decorating for Christmas will be Saturday, December 7, 9 a.m. Our St. Lucia presentation and Country Christmas Sing-a-Long will be Sunday, December 8, 7 p.m. This year our Lucia will be Charlie Ortiz, daughter of Tracy and Pascual Ortiz, granddaughter of Donna Lundgren Snowden and the late Bubba Snowden and great-granddaughter of Charlie Lundgren and the late Elwanda McGee Lundgren.

Christmas Eve Candlelight Service, December 24, 7 p.m. and Christmas morning (Julotta) Candlelight Service, December 25, 7 a.m. Breakfast will be served in the Parish Hall. Tuesday, December 31, New Years Eve, game night. Everyone is welcome to all services. **Wishes to all for a Blessed Merry Christmas and a Happy and Blessed New Year in 2020.**

Grand Opening of Lawhon Springs Museum

The Grand Opening of the Lawhon Springs School Museum was held on September 21, 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. The historic school is about 13 miles east of Coupland at 2263 FM 619. The community was founded by John L. Smith, but was named for David B. Lawhon who bought land there that included the springs. The school closed in 1949, and the building fell into disrepair. Trey Smith and other descendants of original settler John L. Smith have restored the school building and turned it into a museum. Half of the building is a re-creation of an old school room with authentic school desks. The other half features displays and artifacts of the history of the area. Their website is lawhonspringsmuseum.com.

At the Grand Opening, Trey displayed his authentic chuck wagon. Audrey Rother discussed the history of the settlers and the school. She will open the museum every third Saturday of the month to the public.



Audrey Rother speaks at museum opening.

Below, Trey Smith and his chuckwagon.

Photos by Susan Garry



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Bobby Haines: Handyman, Beekeeper--By Susan Garry

Long-time *Herald* advertiser Bobby Haines is well-known in our area as an expert in all aspects of construction. As he enters his 41st year in this business, he has decided to cut down on the size of the jobs that he will accept, foregoing the bigger projects and concentrating on “handyman” type jobs.

Bobby has a degree in Art from Southwest Texas State, and he brings his artistic eye to bear on his carpentry work. If you don’t know exactly what you want, Bobby can lay out alternatives and help you decide how a project should go. He had a teaching certificate to teach art, he says, “But there just wasn’t anybody hiring art teachers.”

So he found a job building portable buildings. He explains, “I learned a lot of carpentry there, and also figured out how to do it myself.” His second job was with “a gentleman doing remodeling and repairs. He taught me a lot. I have worked with many people who were gracious enough to teach me. It is important to teach others.”

Then he went out on his own and says “Carpentry is hard to get out of. As a small business, your overhead is low, and you just stay in it.” He laughs and says, “It may be due to a sawdust deficiency, plus it’s fun.”

A talent in her own right, Bobby’s wife Charisse does finer interior work such as replacing missing pieces in molded work. She has developed her own special molding material and calls herself “a tinker in crafts.” She also creates beautiful handmade Christmas decorations.

Now, Bobby says, “I have downsized and I pass the bigger jobs on to my son Dustin [Haines Craft Construction].” Bobby does “smaller repair type things, smaller plumbing and electrical work, lighter work.” He continues, “I am staying out from under houses, and Charisse wants to keep me off roofs.”

Following a long-time interest, Bobby has added to his repertoire by taking up beekeeping. About 45 years ago, he was working for his brother who had up to 500 hives in the Austin area. He says, “Around 1980, he lost his bees and business in just about 6 months.” At that time, several factors affected beekeeping: a major mite infestation, fire ants, Africanized bees, and more.



Bobby Haines rounding up some bees. Photo by Susan Garry

Now, Bobby says, “There can be aggressive, ‘hostile,’ colonies.” He continues, “The factors now hurting bees are the varroa destructor mite that is the big challenge for beekeepers, small hive beetles, fire ants, and Africanized bees.”

One might wonder, with all of these problems, why would anybody be a beekeeper? Bobby answers, “I have always liked them. Bees are 10 times more fun than carpentry work.” Beekeeping seems to be on the upswing, he believes, and says, “The thing that has caused beekeeping to resurge is the idea that bees are in decline. It has created interest.”

(Continued on page 14)

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National Night Out on August 6-- Great Food, Fellowship, Speakers

On August 6, Coupland hosted a very successful National Night Out at the Depot. About 75 attendees enjoyed the traditional hotdog supper and heard interesting and helpful information from the speakers. The caboose was open to the public so that residents and visitors could see the progress that has been made on its restoration. Barbara Piper, Caboose Coordinator and Co-Chair of Coupland's Neighborhood Watch, was emcee. As we do every year, we heard from Matt Kreidel, Sheriff's Department Deputy and Coupland resident, who always gives us the latest information on crime trends in our area and how to stay safe.

Also presenting interesting information were Gary Haston, Sheriff's Department Commander; Michael Roepke, member of Coupland School Board and Pastor of the New Hope Christian Church in Hutto; Paul Leal, current Pct. 4 Constable Deputy and candidate for Pct. 4 Constable; and John Roulston-Bates, Coupland Volunteer Fire Department Assistant Chief.

Our Pct. 4 County Commissioner Russ Boles told attendees about some new county resources to help Coupland: (1) Coupland joining the Inter-jurisdictional Emergency Management Program and adopting the Williamson County Emergency Operations Plan, (2) Coupland joining the Purchasing Cooperative Interlocal Agreement, and (3) adding Coupland's needed culverts to the upcoming Williamson County bond election that will be on the November ballot.

Coupland thanks all of the officials who made this such an outstanding line-up of speakers for this year's National Night Out.



Barbara Piper, Mayor Pro Tem; Julia Cooper, Victims Services; Michael Cooper, Russ Boles' Chief of Staff; and Russ Boles, our Pct. 4 County Commissioner.



Barbara Piper, Neighborhood Watch Co-Chair, was emcee.



Above, Gary Haston, Sheriff's Department Commander; Mayor Jack Piper; Matt Kreidel, Sheriff's Department Deputy; and Susan Schmidt, CCO President.

*Photos by
Susan Garry*



Left, Becky Sutton, Assist. CCO Treasurer; LaVerne Rohlack, City Secretary; Judy Downing, CCO Board Member; and Karen Marosko, City Alderwoman.

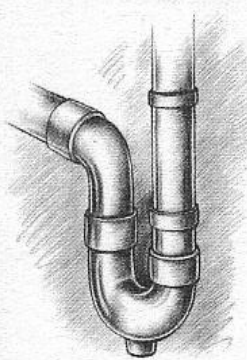
Right, Buz Garry, former School Board Member; Coupland School Supt. Tammy Brinkman; Paul Brinkman, School Technology Director; and Michael Roepke, School Board Member and Pastor of New Hope Christian Church, Hutto.



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This year's National Night Out featured a great line-up of speakers.

Left, Matt Kreidel, Sheriff's Department Deputy and Coupland resident.
Right, Gary Haston, Sheriff's Department Commander.



Left, Michael Roepke, Coupland School Board Member and Pastor of New Hope Christian Church, Hutto.
Right, Paul Leal, Constable Deputy and candidate for Pct. 4 Constable.
Lower left, Russ Boles, Pct. 4 County Commissioner.
Lower right, John Roulston-Bates, CVFD Assistant Chief.



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(Continued from page 11)

Our April Coupland Civic Organization program featured Steve and Nancy Schiller and their Coupland Honey Company. With all the bees around this season, it seems that the beekeepers have been kept busy—there is demand for several beekeepers.

In August, Bobby was doing some repairs at our house when a swarm of bees descended and tried to get in under our eaves. Bobby went home and came back with bee hives and his beekeeper outfit.

Our daughter asked, “Is there anything that Bobby can’t do?” The answer is that Bobby can do just about anything that you need done around your house, from interior woodwork and staining to exterior siding, windows, and doors. And when Bobby is through with a job, he leaves everything all neat and organized.

Bobby and Charisse have seven children; some of them work with Bobby as needed from time to time. As befitting the son of a Methodist minister, Bobby leads the Men’s Breakfast and Bible Study every Tuesday morning in Bastrop.

The Haineses live near Bastrop, and Bobby travels to jobs all over this area. You can reach Bobby at 512-789-4953, haines.rh@gmail.com.

Coupland School News

By Kathy Hill

- Annual P.T.A. Harvest Fest is Saturday, October 12th. We hope you can join in the fun and festivities! The schedule of events follows:
 - Games and Concessions-1-4
 - To-Go Plates - pick up begins at 3:30
 - Silent Auction Closes 3:30
 - Dinner Line - begins serving at 4:00
 - Students’ Performance directed by Annie Violette - 5:00
 - Live Auction - Immediately following performance.
- Cowgirl Volleyball and Cowboys Flag Football are in full swing! Both teams, coached by Stayci Burris and Kyle Rinderknecht, are having great seasons!
- One-Act-Play rehearsal for *She Kills Monsters* has begun, and the cast and crew are set. Competition will be December 17 at Temple College this year. The home show will be announced soon. The U.I.L Academic Meet is scheduled for December 4 in Holland and December 11 in Granger.
- Coupland ISD is an accredited school with a long history of academic success! The school continues to excel academically as revealed in the numerous accountability reports. In 2018-2019, Coupland ISD **Met Standard and received an**

overall score of 90 or A. Coupland ISD is not eligible for the distinction in Postsecondary Readiness since the district does not have a high school. Coupland Elementary School also **Met Standard and received an overall score of 90 or A.** Additionally, Coupland Elementary School received the distinction in Top 25% Comparative Academic Growth for the second year in a row. Additional distinctions earned are: Top 25% Comparative

(Continued on page 15)



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We sustained some damage to our shop during a recent storm. Everyone is safe and we are working on reopening our doors. We would like to thank those who have reached out to us and are keeping us in their prayers. We look forward to serving our customers again soon!

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(Continued from page 14)

Closing the Gaps, Postsecondary Readiness, Academic Achievement in Mathematics.

- 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.
- For more information, visit couplandisd.org or call the school at 512-856-2422.

(Continued from page 4)


ple who are still there have learned to do church with people who disagree with them. No two people can agree on everything about managing a budget, organizing a worship service, what to expect from a pastor, or living a Christian life. Like a healthy marriage, churches that remain tender and joyful after years, or decades, together have discovered ways not to be divided by conflict but to learn from it, to grow from it: to compromise and find compromises. Serving and worshipping God with people who are different from ourselves is both the challenge and the promise of church. Our Anniversary celebration will coincide with our annual Kirchenfest service on Oct. 27th at 10:15 a.m. Chicken Fried Steak lunch to follow the service.

BPCCA Hears About Solar Farm on September 9, Excerpts from Minutes By Gary Johnson

Blackland Prairie Concerned Citizens meeting, held in the parish hall of New Sweden Church, featured presentations by the solar farm owner, Recurrent Energy (subsidiary of Canadian Solar) and the construction contractor, Signal Energy. There were exhibits of the proposed location and pictures of existing solar farms. The exhibits were available prior to the presentation. That gave attendees the opportunity to study the proposals and ask questions.

At 7 p.m. David Erickson called the meeting to order. The system is to provide 144 megawatts of AC power which would provide power for 27,000 homes. The facility will be on 950 acres in the vicinity of Manda Carlson Rd. and Lund Carlson Rd. It will connect with the existing LCRA transmission line. It will take 10 months to construct and will employ about 400 workers during construction. A 6-foot chain link fence with three strands of barb wire on top will be placed around the facility.


Susan Erickson asked if trees could be planted around the perimeter. The answer was that that was not being considered. David Erickson adjourned the meeting about 8 p.m. Attendees looked at exhibits and asked questions for another 30 minutes.



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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.

Contributors to this issue: Letitia Eldredge, Pastor Martin Garrison, Bobby and Charisse Haines, Kathy Hill, Gary Johnson, Charlene Hanson Jordan, Eileen Niswander, Jack Piper, John Roulston-Bates, Marilyn Samuelson, Lois Schmidt, Susan Schmidt, Karen Van Buren, Sandra Wernli, Ted Wittliff, and Susan Garry, editor.

We are pleased to welcome two new advertisers in this issue: Austin Rain Gutter Solutions, page 10, and Ewald Kubota, page 14.

**Deadline for the next issue,
February 2020, is January 10.**

Response to Active Shooter at Sept. 30 CCO Meeting

The September CCO meeting featured CRASE training taught by Deputy Brandon Schaefer, Lead Instructor and Program Coordinator at the Williamson County Sheriff's Self-Defense Academy. CRASE stands for Civilian Response to Active Shooter Events, and is a course designed and built on the Avoid, Deny, Defend strategy that is a proven plan for surviving an active shooter event. It is the National Standard in Active Shooter Response Training.

Deputy Schaefer discussed the history of active shooter events, civilian response options, medical issues, and considerations for conducting drills. The Sheriff's Department is working to train as many citizens as possible, and about 30 residents took advantage of this opportunity to learn possibly life-saving strategies. Thanks to Deputy Schaefer for a very interesting and valuable course.

Following the CRASE course, Buz Garry presented information about the Coupland ISD bond proposal that will be on the November ballot.



Left, Deputy Brandon Schaefer presented the valuable CRASE course at the September CCO meeting. Above, Buz Garry discussed the Coupland School bond proposition that is on the November 5 ballot.