

COUPLAND HERALD



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Coupland Civic Organization

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- Susan Schmidt, President
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Judy Downing, Fundraising
Jonathan Jones, Building and Grounds
Barbara Piper, Depot/Caboose Coordinator
Susan Garry, Herald News-letter Editor, Publicity
Evelyn Draehn

Additional Committee

- Jennifer Dollins, Community-Wide Communications

News from the City of Coupland

By Mayor Russell Schmidt

My name is Russell Schmidt. On November 21, 2023, I was sworn in as mayor of the City of Coupland. Carolyn Haverland and Wells Mason were also sworn in as council members. (Pictures on page 2)

Many thanks and much appreciation go to Jack Piper and Susan Garry for their many years of service to the City. From the first conception of incorporating to the actual incorporation, they both were heavily involved. Jack was the very first mayor of the city and Susan was one of the very first council members.

There will not be many drastic changes coming to the city soon. The city council has passed a nuisance ordinance which addresses unused vehicles, rubbish, etc. I would like property owners, and renters as well, to read this ordinance and maintain their properties accordingly without city involvement. However, lack of compliance will cause the owner, renter, and the city time and money. All of this is unnecessary if properties are properly maintained. I hear all the time "keep Coupland, Coupland." My perspective on that statement stems from my being here since 1974. The properties within the city were well maintained for the most part. This has changed over the years due to different property owners and citizens. I would appeal to the people of Coupland to maintain your properties without the involvement of the City of Coupland.

As always, we invite all citizens to attend council meetings on the third Tuesday of each month.

Thank you,
Russell Schmidt

Coupland ISD—New Superintendent, New Board Member

By Susan Schmidt, Coupland Civic Organization President

Coupland ISD has a new superintendent. Dr. Earl Parcell was named as the finalist in the superintendent search in October and was formally welcomed into the district in November. He is interested in getting to know the community and is open to the public. Dr. Parcell participates in strategic planning and is focusing on a five-year plan for the district. He hopes to involve all the stakeholders in the district.

The planning for the new middle school is ongoing. I must admit I never realized all the minute details involving the planning of a facility. It really gets down to the nitty gritty of everything. I hope to have more news in the coming months since the holidays put a hold on meetings.

(Continued on page 3)

November 7, 2023, Bonds To Repair County Road 458 Passed

The November 7, 2023, Williamson County bond election passed. Included in the bond package are funds for rebuilding County Road 458 from Highway 95 to the county line. The City of Coupland will be responsible for contributing some of the funds for this project, but the County will pay most of the cost. The timing for this project is not yet known.

President’s Message—Coupland History

By Susan Schmidt, CCO President

I hope everyone had a great holiday season. The Coupland Civic Organization’s busiest time is in the fall. We did have a highly successful Choo Choo Fest. Unfortunately, we had to cancel Trunk or Treat this year because of inclement weather. This coming October, we will have a Plan B in place for an alternative setting.

I am continuing the history of Coupland as written by my father, C.W. (Bill) Pfluger. This tells of the very beginning of Coupland City. Previously I wrote about the Coupland City Company and its advertising for Coupland City.

The circulars had a map of the proposed city and information as follows: “This new city offers inducements to capitalists who are seeking investments on LARGE, SURE AND INCREASING INCOME for their investments.”

“To Merchants, mechanics, and trades-people—an eligible location to make their labor, energy, enterprise and intelligence bear fruit a hundred fold.”

“Wood and water in abundance for all necessary purposes.”

“Brushy Creek a constant, clear running stream is near the north boundary of the City.”

“This section is equally well adapted to grazing or agriculture. Cotton, all the cereals, vegetables and fruits do well.”

“No farmer who has cultivated his land well here, but what has made good crops in the most droughty season.”

“The scenery is magnificent, soil rich, climate healthy. A visit in the spring time to this beautiful prairie will repay its costs.”

“Williamson County, with her fine farms and fine blooded stock, is rightfully named the BANNER County of the state.”

“Lands near Coupland City can be purchased at reasonably low figures, and on easy terms by early applicants.”

“Good hotel accommodations are had at Taylor, Elgin or Bastrop from which places trains will be run on the day of sale.”

“Terms of Sale: All sums of \$100 or under cash: over \$100, one-third cash, balance in one and two years.”

We can deduce from the advertising campaign that Coupland City, Texas, was a speculative real estate venture significantly enhanced by its location on the new Taylor, Bastrop and Houston railway.”

To be continued.

I hope to see many of you at our meetings this year. We have a variety of programs planned and of course, there will always be food served. See you there!

Susan Schmidt

City News Photos—By Buz and Susan Garry



Right, Mayor Jack Piper swears in Alderwoman Karen Marosko, new Alderman Wells Mason, new Mayor Russell Schmidt, and new Alderwoman Carolyn Haverland.



Above, thanks to Susan Schmidt who organized a reception before the Council meeting and arranged for awards for Mayor Jack Piper and Susan Garry for 10 years of service to the City of Coupland.



Left, Susan Garry with her award and Alderwoman Karen Marosko.

Right, Mayor pro tem Barbara Piper, Mayor Jack Piper with his award, and new City Secretary Rachel Wrzuszczak, pronounced Ruzak.



TO ALL SUBSCRIBERS OF COUPLAND WATER SUPPLY CORPORATION (CWSC):
THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS WISH YOU
A HAPPY NEW YEAR.

Steven Voelker, President
Phil Grimley, Vice-President
Karen Marosko, Secretary-Treasurer
Jack Barton, Sr., Board Member
Cindy Wood, Board Member

(Continued from page 1, School Superintendent and Board Member)

The school board had two vacancies to fill. They decided to have any applicants fill out an application form. A committee consisting of a school board member, a member of the administrative staff and a community member would review the applicants and report back to the school board. The committee included Suzie Dunlop, community member, Cindy Olson, school staff, and Andrew Gonzales, school board member.

They only had two applicants, but they were both outstanding. Unfortunately, one of the applicants had to rescind her application because of a previous appointment. The other applicant was Dr. Rev. Karen Holgersen or Dr. Hogi as most people know her. Dr. Hogi had quite a bit of experience as an educator both in the U.S. and abroad. The board voted to have her as a new member of the school board. The application process will resume very soon. If anyone is interested in filling a vacancy on the board until November, please refer to the school website for more information.



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Left, the St. Peter's horseback carolers. Always a treat during the Christmas season.

Photo by Crystal Wasdin

***Happy New Year
from St. Peter's Church
of Coupland:
Rev. Scott Wasdin***

Our weekly worship service is 10:15 a.m. each Sunday morning. There is no dress code for our services. Please be comfortable and casual. :)

We offer children's (Grades 3-8) and adult Bible classes each Sunday at 9:15 a.m. The coffee is brewed by 9 a.m. for fellowship and conversation before the classes begin. Our campus is wheelchair accessible and also includes a nursery with attached restroom, including a changing table for babies and infants.

2023 is gone.

Done.

Finished.

Isaiah 43:18 "Forget the former things; do not dwell on the past."

You cannot see where you're going if you are always looking in the rear-view mirror. That is why the windshield is so much larger—to concentrate on the things ahead rather than behind. This winter provides the first blank pages of a 366-page book. Write a good one! Strive to make every day of this year the best of your life!

Welcome to 2024!!

Rev. Scott Wasdin

Pastor, St. Peter's Church of Coupland, Texas

Senior Luncheon on March 19

By Sandra Wernli,

Senior Luncheon Co-Chair

Mark your calendar for our next Senior Luncheon on March 19, at 11:30. Bingo and 42 dominoes will be played after the meal.

Thank you to all the helpers who make this event a success and to the LIFT group for sponsoring this community service.

gather

- joyful music
- scripture study
- fellowship
- each Sunday, 10:15 am

all are welcome at the Lord's table

**St. Peter's Church
of Coupland**

www.StPetersCoupland.org
108 Wathen 512.856.2433
Scott Wasdin, Pastor

CCO Hosted Free Visits with Santa

Children enjoyed free visits with Santa at Coupland’s historic Depot this Christmas season. Sponsored by the Coupland Civic Organization (CCO), this event is becoming a Coupland Christmas tradition. It was the second annual visit from Santa, portrayed by Jonathan Jones. Santa travels to the Depot on a Coupland Volunteer Fire Department fire truck. The free visits with Santa event was on Sunday, December 17. Unlike some visits with Santa that charge for pictures, the CCO event was totally free. Families took free pictures with Santa, and the kiddies got free cookies and candy canes. There was caroling by the horseback carolers from St. Peter’s Church of Coupland.

Thanks very much to CCO board member Jonathan Jones, who not only is Coupland’s Santa Claus, but also decorated the historic Depot and caboose with Christmas lights.



Upper right, Jonathan Jones is Santa, with (left to right) Judy Downing, CCO board member; Barbara Piper, Coupland Mayor pro tem; Becky Sutton, CCO Treasurer; (front) Susan Schmidt, CCO President. Right, Pastor Scott Wasdin and family visit Santa. Below, Coupland Volunteer Firefighters visit Santa: Carli Norman, Leo Perez, and (front) District 1 Chief John Roulston-Bates. Photos by Mary Jones



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Cisco's Best Day—Coupland Children's Book Published

By Cheryl Aker

Coupland resident Cheryl Aker has written and published a children's book about her family's dog Cisco, called *Cisco's Best Day*. The book is "A heart-warming and fun story about an ordinary dog on an ordinary day who becomes an extraordinary hero. Cisco is the lovable star of this tail...errr, tale. He loves his life with his mom, dad, and sister Ellie on their small Texas farm called The Pasture. And things only get better when Cisco gets the chance to be a true hero and make a lifelong friend."

I've always dreamed of writing a book, but this one pretty much wrote itself because it is based on a true story! I wrote it right after the actual event almost 10 years ago. But I didn't have any options for getting it published, especially without illustrations.

Since we moved to our land outside of Coupland over 12 years ago, I've connected with many like-minded homesteaders. One such friend, Janet Garman, who has had several homestead-related books published through traditional publishers, wrote a children's book at the same time I wrote mine, and we were critique partners. She ended up self-publishing her book, *Margarita and the Beautiful Gifts*.

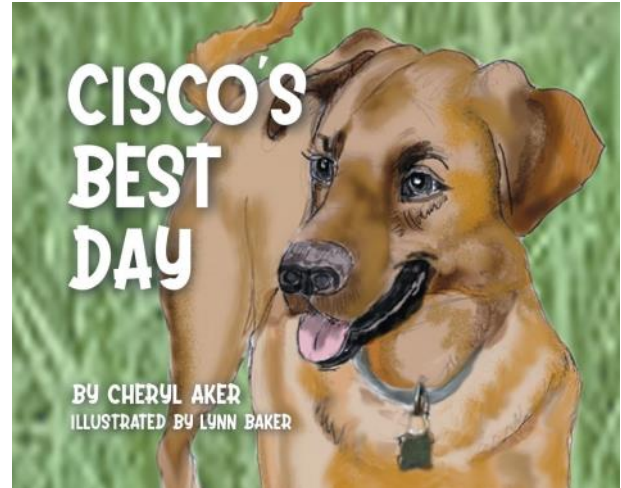
Through the years, Janet has met many people that had good ideas for books but no publishing outlet other than the expensive self-publishing option. So she decided to start a "micro" publishing company, Sawdust Publishing, and she said, "Now, about that Cisco story you wrote..."

Janet helped me find an illustrator, Lynn Baker, and I paid for the illustrations. I wanted total control of the art because I had very specific pictures in my head for the illustrations. Once the illustrations were done, Sawdust Publishing took over with editing, layout, printing, and distribution.

I have had so much encouragement and support from my colleagues at my "day job." It is an indescribable feeling to have so many coworkers send me pictures of themselves or their kiddos with a copy of my book they purchased!

Sadly, we lost our beloved Cisco on Christmas Eve 2022, a couple of months shy of his 11th birthday. It means even more to me that he will now live on in the hearts of so many through this book.

You can buy the book from Cheryl for \$10 + \$3 S&H, P.O. Box 422, Elgin, TX 78621. (authorcherylaker@gmail.com). She says, "If you would like the book signed for someone specific, please let me know. It's also available from Sawdust Publishing and Amazon (but cheaper from me or Sawdust than Amazon)."



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Coupland School News -- By Kate Knapek, Assistant Principal

Right, Middle School Art elective at Laguna Gloria in Austin. Thanks to Art teacher, Mrs. Konarek, and Chaperone, Mrs. Delancey, for leading the group.



Above and right, basketball is going strong!
Thanks Coach Rinderknecht, Coach Lester and Coach Moore!

All photos courtesy
of Coupland School



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Dr. Earl Parcell Is New School Superintendent

Dr. Earl Parcell was officially named the Superintendent of Coupland ISD on November 7, 2023. He comes to Coupland ISD from Copperas Cove ISD where he served most recently as the Chief Financial Officer. Throughout his career, Dr. Parcell has remained steadfast in his student-centered approach with an unrelenting energy and dedication to make a difference every single day.

During his 18-year educational journey, Dr. Parcell has served students and staff in various capacities. His educational career started by teaching students (mathematics) and coaching at the junior high and high school levels. His administrative career spans both campus and district service. His campus administrative experience includes serving as a campus instructional coordinator, assistant principal, and principal (elementary and high school). At the district level, Dr. Parcell has served as a director of programs and college readiness, director of instructional technology, and most recently as chief financial officer.

He believes in possessing a growth (solutions-oriented) mindset, collaboration, and in cultivating a community that embraces learning (students, staff, parents, and community members alike) by leveraging the two resources school districts control, time and team.

The school board appointed Reverend Dr. Karen Hølgersen (Dr Hogi) to fill one of the board vacancies. A big welcome from the Coupland ISD staff!



New Coupland ISD Superintendent Dr. Earl Parcell

Statement from Dr. Parcell

Greetings All,

It is an absolute honor and privilege to serve the community, students, and staff of Coupland ISD. My interactions with the students, staff, parents, and community, while brief, have been nothing short of fantastic. What a great community! I am excited about the opportunity to work with the Coupland ISD community in an effort to continue and expand upon great traditions while building and planning strategically for an even greater tomorrow. The power of WE is greater than the power of me.

Take care,
Earl W. Parcell, Ed.D.
Superintendent
Coupland Independent School District

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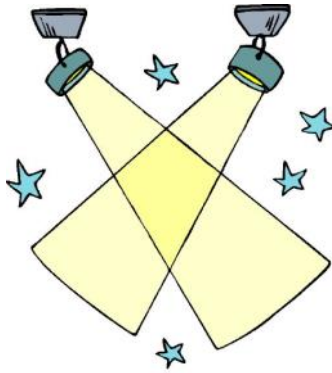
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Spotlight on Jessica Mason

By Wells Mason

Question: Tell us what you do and how long you've been in Coupland.

Answer: I've been in Coupland since 2018. I'm a Registered Interior Designer, and I specialize in decorative hardware. I have a showroom in downtown Taylor that showcases many of the hardware manufacturers I represent.

Question: Where did you grow up? Where did you go to school?

Answer: I grew up in the Missouri City suburbs of Southwest Houston. I started at the University of Houston then I transferred to Texas State University in San Marcos where I earned my degree in Interior Design.

Question: What kinds of projects do you normally work on? What are your favorite projects?

Answer: I normally work with other design and construction professionals. I specify everything from door hardware to cabinet hardware to door tracks and bath accessories. My projects

are a mix of new builds and remodels – both residential and commercial. Remodel projects can often be more challenging, and I feel like Nancy Drew - searching for the right door hardware or finding the perfect knobs and pulls. I especially like remodel projects with salvaged doors.

Question: Tell us about your involvement in the design community?

Answer: When I was in school, I held different volunteer positions with the American Society of Interior Designers (ASID). After graduation, I got involved with the ASID Austin Design Community. I planned several events for the Austin Design Community including design awards, continuing education days, and student events. Then I became Professional Development Director for ASID at the state level. I believe that design can really impact lives. I want to educate and advocate for the design community.

Question: Tell us about your involvement in the Coupland community?

Answer: I never really thought my skill set could help a small community like Coupland, but then I helped the Coupland Water Supply Corporation with a new logo several years ago at no charge. A few years ago, I also helped the Huntington Sculpture Foundation – another nonprofit in Coupland – with new marketing materials. I'm glad I'm able to help the community!

Question: What's your favorite thing about Coupland?

Answer: I love that though small, Coupland has its own quiet, quirky personality. It feels remote enough from Austin to feel like a getaway, and though small, you shouldn't discount it. We know who we are and we're not trying to be anything else but Coupland.

Question: If someone needs to contact Ironwood Industries to discuss decorative hardware, what's the best way to reach you?

Answer: Our showroom in downtown Taylor is by appointment only, but I'm happy to set up a meeting with you there. Our email is info@ironwoodindustries.com and our phone number is (713) 817-4041.

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“Spotlights” by Wells Mason— A Special Focus On Coupland Residents

“Spotlights” are written by Wells Mason, a long-time resident of Coupland. He’s a designer and sculptor and co-owner of Ironwood Industries. Twenty years ago, Wells spearheaded the heady effort to build a community center designed by Texas Tech University architecture students in downtown Coupland, and he’s proud of the conversations that it sparked within the community. Wells currently serves on the Coupland City Council and the Huntington Sculpture Foundation, and he also served on the Coupland Water Supply Corporation Board of Directors for many years including President. His studio is headquartered in Coupland with satellite operations in Taylor and Marfa.

“Spotlights” shines a light on interesting Coupland residents. If you’d like to nominate someone, please send an email to wells@ironwoodindustries.com.



Left above, Jessica Mason with some of her hardware collections. Photo by Sean Carranza
Left, Jessica shows hardware to clients at the Taylor studio. Photo by Susan Garry

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Yegua Creek Farms Weekly Market Schedule

Thurs., Elgin Farmers’ Market, 4-7
Sat., Texas Farmers’ Market at Lakeline
Sun., Texas Farmers’ Market at Mueller

Special Events and Festivals
First Sat. of the month: Round Rock Market Days starting March 2
Sat. March 2, Sunshine Gardens Plant Sale, 9-12

Follow us on FB for additional events!
And make on-line purchases at Yegua Creek Farms Pecan Orchard and Kitchen.

New Sweden Church News

By Susan Rountree, New Sweden Church Secretary

The Lenten season for New Sweden Lutheran Church starts on Wednesday, February 14, Ash Wednesday, at 7 p.m., with Holy Communion and Imposition of the Ashes. For the next five weeks we will have midweek Lenten services. Each Wednesday evening, there will be a meal at 6 p.m. with a worship service at 7 p.m. in the parish hall.

Holy Week starts on Palm Sunday, March 24, with worship service at 10:30 a.m. Maundy Thursday service will be at 7 p.m. on Thursday, March 28, and will conclude with the stripping of the altar and the Discipline of Silence. On Good Friday, we will meet for an evening meal at 6 p.m. with a Lenten film following.

We will celebrate the Resurrection of Jesus on Easter Sunday, March 31. We have a sunrise service at the New Sweden Cemetery at 7 a.m. An Easter breakfast will be served at 8, and there will be an Easter Egg hunt at 9:30 a.m. at the parish hall. The Easter festival service will be held at 10:30 a.m.

Normally, during the month of April, we hold a "Swedish Festival" on a given Saturday. We plan to have that celebration this year and the date will be set soon. The festival includes a Swedish meal featuring Swedish meatballs and Swedish Rye bread. It is a time to remember the saints who founded this church over 148 years ago.

New Sweden Evan. Lutheran Church

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



www.newswedenlca.org

Blessing of the Bicycles

The blessing of the bicycles is now an annual event at New Sweden Church. Last year over 150 cyclists came for a short service at 10:30 a.m. This year the blessing will take place on Saturday, April 6. After the service, cyclists may come and receive an individual blessing for their bike.

Our "Church Dog"

Over the past years, our congregation has come to feel that "Kimbrow," a dog owned by our president, Jack Atterstrom, deserved a special designation of "Church Dog." Kimbro visited the church every time his master came, which was very often. You could expect to see Kimbro at game nights, workdays, and often at worship services. He was always very friendly and reverent. We were saddened when Kimbro passed away. Over a period of time, Jack has obtained and started training another dog to fill the spot left vacant by the death of Kimbro. The new church dog's name is Phantom and reminds us that all animals are, as St. Francis wrote, "creatures of our God and King."

Happy Birthday, Jim

Happy 83rd Birthday to Coupland's internationally known sculptor Jim Huntington. Coupland is the home of Jim's Sculpture Garden and his nonprofit foundation. He is known for his massive granite works, and he also has begun doing smaller pieces. His work is in permanent collections of art centers as well as many private collections. His Sculpture Garden is available for tours by appointment by individuals and school groups.
512-856-2334
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Photo by Jessica Mason



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Strategic Plan for Coupland ISD—

By Dr. Earl Parcell, Superintendent

Hello Coupland ISD Community.

It is an absolute honor and privilege to serve the community, students and staff of Coupland ISD. My interactions with the students, staff, parents, and community, while brief, have been nothing short of fantastic. What a great community! I am excited about the opportunity to work with the Coupland ISD community in an effort to continue and expand upon great traditions while building and planning strategically for an even greater tomorrow.

As the district grows, so too does the need to continuously improve. In order to prepare for a great future, a plan is necessary. A strategic plan is extremely useful in clarifying the direction of the district and help to establish realistic goals

and objectives that align with the district's mission, vision, values, and beliefs. This process will prioritize efforts, effectively allocate resources, align the community with the organizational goals, while ensuring that the goals are data-driven and are of sound reasoning. All stakeholders in the Coupland ISD community (students, staff, parents, community, administration, and school board members) are, and will be, encouraged to contribute to this effort.

At the December 18, 2023, school board meeting, the Board of Trustees were presented with and approved a proposal to partner with the Education Service Center from Region XIII to support the district in an effort to create a strategic plan. The process is comprehensive and will conclude with a presentation of the communities' (students, parents, community members, school administration, and board member) work to be considered and adopted by the Board. Below is a brief description of the process and timeline. (Following the chart below, this article concludes on the back page.)

Session Title	Date	Descriptions	Participants
Survey	Jan. 19, 2024 – February 2, 2024	Online survey – students, community/parents, staff	Students, staff, administration, parents/ community members, board members
Community Meeting	Jan. 30, 2024 @ 6:00 – 8:00pm in the Library	Inform stakeholder of the process, invite participation, and gather perceptual data on the current state of the district	Stakeholders
Leadership Team	Feb. 6, 2024	Analyze multiple sources of data and create focus areas.	Administration, school board, and Staff
Steering Committee	Feb. 13, 2024 Feb. 14, 2024	Revitalize the mission and vision and create goals for each focus area.	Students, staff, administration, parents/ community members, board members
Action Planning	Feb. 20, 2024 Feb. 21, 2024 Feb. 27, 2024	Create detailed action steps for each goal.	Staff and administration
Consolidated Meeting	March 1, 2024	Action Planners will present their action steps to the Steering Committee.	Students, staff, administration, parents/ community members, board members
Actions to Outcomes	March 7, 2024	Leadership team will learn how to measure and define progress using the electronic dashboard for the Strategic Plan	Administration, school board, and Staff
Board Presentation	March 21, 2024	Present deliverable to the School Board for consideration and adoption.	Coupland ISD Community

Type Church

By Pastor Ryan Evans

We are looking forward to a great year at Type Church. We have a wonderful year planned. Sunday services are at 10:30 a.m., and we have children's church. Wednesday, February 7, we start back Bible study on the Book of Revelation. There will be a meal provided.

February 11 we will have a potluck following our service. We would love to have you come visit our church and enjoy fellowship with us. Type Church exists to glorify God by making disciples. Come be a part of our country church.

In Christ,
Pastor Ryan Evans

Type Church has a Facebook page where you can listen to the sermons by Pastor Ryan Evans. The Church is east of Coupland at 1200 County Road 466 and Pastor Ryan's phone number is 281-229-8962. He can also be reached at pastorryan91@gmail.com.



Coupland History Comes Alive— The Writings of Charlene Hanson Jordan On International Website

Charlene says, "If you'd like a sample of my articles on Patreon, please email me at charlenehansonjordan@yahoo.com. I write three articles every week about our area's history, local Swedes, local Germans, and their ancestors. I include Coupland stories such as the war experience of Alfred Robert Streit, and European stories such as my husband's granduncle who was the personal chauffeur of the German Emperor. Access to all these articles is a measly \$3/month and can be cancelled without penalty."

Patreon.com/CharleneHansonJordan

Jordan Sisters Minnie and Ella Win FreshGrass Awards

In the November 2023 *Herald*, we announced that Coupland native Ella Jordan had won the Fiddle category in the 2023 FreshGrass Awards. FreshGrass is a festival, and with festival guests, family, and friends looking on, three finalists in four categories go head-to-head, performing one standard and one original composition. The grand prize winner in each category, selected by a jury of festival musicians and industry experts, takes home an array of prizes totaling more than \$20,000 cash and prizes and recording sessions at Compass Records.

In addition to Ella winning in 2023, her sister Minnie was the winner in 2022. Their mother Marcy says, "For the record, Minnie won FreshGrass year before last! Jordan sisters sweep!"

The sisters grew up playing fiddles together and now both are professional musicians. Both girls graduated from the Berklee College of Music in Boston. They are daughters of Andre and Marcy Buffington Jordan and granddaughters of Henry and Charlene Hanson Jordan, all of Coupland.



Ella and MinnieJordan

Photo by Andre Jordan

Williamson County Emergency Services District #10

By Maranda Cummings

Administrative Support, Williamson Co. ESD#10

Board Meetings are being held in person at the Coupland Fire Station each second Tuesday of the month. The meetings are also available via telephone conferencing. This information is available each month on the meeting notice posted at the Coupland Fire Station, Coupland Post Office, Thrall Fire Station, and Thrall Post Office. The approved minutes, meeting notice/agenda, and audited financial report are also posted on the ESD's website at www.wcesd10.org.

The ESD would like to thank Mark Jaeger for his years of service as a member of the Board of Commissioners! Mark Prinz will now be taking the position as Secretary of the Board. The ESD would like to welcome DJ Jirasek as a commissioner!

If any of our area residents are interested in joining Williamson County ESD #10, please contact John Roulston-Bates (District 1 Chief) at jroulston@wcesd10.org or Zach Hall (District 2 Chief) at zhall@wcesd10.org. Please check the Williamson County ESD #10 Facebook page as well as the Coupland and Thrall Volunteer Fire Departments' Facebook pages for updates and upcoming events.

As always, we extend our appreciation to our volunteer ESD Commissioners and the volunteer firefighters of Williamson County ESD #10. We would especially like to thank those volunteers that provide training to better the district. The ESD is proud to support their volunteer firefighters as they serve our area residents. We hope everyone in our area has a happy, healthy, and safe 2024!

Trunk or Treat Cancelled

The Coupland Civic Organization regrets that we had to cancel the Halloween Trunk or Treat that was scheduled for October 29. The evening was cold and rainy—not good weather for the children. We usually have nice weather for Trunk or Treat, and we look forward to Trunk or Treat 2024. Residents will dress in costumes and hand out treats from their decorated vehicles parked in front of St. Peter's Church. In case of bad weather, we will plan for an alternative site.



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**Deadline for the next issue,
May 2024, is April 10.**

Conclusion of Dr. Parcell's article, "Strategic Plan For Coupland ISD," Continued from page 13

I am asking that everyone contribute by giving a few minutes to take the survey. Responses are anonymous. (Editor's note: The survey on the school website closes on Feb. 2. This *Herald* may not be out in time to announce this survey.)

Additionally, parents/community members, if you are interested and would like to serve on the Steering Committee please contact the school.

This is going to be a heavy lift, but together the lift will be light. I am excited about the opportunity to work strategically with the community to construct a plan that will serve to guide and inform our efforts as we strive to be the BEST little school in Texas, where EXCELLENCE is tradition.

Good Days and Great Days in Coupland ISD.

Take Care,
Earl W. Parcell, Ed.D.
Superintendent