

COUPLAND HERALD



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Coupland Civic Organization

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- Jennifer Dollins, Community-Wide Communications

What's Happening in the City?

By Mayor Jack Piper and Mayor Pro Tem Barbara Piper

Just as a reminder, City Council Meetings are held the second Thursday of each month at 6 p.m. in the Coupland Volunteer Fire Department's Meeting Room.

Road maintenance continues to be an issue discussed regularly; repairs to potholes are being made consistently. We expect the renovation of Muery and South Broad to begin very soon as Manville is nearing its completion of replacing water lines in the area.

The City is in the process of establishing a Facebook page. Interesting events will be on the page as well upcoming happenings in our area.

CLEAN-UP DAY is scheduled for Saturday, May 14, from 8 a.m. until the dumpsters are full. A list of acceptable and non-acceptable items will be published in flyers posted at the Post Office and the Bank. See article on page 5.

Mayor Piper, Mayor Pro Tem Barbara Piper, and Tony Prete, the City's engineer, have met with a couple of developers who are interested in developing subdivisions in our area (a small part in the city and mostly in its ETJ). We hope to provide additional information very soon.

School Bond Election May 7--Possible High School

By Susan Garry

On March 28, CISD Superintendent Tammy Brinkman and School Board Member Kandice Samuelson spoke to the Coupland Civic Organization about the current situation and needs of the school. Please see the insert in this Herald for information about a bond election to meet the growing needs of the school.

Supt. Brinkman said Coupland now has nearly 100 high school age students who attend nearby high schools. Several years ago, the school purchased 60 acres east of Coupland for the eventual

building of a high school. She notes, "We got the land at a bargain price compared with today's pricing. We will continue to grow. If we are going to add a high school the time is now." The old campus will be from pre-K through fifth grade. The new secondary campus will be grades 6 through 12, middle school and high school, which will be built in phases. The proposal is to vote for \$91.6 million in bonds, but the money will not be used all at once.

At the CCO meeting, citizens expressed concerns about traffic on County Road 460 as well as maintenance of that road, which under current plans would be the sole access point for the new school. Others expressed a concern that the majori-

(Continued on page 2)

President's Message

By Susan Schmidt, CCO President

Hello, Spring! It is good to see you again. Even though our winter was nothing like last year's frozen days, it is still heartening to see green leaves and wildflowers blooming.

Looking back, one year from the month of May, the main news was a return to "normal" after months of Covid restrictions. National Night Out was to be resumed as well as the popular Senior Luncheons at St. Peter's Church. Coupland School performed a musical as a farewell to the Old Main Gym. Coupland track team won second place in district.

Ten years ago, the City of Coupland's incorporation election was set for November 6. Coupland, itself, was established in 1887. CCO published a cookbook, *Coupland Country Cookin' Cookbook*. I use that cookbook all the time. It took a tremendous amount of time and effort to produce, but it is a wonderful tribute to the many cooks (past and present) in the Coupland community. Coupland School discussed the 100th anniversary of the school and the proposal of adding a high school. At the time, enrollment was declining so the plan was tabled. Fast forward 10 years, enrollment at Coupland School is skyrocketing. The proposal for a middle and high school is once again on the table. With the population increasing around Coupland and more subdivisions being planned, it

is time to build a middle school and a high school. Coupland has a stellar reputation unlike many of the districts surrounding it. The bond proposal is a legitimate one and should be supported.

Fifteen years ago, Jim Huntington celebrated the grand opening of the Huntington Sculpture Foundation. The fight was still on regarding private toll roads and the Corridor. The legislation regarding the Corridor changed constantly. This gained not only publicity from the local news, but national news as well. It was a battle worth fighting.

Twenty years ago, CCO became a nonprofit corporation. CCO started implementation of a community wide Neighborhood Watch Program in association with the Williamson County Sheriff's Office. They also had a block party at the Depot with a kid's parade, food, and games.

It is always good to look back at the past, but we must move forward. Change is not always easy or desirable, but it still happens. Our tiny community is growing as are all the communities around us. A map of proposed subdivisions in Elgin shows one that is getting really close to Coupland. We need to do all we can to protect Coupland as its own special entity. We have a great little community and a wonderful school. Please keep that in mind when you visit the ballot box.

Until next time, be safe and well.

Upcoming Events

Annual National Night Out will be August 2 at the Depot. Annual Choo Choo Fest will be at St. Peter's Church in October. More details closer to the date.

(Continued from page 1)

ty of the some \$50 to \$60 million of the bonds would be used for projects to be determined in the future, so that the voters were being asked to give a blank check to some future superintendent and school board.

This type of election can only be voted on in May and November, so the school is putting it on the ballot in May. New construction will be a phased approach. It generally takes about 18 months to two years from design to move in.

On the state-wide ballot is a proposal to raise the homestead exemption from \$25,000 to \$40,000. The Coupland school tax now is less than anticipated in the 2019 bond election because of growth. Williamson County is the fastest growing in the country and it will be for the next five years. Coupland has the lowest tax rate in the area. Once all of these bonds are sold, tax rates would be comparable with other districts in the area.

The insert in this *Herald* shows a possible design of the proposed middle school and high school, although it is not an official design. Kandice reassures voters, "We can't fund a bond until we have the tax base to pay for it." Tammy agrees, "The ballot has specific language that specifies what bond funds can be spent on. If you can't provide banks with the right information, they won't approve it." Kandice adds, "We will have good legal and financial advice. We will have 130 in the high school. I have been on the school board for 32 years and a high school did not make sense for us until now. It makes sense for us now."

Early voting is Monday, April 25, through Tuesday, May 3. Election day is Saturday, May 7, at Taylor City Hall. There will be no polling place in Coupland.

Supt. Tammy Brinkman and school board member Kandice Samuelson explain the school bond election and possible new high school at the March CCO meeting.





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Street Groundbreaking



Monday, February 7, marked the much-anticipated groundbreaking celebration for the Muery/South Broad road project renovation. Work will include widening of South Broad, complete renovation of these streets, and drainage work. This project is part of the 2019 Williamson County Bond Project. The groundbreaking was hosted by our Pct. 4 Commissioner Russ Boles.

Aldermen Susan Garry, Karen Marosko, Mayor Jack Piper, Mayor Pro Tem Barbara Piper, and Commissioner Russ Boles. Photo by Ted Wittliff

Strategic Planning Committee

By John Roulston-Bates

The City Council has established a Strategic Planning Committee, which meets at the fire station every third Tuesday of the month, 6 p.m. This meeting is open to all residents who wish to discuss and put forward ideas on how they would like to see Coupland react to the growth coming to the area. The committee will develop proposals to be put forward to the City Council for consideration. You are encouraged to come and get involved.

Upcoming dates:

May 17, 6 p.m., June 21, 6 p.m., July 19, 6 p.m.



By Steven Voelker, President

We are very happy to report that the Coupland Water Supply Corporation treatment plant has survived the passing winter weather -- thanks to our always reliable plant operator, Ken Lockard. We thank him for his personal attention when and where necessary.

The time approaches where we will mail letters requesting nominations to the CWSC Board of Directors. If you own property within the CWSC CCN (Certificate of Convenience Necessities) and have an active Manville water meter, you are eligible to submit your name. Individuals must be nominated by themselves. Volunteers are always welcome.

As always, we thank all members of the CWSC for continuing to refrain from putting anything into the sewer line that is not biodegradable. 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

By Interim Pastor Charles Stark

Spring is one of my favorite times of the year. It is wonderful to see the trees put on their leaves and to look for the many plants that are starting to bloom. Of course, in Texas we get to see the blue-bonnets painting the countryside in shades of blue. Spring is a time when we are reminded that new life is always possible. In the church, we are reminded with every Easter that God offers us new life in Christ! God's grace is sufficient to overcome whatever we have done that separates us from God.

Jesus highlighted this amazing grace of God when he shared the story of the Prodigal Son as it is recorded in Luke 15:11-32. It is a great story of two sons. The younger son asks for his inheritance and then goes out and squanders it on reckless living. The older brother stays at home with their father and does everything asked of him. The twist in the story takes place when the younger brother is confronted with the reality of what he has done and can no

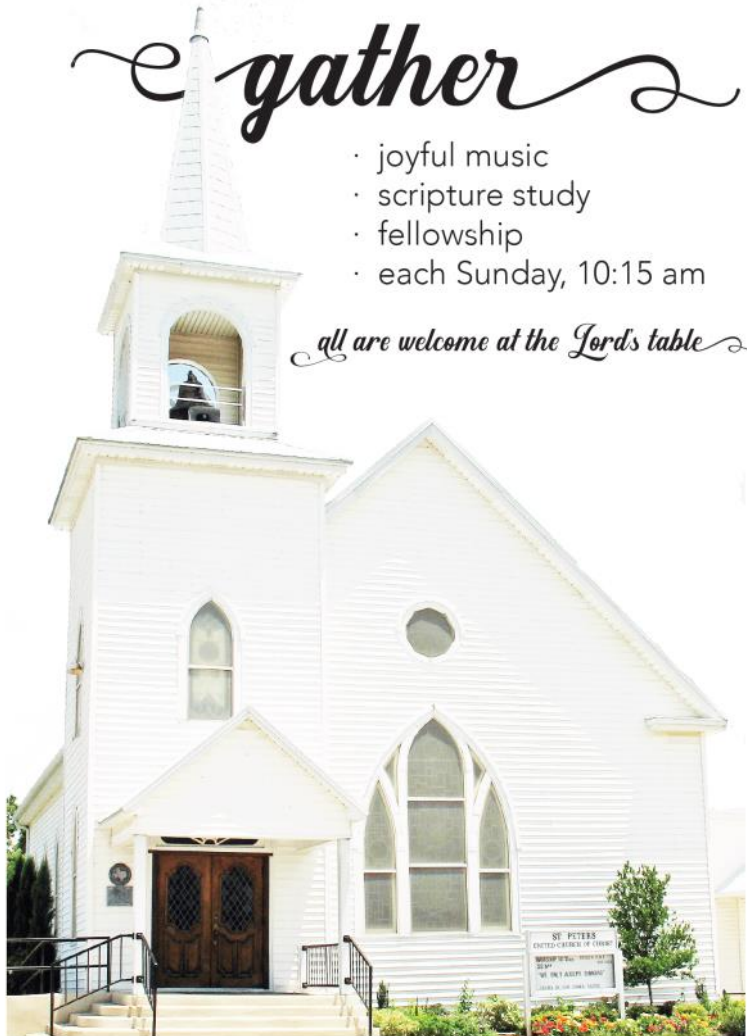
longer support himself. This son then returns to his father to ask if he can simply be one of the servants and live out a meager life. The father immediately plans a giant party for the son's return. The older brother cannot believe his eyes. He has remained faithful to his father and yet there is no party for him.

This story reveals to us the amazing grace of our God. No matter how lost we have become in life, God is always ready to welcome us back. There is also a word of warning in this story for those of us who identify with the older brother. If we have been faithful members of the church through many years and supported its ministry, we can fall prey to the notion that we are the favored ones of God. This view of the world leads us into judgment of those who have lived reckless lives outside the church. When some of these folks find their way back to the church, we have to beware of putting ourselves above them. Just like the father in the story, God calls us to be excited that they have found their way back.

The real lesson of spring is that no matter how dark the winter journey has been, God's love for all creation is great enough to welcome us back into the light and allow us to bloom where we are planted. At St. Peter's Church of Coupland, we reflect this amazing grace of God when we say, **"No Matter Who You Are, or Where You Are on Life's Journey, YOU ARE WELCOME HERE!"**

CCO Golf Tournament Resumes

The CCO is resuming its golf tournament, which had been cancelled due to COVID. This year, the tournament will be sometime in August at Taylor's Mustang Creek Golf Club. Organized by CCO board member Jonathan Jones, the tournament helps to maintain the historic depot and to continue work on the caboose. Details will be released closer to the date.



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Charles Stark, Interim Pastor



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Helping with last year's Clean-Up Day were Mayor Jack Piper, Mayor Pro Tem Barbara Piper, and Alderwoman Karen Marosko.

Photo by Susan Garry

Seniors Luncheon Was March 15, Next Luncheon Will Be May 17

We had a wonderful Luncheon on March 15 with 58 Senior Citizens attending, including Hostesses and Helpers. Peter Wabbel, Master Chef, cooked a very delicious Luncheon. We thank you, Peter, for everything you did; we appreciate it very much! We thank our Hosts/Hostesses: Peter Wabbel, Joyce and Arthur Henze, Becky Sutton, and Cynthia and Teddy Wittliff. Helpers were: Sandra and Don Wernli, Wanda Walther, Charlotte Albert, JoAnn Ging, Cindy Alexander, Linda Miller, and Lois Schmidt. Bingo and "42" Dominoes were played.

Our next Seniors Luncheon will be on May 17 at 11:30 a.m. Hope to see you there!

Lois Schmidt & Sandra Wernli, Co-Chairs

Clean-Up Day Is May 14-- Dumpsters Along Tracks For Coupland Residents Only

On Saturday, May 14, there will be four dumpsters along the tracks in downtown Coupland for Clean-Up Day for residents only. The time is 7 a.m. until 1 p.m. or when dumpsters are full. 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 and glass. Small appliances are accepted (microwave size). Empty paint cans with the lids off are okay. **Non-acceptable items:** mattresses, furniture, appliances, hazardous waste such as industrial and agricultural chemicals, pesticides and other poisons, petroleum products, vehicle batteries, tires, flammable substances, and air conditioners. **Brush will not be accepted.**

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

IMPORTANT: Do not fill dumpsters above the top nor put items beside dumpsters! They will NOT pick up overloaded dumpsters. DO NOT DUMP TIRES! Location will be camera monitored!

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Special Events:
May 21, Elgin, Maker's Market
June 25, Elgin Western Days

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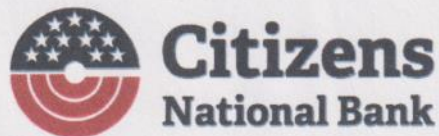


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Coupland School--A Lot Going On!-- By Assistant Principal Kate Knappek

Coupland ISD hosted Literacy Night on March 10 and STEAM night on April 7. (STEAM stands for Science, Technology, Engineering, Art, and Math) Students were engaged in activities to support academics, and parents were given information on how to support their students at home. Activities included a book walk, making s'mores, ozobots, and so much more! PTA provided dinner for families in attendance. Fun activities for our Coupland families!

Eighth grade graduation is May 26 at 6:30 p.m.

The Retirement Party for Ms. Cecilia Stuchly and Ms. Sarah Jezek is on May 20. This is a come and go celebration in the Coupland Library, 3:30-6 p.m.

On Friday, April 29, the Coupland ISD Theatre Arts students performed the hit, *Legally Blonde, Jr, The Musical*. With a cast and crew of around 30 students, they spent most of the Spring Semester putting the show together--singing, dancing, and acting. This year, they faced new technical challenges with the new facilities. Performing in the gymnasium is less than ideal for theatre performances, but with the support of administration everything went well. The show is full of 2000's-inspired pop/showtune hits, and the young talent in Coupland Middle School rose to the occasion. Follow the Coupland ISD Fine Arts Facebook page for updates on local performances.

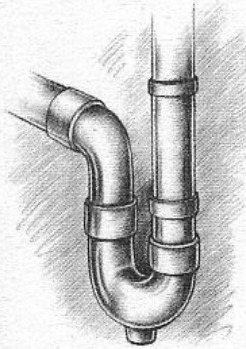


Left, Kalli Coffey, Abigail Viktora, and Miranda Herring participate in Literacy Night. Photo courtesy of Coupland School
Above, track team members Karen Alvarado in the long jump and Bella Slauson in the hurdles. Track photos by Crystal Ward

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Food for Thought from Coupland Farmer Scott Ging

By Susan Garry

Many of us have been thinking about the changes that Samsung and growth in general will bring to our Coupland area. With this in mind, the City Council has created a committee to consider these changes and what Coupland can do about them, the Strategic Planning Committee headed by John Roulston-Bates.

Life-long resident Scott Ging has some thoughts about our history and traditions, and the place that the land and agriculture has in them. His children are the seventh generation on this land. His is one of the earliest families in our area, settling here in 1889.

Scott and his wife JoAnn farm, raise cattle, and own the grainery west of Coupland on Pfluger-Berkman Road.

Coupland's Prime Farmland

Coupland is in the Texas Blackland Prairie that runs roughly 300 miles from the Red River to San Antonio. but it is only 30 to 40 miles wide. The prairie was named after its rich, dark soil deposited eons ago when the area was the bed of a shallow sea and filled with silt from land west of the Balcones Escarpment.

As Scott explains, "Coupland is in the narrow Blackland strip, the most fertile land. This year, we produced 140 bushels of corn to the acre. You can't grow crops in



Scott's grandparents, Hilda and S.R.Ging with their crop of hay grazer.

Photo courtesy of Scott Ging

Round Rock or Rockdale. To the west of the Interstate, it's rocky. To the east, Rockdale is sandy so there are no farms, just pasture. Our soil is a very valuable resource." The fertile dark soil of the Blackland Prairie is some of the richest soil in the world and is considered prime farmland.

Scott says, "Agriculture has been extremely important to Coupland since the 1800's. and it will be a huge loss if it suddenly dwindles away." He adds, "We have got to be protective of our land. It is a valuable resource, irreplaceable. You will never bring it back. It is such an amazing resource for the county."

At one time, Williamson County produced the most cotton in the state. Scott notes, "There were a lot of gins. I bet it was more than 25. Now there are 3 cotton gins left in the county: Waterloo, Thrall, and Granger."

Impact of One Operation on Food Supply—Chickens

At his grainery, Scott stores corn, his own and that of 10 or 12 other farmers. Even though Scott's grainery is just

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(Continued from page 8)

one operation, it feeds many chickens and calves and produces a large amount of food.

At his grainery last year Scott stored 600,000 bushels of corn, which is stored until sold. He explains, "95% of that is for chicken farms. It goes to Sanderson broilers and Tyson broilers. Also to Cal-Maine Foods in Waelder and Flatonia. Cal-Maine counts for about one-fourth of U.S. egg consumption."

Scott says, "It takes 42 days and 8.2 pounds of feed to grow a broiler. We feed 4,097,560 chickens a year, 11,226 chickens a day. Sanderson Farms in Easterly uses 100 truckloads of corn per day. We supply them 6 days of corn which feeds 11,000 chickens a day. If you consider a meal to be half a chicken, that is 22,000 meals per day."

"When a family is driving by the grainery," Scott muses, "I would like for Mom and Dad to be able to tell the kids about the link between the silos and the food for the country, the food that we all depend on."

Cattle

Scott sells 400 calves per year. At 1,000 pounds, each calf produces 3,200 hamburgers. He notes, "I produce 3,506 hamburgers per day. I have done this for 41 years. I wake up every day and feed some people." He continues, "11,000 chickens per day, 3,500 hamburgers per day, and we are not a big operation, but we feed a lot of people."

Some things have modernized over the years. Scott now can sell his steers via video auction. In addition to feeding all those chickens and calves, we now realize that a corn crop cleans our air. It removes carbon dioxide--CO2—a major greenhouse gas, from the atmosphere.

Possible Food Shortages

"During the worst of COVID, when shelves were empty. I thought," says Scott, "that this would let people know. Let there be one hiccup, a dust bowl, and we will be upside down."

He continues, "In the drought of 2011 there were 6 loads in the grainery. Many in this area remember the big

(Continued on page 11)

ESD#10 News--By Maranda Cummings

Board Meetings are 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, Citizens National Bank in Coupland, 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.

Coupland and Thrall Volunteer Fire Departments have turned in their official letters stating their approval of merging CVFD and TVFD with the ESD. This means they will soon be Williamson County ESD#10 instead of Coupland VFD and Thrall VFD. The Board of Commissioners voted to appoint Mark Moellenberg as the Fire Chief of ESD #10. They have also approved the proposed rank structure, which will include the Fire Chief, Assistant Fire Chief, and District 1 and 2 Chiefs, Officers, and Firefighters. District 1 will primarily be served by the Coupland Station, and District 2 will primarily be served by the Thrall Station. The Board also voted to purchase a 3,000 gallon tender for \$325,000.

As always, we extend our appreciation to our volunteer ESD Commissioners and the volunteer firefighters from both Coupland and Thrall Volunteer Fire Departments. We would especially like to thank those volunteers that provide training. The ESD is proud to support the Coupland and Thrall Volunteer firefighters as they serve our area residents.



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Type Church

By Rachel Kennedy

With the passing of COVID now are you back in church? I imagine you know what is going on in the church, so we don't need to tell you. But if you are not in church, why aren't you? Fear of COVID shouldn't keep you away; Fear of the Lord should bring you in. Of course, you could say you have to do your weekend chores, take the kids to their game or the rodeo. You say I can worship God from my house, but God in the Bible commands us to not forsake assembling together as believers (**Hebrews 10:25**). Essentially, we need to come together as believers in Christ, not avoiding worshipping together as some do, but spurring each other on, especially as we see the big Day approaching.

What do you do if the Lord takes you and you're standing before Him, and He asks you where have you been on Sundays? What do you tell Him? An old commercial used to say, "You can pay me now, or you can pay me later." God doesn't need you at church, but we need you at church to encourage us, to love on us, to lift us up when we are discouraged, to rejoice with us when we are happy, and so we can be there for you as well. Never been to church, then come on out; we invite you to join in the fun! We promise not to Bible thump you.

Everyone is welcome at Type Church, 1200 County Road 466. Services start at 10:30 on Sunday morning. For more information, email Pastor Terrence Kennedy at twk3032@gmail.com or call him at (512) 599-7761. Y'all come on out, hear!
Pastor Terry & Rachel Kennedy
Proverbs 27:17 "You use steel to sharpen steel, and one friend sharpens another."



Post Oak Island Historical Marker Dedication

Charlene Hanson Jordan announces that the Post Oak Island historical marker will be dedicated on May 14 at 11 a.m. next to the Type Cemetery marker; the dedication will be held outdoors. The location is 1200 County Road 466. Everyone is invited. There will be a speaker system so that everyone can hear, and everybody is asked to bring his or her own chair. Ample easy parking is available in the Type Church parking lot.

Please come to join in celebrating this event and learn about a plantation that vanished. Charlene's new book about Post Oak Island called "The Vanished Plantation" will be available at the dedication. It's about the Kidd family home, their life there, and the fate of the other plantations as well. Ibrey Jasper Kidd founded Post Oak Island Masonic Lodge No. 181 at Post Oak Island in 1855.

For questions, email charlenehansonjordan@yahoo.com.

The new Post Oak Island historical marker will be next to the marker at the Type Cemetery, left.

Photo by Susan Garry

Nancy's Keys Has New Shop In Taylor

Nancy Barron has been working out of her van, providing dependable and expert locksmithing services to our area for many years. She now has a brick-and-mortar shop in Taylor at 801 W. Second Street.

She offers vehicle keys, keyfobs, remotes, and programming services. She does rekeying and master keying of locks. Emergency service is available. The website is Jackson Locksmith Services. For her phone number and email address, see her ad below.

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drought of '52-'57. This could happen again. Farmers try to produce against all odds; the biggest odds is Mother Nature."

Feral Hogs a New Threat

Scott planted 8 test rows of corn in an area where he knew there were feral hogs, and in the morning, every seed was gone. He says, "Farmers can sign up with the state that is sponsoring a program against the hogs that uses a helicopter. A bunch of us have signed up. They recently shot 8 big ones at Brown's Gin."

Realize What Farmers Do

Scott would like for the general public to appreciate the work of farmers: "When you get behind a tractor going 19 miles per hour, would you please look down at your blue jeans. Look over in your passenger seat at that bucket of chicken. Think about the steak you've grilled in your backyard the night before and find some patience when you are behind that farm equipment." Also, drivers should consider everyone's safety. He says, "In that situation, we have had so many close calls."

Land In U.S.—Coupland a Microcosm of Endangered Farmland Nation-Wide

As the saying goes, they are not making any more land. Scott has some figures from the Farm Service Agency, USDA, which notes that in 2017, Williamson County had 144,597 acres in crops. In 2021 there were 133,520 acres in crops: 11,077 acres difference. These figures are before the impact of Samsung, which takes up 1100 acres; not to mention housing and supporting infrastructure for the thousands of jobs Samsung will bring to this area.

Scott also notes that Bloomberg News has analyzed the land in the U.S. There are 1.9 billion acres of productive land in the continental U.S.; it is some of the most productive land on earth.

The biggest use, 41% is for grazing or growing food for livestock. Second is forest land that constitutes one-fourth of the contiguous U.S. Third is crop land; agricultural land takes up about a fifth of the country.

The smallest category is urban, but it is the fastest growing, at an average rate of about 1 million additional acres a year. Scott reports, "That is the equivalent of adding new urban

Scott's grainery in the sunset.

Photo by Susan Garry



area the size of Los Angeles, Houston, and Phoenix combined every year."

World Food Supply

There may be food problems caused by Russia invading Ukraine. Combined, they export one-fifth of the world's supply of corn. Also, Russia is the world's largest fertilizer producer, and fertilizer exports have dropped. Thus the price of fertilizer, so important in food production, has greatly increased in recent weeks. Farmers will face higher costs, likely leading to further increases in food prices, impacting food supplies around the world.

Conclusion

The American Farmland Trust notes that every day 2,000 acres of agricultural land are paved over or otherwise taken out of farming. As farms disappear, experts predict that we will need to increase food production by 60 percent by the year 2050.

Given the situation of endangered agricultural land in the country, we need to consider our local situation and value our prime farmland here in the Blackland Prairie. Farmers like Scott will continue to do their best to produce food for the country, but they won't be able to do it if the land is all built over. Given the demographics of our area, we don't know what the solution is. But at least we can keep in mind our history as a traditional agricultural area and value our past even though it may not survive into the future.



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S. R. Ging and his cultivator with his cotton crop.

Photo courtesy of Scott Ging

New Sweden Church News

By Barbara Carisalez

Spring is in the air at New Sweden Lutheran Church. We were grateful and blessed with a great attendance on Wednesday evenings during the Lenten Season. On Palm Sunday the youth gave a beautiful Easter program.

The church sponsored a blessing of the bicycles with a message given by Rev. Hans Lillejord on Saturday, April 9.

The New Sweden Heritage Center has rescheduled Heritage Day to May 21 due to time constraints. Along with the Swedish meal we will be including a dedication of the windmill that was brought up from the Peterson Farm and relocated next to the Heritage Center. It was restored by Jimmie Lee Christensen.

The numerous Bible Studies continue with Ladies Bible Study the first Thursday of the month at 6:30, then the second and fourth Tuesdays at 10 a.m. Game nights are the second, third, and fourth Thursdays of the month at 7 p.m.

On Mother's Day and Father's Day Sundays, a breakfast will be served prior to Worship Service. Our God and Country Program will be held again this year on June 26 with a meal and festivities starting at 5 p.m. and program at 7 p.m.

All are welcome to all of our services and events.

January 31 CCO Meeting

The Coupland Civic Organization had something new and different for their January 31 meeting. Instead of having a program at the St. Peter's Fellowship Hall, residents were treated to a tour of the new and renovated Coupland School facilities hosted by Superintendent Tammy Brinkman. Thanks to Superintendent Brinkman for showing residents the wonderful new building and the renovated old facilities. Of special interest was the new regulation size gym which Coupland has needed for many years. While looking at the new gym, we were able to see the Coupland Cowboys basketball team defeat Gause.



Superintendent Tammy Brinkman, center, discusses the new school facilities with Kandice Samuelson, Judy Downing, and Becky Sutton. The beautiful new regulation-size gym has room for families to sit and watch their students play.
Photos by Susan Garry

**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



February 28 CCO Meeting

Following a supper of homemade soup, cornbread and desserts, the February 28 meeting featured community officials presenting “the state of the City.” First, Susan Schmidt, CCO president, discussed the events held in 2021. The CCO was able to resume some of its activities—National Night Out and Choo Choo Fest. The CCO plans to resume its golf tournament in 2022. CCO Treasurer Mike Schneider presented the financial report; finances have improved since the resumption of Choo Choo Fest.

CVFD Chief Jared Cummings, Assistant Chief John Roulston-Bates, and Thrall Chief Mark Moellenberg presented the situation of firefighting in the area. They discussed the impending merger of the Coupland and Thrall Departments under the auspices of ESD#10. Chief Moellenberg will be chief of the new department and Chief Cummings will be assistant chief of the new department. There will be one department with two stations.

There are 36 firefighters, all volunteers, in the combined departments. Moellenberg said, “We have to plan first to react to growth in this part of the county and use tax dollars wisely.” One goal is to get all firefighters medically qualified. Currently, there are 11 emergency medical technicians and 19 certified first responders. Roulston-Bates comments, “We will train you.” He also notes that Texas has a state-wide mutual aid system.

Cummings notes, “At our recent chili supper, we cooked 420 pounds of chili and raised over \$7,500. We had a good turn-out. Next year, we plan to return to our seated dinner and not have just the drive-through.” He adds, “We are looking to upgrade our fleet. We have upgraded the bunker gear and the air cylinders and masks.”

(Continued on page 15)



CCO President Susan Schmidt and CCO Treasurer Mike Schneider speaking at the February meeting.

Photos by Susan Garry



Left to right, Thrall Fire Chief Mark Moellenberg, Coupland Chief Jared Cummings, and Coupland Assistant Chief John Roulston-Bates speak at the February CCO meeting.

Photo by Susan Garry

Bobby Haines, Beekeeper
Bee removal
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Bobby prepares to gently remove a bee swarm from a tree and lure it into a hive.

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(Continued from page 13)

Coupland Mayor Jack Piper noted that 2022 is the ten-year anniversary of the incorporation of Coupland. He explained the process, saying, "A community meeting was held. Susan Schmidt passed the hat and collected over \$900 to begin paying for incorporation. Then a community-wide garage sale raised \$3,000." He added, "There was a petition to put it on the ballot, then the vote—96 for and 19 against. The results were certified in November 2012, and in May 2013 there was the election for council members and mayor."

Coupland's first budget was \$38,000 with \$39,000 total income. In January 2022 the total assets were \$384,000. Mayor Piper notes, "We have watched our money. Road repair is our main issue."

Speaking at the CCO's February meeting was Mayor Jack Piper.

Photo by Susan Garry



March 28 CCO Meeting



Mayor Jack Piper and Mayor Pro Tem Barbara Piper at the March 28 meeting.

At the March 28 meeting, following a supper of sloppy joes and homemade desserts hosted by the CCO Board of Directors, Coupland School Superintendent Tammy Brinkman discussed the current situation of the school, including the new facilities that are already filled up and the future needs of the school. Also addressing these issues was longtime school board member Kandice Samuelson. The student population is increasing faster than previous projections. The school already owns land east of Coupland and is considering a bond proposal to build a middle school and high school at that site. See the insert in this *Herald* for details.



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**Deadline for the next issue,
August 2022, is July 10.**

Polocrosse Tournament--On April 22, Lone Star Polocrosse hosted a demonstration match with under-18-year-old players from Texas and around the country. Then, the annual Jon Weber Classic Lone Star Polocrosse Tournament was April 22-24. Lone Star Polocrosse is east of Coupland at 6101 FM 1466.



Shadow of horse and rider observing the trailers that have come from around the country for the Lone Star Polocrosse Tournament east of Coupland.
Photo by Destiny Elizabeth Hammond