

COUPLAND HERALD



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News from the City of Coupland

By Mayor Russell Schmidt

For those of you that have not noticed the new stop signs and striping at Hoxie and Broad Streets and Hoxie and Austin Streets, the City has received numerous complaints about large trucks and speeding vehicles going through the middle of town. These signs were placed for safety reasons. I would hope people will comply with these stop signs voluntarily without the involvement of law enforcement. The City prefers voluntarily compliance.

The April Council Meeting addresses a revision of the subdivision ordinance. Our focus is trying to make the subdivision ordinance simpler and easier to understand. I also want to reiterate the fact the City has a new nuisance ordinance. This addresses property owners' failure to keep their property in compliance with the ordinance. The ordinance can be found on the City's website. I appreciate those who do comply with this and keep their properties mowed and maintained.

The City has contracted with a company who will mow and shred city property. Once again, the City encourages voluntary compliance with all ordinances.

Thank you, Russell Schmidt

Fire Chief Moellenberg and District Chief Roulston-Bates Presented ESD#10 Information to Statewide Safe-D Conference in Irving

On February 22, Williamson County ESD#10 presented its success story at a statewide Emergency Service Conference. ESD#10 was formed in 2005, initially covering the Coupland Volunteer Fire Department area. The Thrall Volunteer Fire Department joined ESD#10 in 2017. In 2022 the two departments merged firefighting operations into a single unit, combining their resources and expertise.

Fire Chief Mark Moellenberg and Station 1 District Chief John Roulston-Bates made a presentation about ESD#10 at the statewide Safe-D Conference in Irving, hosted by the Texas State Association of Fire and Emergency Districts.

They described the achievements of ESD#10 and the impact of the collective efforts of their volunteer firefighters, explaining a way forward for VFDs seeking to manage growth and improve services. Moellenberg said, 'We are honored to have the opportunity to share our story with fellow volunteer emergency service professionals from across Texas, and we believe we can provide pointers on how rural VFDs can work in cooperation to build mission driven organizations focused on the people of their districts.' He added, 'After the presentation we spent an hour in the conference hallways answering questions from volunteer departments across the state.'

ESD#10 not only has strengthened emergency response capabilities but also has fostered community involvement. For more information about ESD#10, which provides fire service across 215 square miles of eastern Williamson County, including the communities of: Beakiss, Beyersville, Coupland, Rural Elgin, Hare, Hoxie, Laneport, Lawrence Chapel, Noack, Norman's Crossing, Sandoval, Shiloh, Structure, Rice's Crossing, Rural Taylor, Thorndale, Thrall, Type, and Waterloo, visit www.wcesd10.org. Contact Mark Moellenberg at mmoellenberg@wcesd10.org and John Roulston-Bates at jroulston@wcesd10.org.

President's Message—Coupland History

By Susan Schmidt, CCO President

Spring has certainly put on a beautiful show this year. Bluebonnets are everywhere and Indian Paintbrush are beginning to paint red within all the blue. There is such a sweet smell in the air from the bluebonnets. I wish I could bottle that smell for sizzling summer days and dreary winter days. Enjoy this weather while you can because the heat of the summer is fast approaching.

This is a continuation of the history of Coupland, penned by my father, C. W. Pfluger, Jr. The previous *Herald* told of advertising for land in Coupland City and its close location to the new Taylor, Bastrop, and Houston railway.

The land upon which Coupland is situated was originally granted to James Crawford by Major Arcinega, Commissioner, Supreme Government of the State of Coahuila and Texas as a colonist in Austin's and William's County.

On July 19, 1837, Crawford executed a warranty deed conveying 2,222 acres to James B. Miller. Miller then conveyed the land to Albert F. Burnley in a warranty deed dated August 3, 1848. During the course of these and other transactions of the land, early laws of Texas from 1831 to 1876, Articles Number 2377 and 2848, validating acts of the Legislature of Texas of February 2, 1854, and January 25,

1836, and *Hamilton v. Avery* 20th Texas page 630, "colonists leagues on Brushy Creek held invalid so far as the same was located north of the dividing ridge of the Brazos and Colorado Rivers." Rightful ownership was determined in Patent Number 39, Volume 12, dated August 24, 1859, when the State of Texas by M.R. Runnels, Governor and Francis M. White, Commissioner of the General Land Office granted to Morgan C. Hamilton, assignee of Joseph Jordan, 1,009 acres of land, situated and described as follows: In Williamson County on Brushy Creek, a tributary of Little River, about 20 miles S 54 E from Austin known as Survey No. by virtue of Bounty Warranty No. 400 for 1,120 acres issued by Barnard E. Bee, Secretary of War of the Late Republic of Texas, and on the 18th of November, 1837, transferred by said Jordan to Hamilton on the 21st day of November 1837. The land was surveyed for Hamilton by Mathias Wilbarger, Dep. Surveyor on October 6, 1832.

In a deed of Gift and Trust dated May 2, 1883, Hamilton left to share, a sizeable inheritance of land, cattle, and horses to his deceased sister's (Karen Hamilton Coupland) five children, those being Constantine, Nancy J., James and Theodore V. Coupland and the children of the deceased Harriet L. Coupland McMillion.

(Continued on page 14)

Jan. CCO Meeting—State of the City

At its January 29 meeting the CCO had its annual State of the City report, along with news from community organizations. First, Susan Schmidt, CCO president, discussed 2023 activities—National Night Out, Choo Choo Fest, and Santa at the Depot. Unfortunately, due to inclement weather, Halloween Trunk or Treat had to be cancelled. The CCO will arrange for a protected alternative site in 2024 so that Trunk or Treat can go on regardless of the weather. Susan reminded attendees that the CCO holds informative meetings the last Monday of every month, with a free supper hosted by CCO board members beginning at 6:30 p.m. in the fellowship hall of St. Peter's Church of Coupland.

Coupland's new Mayor Russell Schmidt discussed the nuisance ordinance that was just passed by the City Council. He noted that the Council meets the third Tuesday of every month in the Coupland Fire Station and the public is welcome.

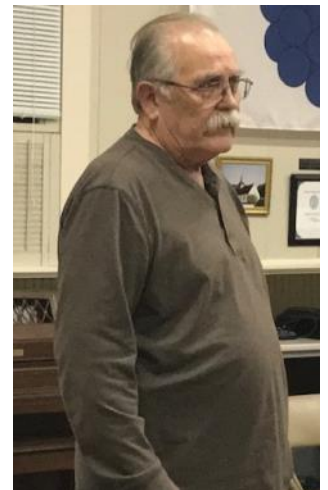
Coupland School's new superintendent, Dr. Earl Parcell, explained that the staff with input from the community would be working on strategic planning in order to come up with a five-year plan for the school. There is a new school board member, Dr. Karen Holgersen, who has filled one vacancy. There is one more vacancy on the board.

Presenting the firefighting situation were Mark Moellenberg, ESD#10 Chief, and John Roulston-Bates, Station 1, Coupland Chief. Moellenberg said, "As the area population grows, we have to have more equipment. We have got to expand our capacity." He added, "The brush trucks take a beating, and we're getting two new brush trucks.

Also, we're getting a new first response truck with full capability, medical and firefighting, and two command trucks with full medical on them."

Moellenberg noted, "We are always recruiting. John runs a phenomenal training academy. In 2024, we will continue to update equipment. It costs \$3,600 for gear for each person. We have a roster of 30 to 40 volunteers."

Pastor Scott Wasdin of St. Peter's Church discussed the relationship of the church with the community. He said, "We will continue in 2024 to partner with the community. We support events like Trunk or Treat, and the fellowship hall is available for gatherings."

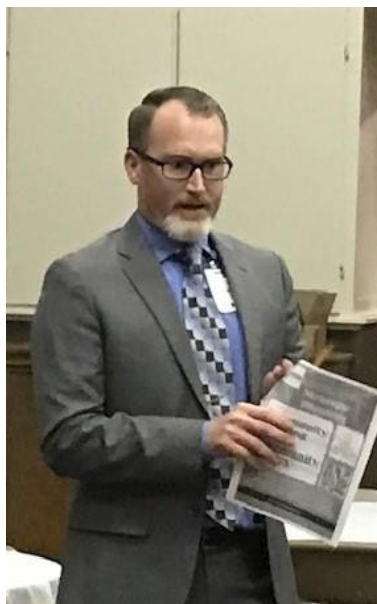


CCO President Susan Schmidt and Mayor Russell Schmidt.



Speaking at the CCO January 29 meeting, left, Mark Moellenberg, ESD#10 Chief, and lower left, Dr. Earl Parcels, new Coupland School Superintendent.

Photos by Susan Garry



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CCO Hears About Native Plants

On Monday, March 25, in the St. Peter’s Church fellowship hall, the Coupland Civic Organization (CCO) heard from Anna Marie Blair who presented a program on native plants. Prior to the program, a supper—sloppy joes and homemade cookies—was hosted by the CCO board members.

Anna Marie Blaire is a Texas Master Naturalist who lives in Elgin. She discussed small native trees and pointed out that even though crepe myrtles are popular, they are not a native plant and don’t support fauna such as butterflies and birds. Look for drought tolerant and deer resistant plants such as ash juniper and desert willow. The flame leaf sumac is a beautiful red plant. Be aware that some plants such as the yew tree are poisonous.

The Texas persimmon has edible fruit. The Texas redbud has edible blossoms that can be used in salads and in stir fry. The Turks Cap has red blossoms; the blossoms, young leaves, and fruit are edible. Agarita berries are edible, and they make good jelly and wine.

Anna Marie said that some of these native plants are available at local independent nurseries such as Bloomers in Elgin.



Anna Marie Blair speaks on native plants to the March CCO meeting.

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Lois Schmidt’s Birthday Party



Lois and daughter Carrie Townsend.

On February 3 there was an 80th birthday party for Lois Schmidt in the St. Peter’s fellowship hall. Lois said, “Thank you to all my friends and family for a wonderful birthday party. I appreciate everyone taking the time to come.”

Senior Luncheon—Prissy Rumel

The last Senior Luncheon was on March 19, and the LIFT group from St. Peter’s Church of Coupland served around 48 seniors. They enjoyed soup, cornbread, and cake, and then after lunch played Bingo and some played Dominos. The next Senior Luncheon is scheduled for May. We hope to have a few middle school students from Coupland School that will come to help serve.

Join us for food and fellowship at the

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Cisco's Best Day Author Speaks To February CCO Meeting

At the February 26 meeting, the CCO heard an interesting talk from Cheryl Aker about writing a children's book and getting it published. The book is about her family's dog Cisco and is entitled *Cisco's Best Day*: "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. And things only get better when Cisco gets the chance to be a true hero and make a lifelong friend."

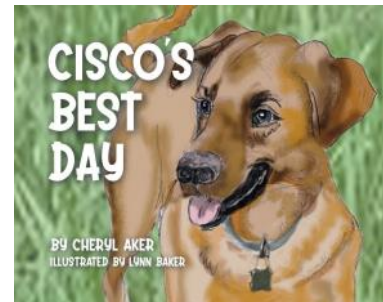
Cheryl is active in a homesteading group, people who live in rural areas and work on being self-sufficient. They are involved in gardening, canning, fiber arts, and bee keeping. One of the homesteaders is Janet Garman who knew that people had ideas for books but they had no publishing outlet. Janet founded a micro publishing house, Sawdust Publishing. She asked Cheryl to let her publish *Cisco's Best Day*.

Janet helped Cheryl find an illustrator saying, "A children's book has got to have pictures." Cheryl hired Lynn Baker to illustrate the book. She had the pictures in her head and wanted complete creative control. She sent Lynn the manuscript and notes for each illustration.

Cheryl says about Cisco, "He will live on forever and be passed on to future generations." She brought books to the meeting and signed them for attendees. Her supply of books almost sold out; she had only one left. She noted, "My publisher will be happy that I sold so many books."



Cheryl signs books for Becky Sutton and Judy Downing.



Cheryl speaks at the CCO meeting.

Photos by Susan Garry

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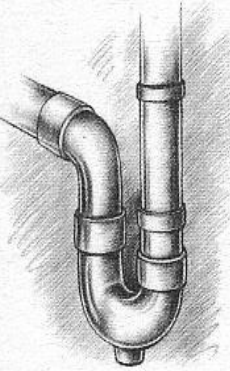
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Coupland School News -- By Kate Knapek, Assistant Principal

Coupland students had a memorable experience watching the total eclipse! Right, Mrs. Carr's Pre K class.



Below, Fourth Graders Chase Molineux, Ethan Mondragon, and Luke Stapp.



Below, teacher Nikki Martinez with Eighth Graders Javier Trejo, Freddie Macedo, Logan Middaugh, and Sarah Herring.



All photos courtesy of Kate Knapek and Coupland School

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Left, at Spring Fling, Brian Booker, Principal, and Kate Knapek, Assistant Principal.

Coupland had a fun Spring Fling! We'll be back with Harvest Fest in the Fall! Thank you to our AMAZING PTA!

Right, Second Grade teachers Nikki White and Deanna Snell, and Fourth Grade teacher Tammy Sane.



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School Bonds; Construction Update

By Dr. Earl Parcell,
Coupland School Superintendent

Bond 2023/Construction Update

Coupland ISD has a rich history of being proud of its traditions and this is echoed in the saying you will see all over the school, "The BEST little school in Texas where EXCELLENCE is tradition." Over the last five years, Coupland ISD has experienced a significant increase in its student population. Between 2017-2018 and 2022-2023, the districts' student population has increased 173%. The growth within and approaching the school district boundaries (Samsung and surrounding developments) has definitely warranted addressing future facility needs as the current campus capacity will quickly be inadequate for the anticipated student population in the near future.

In May 2023, the voters approved a \$56 million-dollar bond proposal to build a new middle school in Coupland near the intersection of FM1466 and CR460. What is a school bond? A school bond is a way for a school district to borrow money to fund capital projects such as building new facilities or to renovate existing facilities. By approving a bond, the voters give the district permission to take out a loan and that the community agrees to pay it back over time (similar to when we take out a loan to buy a house or a car). The investors who buy these bonds are paid back, principal and interest, with school district funds that are collected through school district property taxes.

Property owners in Texas have to pay taxes to several different entities based on the value of their property every year. One of the (many) taxing entities is the local school district. The total school district tax rate is the sum of the Maintenance and Operations (M & O) tax rate and the Interest and Sinking (I & S) tax rate. For the 2023-2024 school year, Coupland ISDs tax rate is \$1.1692 per \$100-

(Continued on page 13)

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“Spotlight”—Q&A with Mayor Russell Schmidt

By Wells Mason



Question: As a long-time resident of Coupland, some people know you, but many do not! Where were you born? Where else have you lived? How long have you been in Coupland?
Answer: I was born in Bandera, Texas. As a child, I lived in Bandera, Orange, New Braunfels, and Kerrville, plus Vicksburg, Mississippi. As an adult, I’ve lived in San Marcos, Austin, and Coupland. I’ve lived in Coupland almost 50 years.

Question: I understand you were in law enforcement. Tell us about your employment through the years.
Answer: I was a police officer in Austin for 28 years. I started in patrol in North Austin. I was the only patrolman north of Koenig Lane. At that time, we only had radios in the cars – not portable radios. I also worked in East Austin, everything from 7th Street at I-35 to Montopolis. After patrol, I transferred to Special Crimes. From Special Crimes, I went to Narcotics for 9 years. I got promoted to Sergeant and worked in Homicide for 3 years. I again got promoted to Senior Sergeant and worked as a patrol supervisor on the line in Southeast Austin. My final position was Senior Sergeant in License and Weight. After retiring from the Austin Police Department, I worked for the Williamson County Sheriff’s Office for a few years along with consultant work for the Lockhart Police Department.

Question: Now that you’re the mayor of Coupland, tell us about your plans. Tell us about your day-to-day activities.
Answer: I will attempt to return Coupland back to the way it was when I moved here in 1974. At that time, it was a small, clean community. Most of the homes were owned by long-time residents who maintained their properties. It was a much nicer, neater community. I support controlled growth and clean industry. Each day as mayor brings a different challenge. It’s never the same. I deal with road repair, com-

plaints about properties, stolen and damaged property. I meet with contractors, emergency management personnel, utility companies, officials from other cities as well as the officials of Williamson County. I also meet with attorneys and officials from the Coupland ISD. I also field a lot of calls from people who do not reside within our city limits, but I try to direct them to the correct agencies.

Question: When you’re not working in your capacity as mayor, what do you like to do?
Answer: I enjoy being with my children and their families – especially my four grandchildren. I also enjoy hunting and fishing.

Question: If you had to pick just one or two things, what do you like most about Coupland?
Answer: I like the small-town atmosphere. It’s just home.

Question: If someone needs to contact you, what’s the best way to reach you?
Answer: The best way to reach me is to call the city phone number which is (512) 557-8159 or by email at russell@couplandtx.com.

(Picture of Mayor Schmidt at right.)

“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.

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Kara Laughbaum assisting Letitia to install exhibits at Arts Convergence Gallery.

Arts Convergence Gallery— Art in Coupland—By Letitia Eldredge

At last, we can look forward to our gallery coming open again this year. The great hiccups from COVID 19 and other difficulties took a toll on our patience, but good will has now come to pass.

One fine day in March, College Station artist, Kara Laughbaum, stopped in Arts Convergence to offer help with the 2024 season's install of the new arts exhibits. With impeccable skill, she put the right nails to the exact right spots for Stephen Paternite's exquisite black and white photography works, gifted to Arts Convergence from his studio in Akron, Ohio. Kara, with her degrees from Texas A&M in Construction Engineering and Art, handily helped with "up the high wall" tasks. Thanks Kara!

AC has gratefully received more fabulous art books from Fort Worth collector, Jeff Hamrick. A fine volume on the private life of Georgia O'Keeffe, a treasured old publication on the life and art of Botticelli published in 1901! Another book on the 20th century European artist, Baultas, and the vast picture book "Ul de Rico; The Rainbow Goblins" from our neighbor Karen Van Buren, for our children's art book section.

For those of you who don't know, the availability of affordable old art books is getting quite scarce. We are super thankful for our art book contributors. Arts Convergence Reading Room will be open with gallery hours as well, beginning this fall.

Meanwhile, huge thanks go to Taylor artist, Karl Senn, for his continuous share of new works on paper, to Peter Julian for his poignant backyard art chats and Coupland feral wild life stories, and the unstoppable Karen Van Buren, for her weekly volunteer work-party sessions.

I want to send you all spring greetings with the prescription to get your dreams just like you want them. Keep creating!!! Our lives are changing--pace and population--fast here now. Our mantra around AC is "preparation, preparation, preparation." We live in a wonderful little village on the Hill.

Take Care--Drop by, you are always welcome.
Letitia Eldredge
Arts Convergence Little Gallery and Museum



Left, Mayor Russell Schmidt, with Mayor Pro Tem Barbara Piper and Council Member and Coupland District Fire Chief John Roulston-Bates.

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New Sweden Church News

By Susan Rountree, New Sweden Church Secretary

During the month of April the New Sweden congregation celebrated two annual events. The first was on April 13, on which we had our third annual "Blessing of the Bicycles." Last year over 150 bicycle riders gathered for a short service, after which they had their bicycles blessed. This is now an annual event in which we recognize the wonderful work the bicycle groups do in raising money for many different charitable organizations.

On April 20, we celebrated "Heritage Day," which is now our annual event to remember the Swedish settlers who came from Sweden to central Texas to find a new life in America. The emphasis this year is on the many schools in the area which the immigrants formed to educate their children in the ways of their new homeland. The congregation is beginning to plan for the 150th anniversary of the congregation which will take place in April of 2026.

The big event for the second quarter of this year will be Sunday, June 23rd at 7 p.m. It is the annual "God and Country" program and sing-along. This congregation believes strongly in honoring our veterans who have served in our military to keep us safe from harm and preserve the freedom we enjoy in this beautiful land of ours. This, of course, includes the freedom of religion, which allows us to worship our God without interference. It is a festive evening with short skits and a lot of beloved patriotic songs.

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Ironwood on Taylor Studio Tour

Coupland's Ironwood Industries participated in the Taylor Studio Tour, held on April 6 and 7. This free self-guided tour featured over 35 artists in 22 different venues. Wells and Jessica Mason hosted visitors in their Taylor Gallery. Wells said, "We're serving little sammiches! Come for the sammiches. Stay for the art"



Jessica Mason and her designer hardware at Ironwood Industries showroom on Taylor Studio Tour.



Jessica Mason and a recent piece from Wells Mason at Ironwood Industries showroom on Taylor Studio Tour.

Photos by Susan Garry

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----------------------------------------------------------	-------------------------------------------------------------

Conclusion of School Bonds; Construction Update from page 9

(Continued from page 9)

dollar property valuation (\$.6692 for M & O and \$.50 for I & S). M & O taxes are used to fund regular school operations such as teacher salaries, paper, and utilities. The I & S taxes can only be used to pay school district debt and it can't be more than \$.50. This figure is important and I will get back to this a little later.

So, Coupland ISD has been granted approval to borrow \$56 million dollars to build a new middle school. In August 2023, CISD sold bonds for \$23 million. Why just \$23 million? Good question. The district, while having permission from the community to borrow \$56 million, must be able to make the annual principal and interest payments on any funds it borrows. Basically, the district can only borrow what it can afford. Again, just like when we personally look at buying a new car or a new home, we must ensure that the payment of the loan fits within the budget. So, what is the CISD budget for capital projects (building a new school)? This is where the I & S tax portion of your property taxes comes into play. Remember, the I & S taxes are the funds typically used to pay school district debt on capital projects. How is this calculated? There are two variables used in this calculation. Property Value multiplied by the I & S tax rate equals the annual loan payment (which is technically referred to as I & S tax collections) a school district can afford. Once we know this amount, we then ask our financial advisor how much we can borrow. In August 2023, with this equation, Coupland ISD could afford to borrow \$23 million.

$$\begin{aligned} \text{PV} * \text{I \& S Tax Rate} &= \text{I \& S Tax Collections} \\ \text{PV} * \$.50 &= \text{Principal and Interest Annual Payment} \end{aligned}$$

In the bond planning phase, prior to the election, the plan was to sell \$23 million in August 2023 and then to sell another \$8 million in August 2024. With \$31 million dollars, the plan was to construct the first phases (called the base bid) of the new middle school with the goal of opening the campus in August 2026 as a fully functioning campus that would be expanded upon (these planned expansions are referred to as alternates) as more bond funds became available. With the I & S tax rate already being at the maximum allowed value (\$.50), the only way the district can generate more I & S tax revenue (which would allow us to borrow more money for construction) is for property value to increase. For perspective, property value for Coupland ISD increased more than 250% between 2017-2018 and 2022-2023. Based on historical data and increasing property values, it was anticipated that the district would be able to sell more of the bonds (\$8 million) in August 2024. But.....something happened in November 2023 that significantly impacted property value tax collections.

In November 2023, Texas voters approved a \$100,000 homestead exemption (it was previously \$40,000). This reduced every homeowner's property value by an additional \$60,000. While this reduced the tax burden for Texas homeowners, it has negatively impacted how a school district funds capital projects due to the reduced I & S tax revenue. While property values have increased over the past year, this valuation is offset by the \$60,000 increase (\$100,000 total) in homestead exemptions for homeowners. This property value disruption impacts Coupland ISD. How so? The only variable from the I & S Tax Collection equation for Coupland ISD (at this time) that is not fixed is property value because the I & S tax rate is at the ceiling. Basically, the homestead exemption has slowed the increasing taxable property values that were originally counted on in late 2022 and early 2023 during bond planning. Due to the \$100,000 homestead exemption, we anticipate not being able to sell \$8 million in bonds in August 2024. How much will we be able to sell? On July 25, the district will receive the certified property values from the County Appraisal Offices (Williamson and Travis Counties) and at that time we will ask our financial advisor how much we can borrow. It is not a matter of if our property values will rise enough for us to sell more bonds, it is a matter of when.

So what, now what? Given the circumstances, the district had to review and address the ultimate goal of building a fully functional school that could open in August 2026 with access to fewer dollars right now. The construction committee (consisting of district representatives, district administrators, board members, the architect, and community members) has met several times to review construction documents, review legal requirements, and suggest revisions to the original plans that the district can afford without sacrificing the integrity of the project. In March, at the Board of Trustees regular meeting, the Board approved a revised base bid plan (with alternates) that Claycomb & Associates presented that will provide all the necessities for a fully functioning campus with \$23 million dollars. As property values increase (and they will – growth is headed this way), the district will sell more bonds and immediately begin work on the alternates within the construction plans and will do so until all the alternates have been constructed.

All this to say, the new school is coming! The district has planned to finalize construction documents by June 2024, receive bids for the project this summer, have the Board approve a Guaranteed Maximum Price (GMP) for the project in August, and begin construction in September! Be on the lookout on the district webpage for construction updates. We want you to know what is happening in your community. I want to thank you for your support. Our students are 100% worth it. Take care.

Type Church

By Pastor Ryan Evans

Type Church exists to glorify God by making disciples. Please join us for Sunday worship at 10:30 a.m. Join us for family game night on June 12 at 6 p.m. Church is not something you go to, it is a family you belong to. Come meet our church family. The family of God is always looking for more members.

In Christ,
Pastor Ryan

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.



Conclusion of President's Column, Coupland History, continued from page 2

In 1884, Nancy J. Coupland Spruill of Alabama then traded her interest in the estate for livestock and approximately 900 acres northwest of the present town of Coupland and thus remained the owners who sold 200 acres to the Coupland City Land Company.

To be continued. The next portion will deal with the early settlers of Coupland whose last names will be recognized by residents who have resided in this area for some time.

The next CCO event will be National Night Out which is celebrated the second Tuesday of August. Stay tuned for more information closer to the date.

Susan Schmidt

More Coupland History

By Charlene Hanson Jordan

The Sad Story of Victoria Lander

On April 9, 1918, Victoria Lander was killed in a gruesome accident in Coupland. A train ran over her as she was crossing the tracks with her horse and buggy. She was born in 1898 in Sweden and was 21 when she died. She was buried at Lund, Texas.

Her father, Frank A. Lander (p. 1027, "Swedes in Texas") was born in Linderås Parish, Småland in 1869. He first worked for the Swedish railroad before he signed up as a soldier in the Jonkoping Regiment in 1893. Lander is his military name. The following year, 1894, he married Christina Josephine Akerstedt born in Säby Parish Småland in 1869. Four children were born in Sweden: Signe (1894), Frank (1895), Victoria (1897) and John (1900). Frank Lander had served the Crown for nine years when he with his family emigrated to Texas where Charley and Theresia were born in 1902 and 1906.

The Lander family joined his half-brother, Alfred Carlson, who then lived at Gilden, north of Austin. After a year, Lander rented land northeast of Coupland between FM 1466 and Brushy Creek and the family belonged to the congregation in Lund.

Frank Lander died in 1962 at age 92. His wife, Christina, died in 1931 (Travis County death records) of lung cancer although her tombstone in the Lund cemetery says 1937.

The above account is a sample of the historical writings of Charlene Hanson Jordan. She writes three articles every week that are published on the Patreon website. (Patreon.com/CharleneHansonJordan) A subscription is \$3 per month. Subscribers will receive all prior articles and can cancel at any time without penalty. For more information or for help in signing up, email her at charlenehansonjordan@yahoo.com. Below, the Lander family, Victoria on the right.



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.

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 who provide training to better the district. The ESD is proud to support their volunteer firefighters as they serve our area residents.



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The eclipse in the Coupland area—photos from Jim Lutz, top, and Prissy Rumel, bottom.



The Coupland Herald

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*Publication of the
Coupland Civic
Organization*

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Coupland Postal Customer

Coupland, TX 78615

Coupland Herald May 2024

Published quarterly by the Coupland Civic Organization (CCO), a non-profit organization, which reserves the right to determine content. Copyright CCO.

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

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**Deadline for the next issue,
August 2024, is July 10.**

News from Hermann Sons—By Glenda Gebert



During the recent meeting of the Hermann Sons Life Coupland--New Bern, Glenn Krieg presented Lena Ging a certificate of appreciation for her many years of dedication, time, and work as president of the Coupland Hermann Sons Lodge.

In observance of Join Hands Day, May 4, Hermann Sons Life (HSL) Coupland--New Bern Lodge recently presented a check to Elgin Community Cupboard (ECC). Pictured are (front l-r) Cindy Krieg, HSL; Dick Miller, ECC; Glenda Gebert, HSL; Charlotte Albert, HSL; and John Smith, ECC. Back row are ECC volunteers.

