

COUPLAND HERALD



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News from the City of Coupland

By Mayor Jack Piper

Wow! It is hard to believe that when I first moved to Coupland during the summer of 2007, I would anticipate being in public service for ten and one-half years. Many of you recall all of the efforts many community members supported during the incorporation process. Well, Coupland did incorporate in November of 2012 and elected its first mayor and council in May of 2013. There were many "bumps" in the road, but one that I vividly recall immediately following election to office. The Texas Department of Transportation (TxDot) came to the city and informed us that we owed over twelve thousand dollars in fees for right-of-way purchases along FM 1660. The ironic part of this is that at that time, the city only had just a little over twelve hundred dollars in the bank. Luckily, TxDot offered the city a payment plan and in a period of three years, that "debt" was settled.

During the incorporation process, it was heard loud and clear that citizens wanted this city/community to remain a farming/ranching community. I believe we have all strived to enact and pass as few ordinances as necessary and still represent and protect the citizens.

Times are changing; growth is upon us and I believe we all welcome growth but remain steadfast in our efforts to be able to control the growth.

(Continued on page 3)

Coupland School Board and New Middle School

By Susan Schmidt, Coupland Civic Organization President

I have good news about the Coupland ISD school and school board. The school board recognizes the community would like transparency and open discussions about various issues. Michael Roepke, Vice President of Coupland ISD School Board, spoke at CCO's September meeting. He focused on improving the relationship between the board and the school. Every other month, beginning in November, two board members will be present to meet with members of the community to let them know what is going on in the district as well as an opportunity for community members to address any concerns. If you want to keep abreast of happenings with the school board or there is an issue you would like to discuss, plan on attending these meetings. This is an excellent opportunity to have your voices heard and to hear from members of the school board.

(Continued on page 2)

November 7 Bond Election To Repair County Road 458

The November 7 election will include a bond election for Williamson County. Among other projects, these bonds will fund rebuilding County Road 458 from Highway 95 to the county line. If you have an interest in this project, you should plan to vote in this election. St. Peter's Church of Coupland will be a voting location.

## President's Message—Coupland History

By Susan Schmidt, CCO President

Happy Fall to all. After this brutally hot summer, it is very nice to have some cooler temperatures.

This has been a busy time for the Coupland Civic Organization. By the time this edition of the *Herald* is printed and mailed, Choo Choo Fest has occurred and possibly Trunk or Treat. I am positive both events were successful and fun for the community.

In previous columns in the *Herald*, I have looked back over the years. With this *Herald* and subsequent ones, I will be writing about the history of Coupland. My sister, Barbara Piper, was looking through some old documents belonging to our father, C. W. Pfluger (Bill). She found a history of Coupland he wrote so I will be quoting directly from this document.

“Coupland City, Texas was an early day real estate adventure of the Coupland City Company. C.H. Welch and H. Dickson of Taylor, Texas; Major Theodore VanBuren Coupland of Coupland City, Texas; C. C. Coupland and J.D. Coupland of St. Clair County, Alabama, incorporated the Coupland City Company in a charter dated January 19, 1887, and filed March 28, 1887, as recorded in Volume 42, page 365, Deed Records, Williamson County, Texas. The purpose, as stated in Article 2 of the charter, was for purchase, subdivision, and sale of land in the town of Coupland, recently established on the line of the Taylor, Bastrop and Houston railway.”

“The original acreage was then purchased by the Coupland City Company on February 9, 1887, from T.V. Coupland, James D. Coupland, C.C. Coupland, and the afore mentioned as trustees for Ella, Nancy, Ada and Ida McMellion, children of their deceased sister, residing in St. Clair County, Alabama. The consideration being \$2,000 for approximately 200 acres.”

“The Coupland City Company with its offices in Taylor proceeded to build a city. Circulars were printed advertising a public auction sale of town lots at the ‘New Town of Coupland City’ to be held Thursday, May 12, 1887, with Captain J.A.H Hosack, auctioneer. Little is known about the results of the auction. However, the advertising was quite convincing. The ‘New Town of Coupland City’ was advertised as being located on the Taylor, Bastrop and Houston railway in the southeastern portion of Williamson County, 8 ½ miles south of the thriving city of Taylor and 8 ½ miles north of Elgin, on the Houston and Texas Central Railway.”

To be continued...

Since the holiday season is rapidly approaching, I wish everyone a very Happy Thanksgiving, Merry Christmas, and Happy New Year. I hope everyone has a peaceful, wonderful holiday season, filled with lots of laughter. Until next time, be safe and be kind.

*Susan Schmidt*

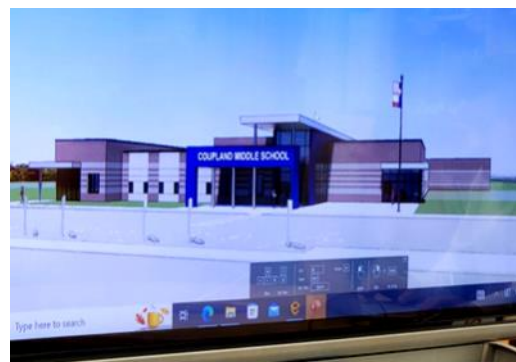
*(Continued from page 1)*

I spoke with members of the board regarding the superintendent's search. They all agreed they were pleased with the applicants who responded to the search. They are now in the process of interviewing applicants and hope to announce the final selection in November/December.

On another note, I am the community member on the design team for the new Middle School. It was a pleasure to see the Claycomb Architect firm in action. The team met with teachers, coaches, technology director, and librarian to discuss the wishes for the new Middle School. It was amazing to see one of the architects in action as he drew and redrew plans for each individual space. Jeffrey Floyd, the architect, was able to provide such excellent advice for each facet of the building. He made valid suggestions but incorporated all ideas into his drawings.

Progress has been made toward the construction aspect of the Middle School. A survey company, geo-tech company, and an at-risk construction company have all been hired. I am not sure of the actual schedule for each component before the actual construction takes place, but I will keep you informed.

Right, Photos of Middle School design by Suzie Dunlop. Designs by Claycomb Associates.



*(Continued from page 1)*

Road maintenance is an enormous problem for Coupland. Funds collected through ad valorem taxes do not allow the city to completely renovate the largest road maintenance problem, CR 458. The city did present a meaningful presentation to the Precinct 4 Bond Committee this past May. We were delighted to learn that the Williamson County Commissioners did elect to include this proposal in the November 2023 Bond Election. If this Bond passes, it will enable CR 458 to be completely renovated (cost for this project exceeds 5 million dollars).

So, in closing I say to you, it's been a pleasure serving you during my capacity as Mayor of Coupland. We'll see you at the Post Office or having coffee at the Bank.

### *Note from the Editor: Thank You Mayor Jack*

Mayor Jack Piper has been Mayor ever since Coupland incorporated. After over 10 years of public service, he has chosen not to run for re-election. The new mayor will be Russell Schmidt. A mayoral election is not necessary since no one else filed to run. Being mayor is a difficult job. For all these years, I don't think that constituents have realized all that Mayor Jack has done behind the scenes, ably assisted by wife Barbara, the mayor pro tem. Jack's background in finance has served him well in working with Coupland's budget, organizing things in a frugal manner, and keeping Coupland's ad valorem taxes the lowest around. Thank you Mayor Jack for all you have done to get Coupland started off as a stable and secure city.

### News from Coupland Water Supply Corporation By Steven Voelker, President, CWSC

1. If a property within the boundary of the CWSC is sold or otherwise transferred to a new property owner, and if that property was never legally connected to the sewer system, then the new property owner must pay the one-time Tap Fee in order to connect to the sewer system.
2. If a property within the boundary of the CWSC has at any time been legally connected to the sewer system, the new property owner is not obligated to pay the one-time Tap Fee but must pay the Transfer Fee in order to reestablish or resume a connection to the sewer system.
3. Please note that additional Tap Fees are required in the event a property owner wants additional connections to the sewer system. Please note that any and all connections to the sewer system are subject to review and approval by the CWSC Board of Directors.

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

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## Consider a Personal Pilgrimage: Rev. Scott Wasdin

Are you ready for a pilgrimage? Ok, stop rolling your eyes and stay with me for a moment. In this fast and furious day and age, we are all busy for sure. For many folks, making a shopping or business trek to Austin or Round Rock might make you feel as if you just ran a marathon! When we hear the word "pilgrimage," we often envision a faraway place or sacred destination previously unknown. The rise in popularity of the ancient 500-mile European pilgrimage path Camino de Santiago, or Camino Way, has contributed to heightened cultural awareness. However, a journey for better health, spiritual reflections and meditation, or just good ole fun can be planned and cultivated right here in the Lone Star State!!! Did you know that we are gifted with 89 state parks to explore and utilize for small and large pilgrimage paths? There are a multitude

of parks and scenic walking areas in most of our surrounding areas that can provide the landscape to promote better life balance and harmony by simply taking a walk or drive.

Why is this significant? Truthfully, few of us take the time to breathe, decompress, and prepare for where life may lead our paths next. We need that personal pilgrimage time to gain sharper focus, better life alignment, and improved emotional health. My purpose for this challenge is not to inconvenience any of us. Rather, the hope is that by taking time to breathe fresh air or experience new scenes from this state and region, our interactions with our fellow Texans might become more congenial, pleasant, and supportive. Most of the pilgrimage trails around the world are revered not only for the sacred trails they cover, but also for the quality of hospitality that is offered by inns, restaurants, churches, and towns along the way. As the weather begins to cool down, may we all find those moments to walk, run, drive, or even simply look out across the iconic landscapes around us to gain inspiration for making the remainder of 2023 the best that it can possibly be for our lives and the communities that we call home. Pilgrims on the Camino de Santiago are often greeted with the phrase, "Buen Camino!", meaning "Good journey." May all of your "walks" in the days ahead be good ones!

St. Peter's Church meets for Sunday worship at 10:15 a.m. We offer inspiring music and reflective sermons each week. Our church is wheelchair accessible and offers families with young children a nursery space with changing table and private restroom. We hope to see y'all soon!

Seize the day!

Rev. Scott Wasdin

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

### Thanksgiving Luncheon on Nov. 14

By Charlotte Albert

Our September Senior Citizens Luncheon was held on September 19 with 57 in attendance. A delicious meal was enjoyed by all and prepared by our own Coupland Master Chef Peter Wabbel. Thank you, Peter, for a delicious meal. Dessert was prepared by the L.I.F.T. (Ladies in Fellowship Together) group. The great meal was followed by Bingo and 42 domino games! Thank you to all who helped make this event a success. We had guests from Elgin, Taylor, Blue, Beaukiss, Hutto, and even the Pflugerville area. Our guest from far away was David Maire, brother of Cynthia Wittliff, visiting from Raleigh, North Carolina. We hope he enjoyed our Texas Hospitality.

(Continued on page 5)



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## September 25 CCO Meeting— Coupland School and Aeroponic Farm



At the September 25 meeting, the Coupland Civic Organization heard from two speakers.

### Coupland School

Michael Roepke, Vice President of the Coupland School Board, discussed the progress of the new Middle School and other school topics. The design committee

for the school now includes a member from the community, Susan Schmidt, the CCO President. There is no definite timeline yet for the school construction.

The Board is searching for a permanent superintendent. Roepke said a superintendent could be named by the end of October. He said things are going well with the interim superintendent Pilger and principal Booker. There are still some vacancies; he said that most schools are having difficulties filling all vacancies right now. Coupland needs a bus driver, social studies teacher, life skills teacher, and security officer.

Enrollment is up 5% since school started, from 285 to 299. He referred attendees to the school Facebook page. The school is starting to use BoardBook, a meeting organization and website tool, which, he said, will make it easier for the community to find agendas and minutes.

Another new policy—two board members will meet with the community every two months. The first meeting will be November 9 at 6 p.m. Board members will update the bond situation and talk about concerns and questions. As a whole, the board can then discuss these concerns. Regular board meetings are the second Thursday of each month at 7 p.m. in the school library.

Recently, two board members have resigned. When Roepke was asked about filling these vacancies, he said he didn't know what would happen, that there were certain legalities that had to be met.

*(Continued from page 4)*

**IMPORTANT NOTICE! Our November Senior Luncheon** has a new date due to the Thanksgiving week holiday. We will have Senior Luncheon on Tuesday, November 14, 11:15 a.m. This will be our traditional Thanksgiving luncheon, serving turkey, dressing, and the trimmings! Bingo and 42 dominoes will follow the meal. If you plan to play bingo, and are able, please bring a prize to share, value no more than \$10. The L.I.F.T. group is thankful to sponsor the Senior Luncheon. We appreciate those who help make this possible. Come join us for fun and fellowship. We also invite you to come worship with us on Sundays. Worship begins at 10:15 a.m. each Sunday!

### Vermillion Farms, Aeroponic Farming

The second speaker was Will Vermillion. He and his wife Danielle own and operate Vermillion Farms, an aeroponics farm that they started in the Coupland area two years ago.

In aeroponics, plant roots are suspended in air on towers. Vermillion Farms has a 4300- square-foot greenhouse with over 100 towers. Vermillion explains, "The towers are ten feet tall. We start with seeds. We are seeding every week, and we harvest and sell out every week." They use a powder with the 16 minerals that are necessary for plants. He says, "All the minerals they need to grow are there." Right now, he orders the minerals; he is planning to create his own for each plant.

Also the Ph of the water is very important. Drip irrigation is three minutes on and twelve minutes off, letting the roots dry out in between. No pesticides are used; ladybugs and bug zapper are used for pest control. Bumble bees provide pollination.

Currently, they are growing five types of lettuce, bell peppers, cucumbers, and tomatoes in one greenhouse. Lettuce is sold with roots attached; it will stay fresh for three weeks in the bag in the refrigerator. They are planning a second greenhouse.

Vermillion notes "Aeroponics has done extraordinarily well in desert areas. It has spread all over the U.S. and in farms all over the world."

Up until now, Vermillion Farms has sold their produce at area farmers markets. They are located in the Coupland area off of County Road 456, and they are beginning free delivery in the Coupland area. Order from their website, Vermillion-Farms.com. Your produce is picked the day you order it and delivered fresh to you the next day.

Vermillion comments, "In a greenhouse there is no winter. We can arrange tours of the greenhouse. To see the towers in person is quite an experience."





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Master Chef Peter Wabbel assisted by his granddaughter Elizabeth.



Above, Bonnie the groundhog by Margaret Garry.



Left, second from left, Jaycee Ortiz, petting zoo owner. Below left, petting the Holstein.

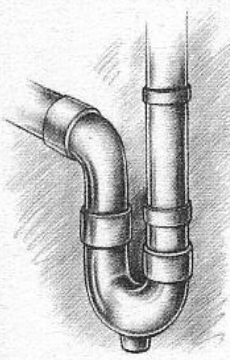


### Choo Choo Fest

The annual Choo Choo Fest was October 15, with the usual delicious BBQ dinner from Master Chef Peter Wabbel, silent auction, and bake sale. This year a special treat was the petting zoo, Georgetown Homestead Mobile Petting Zoo, owned by Jaycee Ortiz and Austin Luke. In addition to all the animals, there was a bubble machine, and Jaycee made balloon animals for the kids.



Left above, Robert Hensley at the petting zoo. Above, Pastor Scott Wasdin and family.



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# Coupland School News -- By Kate Knapek, Assistant Principal

Right and below, We had an amazing turn-out for our 2nd annual Cultural Night. Our 2nd -5th graders and our 8th grade Spanish 1 students sang songs they learned in Mrs. Delancey's Spanish Class. Parents brought dishes from different countries including, Germany, Bangladesh, Czech Republic, El Salvador, Mexico, and many others! It was a delicious night!



Right, This year Coupland is having Pep Rallies to celebrate our teams, our UIL participants and promoting school spirit. Our new Coupland pep squad leads our rallies!



Congrats on a great Football and Volleyball Season! Thanks to Coach Rinderknecht, Coach Lester and Coach Moore!

All photos courtesy of Coupland School



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Grandparent's Day breakfast! Thank you to our amazing Cafeteria staff: Martina Pena, Bertin Arellano, Josie Nira and Christina Alderete for preparing meals for about 130 grandparents!

Below, Thank you to Donna Reynolds (third from left) and Kara Kerlin (right) from Citizens National Bank and our Coupland Community for the generous donation of school supplies!! Mrs. Knapek, Mr. Booker and our student council president, Noah Schultz, and treasurer, Logan Middaugh, carried out 2 carloads of supplies!! We are so thankful to have such amazing support from our community!



We are in the design phase of our new Middle School project. We have a contractor hired. We want to thank the community members, staff and committee members for providing input for the direction and design of the building. We should have some pictures very soon!

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## Phone Number Correction

We need to correct a typo that was in our August *Coupland Herald* newsletter. In the "Arts Convergence" article by Letitia Eldredge, she discussed the MowJo Lawn Service of Teresa Owens and Joe Carrillo, and we gave an incorrect phone number. It should be 808-398-3600. Their email is yellowplumeria0208@gmail.com.

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# Q&A with Coupland Resident Tony Morgan AKA "Tony the Tire Man"

## 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 and raised in Missouri. Since high school, I've lived in several different states. I wound up in Texas about 35 years ago, and I was lucky enough to find Coupland about 20 years ago.

**Question:** You are the owner/operator of TDM Tire Service. Tell us about that?

**Answer:** I'm mainly focused on farming tire service. I find deer horns and all kinds of things that go through a tire. The crazy service call is where you drive 250 miles to do a 15-minute job. I've been doing this type of service since my father's service station in the 60's and 70's, but I'm on the verge of retirement - or at least slowing down.

**Question:** What do you like to do when you're not working?

**Answer:** My late wife and I were into antique junk. We collected Coca Cola signs and anything with soft drink advertising on it. Most of our stuff is from the early 1900's to the late 70's. We gave tours of the house and yard on a regular basis. We started the Christmas Tire Tree about 14 years ago. I'm gonna keep the tree going. I'm gonna start putting it up late October.

**Question:** Can people stop by and photograph the Christmas Tire Tree?

**Answer:** Yes, people are welcome to stop by and take pics. If I'm available, I will be glad to show them around.

**Question:** You also restore old vehicles, right?

**Answer:** Yes, the old trucks are my mental health saviors. They keep me busy and I love working on them.

**Question:** If you had to pick just one or two things, what do you like most about Coupland?

**Answer:** The people in the community. And the country life.

**Question:** Anything else you want to add?

**Answer:** I am blessed with a very large family and, in the end, family is what matters most. I have 6 kids, 14 grand-kids, and 8 great grand-kids. I am very proud of them all.

**Question:** If someone needs to contact TDM Tire service, what's the best way to reach you?

**Answer:** My phone number is (512) 299-8774. And please stop by for tours of the house and tire tree when it's up.

Since 1999, Wells Mason is also a long-time resident of Coupland. He's a designer and sculptor and the owner of Ironwood Industries along with his wife Jessica. Twenty years ago, he 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. 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.



Photos courtesy of Tony Morgan

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# Wells and Jessica Mason Exhibit Jim Huntington's Work in Marfa

Wells and Jessica Mason of Coupland's Ironwood Industries are creating a remote studio in Marfa, Texas. In early October, amidst the rubble of their renovation of an adobe building, they showed recent work—including drawings and small sculptures—by Coupland artist Jim Huntington. They also unveiled a large-scale sculpture by Jim that's permanently installed in the yard.

According to Wells, "It was a terrific weekend. We hosted people Thursday, Friday, and Saturday during Chinati Weekend. We met scores of art-loving people from all over the country." The opening reception was October 5, 5-8 p.m., and the open house was October 6-7, 10 a.m.-4 p.m.

For Wells and Jessica, this will be an annual event. Next year, they plan to show Wells' work. The Chinati Foundation is a contemporary art museum in Marfa, and Chinati Weekend is an important cultural event for West Texas.



Untitled Sculpture and Untitled Drawing by Jim Huntington



"Don't Axe Me" by Jim Huntington



Jim Huntington and Wells Mason have loaded some of Jim's pieces onto Wells' trailer to take to Marfa.

Photos courtesy of Wells Mason

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Thurs., Elgin Farmers' Market 4-7  
Sat., Texas Farmers' Market at Lakeline, 9-1  
Sun., Texas Farmers' Market at Mueller, 10-2

Special events booked so far:  
October 28, Hogeye Festival - Elgin, 10-4  
November 4, Round Rock Market Days - 9-4  
November 11, Down Home Ranch Festival - 9-2  
December 2, Round Rock Market Days - 9-4  
December 9, Hutto Downtown Christmas Fair - 10-4

## New Sweden Church News

By Susan Rountree, New Sweden Church Secretary

Here are some of the events we have coming up at New Sweden Lutheran.

Ping Pong is on Wednesday evenings at 7 p.m., and game night (cards and/or dominoes) is on Thursdays at 7 p.m., excluding the first Thursday of each month which is our Ladies Bible Class at 6:30 p.m. We have our Swedish Interest Group on the first Monday of each month at 12:30 p.m.

Thanksgiving service will be on Wednesday, November 22 at 7 p.m. Our annual Santa Lucia Festival will be December 10 at 7 p.m. Our Santa Lucia this year will be Hayley Wenzel.

We will be Christmas Caroling at 2 p.m. on December 17, visiting nursing homes in Elgin and Taylor. We will finish off with a social afterwards.

Christmas Eve service on the 24 will be at 7 p.m. The annual Swedish Christmas morning festival, Julotta, will be at 7 a.m.

New Year's Eve celebration will be at 7 p.m. Bring a treat/snacks and join us to RING IN 2024!

The church office hours are Tuesday and Friday mornings from 9 a.m. to noon. The church telephone is 512-281-0056.



## Pastor Hans Lillejord Recognized At 20th Anniversary Celebration

New Sweden thanks all who attended the 20th anniversary celebration for Pastor Hans Lillejord. A special "Thank You" to those who were involved in the planning and organization of our special day of celebration, especially David and Terry Ramm for hosting the luncheon and gathering.

Pastor Hans says, "There are no words adequate to express my gratitude and appreciation to the congregation of New Sweden Lutheran Church and the many guests and friends who attended the worship service and fellowship following the service on July 23, celebrating my 20 years of ministry here."

**New Sweden Evan.  
Lutheran Church**  
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# Update Regarding Concrete Plants In New Sweden—

By Emily Erickson, Save New Sweden

Almost 70 community members attended the August 9 TCEQ hearing regarding Five Star Concrete's air quality permit application. The company intends to build at least two concrete batch plants in New Sweden at the corner of Manda-Carlson Road and Jacobson Road. All who submitted comments received a letter in September stating that the permit had been approved. While it is not surprising that TCEQ approved the permit, the community must stay engaged and continue to submit comments, this time to Travis County where Five Star is currently seeking additional permits.

**Call to Action:** Please contact the office of our Travis County Commissioner, Jeff Travilion, to share your concerns about these concrete plants and specifically about your health and safety concerns at [Commissioners-Court@traviscountytexas.gov](mailto:Commissioners-Court@traviscountytexas.gov).

# 2023 National Night Out

Coupland held its annual National Night Out on August 1, hosted by the Coupland Civic Organization on the grounds of the historic Depot. Residents brought lawn chairs, ate hotdogs, and enjoyed interesting talks by Matt Kreidel of the Williamson County Sheriff's Department, Pct. 4 Constable Paul Leal, ESD #10 Chief Mark Moellenberg, Pastor Scott Wasdin, the new permanent pastor at St. Peter's Church of Coupland, and Kelly Hernandez, chief of staff of Pct. 4 Commissioner Russ Boles.

Barbara Piper, Depot/ Caboose Co-ordinator introduces Matt Kreidel from the Sheriff's Department.



Left, Pct. 4 Constable Paul Leal. Right, ESD#10 Chief Mark Moellenberg



Left, Barbara Piper introduces Pastor Scott Wasdin, the new permanent pastor of St. Peter's Church of Coupland. Right, Kelly Hernandez, Chief of Staff of Pct. 4 Commissioner Russ Boles.



Photos by Susan Garry



Ella Jordan, Photo by Trina Woodall

## Type Church—from Pastor Ryan Evans

**Type Church is a Bible church committed to the word of God and the love of God's people.**

Sunday church services start at 10:30 a.m. Please join us.

Type Church is in the neighborhood. The address is 1200 County Road 466 and Pastor Ryan Evans' phone number is (281) 229-8962. He can also be reached at [pastorryan91@gmail.com](mailto:pastorryan91@gmail.com).

Right, the Type congregation enjoys new chairs during a candlelight service.

Photo by Sarah Cardwell



Sign up to receive my articles at: [Patreon.com/CharleneHansonJordan](https://Patreon.com/CharleneHansonJordan).

Three articles every week. Cost \$3/month. May be cancelled without penalty.

Local area history; Local Swedes & families in Sweden; Local Germans and families. I started the German articles with the story of my husband whose grand-uncle was the personal chauffeur of the German Emperor.

## Ella Jordan Wins 2023 FreshGrass Award

The 2023 FreshGrass Awards have been announced. 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.

Coupland native Ella Jordan was the winner in the Fiddle category. She grew up on a farm east of Coupland. FreshGrass notes, "She got her start playing twin fiddles with her sister Minnie and is now forging a sound all her own within C&W, bluegrass, and contemporary string band music."

The girls are both professional musicians. Ella lives in Boston and performs with a band called Mile Twelve, a progressive string band from Boston and winner of the 2020 International Bluegrass Music Association New Artist of the Year award. The band takes its name from the mile marker at Boston's southern border on Route 93, a road sign they've passed countless times while heading out on tour. Minnie lives in Brooklyn. Her album, "What Larks," released in October 2021, is based on bird song. Both girls graduated from the Berklee College of Music in Boston. They are the daughters of Andre and Marcy Buffington Jordan and the granddaughters of Henry and Charlene Hanson Jordan.

## Charlene Jordan on Writing

*Editor's note: Coupland author Charlene Hanson Jordan has had a varied writing career, including books and newspaper articles. Here are her thoughts that are helpful to anybody who is interested in writing.*

What I've learned by writing local area historical articles on a deadline: Discipline. In writing three articles weekly on Patreon: Extreme discipline!

The subject has to be interesting, not only to me, but to others. It has to be important enough to be remembered. That requires thought. Research is of utmost importance: my own memory and research on the internet, in books, archives, letters, and personal interviews.

I grew up here. I went to school in Woodrow, Coupland, and Thrall. My parents and grandparents lived here for most of their lives. My father was active in the community and passed that along to me. I've volunteered my time to the Elgin Depot Museum since the 1990s and to writing newspaper articles for that many years and more.

Living away from this community, including New York and Germany, has helped give me perspective.

The search for photographs to illustrate the articles is painstaking but is important to me.

The action of putting the articles on paper or on the internet, with as few errors as possible, is a challenge all its own.

Filing? I haven't mastered that yet!

## 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](http://www.wcesd10.org).

The property tax rate of \$0.10 per \$100 valuation was set by the board at the August 28 Public Hearing. This is the same tax rate that has been in place since the formation of the ESD in 2005.

The new command vehicles were completed in September 2023! You may have already seen them running calls during training, or on the ESD's Facebook page.

If any area residents are interested in joining Williamson County ESD#10, please contact John Roulston-Bates (District 1 Chief) at [jroulston@wcesd10.org](mailto:jroulston@wcesd10.org) or Zach Hall (District 2 chief) at [zhall@wcesd10.org](mailto: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.

### Trunk or Treat

By the time this *Herald* is out, Halloween Trunk or Treat may have already occurred on Sunday evening, October 29, at 6 p.m. Residents dressed in costumes and handed out treats from their decorated vehicles parked in front of St. Peter's Church. The Neipert family provided games.



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*Publication of the  
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### ***Coupland Herald, November 2023***

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The *Herald* reaches 700 Coupland-area addresses. Business card ads \$25. Other sizes available. Contact Susan Garry, editor, at [susan\\_garry@hotmail.com](mailto:susan_garry@hotmail.com).

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**Deadline for the next issue,  
February 2024, is January 10.**

### **Abbey Is Back at the Dancehall, Begins Friday Night Bingo**

In April 2022, Abbey leased the Dancehall to some folks. It didn't go so well. Abbey and the original Coupland crew are back in the saddle now, and we've got lots of great shows coming up. The restaurant will be open for lunch and dinner Thursday - Saturday and brunch on Sunday. The bed and breakfast will once again be available for purchase with Saturday night shows. And Friday night Bingo is coming to Coupland. Cash Bingo games. Brought to you by the Coupland Civic Organization, a 501(c)(3) organization. Unfortunately, Teen Nights will not be returning to Coupland. We are now a 21 and up venue.

We appreciate your support over the years, and we promise we are not going anywhere. We've got the biggest and best country artists on tap for the Dancehall starting in mid-November. Check the website, [couplanddancehall.com](http://couplanddancehall.com), follow the IG and FB, and keep an eye out on your inbox. Contact [info@couplanddancehall.com](mailto:info@couplanddancehall.com), 101 Hoxie St., Coupland, Texas 78615.

