

2020 PRIMARY ELECTION GUIDE

Some Bell County races draw stiff competitions

BY MONIQUE BRAND
KILLEEN DAILY HERALD

Among the many local races in the Bell County primary election, three have a Killeen area connection, two with Killeen area voting precincts and one with a candidate from Killeen.

The Justice of the Peace Pct. 4, Place 1, is in the western part of the county covering Killeen, Harker Heights and Nolanville. It has five candidates — three Republicans and two Democrats.

The Bell County Constable Precinct 4 in Killeen also has five candidates, three Democrats and two Republicans.

The Bell County Sheriff's race has two candidates, both Republicans, with one from Killeen. Whomever receives 51% of the vote will be considered the winner of that race.

Also a one-party race is the 426th District Court race with three Republicans, if one



candidate receives 51% of the votes they will be considered the winner; according to the Bell County Elections office. If no candidate receives the needed 51% then the top two will face off in the May 26 run-off election.

AREA FEDERAL, STATE RACES

For U.S. District 31, which includes Killeen, Harker Heights, Nolanville and Temple and goes as far south as Round Rock, eight challengers are seeking to unseat Republican John Carter, who has served as the representative since 2003, according to his website.

The 31st district is one of only two

districts in Texas (the other being the 36th district) that has never been represented by a Democrat, according to Texas Secretary of State website. This year's election, the ballot has nine candidates including Carter — four Republicans and five Democrats.

On the state level, District 24 Sen. Dawn Buckingham is unopposed in the primary but has a Democratic opponent, Clayton Tucker, who also is unopposed in the primary.

State House District 54 incumbent Brad Buckley of Salado has a Democratic challenger; Likeithia "Keke" Williams of Harker Heights, but neither has an opponent in the primary.

State House District 55 Rep. Hugh Shine, has no opponent.

Candidates in unopposed races also will be listed on their respective ballots on the Nov. 3 General Election ballot as well.

Winners will be sworn in either Jan. 1 or 2, 2021.

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Sheriff, commissioner, constable highlight Coryell primary

BY DAVID PERDUE
KILLEEN DAILY HERALD

Voters will go to the polls in Coryell County on March 3 seeking to pick candidates in a handful of contested races.

Republican voters will decide between incumbent Representative Roger Williams and challenger Keith Neuendorff in the District 25 congressional race. Meanwhile, Democrats will choose between Julie Oliver and Heidi Sloan to help determine who will face the Republican candidate in the Nov. 3 general election.

Two candidates are challenging incumbent state Representative J.D. Sheffield in the District 59 Republican primary: Cody Johnson and Shelby Slawson are seeking to unseat Sheffield, who is seeking a fifth term in the Texas Legislature. If no one receives more than 50% of the vote on March 3, the two candidates with the highest vote totals will face each other in a run-off May 26.

In other contested races, incumbent Sheriff Scott A. Williams is seeking the Republican nomination against former Coryell County Constable Roger Ham-mack. The winner will not face a Democratic challenger in the general election.

Six candidates are seeking the Republican nomination for Coryell County Commissioner in Precinct 3. Incumbent Don Jones is not seeking re-election. Ryan Basham, Jerry A. Casey, Jaydie Dixon, Paul Hopson, Dewey Jones and Justin Veazey will seek to replace Jones. Again, if no candidate receives 50% of the vote, the two candidates with the most votes will have a run-off on May 26. The winner will have no Democratic opponent in the general election.

Two of the four county constable races will be contested. In Precinct 2,



HERALD FILE PHOTO

Voters in Coryell County cast their early ballots Monday, Oct. 22, 2018, at the Coryell County Justice Center at 210 S. First St., in Copperas Cove.

incumbent Shawn Camp will be challenged by Chuck Wilson. In Precinct 3, incumbent Dewey Jones is not seeking re-election. Jimmy Daniel and Kirby Ruiz are hoping to succeed him.

Uncontested races in the Coryell County Republican primary include:

Dawn Buckingham for state senator; District 24

Brandon Belt for Coryell County Attorney

Justin Carothers for Tax Assessor-Collector

Kyle Matthews for County Commissioner, Precinct 1

Guy Beveridge for Constable, Precinct 1

Teddy Brock for Constable, Precinct 4

Uncontested races in the Coryell County Democratic primary include: Clayton Tucker for state senator; District 24

Buckingham and Tucker will face each other in the November general election. Belt, Carothers, Matthews, Beveridge and Brock will not face an opponent in the general election.

Lampasas County has 1 contested race

BY THADDEUS IMERMAN
KILLEEN DAILY HERALD

The only Lampasas County contested race is a familiar one: Lometa resident Misty Maldonado is challenging John Harris for the Precinct 2 and 3 constable seat. Both are Republicans.

For more on this and other races, go to kdhnews.com/centerforpolitics.

All other county races are unopposed on the Republican ballots. No Democrats are listed on the ballot for county races. The unopposed Republican candidates are:

County Attorney: John Greenwood

Sheriff: Jess G. Ramos

County Tax Assessor-Collector: Betty Salinas

County Commissioner, Precinct 1: Bobby Carroll

County Commissioner, Precinct 3: Lewis Bridges

County Constable, Precinct 1: Dennis James

County Constable, Precinct 4: Gilbert Esparza

Lampasas County voters will also see local spots for state and federal office on their ballots.

U.S. District 25 is contested on both the Republican and Democratic sides. Republican voters will decide between incumbent Representative Roger Williams and challenger Keith Neuendorff in the District 25 congressional race. Meanwhile, Democrats will choose between Julie Oliver and Heidi Sloan to help determine who will face the Republican candidate in the Nov. 3 general election.

On the state level, District 24 Sen. Dawn Buckingham is unopposed in the primary but has a Democratic opponent, Clayton Tucker, who also is unopposed in the primary.

State House District 54 incumbent Brad Buckley of Salado has a Democratic challenger; Likeithia "Keke" Williams of Harker Heights, but neither has an opponent in the primary.



EARLY VOTING TIMES & LOCATIONS		
BELL COUNTY Feb. 18-21: 8 a.m.-5 p.m. Feb. 22: 7 a.m.-7 p.m. Feb. 23: Noon-5 p.m. Feb. 24-28: 7 a.m.-7 p.m. Early voting locations are: Belton: Bell County Court-house Annex, 550 E. 2nd Ave Killeen: Bell County Annex, 304 Priest Drive Killeen: Killeen Community Center, 2201 E. Veterans Memorial Blvd. Temple: Bell County Annex,	205 E. Central Ave Salado: Salado Church of Christ, 217 N. Stagecoach Harker Heights: Parks & Recreation Center, 307 Mill-ers Crossing	Cove Early Voting Center, 508-B in the Cove Terrace Shopping Center Gatesville: Gatesville Main Street Annex, 801 E. Leon St.
CORYELL COUNTY Feb. 18: 7 a.m.-7 p.m. Feb. 19-21: 8 a.m.-5 p.m. Feb. 24: 8 a.m.-5 p.m. Feb. 25: 7 a.m.-7 p.m. Feb. 26-28: 8 a.m.-5 p.m. Early voting locations: Copperas Cove: Copperas		LAMPASAS COUNTY Feb. 18: 7 a.m.-7 p.m. Feb. 19-21: 8 a.m.-5 p.m. Feb. 24: 8 a.m.-5 p.m. Feb. 25: 7 a.m.-7 p.m. Feb. 26-28: 8 a.m.-5 p.m. Early voting locations: Lampasas: 407 S. Pecan St., Suite 102

9 candidates set sights on U.S. Congressional District 31 seat

BY ARTIE PHILLIPS
KILLEEN DAILY HERALD

Four Republicans and five Democrats are vying for the U.S. District 31 seat, held since 2003 by Republican John Carter, who also is a candidate.

Carter’s challengers in the Republican primary are Abhiram Garapati, owner of Ant Savings, an Austin-based investment firm; Christopher Wall, a patrol sergeant for the city of Elgin; and Mike Williams, a retired member of the Austin Fire Department.

The Democratic primary race is also getting heated, with five candidates hoping to win their party’s spot on the ballot.

The challengers on the Democrat side are Eric Hanke, a retirement counselor and singer/songwriter; Donna Imam, a computer engineer; Dan Janjigian, an Austin-based sales and management consultant; Christine Mann, a family practice physician in Cedar Park; and Tammy Young, a member of Round

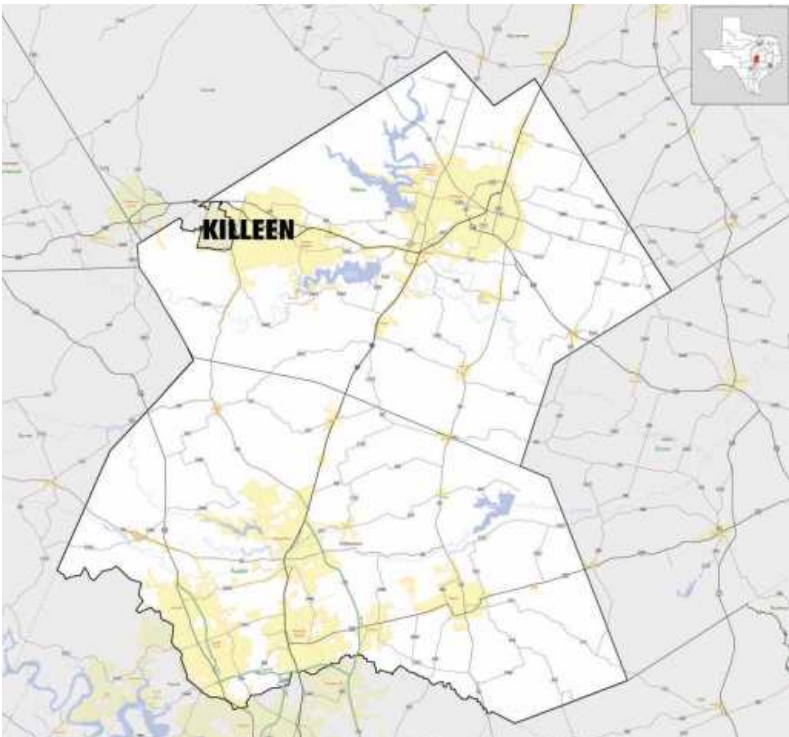
Rock’s City Council.

U.S. District 31 includes Killeen, Harker Heights, Nolanville and Temple and goes as far south as Round Rock.

Texas’ congressional seats come up for reelection every two years. In the 2018 primary elections, incumbent Carter beat his sole opponent, Mike Sweeney, with 65.5% of the vote. In the Democratic primary, candidate M.J. Hegar took the top spot with 44.9% of the vote, while current candidate Mann came in second. With Hegar running for U.S. Senate this year against Republican incumbent John Cornyn, Mann is the only challenger on the ballot who ran in 2018.

All of the candidates from both parties were contacted and asked a series of questions. The candidates were given 100-word limits on each response, and trims were made if responses ran over 100 words.

Republican candidate Christopher Wall did not respond to multiple requests for comment.



COURTESY OF TXDOT
A map of U.S. Congressional District 31.

U.S. CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT 31 (REPUBLICANS)

	1) What are your top three issues and why?	2) What sets you apart from the other candidates?	3) Many veterans of Middle East deployments are becoming ill due to what is believed to be exposure to toxic smoke from the military’s open burn pits. What is your plan to ensure these veterans receive the necessary care through the Department of Veterans Affairs and are able to claim the illnesses as service connected disabilities?	4) Are you concerned about the national deficit? What congressional action would you support to address the issue?
 John Carter (i)	Congressional District 31 is home to the largest armored military installation in the free world, and the largest population of veterans of any Texas district. Taking care of our military and their families, and our veterans, are my top two priorities. As the Republican leader on the Military Construction and Veterans funding committee, I'm in a position to deliver results on both fronts. Additionally, I'm committed to ensuring the safety and security of my constituents. That means financial security, safe schools and communities, and a focus on supporting our local law enforcement officers so they can do their jobs effectively.	Central Texans have trusted me to keep our community safe and secure first as a District Judge and now as their Representative. I have a proven track record of fighting for the 92,000 veterans that live in TX-31, providing much needed resources to Ft. Hood, and advocating on behalf of thousands of families that call Central Texas home. As an experienced leader on the committees that are important to this region, I'm able to deliver tangible results for Central Texans.	As a member of the Veterans funding committee, I've secured over \$15 million for the Airborne Hazards and Burn Pits Center of Excellence to continue the VA's research into burn pits related illnesses, and that is just the beginning. I've been very engaged with VA leadership about the veterans who are suffering from illnesses caused by burn pits exposure. These efforts will continue be a priority for my work this year on the committee. I'm dedicated to ensuring veterans receive the very best healthcare from the VA for their service connected illnesses.	The national deficit is a serious concern. As a member of the Appropriations Committee, I have two responsibilities: fund the government and do so wisely. I never forget that the funding I appropriate comes from Americans' hard-earned tax dollars. That is why I focus my efforts on ending duplicative and wasteful programs, increasing oversight to fight bureaucratic waste, fraud and abuse, and cutting spending. For example, this year, Republicans cut \$1 billion in wasteful Housing and Urban Development spending. I support a balanced budget and reforms to spending so that our grandchildren aren't saddled with the debt from today's spending when they're adults.
 Abhiram Garapati	I will work on accomplishing the following 5 audacious goals by 2050 to "Make America Win" for our future generations: <ol style="list-style-type: none">1. Paying off the national debt and balancing the budget2. Infrastructure projects like the Hyperloop and Subway train systems3. Zero Landfill waste4. Safest country in the world5. Healthiest country in the world	Coming to a new country on a one way flight ticket, escaping utter poverty in Socialist India and worked hard for 20 years to successfully build Ant Savings into a \$20 million dollar business and then running for congress can only happen in the USA and it is called the American Dream. Based on my background and experience, 31st district will get the hardest working congressman who wants to dream big and set some big goals for our nation and accomplish them to "Make America Win" for our future generations.	First I will ban any and all open burn pits to get rid of waste. If any veterans claim any illnesses due to exposure to these open burn pits, I will make sure that our veterans get the necessary care and support from the VA and pass any legislation that is needed on a priority basis. This is exactly the leadership that I will provide in Congress towards accomplishing one of my audacious goals I set for our nation — Zero landfill waste by 2050 which will eliminate this problem.	My first and foremost audacious goal is balancing the budget and paying off our national debt by 2050. As a nation, we all need to save money and be thrifty. I live within my means and you do too and all my 31st district constituents live within their means. Why does the same principle not apply to the federal government. I am passionate about selling off some federal assets to raise money to pay down debt. Congress will give me a platform to raise awareness on saving and paying down both our national and household debts.
 Christopher Wall	The candidate did not provide responses to the questions.	The candidate did not provide responses to the questions.	The candidate did not provide responses to the questions.	The candidate did not provide responses to the questions.
 Mike Williams	1. Constitutional principles; I'm very concerned with the progression from safe, rare and legal to states introducing infanticide elements into the abortion issue. I believe heart-beat legislation is a solution most Americans will agree is a reasonable measure to address the issue. Constitutional measures to add boundaries to the Legislative Branch Judicial Branch consequences for extra-constitutional legislating from the bench. Statehood requirements effecting electoral disenfranchisement of voters in most populous states. 2. Enhancing Civil Liberties/Rights and Parental Rights protections. 3. Border security and merit-based immigration. Finish the Wall — Fix the Law.	I have written down in very specific terms the objectives I hope to accomplish. Issues not listed (maintaining a strong Defense — Veterans affairs — Economy) are issues already heading in a direction I support; those issues listed are the items not being satisfactorily addressed that I believe need to be.	This issue has come up in the past with Viet Nam vets (Agent Orange exposure) and by Firefighters claims of job-related exposures to hazardous substances. These service-related exposures resulting in chronic health issues must be addressed and managed with emphasis on affording discretion to service members claims as being legitimate and treatment for chronic health issues being provided.	Yes. The term limit initiative is an indirect action that could affect deficit spending. Direct action such as moving away from omnibus spending practices would have a significant impact on deficit spending, but it circles back to how to get responsible people in place who control the checkbook.



District 31 cont.: Democrats concerned about national deficit

U.S. CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT 31 (DEMOCRATS)	1) What are your top three issues and why?	2) What sets you apart from the other candidates?	3) Many veterans of Middle East deployments are becoming ill due to what is believed to be exposure to toxic smoke from the military's open burn pits. What is your plan to ensure these veterans receive the necessary care through the Department of Veterans Affairs and are able to claim the illnesses as service connected disabilities?	4) Are you concerned about the national deficit? What congressional action would you support to address the issue?
<div></div> <div>Eric Hanke</div>	<p>I believe allowing anyone to buy into Medicare for healthcare coverage is the surest path to universal coverage. I also believe Congress must do more to address rising prescription drug prices, including allowing Medicare to negotiate rates and updating our patent law.</p> <p>Soon more money will be drawn from Social Security than is being put in. The cap on income that is taxed for Social Security should be removed; there is no reason someone who makes \$134 million should be paying the same into Social Security as someone who makes \$134,000.</p> <p>Economic opportunity is tied to so many issues.</p>	<p>To win in TX-31, we need to inspire Democrats while also building a bridge that welcomes independents and moderate Republicans who are disgusted with what is happening in DC into our coalition.</p> <p>I believe that my life story as the son of immigrants who came to America after WWII and were able to pursue the American dream through the support of their union (UAW Local 383), my unique ability to communicate as a singer-songwriter that has been telling people's stories for over twenty years, and my work in public service counseling the county & district employees give me the history and credibility to connect most broadly with voters.</p>	<p>First and foremost, we need to do all we can to call attention to this issue. On February 15th, our campaign will be hosting a Town Hall at Killeen Community Center with Gold Star Wives whose spouses were made sick by burn pit exposure. In Congress, I hope to be in a position on the Veteran Affairs Committee to compel the VA and DoD to recognize the connection between veterans who are impacted by sudden illness and their service and dedicate appropriate resources to take care of these service members and their families.</p>	<p>I am. I believe Congress has been extraordinarily irresponsible over the last few years in matching historic expansions in defense spending that our military is saying it doesn't need with historic tax cuts for the wealthiest among us. In Congress, I will fight to ensure that wealthy Americans are taxed fairly so that American can address it's growing debt obligation while also maintaining needed investments in communities and the social safety net.</p>
<div></div> <div>Donna Imam</div>	<p>When I talk to voters in our district, the single biggest concern for all voters is economic insecurity driven by the skyrocketing cost of living, healthcare, childcare, and education. Many residents of Bell County are forced to commute to Austin for a decent paying job but can't afford to live there.</p> <p>I'm proposing solutions that lower the cost of healthcare and prescription drugs with Medicare for All. As an engineer, I realize that we need to bring high-wage tech jobs to Bell County and debt-free education for those who serve in rural and underserved areas of our district.</p>	<p>As an engineer, I designed smart meters. I've led large product lines from business-class notebooks used by tens of millions worldwide to microcontrollers found in virtually everything from washing machines to jets. In addition to my non-profit work, I founded my tech consulting firm.</p> <p>Lowering the cost of healthcare is an engineering scaling problem. Using tech to lower the cost of education is a business problem. Bringing quality talent to rural and underserved communities in our district is an incentivizing problem. Creating high-paying jobs in all parts of the district is an entrepreneurship problem. I've successfully implemented all these solutions.</p>	<p>Today, many Veterans are forced to take a whole day off work to see a doctor in a VA clinic often quite far from where they live, only to be turned away. My Healthcare for All plan would guarantee coverage for Veterans at any clinic or hospital and improve the quality of care with more doctors and nurses to cover everyone. We need to stop denying Veterans earned benefits and start providing counseling services that include their family members.</p>	<p>People who work for a living create all of America's wealth and pay all the taxes. Our government is wasting our money by giving subsidies to corporations that then turn around and offshore jobs and stash profits in tax havens.</p>
<div></div> <div>Dan Janjigian</div>	<p>My top 3 issues center around Health Care, Climate Change, and Immigration. For the last 15 years, I've been working directly on the health care side, watching as some of my clients have lost their homes, or had to declare bankruptcy. In most cases, they had the coverage that any of us would have thought should cover them. Climate change is arguably the most important thing we should be discussing, because if the planet isn't livable, then all other items are non-issues. Immigrants should be treated with respect. There should be a lawful path to entry available to everyone.</p>	<p>We've been waiting nearly 2 decades just to get the current congressman out of this seat, and we're seeing the same players go through the same process to try and remove him. What's the definition of insanity? My background is getting past the finish line. Whether it's been in business, my Olympic career, or whatever goal, we've pushed through to get results. If we don't put the right candidate forward in this race, we'll simply be doing the same thing we've done cycle after cycle, and expect a different result, and it's time to break that pattern.</p>	<p>My views on health care are well documented, and the plan that we'd like to pursue would absolutely insure that veterans and all citizens would have the care necessary throughout the remainder of their lives. Additionally, in cases of disability with our service members, programs need to be in place that allow them to be taken care of, and in respect to the service that they gave in protection of their country.</p>	<p>The national deficit is an enormous issue that starts with balancing our annual budgets. The idea that you can continue to cut taxes for corporations and the wealthiest in the country and that you're going to be able to balance a national budget is ludicrous. Earmarks, private contracts, and other inefficiencies have created a groundswell of corruption in how finances are handled. The first congressional action that would need to be taken would be updating the newly passed tax code, to tax corporations such as Amazon and Apple, who effectively pay little to no tax at all.</p>
<div></div> <div>Christine Mann</div>	<p>Ensure healthcare is accessible to all — universal coverage birth to death so patients never go without necessary care. Fight for equality and opportunity for all Texans, veterans, women, immigrants, LGBTQ+, all disenfranchised in our broken systems. We need a representative who will focus on people; I recently toured Ft. Hood, and soldiers described challenges of dilapidated infrastructure, fixing the VA, and need for help transitioning to civilian life. Lastly, defending our democracy by securing our elections, ending corruption, working alongside community leaders for criminal justice reform, and protecting our environment, so we have a future with this country and planet.</p>	<p>As a family practice doctor, all my patients have in common the daily struggle of trying to make it. Empowering people for progress and ending the lack of access is the driving force for why I am running; so everyone has access to quality healthcare, lower prescription drug costs, and livable wages. In school and residency I was a single working mom, the challenges our working families are going through with low minimum wage, no affordable childcare option, and costly medical services are the same and we need someone who will listen/fix these problems. I have decades of grassroots work in public policy.</p>	<p>Currently the U.S. VA website doesn't discuss long term effects of chemical fumes, medical/human waste, metal, munitions, etc. yet, we know exposure to burn pit toxins is a very real health hazard. It's our duty to do everything within our power to protect those who served. We need the voluntary registry expanded to continuous mandated screenings in order to catch early signs of sickness, earmark funding for alternative disposal methods (incinerators, etc.), and immediately end use of open-air burn pits. I'll work with veteran coalitions for legislation that ensures deaths are categorized accordingly and families receive due benefits.</p>	<p>Yes, recently the CBO projected the national deficit will hit highest levels since WWII. Instead of putting money into maintaining debt, investing in our infrastructure is necessary. The combination of corporate and 1% tax cuts has left the middle class with the burden for offsetting this, and that's simply unfair to working families already struggling with multiple jobs. Universal coverage would also economically benefit us as operation cost would significantly decrease with increased coverage for all. Among other benefits, people will be able to put money into our communities with estimated creation of almost 5000 jobs in Bell County alone.</p>
<div></div> <div>Tammy Young</div>	<p>People across the district have shared their deep concerns about health care, good paying jobs, and keeping our communities safe. Everyone must have access to quality health care they can afford. Texas should lead the economy in clean energy job creation. We must pass bipartisan, broadly supported regulations to keep weapons out of the hands of people who shouldn't have them so our children and neighbors are safe again. I will address these issues immediately as your Congresswoman and always put our needs as Central Texans above any Washington special interests.</p>	<p>I know the stakes we're facing. Lowering health care costs, addressing gun violence, and the importance of good paying jobs aren't talking points for me — these are struggles I've lived. There are enough members of Congress advocating for the wealthy and well connected. In Congress, I'll always put the needs of Central Texas first. There are certainly more than enough members of Congress focusing on partisan fights instead of getting things done. I want to change that. In Congress, I will bring my local, bipartisan experience and my lived experience to find solutions that will finally make a difference in the lives of Texans.</p>	<p>Our men and women in uniform put it all on the line for our country to keep us safe. After bravely serving their country, the last thing our veterans need is bureaucracy standing between them and the health care they've earned. We need to support claims of presumption and expand the definitions of exposure where appropriate. Additional studies are needed to determine the potential impact for those exposed to the fumes from burning metal and other toxic materials. In Congress, I will always stand up for the health and well-being of our soldiers and their families.</p>	<p>On the City Council, I work across party lines to balance our budget and maintain one of the highest bond ratings in the state while making long-term investments in our infrastructure and workforce training. That's the kind of fiscal discipline and smart investments I will bring with me to Congress. I would roll back tax cuts for those at the very top, keeping tax relief for middle class families and small businesses that need it. Additionally, I support cracking down on companies that use offshore tax havens. Every American who works pays their fair share in taxes, and U.S. companies should do the same.</p>



JP hopefuls talk top concerns, qualifications and first-year goals

BY MONIQUE BRAND AND HUNTER KING
KILLEEN DAILY HERALD

One of the most contested local races on the March 3 primary ballot is one Bell County Justice of the Peace position. There are candidates from both par-

ties for the Precinct 4, Place 1, seat. Precinct 4 includes all of Killeen, Harker Heights, Nolanville and areas south and west of Killeen in Bell County. On the Democrat side, Killeen Councilman Gregory Johnson, 37, a small business owner, is challenging incumbent Daryl Peters, 57. Prior being ap-

pointed in the position, Peters served in the U.S. Army and worked at Fort Hood for 15 years. He retired from the base's directorate of human resources in 2015. Three Republicans are hoping to retake the seat for the GOP: an Allstate Insurance Agency owner Michael Keefe, 59; local Attorney Chet Southworth, 63; and U.S. Army veteran Hal Butchart, 72.

Justices of the Peace serve four-year terms. JPs do not need to have a law degree. The base annual salary for the position is \$61,971, not including travel or other expenses according to the 2019 Bell County budget.

BELL COUNTY JUSTICE OF THE PEACE	1) What are your top three issues and why?	2) What sets you apart from the other candidates?	3) Name one goal you want to accomplish within your first year.	4) This race has been highly partisan, what would you do in office to work closely with both parties?
 Gregory Johnson (D)	I'm running for justice of the peace to restore justice and fairness and to stabilize the Pct. 4, Pl. 1 Justice Court. This justice court is at a critical point where it needs an effective leader who has the knowledge, skills and abilities to serve the needs of west Bell County as Justice of the Peace. As a public servant with strong community ties and a commitment to excellence, I will be fair, impartial and competent in my duties and responsibilities as JP.	After years of controversy with this office, the Pct. 4, Pl. 1 Justice Court has become unstable in the eyes of west Bell County citizens. Voters are drawn to my ability to do what's right while serving them with the highest integrity, sincerity and selfless service. I am the only candidate in the race who has served in public office and has shown they can successfully perform under pressure. Voters feel confident that I understand the rule of law and will conduct myself in a manner that brings honor to the office and the people.	One of three goals is to stabilize the Pct. 4, Pl. 1 Justice Court. Upon being sworn into office and completing required training, I will (1) meet with court stakeholders to reset the dialogue, (2) work closely with the Place 2 Justice of the Peace to create a left seat, right seat process that'll allow me to effectively and efficiently balance the case load between both courts and (3) conduct a full review of internal court procedures and policies to streamline and ensure a more efficient civil case process.	While in public office, I have developed a track record of being able to work across the aisle with people with diverse ideologies, political party affiliations and unique ways of thinking. My focus while in public office has always been to do the work my constituents have elected me to do effectively and efficiently. I am a public servant dedicated to justice and fairness for all and I am committed to working with all people to carry out the duties of justice of the peace.
 Daryl Peters (D) (i)	The candidate did not provide responses to the questions.	The candidate did not provide responses to the questions.	The candidate did not provide responses to the questions.	The candidate did not provide responses to the questions.
 Hal Butchart (R)	Bail Reform — bail should be a tool, not a punishment and not an early release order. Truancy and juvenile offenses — Children who are truant or have other nonviolent offenses and no other criminal history should not be treated like criminals and should not be given a record that will harm their chances for a successful life before they even have a chance to get started. I would refer as many cases as possible to Teen Court. Not legislating from the bench — it is the JP's job to decide cases in accordance with the law, not create it.	I have 30 years of leadership experience as an officer in the US Army specializing in Criminal Investigations and Forensic Science. I spent 7 years as a board member for Habitat for Humanity here in Bell County. I am also a landlord who offers low income housing to my tenants, so I understand landlord/tenant disputes from the point of view of both parties and can offer an unbiased decision.	Within my first year I want the citizens of Precinct 4 to see the difference in the JP court in regard to individualized bail/bond setting, and more cases being referred to our Veteran's and Teen Courts whenever possible and that other JPs are hopefully following that lead.	I believe that the JP position should be nonpartisan. Anyone appearing in front of my court would be an individual, not a party affiliation. Any peers and individuals from other departments and agencies that I will work with as JP would be treated the same way; as individuals and not as members of a political party.
 Michael Keefe (R)	My top priority is to see equitable workload distribution between the two Justices of the Peace in Precinct 4. The extensive case workload and on-call duties need to be shared. Precinct 4 generates a great deal of work that cannot be properly processed by a single JP, nor should it. Second would be establishing a professional working relationship with the entities most likely to have business before the court — primarily law enforcement and first responders, property managers, hospital and hospice staff. Third, ensuring office staff is fully supported and properly trained to handle public requests in a timely manner.	I am the only candidate that is a life-long resident with a public record of service to the community. My two decades with the Killeen Police Department and my investment in my community through service clubs and serving on the boards of several non-profits give me the right experience and reputation to bring honor and expertise to the JP office. I hold a Master Peace Officer license from the Texas Commission on Law Enforcement with over 2400 hours of specialized training along with a degree in Criminal Justice.	My initial goal would be to re-establish the working relationship with all entities who have business before the JP court, namely law enforcement and first responders, physicians and hospital staff, hospice care personnel and the numerous property managers in the area. They must feel comfortable and confident interacting with the office and must be able to trust the process.	The job as a magistrate needs to be as non-partisan as possible. Although this job is an elected position, I look at it more as a job interview, hoping the voters of west Bell County will review my resume and see that I am the best "job applicant." I have a clear public record with my twenty years with the Killeen Police Department that can easily be vetted. My success as a small business owner is due in large part to treating all people with the respect and courtesy they deserve. There will be no partisanship in my office.
 Chet Southworth (R)	Requiring authorities to provide sufficient evidence to justify issuing warrants and not issuing no-knock warrants without extremely egregious circumstances. Requiring parties to confer with each other regarding the issues before I hear the case. It is always best to have the parties come up with an equitable solution between themselves rather than having a decision forced on them by the court. Not setting a bond for a defendant that would be excessive or insufficient.	I am a practicing attorney who appears before the justice courts quite frequently. I know civil and criminal trial procedure and how the rules differ for justice courts. I am a trained Texas mediator, skilled at getting adversarial parties to come to an equitable solution to their problems. I am a Texas licensed Master Electrician and am very knowledgeable about construction law and cases. I am a Texas licensed real estate agent and very knowledgeable about evictions and landlord-tenant cases. I have taken overzealous state actors to task in court for exceeding their authority and infringing on citizen's rights.	The primary goal I intend to accomplish in my first year is to streamline the process used for filing cases in this court. The existing system used by Precinct 4 Place 1 is antiquated and inefficient. I want my court to mirror the efficiency and effectiveness of Judge Cook's Place 2 court, including the availability of on-line forms and on-line filing of pleadings and answers. This will relieve some of the burden currently being placed on Judge Cook's court, but more importantly, it will make access to the people's court easier for the citizens.	Justice is the same for people of all political parties just as it is for those who are not affiliated with a party and for those who don't vote. Justices do not ask what a person's political affiliation is when they come before the court, justices want to know what the basis for their disagreement is and how best to resolve it.



KPD detective challenges incumbent for Bell County Sheriff’s seat

BY EMILY HILLEY-SIERZCHULA
HERALD CORRESPONDENT

The primary election coming up next month might as well be Election Day for the Bell County Sheriff’s race. Both current Sheriff Eddy Lange and challenger Fred Harris, a Killeen Police Department detective, are Republicans, and there is no Democratic challenger. Lange and Harris both want to ensure the safety and welfare of the public, but they have different ideas of how to ac-

complish that monumental task. Lange became the county’s top cop in 2012 and is seeking his third term as sheriff. Prior to being sheriff, he worked as a Temple police officer. Harris became a peace officer in 1998. He joined the Killeen police force in 2002 after a 12-year career with the Texas Department of Criminal Justice. He started in the Youth Services Unit before being transferred to the homicide division. Harris was raised in Killeen, graduating from Ellison High School in 1985.

Lange told the Herald last month that Killeen-area voters should vote for him over Harris, the hometown candidate. “Just look at our success over the last seven years: bringing this department from the 19th century into the 21st century,” he said. Lange mentioned officer training and increasing the department’s role in combating issues like human and sex trafficking and school shootings. Harris said in January that the sheriff’s department could be improved.

“I believe communication between all peace office departments is currently lacking and must be addressed by the Bell County Sheriff’s Department,” Harris said. He said that he’s become concerned about other issues that cause fear in people, such as mass casualty shootings, gangs and sex trafficking. Early voting starts Feb. 18 and ends Feb. 28 for the primary election that will be March 3. The winner will begin the term on Jan. 1, 2021.

BELL COUNTY SHERIFF (REPUBLICANS)	1) What are your top three issues and why?	2) What sets you apart from the other candidates?	3) What changes would you make to improve the Bell County Sheriff’s Department?	4) How would you encourage cooperation and crime-fighting between the Sheriff’s Department and other law enforcement agencies, including Killeen Police Department?	5) If elected, how would you make Bell County a safer place to live?
 Fred Harris	1. Improve communications between the Sheriff’s Department and other law enforcement agencies in the county. 2. Increase the Sheriff Department’s presence on I-14 and I-35 to emphasize the need to combat sex trafficking. 3. Prioritize school safety by working with police departments and school districts to train officers to make certain they are prepared when tragedy strikes.	My qualifications and experience. For over 30 continuous years in the criminal justice field, I have worked to keep people safe and secure in their homes. This experience has taught me when it comes to our safety and security, hope is not a strategy and luck is not proof of success. I have the qualifications and do not need to pass any State tests before taking the oath of office to become Sheriff. For too long we have relied on hope and luck. If you elect me as your next Sheriff, I will implement policies to make Bell County safer.	The Sheriff’s Department must look to our US Constitution for guidance. At an early age, my grandfather taught me our First Amendment is secured by our Second Amendment. As Sheriff, I will enforce “the right of the people to keep and bear arms” and not infringe upon it by prohibiting self-protection in government buildings. Further, I know the importance “freedom of religion” plays in our community. Having worked in prisons, I know the impact prison ministries bring. Sheriff Dan Smith understood this important resource; however, it is now neglected. If I am elected, we will make our Constitution our priority.	We must acknowledge that we are one county. As one county, we must understand crime in one part of the community effects crime in all parts of the community. Recently, we have seen an increase in burglaries in Temple and Belton, car break-ins in Salado, and car thefts across our county’s more rural parts. These smaller crimes are all related to homicides, drug use, and sex trafficking. Cooperation between all departments in investigating these crimes and realizing how they connect to other crimes will help crime fighting in all of Bell County.	Our schools are vulnerable, we have too little communication between law enforcement agencies, and our highways are inadequately patrolled. We rely on McLennan County’s Bomb Squad because we lack one. We know gangs with evil intentions, such as MS-13, use I-14 and I-35 for transportation in drug and sex trafficking. When a tragedy happens, we are not prepared. As Sheriff, I will conduct a proper threat assessment so we can improve communications between law enforcement agencies, prioritize areas where an increased Sheriff’s presence will help local departments, train officers for active shooter responses, and establish a Bell County
 Eddy Lange (i)	The top three issues that have become priorities are; Human Trafficking, School and Church Safety, Curtailing Major Crimes	I have been elected twice to the Office of Sheriff and prior to becoming the Sheriff I had several years of experience in county government serving as a Justice of the Peace and County Commissioner. Since taking office in 2013 I have reorganized the department into a more structured organization and brought modern day law enforcement practices to the agency.	Changes began seven years ago. Since I took office we have modernized the department from both a physical and philosophical perspective. Our equipment has been updated and includes on-board and body worn cameras. We have utilized technology to our advantage and created better tools to manage the organization. We have created a Special Crimes Unit to investigate the worst of crimes and monitor registered sex offenders. We have also created a Critical Response Team that focuses on diverting would be offenders. We also have created an internal Emergency Management Unit that aids the county when dealing with disasters.	Cooperation with other law enforcement agencies to include the Killeen Police Department also began seven years ago. We are there to provide them with any assistance needed. Also, I, along with area Chiefs of Police manage a county-wide Organized Crime Unit. This unit is comprised of members from various police departments in the county to tackle organized crime.	Making the county a safer place is a constant and continuous effort. We are currently focused on school and church safety and a reaching out to offer training and lectures on the subject. We have highly training experts in this field that are currently visiting these organizations and offering what we can to assist them with this issue. We are also focusing on an ever growing rural population due to the development of Municipal Utility Districts. These districts create a special challenge because you end up with small cities within the rural county. Those residents will need the same services as if they were in a city.

5 vying for constable seat in Bell County

BY THADDEUS IMERMAN
KILLEEN DAILY HERALD

A constable seat in Bell County is up for grabs, and five candidates — two Republicans and three Democrats — are vying for it. Current incumbent Edd Melton III, a Republican, is not seeking re-election for an eighth term. The two Republicans are 57-year-old Michael Copeland and 62-year-old AJ Torres. Copeland, who currently serves as a deputy constable in Precinct 4, has 35 years experience in law enforcement and currently holds a Master Peace Officer License and Instructors License from the Texas Commission on Law Enforcement. Torres is a 38-year veteran of law enforcement, currently a sergeant supervisor in the Bell County Constable Office, a position he has held for about 1 ½ years. The three Democrats vying for the seat are Louie Minor, 40, Martha Dominguez, 45, and Calvin Brow, 60. Minor is a local small-business owner with law enforcement experience, who once served in the Bell County Constable Office, Precinct 3, in Temple. Minor left the constable office when, as a member of the National Guard, he got orders to train for a deployment to Iraq in 2006. Dominguez is an Ellison High School graduate with more than 20 years experience in law enforcement. She has been with the Precinct 4 constable office since 2012. Brow is a Florida native, also with more than 20 years experience in law enforcement. He has been with the Pre-



cinct 4 office since 1994, and he has been full-time since 2000. For a longer version of this story, go to kdhnnews.com/centerforpolitics. **Question:** What are your Top 3 issues related to the position, and why? **Democrats:** Brow: “If elected as Constable would be to reduce crime through community involvement and improve community relationships by building community partnership.” Dominguez: “Process Service: Citizens pay for our service and all papers must be attempted/executed immediately. Evictions: With the growing number of citizens going thru these unfortunate circumstances, compassion must be part of the process. We can execute our orders and direct them to resources provided by the county or state, especially when it comes to the elderly and mentally challenged. We need to educate our community, especially the youth. We should use discretion regarding youth and enforce laws as needed as to not create further hardship on families.” Minor: “Protecting the land, water and air are vital to a growing region. In support of our citizens and businesses, our office will be trained in environmental enforcement with Texas Commission on Environmental Quality. Our office will end low level arrest of marijuana (less than 4 ounces). This is the same policy of the Texas Department of Public Safety and this will be ours. This policy will help ease jail overcrowding in Bell County and allow adjudication in the court system. Finally, the public demands lower crime and human trafficking rates. We will take active roles in making our community safer.” **Republicans:** Copeland: “A. Professional service to the community, not just special interests — the public deserves and expects this from its public servants. B. Ensure proper training and current education for my department — a well trained department is better able to complete its mission and serve the community in both resolving civil and criminal matters. C. Providing ethical service with integrity and accountability for all my deputies — it is necessary to hold ourselves in this profession to a higher standard not just on duty but off duty as well, it is also what the citizens expect of us.” Torres: “My top 3 goals as Constable are first to launch our office into the future with technology advancements. This will enable us to spend upwards of 60% of our time in servicing PCT 4 and less time in administrative tasks. It also gives us time for community engagement. Next I want to build on the relationship between local law enforcement and the constable office. I have the track record and relationships to do just that. Finally I want to ensure our deputies are experts in every aspect civil process, criminal and family law.”

3 Republicans vying for 426th District Court Judgeship

BY HUNTER KING
KILLEEN DAILY HERALD

Three Republicans are running to replace Fancy Jezek as the judge of the 426th District Court. They are: Belton lawyer Jeff Parker; Killeen lawyer Steve Duskie and Salado lawyer Wade Faulkner. Duskie is an Air Force veteran who has practiced law in Bell County for more than two decades. He is a partner and owner of Lindley, Wiley & Duskie PC in Killeen. Faulkner is a former military judge who presided over Fort Hood shooter Nidal Hasan’s death penalty trial. Parker currently works as an assistant district attorney representing the State of Texas in felony criminal cases. No Democrat is running for the seat. Jezek is retiring after serving 13 years on the bench. For the candidates answers to questions, go to kdhnnews.com/centerforpolitics.



Three challengers look to unseat Rep. Williams in District 25

BY THADDEUS IMERMAN
KILLEEN DAILY HERALD

Two Republicans and two Democrats are ready to face their opponents for their respective nominations for U.S. Representative, District 25.

On the Republican side, Austin resident Keith Neuendorff is challenging incumbent Roger Williams.

Neuendorff works in software develop-

ment, solutions architecture and project management, according to his LinkedIn profile. He also occasionally works in film production, mostly in the post-production phase.

Williams, 70, has been the incumbent of the seat since 2012. His campaign website says he has been the voice of small business owners across America. In the most recent session of Congress, Williams served on the Subcommittee on Con-

sumer Protection and Financial Institutions and the Subcommittee on National Security, International Development and Monetary Policy.



On the Democrat side, Julie Oliver and Heidi Sloan are battling for their party's nomination.

Oliver, 47, is an Austin resident with 15 years experience in healthcare finance, legal expertise and financial accounting. With her experience, combined with

being a community organizer, Oliver has fought to provide healthcare to those who need it most.

Sloan, 35, is a farmer and community organizer. For seven years, Sloan has worked at Community First! Village in Austin, teaching homeless residents how to farm and grow food for the community.

She has also stood with striking workers, walked picket lines and supported union drives.

U.S. CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT 25 (REPUBLICANS)	1) What are your top three issues and why?	2) What sets you apart from the other candidates?	3) Many veterans of Middle East deployments are becoming ill due to what is believed to be exposure to toxic smoke from the military's open burn pits. What is your plan to ensure these veterans receive the necessary care through the Department of Veterans Affairs and are able to claim the illnesses as service connected disabilities?	4) Are you concerned about the national deficit? What congressional action would you support to address the issue?
 Roger Williams (i)	Defend the border, lower taxes and defend the Second Amendment. These three principles are vital to protecting our liberty.	I am a Christian, conservative, pro-life, pro-Second Amendment, grassroots taxpayer committed to upholding the Constitution and our Texas values. I am also a small business owner of over 40 years who understands the challenges that our Main Street job creators face.	The Department of Veterans Affairs must do their due diligence to thoroughly analyze every claim in determining whether a certain illness is service-connected and related to burn pit exposure. Congress should continue to fund and encourage participation in the burn pit registry, while ensuring that veterans who were exposed to toxins overseas are provided the healthcare and compensation necessary. I supported similar efforts for Vietnam veterans under the Blue Water Navy Act, and hope we learn from the lessons of the past and get as far ahead of treating burn pit related illnesses as possible.	The national deficit is the greatest threat to our national security, and future generations are left to bear the burden. Washington must cut unnecessary spending and learn to live within their means like every American household.
 Keith Neuendorff	1. Accountability ... A representative in the House needs to be willing to listen to the people in their district to understand real issues and come up with real solutions. 2. Investment in Education ... We need to invest in education. States and local governments should run their own programs, but the federal government has an important role to play." 3. Fiscal Responsibility. Our biggest long-term threat as a country is the national debt ... The increasing debt and interest payments continue to put limits on our ability to invest in our future and reduces our ability to respond to crises.	I stand apart from Roger Williams because of my commitment to accountability and ... Investing in education ... when I am elected I will publish a regular schedule of town hall events throughout the district to connect directly with constituents ... I also support maintaining a smart level of investment by the federal government in education. This will provide all children equal educational opportunity and allow us to develop the talent we need in industry and defense. My opponent does not give meaningful open access to constituents and wants to get rid of the Department of Education and our investment in education.	Providing an accessible, quality health infrastructure for all Veterans is our duty as a country to those that have served. I support the current steps of the Burn Pit Registry and the long term studies being undertaken by the VA and Department of Defense on this issue. I would also support a faster track for evaluating certain health conditions to have presumptive status for veterans that served in the affected regions.	I am concerned about the national debt and it is one of my top three priority issues. All parties in the federal government need to be engaged on this issue. Any real discussion of dealing with the debt will have to address reforming the way we deliver and pay for health care because of it being a large percentage of the budget.

Six candidates contending for Precinct 3 commissioner In Coryell County

BY DAVID PERDUE
KILLEEN DAILY HERALD

Two commissioner races will be on ballots in the March 3 Republican primary in Coryell County.

The Precinct 1 race has only one candidate, incumbent Kyle Matthews. The Precinct 3 race has six candidates: Ryan Basham, Jerry A. Casey, Jaydie Dixon, Paul Hopson, Dewey Jones and Justin Veazey.

Because there are no Democrats running in the March 3 primary, the winner of the Republican primary will be almost assured victory in the November general election.

PRECINCT 3


Precinct 3 covers much of the eastern and southern area of Coryell County. Incumbent Don Jones is not running for re-election.


Candidate Hopson, on his Facebook page, said he is a 5th generation farmer who lives with his wife, Rachel, and son, Noah on the family ranch in Mound. Jaydie Dixon said on his Facebook campaign page that he is a Coryell County native who previously worked as a county probation officer and now serves on the board of Directors of the Gatesville Country Club. The Texas Secretary of State's website lists Ryan Basham as a horse trainer. Jerry A. Casey is listed as retired, while Justin Veazey is a utility manager. Dewey Jones is a Coryell County constable. Jones did not respond to Herald questions by deadline.


For more on this race, go to kdhnw.com/copperas_cove_herald


Question: What are your top three issues and why?


Basham: 1) Improved Roads. The most common complaint when I visit with the community is the number of roads that need repair: I will work with Road and Bridge department to see how we can help improve roads in Coryell County. 2) Budget. Without raising taxes, we need to evaluate the salary structure for County employees. We also need to consider the



Basham


Casey


Dixon


Hopson


Veazey


D. Jones


dollars we are spending on maintenance of existing buildings and where new, more efficient structures should be built. 3) New Justice Center and County Jail. We need to be fiscally conservative as we evaluate the long term costs for both of these facilities.

Casey: 1. Jail/Law Enforcement Center: Coryell County has outgrown its present facility and is now having to outsource to other counties. With good fiscal management and planning, the county should be able to minimize costs associated with the new jail. 2. Taxes: It is the responsibility of the Commissioner's Court to be good stewards of the budget and make sure that the money is spent to best serve the people. 3. Infrastructure: We must help the county maintain and move forward while listening to and addressing the concerns of our constituents.

Dixon: 1. State/Federal unfunded mandates. I feel this is a serious financial strain on the county government and causes an increase in property taxes. 2. Water could be a future concern. This is a vital resource and we need to look at options to provide our own source instead of having to purchase outside the county. 3. Overcrowding in the county jail is a major concern due to limited bed space. I am supportive of how the current Commissioners Court is looking at all possible options, and if elected I would work just as hard to find a long-term solution.

Hopson: 1. Budget: We need to figure out exactly where our money is spent and decide if we are benefiting from it. 2. Public safety: We expect our safety department to protect us. Are we giving them adequate facilities and equipment they need to protect us and uphold what they were elected to do?

3. County population retention and





NO PHOTO AVAILABLE

Hopson growth: We need to make sure we are doing what we need to in order to keep the people we have. If outsiders see that people enjoy living here, people will want to come to us.

Jones: The candidate did not provide responses to the questions.

Veazey: 1) The jail. 2) Justice Center: 3) Tax Rates. The new jail and justice center concern me because of the large expense

that it will cost the county to construct these facilities. That ties directly into my concern over the tax rates.



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District 25 cont.: Democratic challengers focus on healthcare

U.S. CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT 25 (DEMOCRATS)	1) What are your top three issues and why?	2) What sets you apart from the other candidates?	3) Many veterans of Middle East deployments are becoming ill due to what is believed to be exposure to toxic smoke from the military's open burn pits. What is your plan to ensure these veterans receive the necessary care through the Department of Veterans Affairs and are able to claim the illnesses as service connected disabilities?	4) Are you concerned about the national deficit? What congressional action would you support to address the issue?
 Julie Oliver	Ensuring that every single American has the highest quality healthcare, is able to see a doctor, and can afford prescriptions — no matter if they're young or old, have pre-existing conditions or not, or are active-duty or retired. Fighting the climate crisis by ending our reliance on foreign fossil fuels, transitioning the U.S. economy to 100% renewable electricity by 2035, and creating thousands of high-paying clean energy economy jobs right here in Texas. Ending the public cancer of corruption in Congress by getting PACs, corporations, and big money out of Congress and out of our democracy.	As a working class woman born in poverty who relied on Medicaid for prenatal care as a teenager I know what millions of working Texans face. I'm the only candidate with experience crafting legislation, deep financial accounting background, legal expertise and 15 years of experience in healthcare finance. I know how to organize for local wins, whether by saving Sendero or leading the \$15/hr minimum wage initiative at Central Health. And I know how to organize at scale, swinging a district from 21 points for the GOP to within single digits without PACs, increasing turnout in neglected precincts across Texas.	My dad's a veteran. I know that veterans don't stop serving when they come home. It took us decades to care for veterans exposed to Agent Orange. We can't repeat that history with those who served in SW Asia exposed to burn pits. DoD and the VA must accept their responsibility to care for burn pit victims. This community deserves someone fighting for them in the House, and our current representative did not sign on to HR1279, the Helping Veterans Exposed to Burn Pits Act. And, if elected, I intend to sign on as a co-sponsor to the Burn Pits Accountability Act (H.R. 663). (4 words over)	The GOP tax cuts, which blew a \$2 trillion hole in the deficit to pass a tax cut for the wealthiest Americans and multinational corporations who ship the jobs overseas — socialism for the rich and corporations — were short-sighted and self-defeating. We can afford to fund healthcare, have paid family leave, rural broadband Internet, world class public education, infrastructure, and other public goods that the American people deserve. This is very simple — crack down on corruption, stop allowing corporations to game the system through tax avoidance and offshore tax havens, and raise taxes on the ultra-wealthy and corporations.
 Heidi Sloan	My top three priorities are 1) implementing a Green New Deal to transition to renewable energy nationwide with a federal jobs guarantee, 2) passing Medicare for All to provide real healthcare to everyone in the country regardless of income, and 3) strengthening the labor movement so all our goals will be attainable through the power of working people taking action. I believe the problem in our democracy is that working people are struggling too much to engage in politics. If we focus on the issues affecting our lives, we can build a society that works for people, not for profit.	I believe the role of an elected official is not to hand down good policies to people, but to bring regular working people closer to the fights that affect our lives and into a seat at the legislative table. We can only defeat Roger Williams' organized money with organized people, which is why I've spent years organizing in my community and across Texas. Our campaign's hundreds of volunteers knocked 60,000 doors all over the District in less than six months. We've demonstrated a commitment to working class people and the field operation necessary to unseat the millionaire incumbent.	Rather than privatize services for veterans so corporations can profit off of the suffering of military service members, we must reverse that process and invest in the VA. I'm committed to fully funding the VA so we can eliminate the VA benefits backlog. We must also expand funding and fill the 50,000 vacancies at the VA so we can ensure veterans like these receive the benefits they deserve. I support reforming VA regulations restricting access based on the type of discharge, and in that process I will fight to ensure illnesses related to environment or job-site conditions are covered.	We only hear about the deficit when we're trying to help working class people; we don't hear about it when Donald Trump and Roger Williams are trying to give massive tax cuts to their millionaire and billionaire friends. The deficit is not my biggest concern. I'm far more concerned about 5 million people living in Texas with no health insurance and the fact that across our state the average wage hasn't kept up with the cost of a home. We can fix our rigged economy by giving working people a hand-up and making the ultra-rich pay their fair share.



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3 Republicans have eyes set on District 59 rep seat

BY THADDEUS IMERMAN
KILLEEN DAILY HERALD

State Rep. J.D. Sheffield, R-Gatesville, is looking to claim a fifth term as the state representative for District 59. Sheffield was first elected to the seat on Nov. 7, 2012.

The district covers eight counties — Comanche, Coryell, Erath, Hamilton, McCulloch, Mills, San Saba and Somervell.

Challenging him for the primary and, consequently, the election are fellow Republicans Cody Johnson and Shelby Slawson.

Johnson, 51, is a lifelong resident of Erath County, west of Stephenville. Johnson is an entrepreneur and has built five businesses in Erath County. All of the businesses are operated under the Twisted J brand, according to he has said.

Slawson, 42, is a Stephenville resident where she resides with her husband of 22 years and their children. She describes herself as a conservative Christian, a small business owner and attorney, and advocates for those in rural Texas.

Sheffield has been practicing family medicine in and around Gatesville for over 25 years, according to his House website.

STATE REPRESENTATIVE DISTRICT 59 (REPUBLICANS)	1) What are your top three issues and why?	2) What sets you apart from the other candidates?	3) Drinking water supply is a hot topic we have been following lately. What are your ideas for ensuring continued drinking water supply for the district for at least the next five decades?
 Cody Johnson	My top three issues are Abortion, Gun rights and Education. I believe that all life is sacred and abortion is the murder of unborn children. They're not getting our guns y'all, the 2nd amendment is a right which is guaranteed to us in the constitution and the government cannot infringe upon it. Education is crucial to HD59 because children are our future. Children in rural Texas deserve the same quality education as those in big urban centers.	What sets me apart is that I am successful conservative businessman. I have 6 different companies which employs more than 120 people in Erath county. I understand what it takes to run a successful business and like President Trump I will bring my business skills to Austin and help create jobs for District 59.	In order to ensure that we have a continued water supply for the next five decades we need to ensure we are using water in a sustainable manner. If we are recklessly wasting water, we have nobody but ourselves to blame if our water levels are low. I support ground water conservation, and water rights on private property should be protected with the same vigor which we private property.
 J.D. Sheffield (i)	(1) I co-authored the first permanent plan to secure the border and banned sanctuary cities in Texas. We must build on these successes to secure the Texas-Mexico border. (2) I co-authored and helped to pass the constitutional amendment to ban a state income tax, and as a state budget-writer helped pass a new \$5 billion property tax cut. We need to keep it up! (3) Rural issues are important to me. I worked to get \$32 million for the schools in my district last year and keep our local hospitals open, and want to keep up that fight.	I am endorsed by Governor Abbott as the best Republican to stand with him and fight for our conservative agenda at the Capitol. I'm a full-time family physician, and not a politician. I don't care about who gets the credit, so long as we accomplish results that matter. That may not help so much in campaigns but it makes our office very effective for the conservative agenda and for rural issues. I care deeply about the communities of our district and I want to keep solving problems and getting results that matter.	Rural communities understand the scarcity of water in our growing state, and I believe strongly that we need to plan ahead to ensure a stable water supply for every community in Texas. I understand rural issues and agricultural issues like this, which is why I'm endorsed by the Texas Farm Bureau's ag-fund. Recently, we passed a state water fund to develop a statewide plan for our water future, and now we need to see that planning process through to fruition. As a budget writer and Governor Abbott's endorsed candidate, that's exactly what I will do.
 Shelby Slawson	Three of the top priorities for the next legislative session are (1) securing the Texas border, eliminating the magnets that encourage unlawful mass migration at the expense of our hard-working Texas taxpayers, and insisting on election integrity; (2) adamantly defending the Second Amendment by providing that Texas becomes a 2A Sanctuary State (the opposite of what is occurring in Virginia); and (3) ensuring that we are adequately investing in our rural public school classrooms, including with increased vocational training opportunities for a skill-ready workforce, while also fighting unfunded mandates and providing greater property tax relief for our citizens.	Candidates frequently campaign to us as 'conservatives', then fail to live up to their rhetoric. I'm a proven grassroots conservative leader who's fought fiercely to stop and reform land-grab annexations, volunteered hundreds of hours supporting rural public schools and bringing good jobs and investment to our area, and steadfastly defended the 2A and the sanctity of life. Two years ago, I was a leader in the successful defeat of a junior college tax hike in northern HD59 — while I publicly fought that tax, the long-term incumbent sat quietly on the sidelines, taking money from the junior college leadership.	While the Texas population is expected to increase approximately 73% in the next five decades, our water needs are anticipated to increase roughly 17% thanks primarily to technological improvements in agriculture irrigation. Drinking water supply is of high importance, but so is ensuring we have sufficient water (and efficient use) for our ag purposes, as ag makes up around 60% of all water usage. To address future water needs, conservation cannot be ignored and new reservoirs will be needed (a lengthy process) to supplement 169 existing reservoirs. Additionally, reuse and/or desalination of brackish water seems promising due to technological advances.

Williams faces former constable Hammack in Coryell Sheriff's race

BY DAVID PERDUE
KILLEEN DAILY HERALD

Incumbent Coryell County Sheriff Scott A. Williams will seek re-election against former Coryell County Constable Roger Hammack in the March 3 Republican primary.

Because there are no Democratic primary candidates, the winner is virtually assured of winning the November general election.

Williams was elected sheriff in 2016 and is seeking a second term. Hammack lists experience working in law enforcement in West Texas, as well as his decade as a constable in Coryell County.

For more on this story, go to kdh-news.com/copperas_cove_herald

Question: What do you see as your top 3 issues you will need to deal with as Coryell County Sheriff?

Hammack: 1. The jail. We have to have good security in the jail for the inmates and the jailers. I'm going to have some good training for the jailers, including self-defense. 2. Patrolling the roads of Coryell County. We have elderly people in the county

who aren't getting any patrol to speak of. 3. Outlying communities with schools, like Oglesby and Evant. My priority will be a full-time deputy out in that community during school hours within three minutes of the school.

Williams: 1. The mental health crisis in our state is my top concern. Using the Crisis Intervention team of certified mental health peace officers enables us to get those who need help in contact with facilities that can assist them. 2. Illegal narcotics is a very close second. Families are being destroyed by the poisons that the dealers are slinging. I have made it my mission to re-energize the fight against illegal drugs. 3. Community service. I felt compelled to serve my community and I will continue to serve as long as I am able.



Hammack



Williams

Two contested constable races on the ballot in Coryell County

BY THADDEUS IMERMAN
KILLEEN DAILY HERALD

Whoever wins the March 3 primary will win the November election in two contested constable races in Coryell County. All four candidates are running as Republicans.

Precinct 2, which covers the eastern part of Copperas Cove and the western part of Fort Hood and Killeen, pits longtime incumbent Shawn Camp against challenger Chuck Wilson.

Camp, 55, is a lifelong resident of Copperas Cove and has been the constable of Precinct 2 for 31 years.

Wilson, 49, has 30 years experience in public service. He most recently retired as a police officer after having been a firefighter and a combat veteran.

Precinct 3, which covers much of the southern and eastern parts of Gatesville, as well as the eastern part of the county, pits Jimmy Daniel against Kirby Ruiz, neither of whom are the incumbent.

Current incumbent, Dewey Jones, is seeking election for county commissioner, precinct 3.

Daniel is a retired Army soldier with a 22-year career. He is a 19-year veteran of the Gatesville Police Department, according to his campaign Facebook page.

Ruiz is a Gatesville native and has been in law enforcement for a little over 10 years with the Coryell County Sheriff's Department, according to his campaign Facebook page.

Question: What are the Top 3 issues facing Coryell County and why?

Precinct 2 candidates:

Camp: "Meeting the needs of a growing and diverse population, local law enforcement faces many new challenges with in the community. Such as cultural diversity, increasing crime rate and civil issues. I feel the need is for law enforcement to re-engage in community policing practices. By interacting with our local community as partners and stakeholders together we can keep our community a better and safer places for all."

Wilson: "1. Unfunded Mandates: New mandates are imposed on law enforcement annually without funding resources. It is important to elect leaders who have experience with budgeting and the ability to utilize outside resources such as grants and alternative funding methods. 2. Mental Health Crisis: Mental health issues are increasing, and law enforcement, social services and private partners must work together to adequately provide for these citizens. 3. Challenges Within the Law Enforcement Community: These challenges include relationship building, communication and collaboration, transparency within the community, recruiting and retention and providing adequate jail space."

Precinct 3 candidates:

Daniel: "1. Crime. 2. Roads and aging infrastructure. 3. Tax base, non taxable status of prisons, schools."

Ruiz: "1. ... shipping our inmates to other counties and the great need to build a new jail here in Coryell County. It will be an expensive project, but shipping inmates to other counties is a bigger cost. It will be more beneficial for the county ... 2. ... The need to implement new strategies in dealing with narcotics. It is a rural epidemic and I hope that we can come up with new ways to help individuals, such as drug rehabilitation centers. 3. ... Infrastructure. With the growth of the county, an effort to make the commute safer between rural areas to the city is important."

