



**PREVIEW: Lady Unicorns aiming to work their way back to the playoffs.**

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ELECTION

# County turnout highest ever for midterm

By Keith E. Domke  
The Herald-Zeitung

Almost two-thirds of eligible voters in Comal County cast ballots in the 2018 midterm elections, including about 48 percent who performed their civic duty early.

When the dust had set-

tled late Tuesday night, 62,050 of the county's 100,733 registered voters offered their opinions through the ballot box.

"Really, it was a little surprising we only ended with about 62 percent," said Comal County Clerk Bobbie Koepp, who, herself, was re-elected to an-

Comal County Voter Turnout		
	Early	48,483
	Tuesday	13,567
	Total	62,050
	Percent	61.6

other four-year term on Tuesday. "I thought we'd be closer to 70 percent, especially after the early

voting totals. I was actually shocked how different the early voting totals were compared to the day of totals."

According to figures after the early voting period, which ended last Friday, 48,483 Comal voters cast ballots early. That means 13,567 votes were cast on

Election Day.

"But, it still was a very good turnout," Koepp said. "People must have been ready to make their voices heard so they got out and voted early."

Koepp said she believes the turnout percentage is the highest ever in the county for a midterm elec-

tion. Two years ago, 68.3 percent of eligible county residents voted, but that was a presidential election year.

In 2014, the last midterm general election, the percentage was 42.5. In 2010, 2006 and 2002, the percentages were 47.5, 42

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COURT

## Former mayor gets released on probation

Williams says shock of being in prison has helped change him

By Dalondo Moultrie  
The Herald-Zeitung

The former mayor of New Braunfels convicted and sent to prison earlier this year was given a second chance Wednesday afternoon when a visiting judge ordered him released on probation.

Senior District Judge Dan Mills in June sentenced Stone Randall (Stoney) Williams to 10 years on one of two felony burglary charges and deferred adjudication on the second burglary of a habitation count. The day Williams pleaded guilty, Mills suggested that his legal team file a motion for shock probation before 180 days of imprisonment. On Wednesday, the judge granted that motion.

"I'm going to grant your shock probation," Mills told Williams before ordering his release. "But you have enough rope to hang yourself."

Williams began serving his prison sentence July 13. He filed the motion for shock probation two weeks later.

The idea behind shock probation is that time spent in prison should provide an adequate enough shock to the convicted person's system that he or she will mend his or her ways. During his time inside the Texas Department of Corrections, Williams learned his lesson, he told Mills.

"There's really no way to describe the amount I've learned there," Williams said. "Horrific. It broke me down. I'm in emotional turmoil being away from my little girls and my family."

In court, Williams looked much thinner than he had at his last court appearance. He said he lay awake many nights in prison thinking of

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## Show and Tell for Wurstfest food



As the "Carnival Eats" crew gathers around them, Ray Elbel, middle, and Dwayne Cooper, right, sing with host Noah Cappe, left, while filming an episode at the Hill Country Chorus booth in the Marktplatz on the Wurstfest grounds on Tuesday. **Photos by MIKALA COMPTON | Herald-Zeitung.**

## Cooking Channel's 'Carnival Eats' to feature festival favorites

By Lindsey Carnett  
The Herald-Zeitung

Wurstfest just got a little bit more famous this week after a visit by the Cooking Channel's "Carnival Eats" crew.

"Carnival Eats" will feature Wurstfest in one of its episodes during the upcoming seventh season. The crew spent two days in New Braunfels filming at the festival, on Monday and Tuesday.

The show is hosted by Canadian actor Noah Cappe, who travels to different carnivals and festivals around the United States and Canada to showcase and taste interesting fair food items. "Carnival Eats" premiered in August 2014, and airs at 9 p.m. on Fridays.

The show's story producer and episode director, Jacob Ulrich, said he found Wurstfest when looking into the best Oktoberfests in Texas.

"Wurstfest repeatedly came up as one of the top ones not only in Texas, but in the nation," Ulrich said.

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Dwayne Cooper prepares food for the Cooking Channel's Noah Cappe while filming an episode of "Carnival Eats" at the Hill Country Chorus booth in the Marktplatz on the Wurstfest grounds on Tuesday.

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PROBATION

Continued from page 1

his crimes and how they affected him, his family and his friends.

He came to grips with the fact that he had done a lot wrong and was ready to take responsibility for his actions, he told Mills.

Clayten Hearrell, Comal County assistant district attorney, questioned whether Williams had really learned anything or if he was only telling the judge what he thought Mills wanted to hear.

Two days prior, Hearrell said, Williams had been recorded on a call at the county jail talking with his father. On that telephone call, Williams told his dad that he would lie to the judge and tell Mills he was sorry for kicking his female victim but that he never actually had done so.

When confronted with the prosecutor's knowledge of the call, Williams said he had lied to his father but that he was telling Mills the truth. He was ashamed of his actions, Williams said, and didn't want to look bad in the eyes of the man who raised him.

Why should the judge believe Williams now, Hearrell asked the convict.

"I believe the court can make the judgment for himself," Williams said.

Mills chastised Williams and cautioned him against leading a deceit-filled life. It was pride and deceit that helped lead Williams to his current predicament, Mills said.

The former mayor apologized to his family and friends in the courtroom and told his father that he lied during the jail conversation. Mills cautiously accepted Williams at his word and agreed to his release.

Outside the courtroom, Williams' defense attorney, Kerrisa Chelkowski, said he had begun to turn around his life, and showed remorse for his crimes. Her client has seen the error of his ways and has owned up to what he did, Chelkowski said.

"I think he is completely and utterly embarrassed," she said. "We all handle our disgust with ourselves differently."

On Sept. 2, 2016, Williams got into an altercation with his mistress and another man at that man's home. Williams had tracked the woman to the house, forced his way inside while carrying a handgun and assaulted the woman.

After knocking the woman to the floor, Williams kicked her at least once.

He left the house and returned a short time later. Again Williams entered the house — this time without the handgun — and didn't leave until the other man got his own handgun and fired a warning shot into a wall.

Outside the courtroom after Wednesday's hearing, Hearrell said Williams' case was concerning. The Comal County criminal defense attorney's office makes a point of going after domestic abusers and didn't stop short of that mission in prosecuting Williams, Hearrell said.

"We took this case very seriously," he said. "We wanted to make sure someone was there to speak up for the victim, and that justice was applied evenly no matter your station."

Williams was expected to be released Wednesday afternoon and begin serving 10 years probation. Mills said if he violates his probation, Williams could be sentenced to serve up to 20 years in prison.

TURNOUT

Continued from page 1

and 40.4, respectively.

When the final unofficial results were released Tuesday, it was evident that the county had rolled out its deep, red carpet and prevented any kind of blue wave to invade its borders.

The three Republican incumbents within Comal borders facing challengers all scored easy victories, several others running unopposed were re-elected, and every other race that had county connections ended up being a win for the GOP.

"I don't think there were any surprises," Koepp said. "Everyone says this is a Republican county, but so many new people have moved in, and you don't know how they'll vote."

There were two county commissioner races, in Precincts 2 and 4.

In Precinct 2, incumbent Scott Haag picked up 98.3 percent of the vote by thrashing write-in candidate Michael Zimmerman by a 14,316-241 tally. In Precinct 4, Jen Crownover earned a second four-year term by easily defeating Democrat Dorothy Carroll 13,469-3,742. That translates into a 78.3 to 21.7 percent split.

Koepp retained her clerk seat with an easy win over Democrat Gloria Meehan.



Mary Lou Erben, Marian Hicks and LaFawn Thompson cheer as Ted Cruz is announced senator while at Donna Campbell's watch party at Rudy's Country Store and Bar-B-Que on Tuesday. **MIKALA COMPTON | Herald-Zeitung**

The totals were 45,359 to 14,987, or 75.2 percent to 24.8 percent.

Several other Republican incumbents ran unopposed and earned additional terms in office.

County Judge Sherman Krause received 48,431 votes, Criminal District Attorney Jennifer Tharp got 47,982 votes, county Treasurer Renee Couch received 48,250 votes, County Court-at-Law No. 1 Judge Randy Gray was picked on 48,232 ballots and District Clerk Heather N. Kellar garnered 48,128 votes.

A couple of state races

drew local attention as Republicans Kyle Biedermann and Donna Campbell were re-elected.

Biedermann, representing District 73 in the Texas House, was selected on 69,006 ballots while Democrat Stephanie Phillips received 23,237 votes. District 73 includes Comal, Gillespie and Kendall counties.

Campbell, a state senator from District 25, picked up 235,842 votes while Democratic challenger Steven Kling got 172,628 votes. District 25 includes Comal, Bexar, Guadalupe, Hays, Kendall

and Travis counties.

In House District 44, which includes Guadalupe and Wilson counties, incumbent John Kuempel out-pollied Democrat John Rodgers 48,631-22,183.

Two U.S. representative races also had a local connection.

In District 21, Republican Chip Roy defeated Democrat Joseph Kasper by about 10,000 votes. Roy tallied 176,913 votes while Kasper netted 167,020. Kasper will replace longtime Rep. Lamar Smith, who is retiring.

In District 35, Democrat Lloyd Doggett earned

re-election with 137,325 votes. Republican challenger David Smalling received 50,276.

In the Edwards Aquifer Authority District 9 race, incumbent Ron Walton defeated Roger Biggers 16,493-8,150.

Finally, the New Braunfels Independent School District \$118.3 million bond issue passed 10,460-4,843.

Koepp said Election Night went well.

"Things were smooth," she said. "The returns came in like clockwork, and I didn't hear of any problems at all."

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