

# Honoring our Hometown Heroes



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# An attorney with a passion in the field of emergency medicine

By JOHN LEE

pampanewseditor@gmail.com

Twitter: @jcl1987

Leslie Standerfer is one of the paramedics that saw the transition from Pampa EMS to Gray County EMS in late 2019, and before that from Guardian to Pampa EMS.

"The transition went a lot smoother than I thought it was going to," Standerfer said.

Standfer has been an area paramedic for off/on for 14 years and got into the field as means to learn more for her other job.

"I am an attorney," Standerfer said. "In May 2000, I was trying an intoxication manslaughter case and prior to the trial starting I sat down with the first medic who responded to the scene.

"I basically had to have him break everything down that happened from the time he arrived at the scene through the treatment of the patients that were there. I felt like gaining medical terminology would help on the prosecution end of that."

Standfer enrolled in a basic EMT class, but never intended to

turn it into a career.

"I did it because I thought it would help me to become a better prosecutor," Standerfer said.

"Then when I did my clinicals for my basic (EMT), I fell in love with the job."

Standfer, who is still the County Attorney in Wheeler County, now gets to double-dip on both of her passions.

"We're on a rotating nine-day schedule," Standerfer said. "In-between shifts, I am in my office in Wheeler. We're on 24-hour shifts here so I'll leave here and go to work in Wheeler. Then we have a four-day off stretch."

Standfer will always carry one laptop on her so in the event she has some down-time, she can do her attorney work.

Standfer loves taking care of the people she encounters as a paramedic and said that's her favorite part of the job.

"I like to try and improve the condition of my patient and leave them in better condition than I found them," Standerfer said.

"Whether it's a 9-1-1 call or transfer and whether it's mentally,



physically or spiritually. This job is more than just taking care of physical illness or injuries." The biggest challenge for Standerfer in the last 10 months has been dealing with COVID-19.

"There are days where every patient I had was COVID-positive and some of them were really, really sick," Standerfer said. "The

worst part of the pandemic, from my point of view, is that these patients are alone and so many of them die alone. It's heart-breaking to transfer them from here to Amarillo or somewhere knowing that they are by themselves." Standerfer is working on critical-care certification, which will further expand the scope of her work.

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Price**



**Amy  
Gallemore**



**Ashton  
Rhodes**



**Bethany  
Martinez**



**Chase  
West**



**Dakote  
McWhorter**



**Eric  
Clifton**



**Jack  
Conger**



**Jacob  
Clifton**



**Janell  
Parks**



**Julie  
Sims**



**Joseph  
Davis**



# Gray County EMS



Joseph  
Zavala



Kyler  
Pitman



Kelsi  
Cook



Leslie  
Standerfer



Wayne  
Hindes



Tyson  
Williams



Michelle  
Cator



LaTisha  
Davis

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# Pampa Police Department



Chief Lance Richburg  
28 years



Asst. Chief  
Kenneth Hopson - 43 years



CID Lt.  
Tobie Bias - 23 years



Patrol Lt.  
Rick Armstrong - 19 years



Admin Sgt.  
Brian Massey - 15 years



Patrol Sgt.  
Nichol Johnson - 18 years



Patrol Sgt.  
Neal Gardner - 16 years



Patrol Sgt.  
Derek Peters - 24 years



CID Sgt.  
Jesse Parks - 10 years

## To Protect & Serve





# Pampa Police Department



Patrol Sgt. Richard Cook  
10 years



CID Corporal  
Brandon Williams- 4 years



Patrol Corporal  
Bryce Taylor- 5 years



Detective  
Stephanie Willoughby- 14 years



Detective  
Christian Abraham - 3 years



Motor Officer  
Jon Hammond - 16 years



School Resource Officer  
Kevin Coffman - 17 years



Patrol  
Erika Armentrout - 3 years



Patrol  
Shawnda Payne- 2 years

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1 year



**Patrol Matt Groessel** - 1 year



**Patrol Ashton Ray** - 1 year



**Officer Jesus Rodriguez** - 7 months



**Officer Zach Peters** - 5 months



**Officer Santos Flores** - 7 months



**Communications supervisor Debbie McDonald** - 30 years



**Dispatcher Carrie Martinez** - 9 years



**Dispatcher Diamond Bagley** - 1 year



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**Linda Lapacka**  
Broker - Lic #578172  
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(806) 670-6601



**Katherine Jeffcoat**  
REALTOR®  
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# Pampa Police Department



Dispatcher Jessica Skinner  
11 years



Dispatcher Kendra Stoker- 22 years



Dispatcher Kristi Stokes- 9 years



Dispatcher Lindsey Dyer- 4 years

NOT PICTURED:  
BRITNIE COOPER- 2 YEARS OF SERVICE

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Dispatcher Sandra Coombes -7 years



Dispatcher Liz Wood - 4 years



Records Kerri Lake - 7 years



Records Rebecca Fulton - 16 years

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# Combined dispatch center makes emergency communication more efficient

By JOHN LEE

pampanewseditor@gmail.com

Twitter: @jcl1987

In the heat of an emergency moment, communication is critical to getting someone the help they need. Used to be, Pampa Police Department and Gray County Sheriff's Office housed separate dispatch centers. Last summer, Gray County and the City of Pampa came together on an agreement to change that format and combined the two centers into one. "It had probably been talked about for a few years," Pampa Police Chief Lance Richburg said. "We were approached by County Judge Chris Porter and City Manager Shane Stokes on it [combining the centers]. So, Debbie

(McDonald, Dispatch Supervisor) started looking into what all it would entail." After a lot of heavy-lifting, red tape and paperwork by McDonald, and some downstairs renovating, the two centers were combined and took their first call in June 2020. "We hired three dispatch personnel that were working for GCSO and had to do some remodeling and then it was just coordinating with other agencies (Pampa FD, Gray County EMS, Texas DPS, etc.) that everything runs through here," Richburg said. "But it went a heck of a lot smoother than I thought it would. It was incredibly smooth. In talking with Gray County Sheriff Michael Ryan and Chief Deputy JC Skinner, they are pleased with how dis-

patch is going." Prior to the combination, a call would come into 9-1-1 and if it was out in the County or required an deputy, the dispatcher would have to patch it through to the SO and then they would in turn find a deputy. Now it all runs through one center. "The response time is the biggest benefit," McDonald said. "We are able to send the deputies, fire and EMS to the town they need to go to. It has really helped the response time." The one-stop call also allows for stories to be expedited and only told once, rather than relaying the information. One area where the efficiency in communicating has been critical has been on pursuits. "We've had a couple of pursuits that have happened where it was nice

to have all of the agencies together and have one communication going on," McDonald said. "Before we would have to call each other and ask where they were at. But now we know and are able to keep up with everything." There are two-to-three dispatchers on 24/7 manning up to three stations. Before, SO usually had one at a time and sometimes there would be two or three at a time at PPD. Richburg said the combining of dispatch centers benefits not just the PD, but the entire first-responder community. "It's not just the PD, it's the SO, DPS, EMS, PFD, Hoover VFD and volunteer agencies out in the County and surrounding communities," Richburg said. "It's benefited all of the



Photo by John Lee  
From left, Debbie McDonald, Jessica Skinner and Sandra Coombes.

first-responder family. I credit Debbie with the smooth transition. It's a big undertaking." Richburg also thanked Gray County, City of Pampa and the dispatch team for their help. But ultimately, the goal was for it to be better for the community. "I can speak for Sheriff Ryan, Sgt. Chris Ray

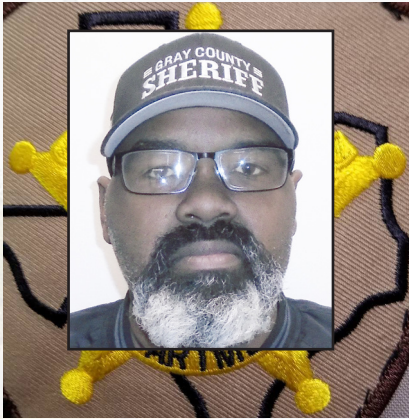
(Texas DPS) and the fire departments," Richburg said. "Our No. 1 goal is to safely and effectively serve the community, the people in the County and anybody who visits here. This bolsters that ability of ours to do that in a way that we feel is done right. It's been an exciting endeavor."

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**HOMETOWN HEROES**  
*Area Law Enforcement & Emergency Responders*  
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# Gray County Sheriff's Office



Sheriff Michael Ryan



Chief Deputy  
JC Skinner



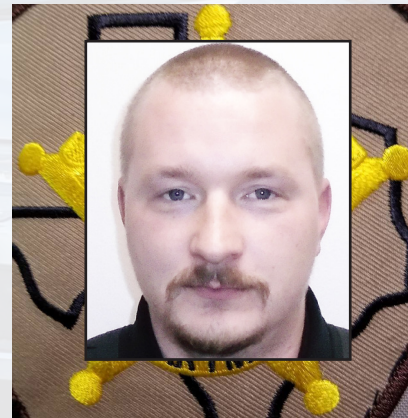
Lieutenant  
Lizz Beason



Administrative Secretary  
Karen Cross



Deputy Bobby Garcia



Deputy Chris Weaver



Deputy Geoff Bowley



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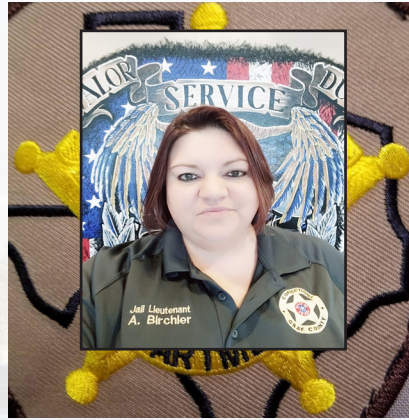
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# Gray County Sheriff's Office



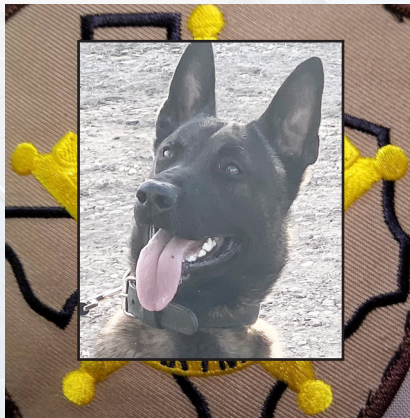
**Jail Administrator  
Sherri Burns**



**Jail Lieutenant  
Amy Birchler**



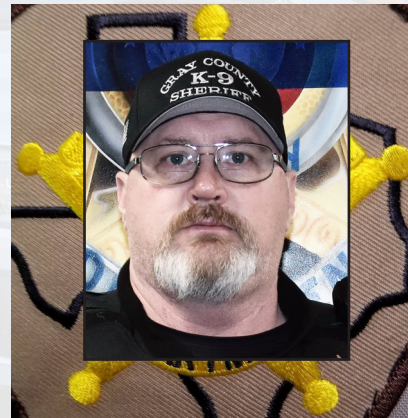
**K-9 Unit  
Hugo**



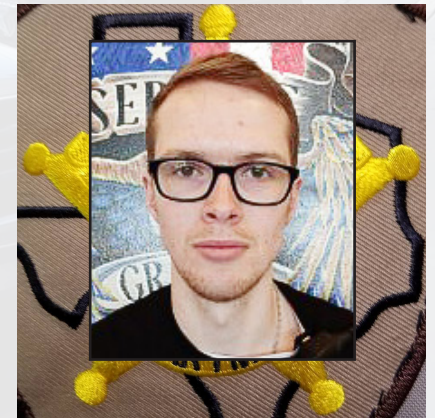
**K-9 Unit  
Rambo**



**K-9 Unit  
Sico**



**Lieutenant  
Jim Skinner**



**Officer Archibald**

## Gray County Constables



**Joe Montgomery**



**Jason Rushing**

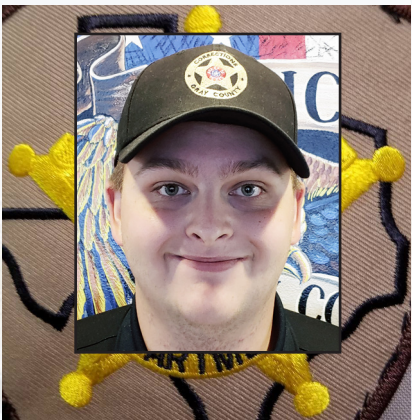




# Gray County Sheriff's Office



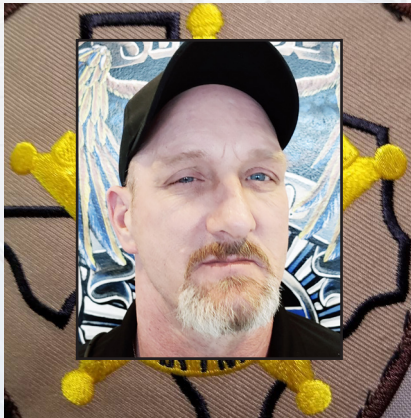
Officer Baker



Officer Barnes



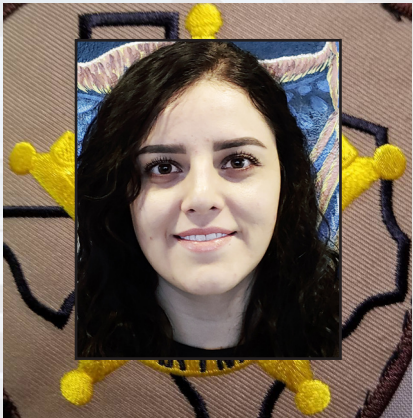
Officer Boyd



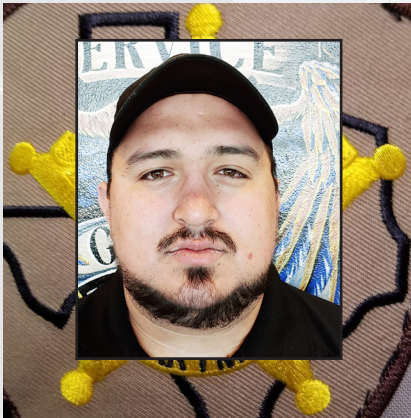
Officer Medley



Officer Goodwin



Officer Garcia



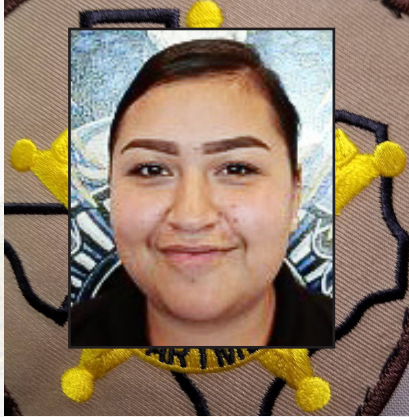
Officer Flores

## To Protect & Serve

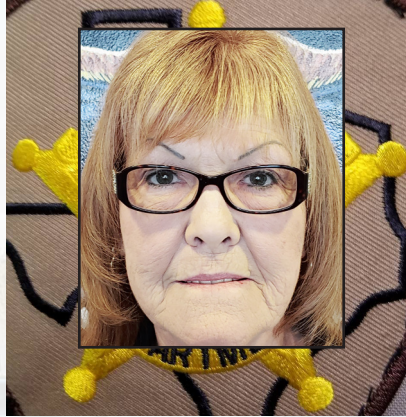




# Gray County Sheriff's Office



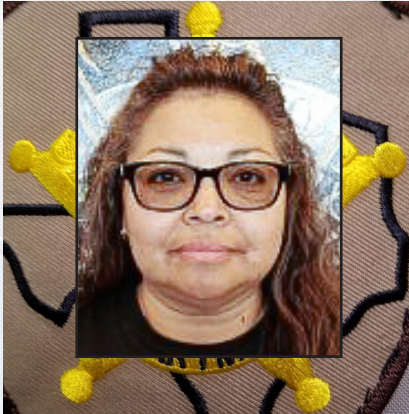
Officer Rivera



Officer Rose



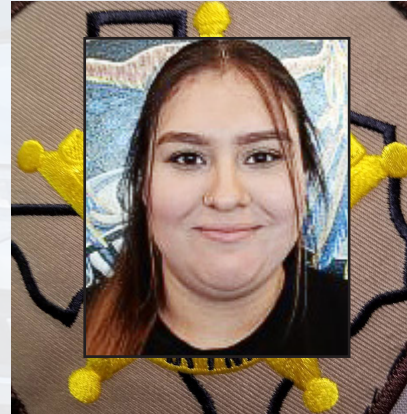
Officer Quarles



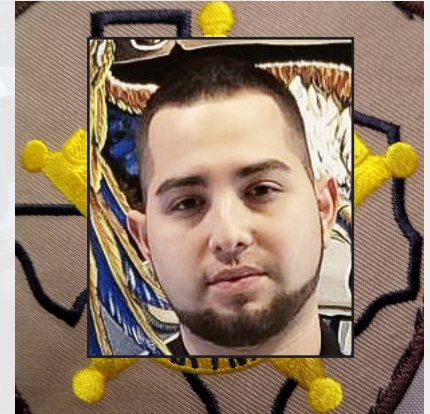
Sgt. Ayala



School Resource Officer  
Tyler Jernigan



Officer Velasquez



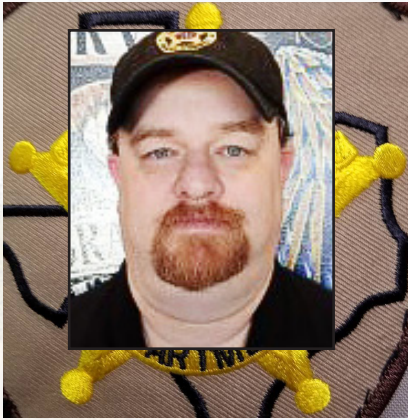
Officer Saucedo

## To Protect & Serve

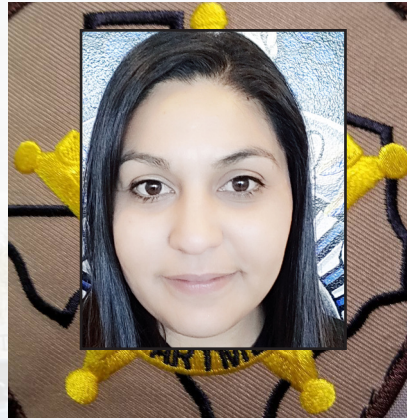




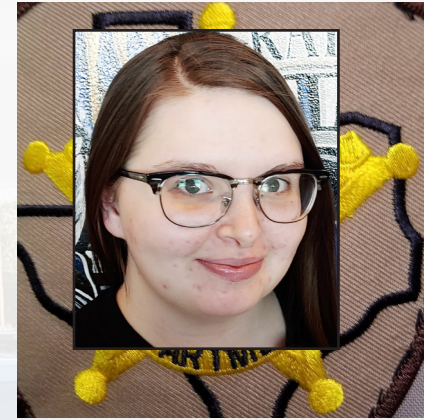
# Gray County Sheriff's Office



**Sgt. Ewing**



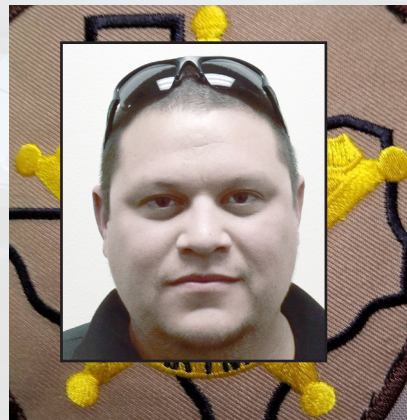
**Sgt. Skinner**



**Sgt. Wright**



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# Why law enforcement is essential for the community

Much of 2020 has been dominated by newsmaking events that have made the year one few people will soon forget. Unprecedented and stressful circumstances can contribute to spirited debates and uncertainty about the future. Complicated situations can affect people in many ways, but the public may be wise to take some cues on how to navigate challenging situations from the professionals who routinely find themselves confronting adversity. Law enforcement officers who don the uniform each and every day routinely put others first in the name of public safety. According to the National Law Enforcement

Memorial Fund, there are now more than 800,000 sworn law enforcement officers serving in the United States, which is the highest figure ever. Officers often step up to serve despite the risks associated with working in law enforcement. A total of 1,627 law enforcement officers died in the line of duty over the past 10 years. There were 135 law enforcement officers killed in the line of duty in 2019 alone. Law enforcement personnel serve many important roles in the communities they serve. Here's a closer look at the integral roles of police and other law enforcement personnel.

- Maintain law and order: The police force is made up of many different departments with the collective goal of maintaining law and order. Traffic police are responsible for enforcing the rules of the road and minimizing the chance of accidents. Other departments canvas the streets ensuring that residents' civil liberties are not being compromised.
- Save lives: Whether they're preventing a life-threatening crime or administering emergency medical care at a car accident until an ambulance can arrive, law enforcement officers save lives every day.
- Assist in adverse situations and provide crisis support: Police offi-

cers often fill the role of counselor or friend to people who find themselves in difficult situations. An officer can play a part in helping people make better life choices in the future. Training in situational de-escalation also means police officers are capable of defusing difficult situations before they snowball into serious, potentially life-threatening confrontations.

- Investigate crimes: Police are the first people to respond when crimes have been committed. These individuals investigate the situation and find the perpetrator.
- Foster strong communities: Law enforcement officers share a unique solidarity with other of-

ficers, peers, community leaders, and even medical professionals, which helps to create a strong fabric for a community. Officers frequently have each other's backs as well as the respect and support of the public for putting their lives on the line. Law enforcement is an essential component of orderly, safe and supportive communities. Recognizing and respecting the important role law enforcement officials play is a great way to show them how much their efforts and sacrifices are appreciated.

To all of Pampa's Hometown Heroes:

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