

HOMETOWN HEROES



Honoring
Firefighters

A Special Publication by

The
PAMPA NEWS

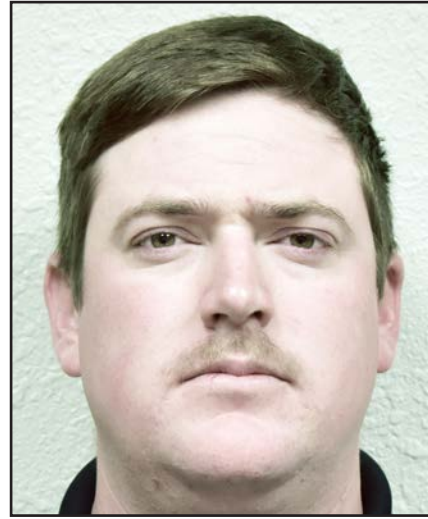
Pampa Fire Department



**Albert Leos -
Equipment Operator**



**Bradley Hadley -
Captain**



**Brandon Williams -
Equipment Operator**



**Craig Harkcom -
Captain**



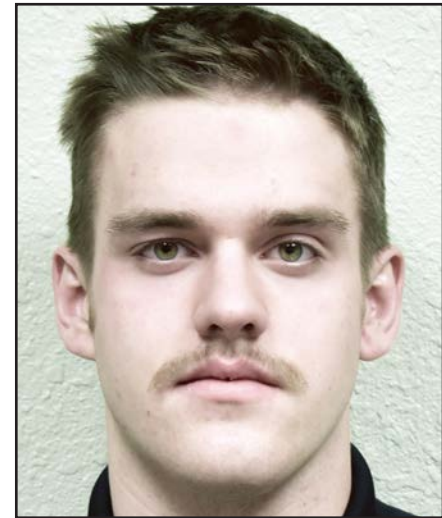
**Camden Ryder -
Firefighter**



**Cody Wood -
Equipment Operator**



**Derek Murray -
Equipment Operator**



**Ethan Mollett -
Firefighter**

Pampa Fire Department



**Erick Samora -
Firefighter**



**Hubert Kimberlin-
Firefighter**



**Jeremy Burch-
Firefighter**



**Jesse Hanes-
Captain**



**Kasey Presson
- Fire Chief**



**Jim Sirmans -
Equipment Operator**

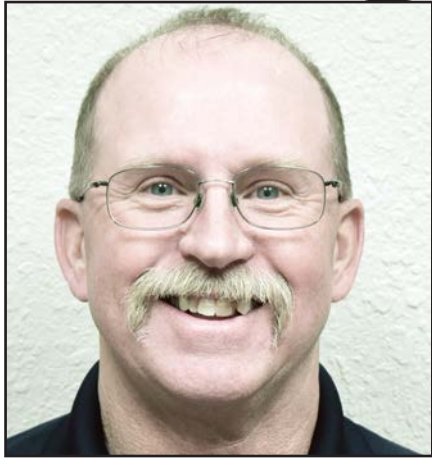


**Jason Roberts-
Fire Marshal**



**Johnny Price-
Captain**

Pampa Fire Department



**Leroy Cox -
Captain**



**Latham Daughtry -
Captain**



**Matt Albracht -
Firefighter**



**Mike Day -
Firefighter**



**Nathan Arvello -
Firefighter**



**Mason Styles -
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**Mason Miller -
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A cartoon illustration of a firefighter in a red helmet and yellow jacket, holding a red axe. A white dog with black spots is sitting next to him. The background is blue with stylized buildings.

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HEROES**

Hoover VOLUNTEER FIRE DEPARTMENT



Submitted photo

First row, from left, Chief Trent Price, Assistant Chief Brian Snapp, Assistant Chief Charley Thomas, Captain Justin Thomas, Captain Clint Dalrymple and Captain Pete Long. Second row: Lieutenant Sam Gamble, Firefighter John Dean, Lieutenant Michael Anguiano, Lieutenant Jeremy Medley, Lieutenant Manuel Rossiter, Firefighter Kaleb Garrison, Firefighter Theo Meisel, Jr. Firefighter Bryson Dalrymple, Firefighter Kaden Light, Firefighter Brandon Stone and Firefighter Cody McGehee. Third row: Firefighter Brady Roye, Jr. Firefighter Karter Fahsholtz, Lieutenant Johnny Goodson, Firefighter AJ Taylor, Jr. Firefighter Clay Snapp, Firefighter Andy West, Jr. Firefighter Nathan Washington, Firefighter Scott McGehee, Firefighter Bill Campbell, Jr. Firefighter Steven Shackelford and Firefighter Regino Raygoza.



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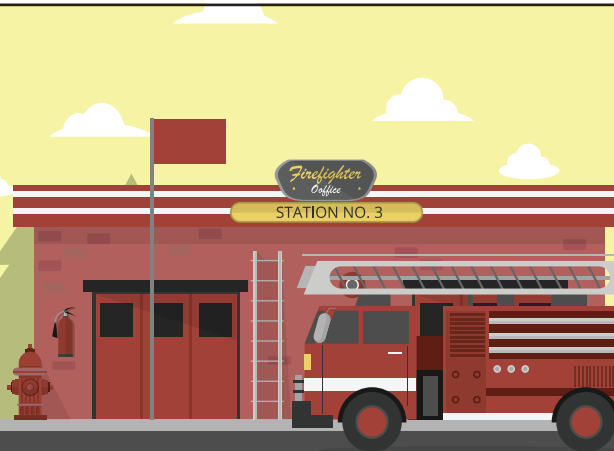
Skellytown VOLUNTEER FD



Submitted photo

Above, from left, Paul Subblett, Jim Scott (Captain), Jacob Clifton (Fire Chief), Bruce Wilson (Safety Officer), William Hicks (Asst. Chief), Kevin Guthrie, Janell Parks, Vance Griffith (Captain), Mark Ruth, Kody Boyd, D.C Woods, Kathy Hicks, Dakota McWhorter and Jim Fox.

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White Deer VOLUNTEER FD



Back row: Jason Neill, Jesse Parks, Troy Fulton, David Dees and Erik Winters. Front row: Phillip Hefner, Christina McCown

Submitted photo

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- EMS
- Police
- Sheriff's Office
- Constables
- Texas DPS



Tyler Jernigan, bridging the gap between law enforcement and school children

BY JOHN LEE

pampanewseditor@gmail.com

Twitter: @jcl1987

Tyler Jernigan has been with Gray County Sheriff's Office for three years, after starting his law enforcement career at Pampa Police Department for 11 years.

Jernigan has been the school resource officer his entire tenure at GCSO but had his first opportunity to be a school resource officer (SRO) during his time at PPD.

"I came off the streets and wasn't really interested in being SRO," Jernigan said. "We had an officer get hurt and I took over for one semester of school and ended up absolutely loving it. It was probably the best time of my career."

School resource officers ensure the safety and security of campuses and build relationships with the students and staff.

"I let them know that they have the resource of myself and Gray County Sheriff's Office," Jernigan said. "I mainly go to Grandview-Hopkins, Lefors and McLean. But I go to Pampa sometimes because I have that rapport with the students and staff there, too."

Jernigan tries to keep his weekly appearances routine but sometimes duty calls elsewhere and he has to break it. In today's climate, where

police have been stigmatized, it can be hard to build those relationships with students. Especially if they have had a bad experience with a police officer because of the actions of a loved one.

"I go in to let them know that we are human inside of this uniform," Jernigan said. "We have the same problems that everyone else does. It helps for the kids to look past what we are wearing and occasionally catch a good dodgeball game with them."

Jernigan looks forward to seeing students every morning as they come in for school.

"There's millions of fun moments," Jernigan said. "I love greeting kids at 7 a.m. and watching them come in and make sure they have a smile on their face. I force kids to have a smile, I may be the only hug or fist bump they get for the day. I may be the only kind word. There's a lot of professionals that work there that try to do the same thing I do. But this is a unique adventure."

As for the challenges of being an SRO, Jernigan said it can be hard to relate to some of the kids' trends, socio-economic issues and keeping his non-school stresses under wraps.

"You may come off of something on the street that you just did," Jernigan said. "But you can't

let that dictate how you are toward the kids." Jernigan's always had law enforcement in his life as his father was in the field for 30 years. He is married to his wife of 13 years and has two children.

The Pampa News would like to thank Jernigan for not only keeping our children safe, but Pampa and all of Gray County.



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Dalton Pruett



Eric Clifton



Jacob Clifton



Joseph Davis



Leslie Standerfer



Tyson Williams



Wayne Hinds



Morgan Davis

White Deer EMS



Submitted photo

Monte Mitchell, Ray Pipes, Josh Cook, Lyn Luster, Jacob Clifton and Brad Britten. Kneeling: Darrell Luster

Pampa Police Department



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Patrol Sgt. Richard Cook



Patrol Sgt. Jon Hammond



Cpl. Stephanie Willoughby



Patrol Cpl. Kevin Coffman



Patrol Cpl. Shawnda Payne



Patrol Cpl. AJ Campos



Officer Skyler Emre



Ashton Ray



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Pampa Police Department



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Patrol Sgt. Derek Peters



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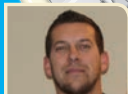
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CABOT

Emergency Management Coordinator: Being proactive in the face of disaster

By JOHN LEE
PAMPANEWSEDITOR@GMAIL.COM

Twitter: @jcl1987

Disaster can strike at a moment's notice. For a city and a county, being prepared for that disaster is the main difference between minimal and devastating losses.

That's where Emergency Management Coordinator Troy Schwiegerath for Pampa and Gray County comes in. "I'm a part-time weatherman, part-time emergency coordinator, part-time training officer, etc." Schwiegerath said. "The best way to sum it up is my job is to make sure all of the emergency services and the community is ready and prepared

emergency entities to help plan for these events, such as a snow/ice event.

"I try to stay ahead of it two or three days in advance with Public Works Departments," Schwiegerath said. "I would have a direct feed into the National Weather Service, a radar and get updates here (on a monitor)."

Looking at Gray County, Schwiegerath said the County is covered well in populated areas for the warning systems, but the drought has created challenges and dangers for wildfire prevention.

"If we don't keep getting moisture (it could be bad)," Schwiegerath said. "Out of our 600,000 acres in the County, 458,000 of them are at risk of really critical fire danger. The snow has been good, but we are no where near out of the woods. We are in a severe drought right now."

Housed in Schwiegerath's office in the basement of City Hall is not just the emergency warning system, but also a conference room where Schwiegerath handles emergency situations like the fires in Dec. 2021.

"It was my job to facilitate their (emergency service) needs," Schwiegerath said. "In the command control room, I have the ability to see a live feed. It's my job to get the people fighting the fire anything they need like resources and set up the staging area. It could be another fire truck, food, water, etc." Another challenge is during severe weather season and deciding whether or not to blow the sirens.

"We monitor or watch or alerts and on a bad storm night I'm here," Schwiegerath said. "We have ESU (Emergency Services Unit) as storm spotters out in

the field. You might hear the TV say take cover and my guys will look and say nothing is here. I'll take eye-witness testimony over the news channels. I'll be asked why I didn't blow the sirens, but it's because I have people sitting there watching the thing. You blow the sirens too soon people get mad, or if you don't blow them, people get mad.

"I don't take any chances, but it's a delicate balance."

Schwiegerath was a Denver Fire Department firefighter for 27 years and retired in May 2021 and came on board in Pampa in September. He has noted the biggest part of the transition was going from reaction to prevention.

"Now I'm responsible for preparing us to handle the crisis as opposed to just handling the crisis," Schwiegerath said.

In preparation for some disasters, the County is conducting a community and wildlife protection plan.

"We are surveying the entire county and cities and identifying the spots where they have the biggest threats (of fire), and coming up with a mitigation plan," Schwiegerath said. "We take the areas that are most inhabited and pick out the biggest threats, like an overgrown field. So we come up with plans on, not only how to respond if it catches on fire, but how to mitigate it through mowing or a controlled burn."

For up to the minute and local alerts, Schwiegerath said to not only join the Facebook page "Gray County/ Pampa Emergency Management," but also the Panhandle Area Regional Information System.



to deal with [disaster]."

These disasters could be anything from a tornado to a wildfire and even a wind event knocking power-lines out.

"It's my job to make sure public safety is prepared and ready to respond correctly," Schwiegerath said. "And that the community is ready to deal with it." In doing so, Schwiegerath creates relationships with

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Deputy/SRO
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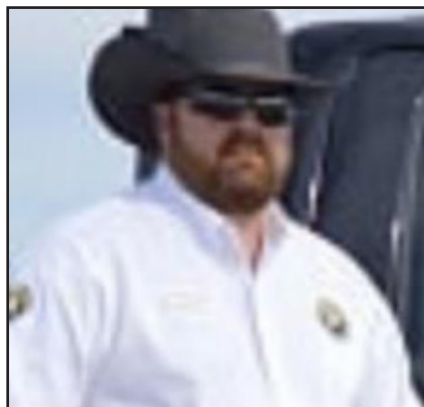


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Alert others in emergencies

Emergencies occur every day. Data from the 2016 National Hospital Ambulatory Medical Care Survey found around 145 million emergency department visits are made in the United States each year. Of those visits, 42.2 million are injury-related. The Canadian Institute for Health Information says Canadians make about 14 million visits to hospital emergency departments annually.

While no one wants to imagine themselves in dangerous situations, being realistic about the likeli-

hood of being in an emergency can help people safeguard themselves against such situations.

One way to prepare for emergencies is to make sure you and potential first responders or medical personnel know who to call should you be unable to communicate. Likely many things in the digital age, the process of indicating emergency contacts has changed.

Mobile phone ICE

All people are urged to designate an "in case of emergency" contact on their mobile phones. This way a

first responder or other emergency personnel can notify the appropriate people in emergency situations. In 2004, after research from Vodafone found that fewer than 25 percent of people carried any emergency contact details on their persons, a campaign was started by Bob Brothie of the East of England Ambulance Service in the United Kingdom to start providing emergency contact information. Brothie urged mobile phone manufacturers to support the campaign by adding an ICE heading to phone number lists of all new mobile phones. Emergency contact information also should be provided for school children and with a person's employer and updated regularly.

Medical alert

Emergencies may arise due to life-threatening medical conditions. If a person is in a situation in which they are unconscious or unable to speak, a medical alert card or bracelet can help first responders provide medical care more quickly. Bracelets and other

jewelry, like those offered from the MedicAlert® Foundation, are engraved with critical information for conditions like autism, allergies, dementia, diabetes, Alzheimer's, or epilepsy. They can provide peace of mind and speak for the person wearing one in an emergency.

Health care proxy

People should consider naming a health care proxy. This can be any whom they trust. The proxy can make health care decisions for another if he or she is unable to speak. Naming a proxy ensures that one gets the healthcare he or she prefers in the event they cannot communicate their wishes. Sometimes healthcare proxies are merged with living wills as one advanced directive document, according to the Medicare Rights Center.

Preparing for emergency situations, however unlikely they may seem, includes employing various strategies to help emergency responders and medical personnel in the event you are incapable of communicating with them.

Salute Our First Responders



Thank you to the many men and women who serve our community.

-Barb and Scott Hahn

THANK YOU to all of Pampa's HOMETOWN HEROES



Pampa Regional Medical Center



How to honor first responders

This fall marks the 21st anniversary of the 9/11 terrorist attacks. The attacks on September 11, 2001 remain the deadliest terror attacks in world history, claiming more than 2,900 lives and causing countless injuries and long-term health problems for tens of thousands of civilians and first responders.

The 21st anniversary of 9/11 will no doubt evoke responses that span the emotional spectrum. Sadness may dominate such responses, but the anniversary of 9/11 also is a great time to reflect on the efforts of first responders.

First responders played a vital role on 9/11, and many lost their lives and/or suffered long-term health consequences resulting from their selfless efforts to save innocent victims of the attacks.

In the two decades since the 9/11 attacks, first responders have continued to make countless sacrifices to ensure their communities are safe and peaceful places to call home. The 21st anniversary of 9/11 is a great time to recognize the efforts of first responders and honor them for all they do.

· Donate to local fire departments. According to

the U.S. Fire Administration, 54 percent of active firefighting personnel are volunteers. Many of those volunteer firefighters work for underfunded departments that are in need of financial support. Donating to such departments is a great way to show first responders how much their efforts are appreciated. Donations may be used to purchase new equipment, upgrade existing facilities, provide vital training, and/or improve response times, the latter of which can increase the likelihood that firefighters make it through calls safe and sound.

· Back legislation to support wounded first responders. Many first responders suffer significant mental and physical injuries while on the job. Various nonprofit organizations help wounded first responders who may need to make modifications to their homes or purchase costly equipment to get through their daily lives. But nonprofit organizations cannot go it alone in support of wounded first responders. Citizens can do their part by promoting and voting for local, state and national legislation that makes it easy for wounded first responders to get the help they need, when they need it. In

addition to urging local politicians to support such legislation, private citizens can utilize social media to promote proposals and other efforts to support wounded first responders. Many 9/11 first responders are still fighting for government-backed support to treat injuries suffered 20 years ago, and a vocal citizenry can be a strong asset in their fight and the fight of countless others in need of help.

· Commit to supporting first responders year-round. The 21st anniversary of 9/11 will call attention to the efforts of first responders on that day 20 years ago as well as the countless times since then that these brave men and women have served their communities. But first responders deserve vocal, year-round support. Make a concerted effort to thank policemen, firefighters, EMTs, nurses, and doctors in your community whenever you interact with them, and urge others to follow suit.

First responders play a vital role in communities across the globe. The 21st anniversary of 9/11 can serve as a catalyst for communities to express their support for first responders.



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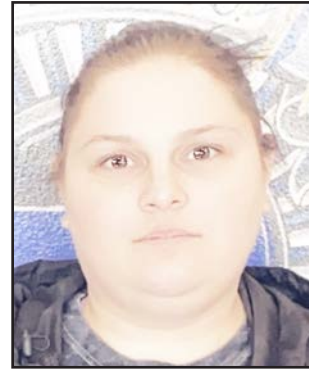
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Lt. Joshua Archibald



Corr. Officer
Anthony Ybarra



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Laci Sailor



Corr. Officer
Michael Taylor



Corr. Officer
Veronica Garrett

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We would like to thank our first responders, Fire, Police, EMT, doctors & nurses. These Heroes have been on the front lines helping all of us when and where we need help the most.

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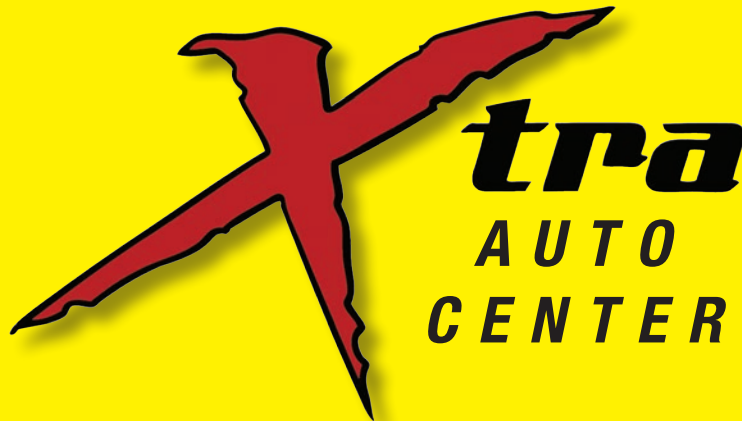
Sgt. Makayla Hunter

Not Pictured :
Sgt. Alexis Moore
Officer Benjamin Foreman
Sgt. Damon Boyd



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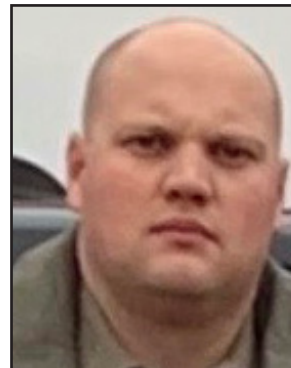
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