

HOMETOWN HEROES



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A Special Publication by

The PAMPA NEWS

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Benjamin Glover
Firefighter



Brendan Grant
Probationary Firefighter



Craig Harkcom
Captain



Camden Ryder
Equipment Operator



Chase Teeter
Firefighter



Chris Torgersen
Firefighter



Cody Wood
Equipment Operator



Dawson Hefley
Firefighter

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Pampa Fire Department



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Captain



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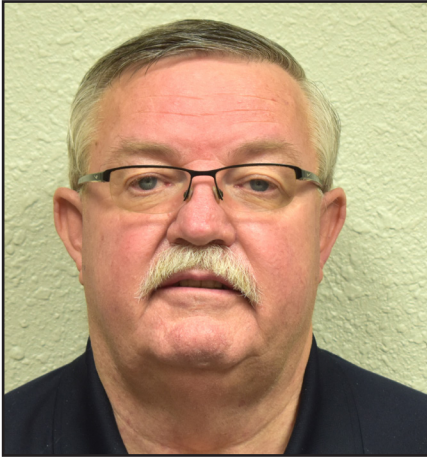
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Second row: Lieutenant Sam Gamble, Firefighter John Dean • Lieutenant Michael Anguiano • Lieutenant Jeremy Medley • Lieutenant Manuel Rossiter • Firefighter Kaleb Garrison • Firefighter Theo Meisel • Jr. Firefighter Bryson Dalrymple • Firefighter Kaden Light • Firefighter Brandon Stone • 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 • Firefighter Regino Raygoza

Lefors VOLUNTEER FD

PICTURED: TERRY COOMBES • CARMEN WHITEHEAD • MEGAN TAYLOR • JULIE SIMS • ARCHIE SUMMERS • JUSTIN HOWARD • CALEB TAYLOR • CHRIS LAVRENZ • TORY COOMBES • JESSE CALLOWAY • AARON HUNT • ERIC KINGCADE • TAD COOMBES • DAVID SIMS

NOT PICTURED: SUSIE SUMMERS • SHAYNE HENDRICKSON • WILLIAM BRIDGEMAN • MICHAEL RAY • DENNIS REASOR • KODY HENDRICKSON • KENNY FORSYTH • JAMES ELROD • TY PAGE • JOHNNY HARPER • KEITH KELLY



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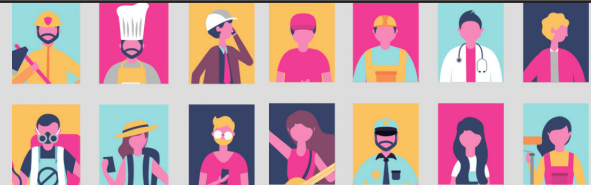


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- Sheriff's Office
- Constables
- Texas DPS



Hometown Hero: EMS Director Jacob Clifton

By **VALERIE GRAY**

pampanewsreporter@gmail.com



Jacob Clifton
Gray County EMS Director

Jacob Clifton, an EMS Director and licensed Paramedic, has been working for Gray County EMS since its inception in October of 2019. Prior to becoming the current EMS Director for Gray County, Clifton first worked for the Hospital District of Hemphill County in December of 2015. Clifton recalled upon first learning that he would soon work in Gray County. During this time, Clifton was the Supervisor of a nine person EMS team for Hemphill County. Gray County was eagerly

looking for one ambulance service to handle the entire county.

“The contract of previous ambulance service in Gray County was up,” Clifton said. “Our boss at the time called us into the office and said, ‘Hey, this is what we are doing and I can’t do it alone. I need your help on this project.’ He later told me, ‘I want you to handle the Gray County operation.’”

Thus, Clifton got promoted to EMS Director of Gray County EMS.

Clifton’s unyielding passion for taking care of others has served him incredibly well in his career. Though he primarily manages the administration side of EMS, Clifton still finds ways to take care of others.

“My passion is now taking care of the people who take care of the communities we serve,” Clifton said.

When asked about an average day at Gray County EMS, Clifton gave a hearty chuckle and aptly summarized it in two words, “Controlled chaos.”

As first responders, Clifton and his teams must be prepared at a moments notice. When their shift starts, every vehicle must be inspected to insure that they are ready to respond. This means that the tires need to be checked, the oil is changed, and that there is no major maintenance needed for the vehicle. Once that is done, the team conducts their typical station duties and chores until a call goes out.

Clifton noted there are many facets to working for Gray County EMS. “Emergency services are half of the job but the other half is the readiness proponent,” Clifton said. Every member of Gray County EMS has constant education. The members must be clinically the best at being able to provide excellent service to the community. Clifton shares his advice to those who may be interested in pursuing a career in the field of Emergency Medical Services.

“Pursue the passion. It takes a special person to do this line of work,” Clifton said. “I encourage

anyone to reach out and find a way to find these opportunites.”

Gray County EMS does hold classes for those interested in EMS education. As well, the State of Texas has passed a legislation that provides funding to people pursuing an educational background in EMS.

“It’s a great program,” Clifton said. “There is no better time to get an education in EMS, get a job, and get to work.”

Clifton offers his sincerest gratitude to everyone that has helped make Gray County EMS into what it is today.

“We thank the community, the County Commissioners, and the City Commissioners for allowing us to be here and serve the community,” Clifton said. “I’d like to thank my staff for the work that they do everyday. These guys, they make me look great. Day in and day out, they take care of patients. They do all the right things. The people that work here are truly the heroes. They’re the ones that take care of business.”

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Serving His Community, and the Next Generation

BY CALEB DORN

pampanewseditor@gmail.com

Geoff Bowley is a Pampa Native. After being born, he moved to Plainview before moving back and graduating from Pampa High. After high school, he attended West Texas A&M University for a short while before going to work within the prison system in 2009. After a few years with the prison system, Bowley took a job with Gray County Sheriff's Office.

"One of the things I learned from the prison is treating everyone the same," Bowley said. "I realized that being fair goes a long way, especially with students."

After being with the sheriff's office for a short while, Bowley moved over to the PD in '21, and took over the SRO for the high school last school year.

"I knew law enforcement was something I wanted to do," Bowley said. "Originally I wanted to be in education, and after working on patrol I realized the disconnect within law enforcement and the younger generations. They didn't know how to approach or be around someone with authority. So my goal within the school is to humanize myself."

Since his time within the high school, Bowley has thrown himself into bridging the gap with himself and the students. Whether that's being a part of the band, or showing up to sporting events like swim meets or basketball and football games.

"I was always a band kid, so I've been involved with the band a couple of times, joining in with them," Bowley said. "I want the kids to know I am here for them with anything, and I want to be a resource before it gets to the point where I have to intervene in a legal standpoint."

In his time with the school, Bowley has began working on courses he can teach to students, as well as serving as a person in charge of protecting the school.

"This is the place I was meant to be, and I didn't realize until I started," Bowley said. "So I've been trying to teach more courses on safety and other things to the students."

When describing his role as school safety, Bowley described it as 'paramount' making sure that the school he is over is as safe as it can be.

"My job is to protect the school, so I am constantly learning new ways to better protect the students in whatever situation, I stay in contact with other SROs around us," Bowley said. "I teach the teachers how to handle any kind of situation, and the students as well. Everyone knows how and what to do, but when those moments happen, they sometimes forget, which is normal. So I continue to educate myself and the people within this building on what to do, to the point that it's second nature for everyone."

Along with the education side of things, Bowley is always monitoring cameras and hallways throughout passing periods, as well as taking in new 'What-If's' to be aware of anything that could happen.

"I have teachers, and even students come to me with these scenarios they think of," Bowley said.

"One of the best view-points is from the students that come in and tell me the concerns they have or worries and fears they have, so having their insight is incredibly helpful to me doing my job the best I can."

While he is in a constant state of preparedness, Bowley feels the school is safe at this point in time.

But complacency is not a good thing.

"While we are in a good place right now, complacency kills, that's my biggest challenge," Bowley said. "It's easy to remind everyone what to do, but when we feel safe and like there aren't any worries, that's when problems can arise, so it's a constant battle of making sure everyone is aware and on the top of their game."

PISD voted in the addition of two more SROs last year, and has implemented one at the high school and the junior high every day, and a third that circulates throughout the elementary schools every day of the week.

"When I joined the PD I knew the school was something I wanted to do," Bowley said. "So I began attending trainings for school settings and stayed in touch with schools as far down as Austin and then with towns smaller than Pampa. Pampa PD has taken a huge step in the right direction to ensure safety of our city as a whole."

Each year, Bowley presents a presentation to the administration at staff of the high school on his job and role at the school. The priority is always to ensure safety, but also seeing every student cross the stage and move onto the next stage of life.

"I never want to put a student in handcuffs and carry them off, but sometimes that's where things end up," Bowley said. "I would bend over backwards for these kids, their well-being is the most important thing for me. But even when it gets to that low when you have to put them in handcuffs, it's never the end or a moment that defines their entire life. It's a low, that you learn from, and then move onto improving you. That's for every arrest I've made, I want to see people do good, and be the best they can be."

Bowley's day doesn't end when school gets out, if there are school events happening after the school day, his work is not done.

"I go to the basketball games, and not just as an officer standing there telling them to behave, I want to be as much a part of this school as the teachers," Bowley said. "I get up in the stands with the kids and have a good time, because I am here for them. But I also am there to ensure that everyone is safe and makes it home."



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Pampa Police Department



**Chief
Lance Richburg
30 Years**



**Assistant Chief
Kenneth Hopson
44 Years**



**Patrol Lt.
Rick Armstrong
21 Years**



**Admin Lt.
Brian Massey
16 Years**



**CID Lt.
Stephanie Willoughby
16 Years**



**Patrol Sgt.
Neal Gardner
18 Years**



**Motor Sgt.
Jon Hammond
18 Years**



**Patrol Sgt.
Derek Peters
27 Years**



**CID Sgt.
Jesse Parks
16 Years**



**Patrol Sgt.
Richard Cook
6 Years**



**Patrol Cpl.
Dallas Cline
9 Years**



**CID Cpl.
Moses Campa
13 Years**



**Patrol Cpl.
Kevin Coffman
20 Years**

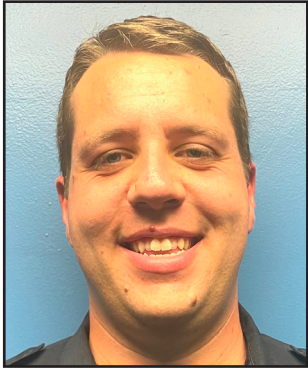


**Patrol Cpl.
Shawnda Payne
4 Years**



**Patrol Cpl.
AJ Campos
3 Years**

Pampa Police Department



Patrol Officer
Skyler Emre
2 Years



Motor Officer
Erika Armentrout
5 Years



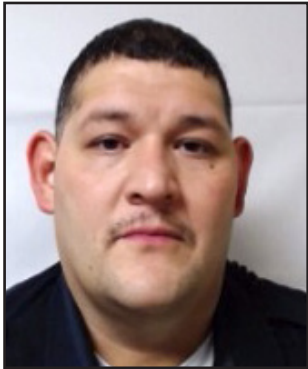
Patrol Officer
Zach Peters
2 Years



Detective
Santos Flores
2 Years



School Resource
Officer
Geoff Bowley
12 Years



School Resource
Officer
Jeremy Flores
1 Year



School Resource
Officer
Dimontray Sibley
1 Year



Patrol Officer
Kyle Basden
7 Years



Patrol Officer
Tanner Mathias
3 Years



Patrol Officer
Armando Renteria
23 Years

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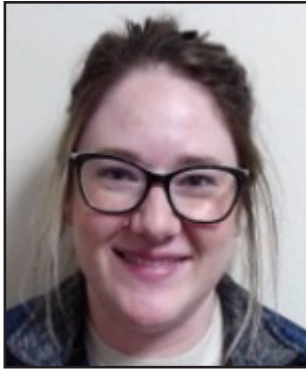
Pampa Regional Medical Center



Pampa Police Department



**Dispatch Supervisor
Jessica Skinner
13 Years**



**Dispatcher
Ashleigh Tucker
2 Years**



**Dispatcher
Britnie Cooper
4 Years**



**Dispatcher
Carrie Martinez
11 Years**



**Dispatcher
Diamond Bagley
3 Years**



**Dispatcher
Katie Lopez
1 Year**



**Dispatcher
Kendra Stoker-Jones
24 Years**



**Dispatcher
Kristi Stokes
11 Years**



**Dispatcher
Liz Wood
6 Years**



**Dispatcher
Sandra Coombes
9 Years**

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The Pampa News — 7 — Honoring our Hometown Heroes

Pampa Police Department



Dispatcher
Sandra Ybarra
3 Months



Records Clerk
Kerri Lake
9 Years



Records Clerk
Rebecca Fulton
18 Years

Gray County Constables



Jason Rushing



Joe Montgomery

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Lance Richburg

BY CALEB DORN
pampanewseditor@gmail.com

Lance Richburg was born in Colorado City, after moving towns and graduating high school, he attended Amarillo College and Texas Tech for music. After leaving school he moved to Nashville to pursue music. After a year Richburg took a job with the Abilene Police Department, where worked for three years after a recommendation from a family member, before moving over to the Parker County department.

“I wanted to do music, but with kids, I had to take a job that was responsible,” Richburg said. “So I moved to Abilene and took the job.”

After serving in Abilene and Parker County, Richburg moved to Sweetwater where he served the majority of his career. The job in Pampa opened up and the Chief of Police in Sweetwater advised Richburg and recommended him for the job.

“I figured my odds were small with Pampa, being an outsider,” Richburg said. “My chief in Sweetwater had worked in the panhandle and thought I would be good at it. So I just prayed on it and then applied and heard back from Pampa and made the move. It was a blessing.”

Now coming up on seven years in Pampa,

Richburg has no plans on leaving, even after retirement.

“My wife and I love Pampa, it’s been good for us,” Richburg said. “We love this town and this community, the City of Pampa is an amazing company to work for and everyone in this community is amazing.”



Police Chief Lance Richburg

Pampa being the second largest town in the panhandle, the small town feel and connection of Pampa is what serves as a blessing for Richburg in his job, but also his personal life here in town.

“The community is tight nit,” Richburg said.

“You have generations of families here, that you sometimes don’t see in other small towns. Pampa is a great place to be, and people realize that.”

For the year of ‘21, Pampa was at a 10 year low in terms of crime, however there is still crime as there is any town.

“We have a safe community, but still have those crimes that happen and will always happen,” Richburg said. “Anywhere with people, there’s crime in some capacity. But we aren’t over run with crime, we have a safe community and that’s in part to the citizens of Pampa and the good people we have here.”

The pride of our community runs deep, with a lot of the officers serving our community have been born and raised here in Pampa, where they now serve their community.

“We have amazing officers that take such pride in their town,” Richburg said. “A lot of towns in our surrounding areas aren’t like that, Pampa is a town that I consider my

hometown. The only downfall is the wind, when the wind gets going in Pampa, it’s something else.”

With 30 years of experience, Richburg has no plans of serving another community. Stating he plans to spend the rest of the days God gives him, right here in Pampa.

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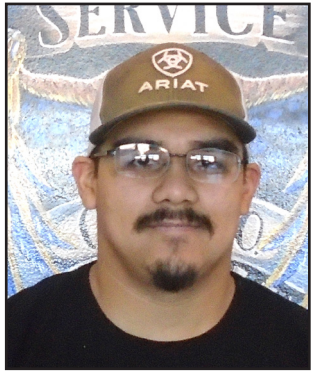
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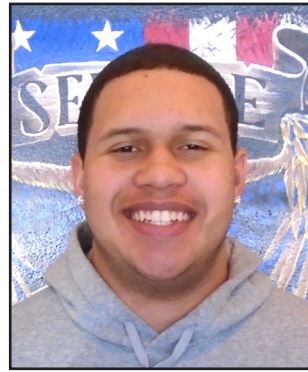
Correction Officer
Antony Ybarra



Correction Officer
Brice Coon



Correction Officer
Brittany Taylor



Correction Officer
Cameron Hair



Correction Officer
Donna Kimmel



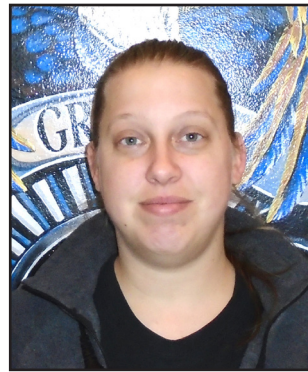
Correction Officer
Elizabeth Parks



Jail Administrator
Gracie Skinner



Correction Officer
Kerry Wright



Correction Officer
Laci Sailor



Correction Lt.
Josh Archibald

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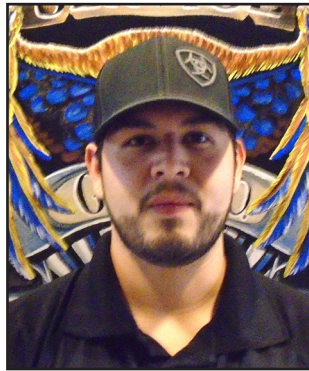
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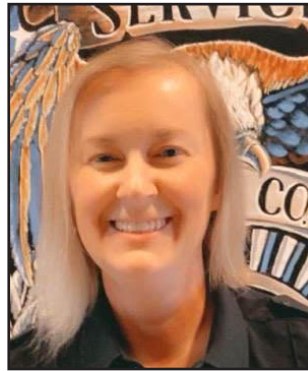


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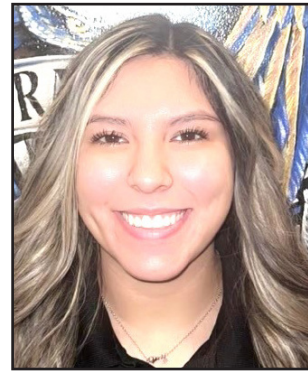
Gray County Sheriff's Office



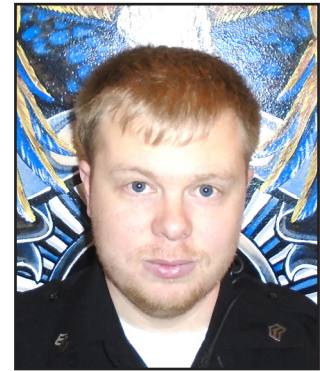
Correction Officer
Santos Flores



Correction Sgt.
Angie Paquette



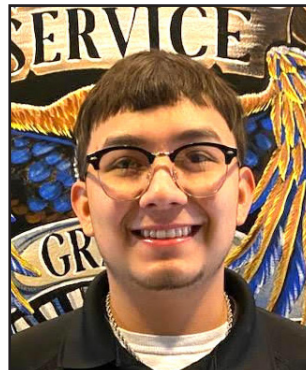
Correction Sgt.
Kate Campa



Correction Sgt.
Michael Taylor



Correction Officer
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Correction Officer
Yahir Rodriguez



Correction Officer
Zonia Horton

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Sheriff
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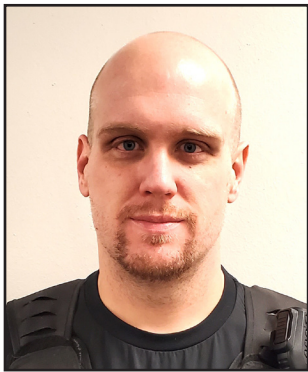
Chief Deputy
JC Skinner



Lieutenant
Colby Brown



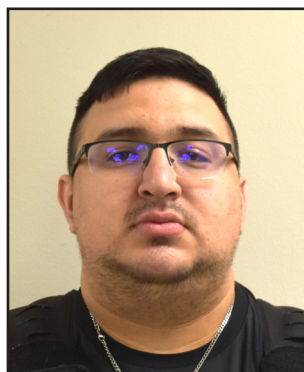
Lieutenant
Jim Skinner



Sergeant
Nathan Smith



Deputy
Ashyton Ray



Deputy
Benden Flores



Deputy
Chris Lockridge

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Martin Castaneda



Deputy
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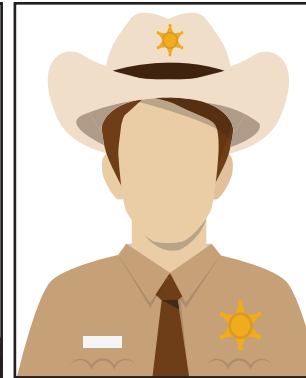
Deputy
Ryan Damron



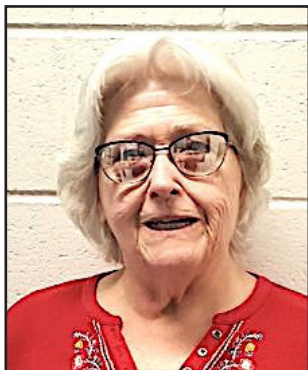
Deputy
Tim Reeves



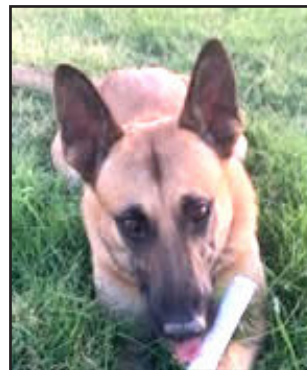
Deputy
Tyler Jernigan



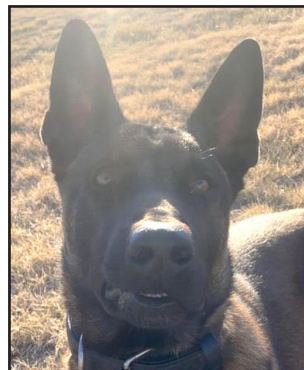
Deputy
Bryce Taylor



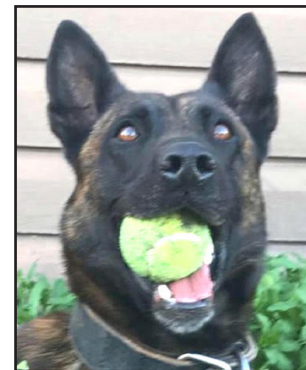
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Karen Cross



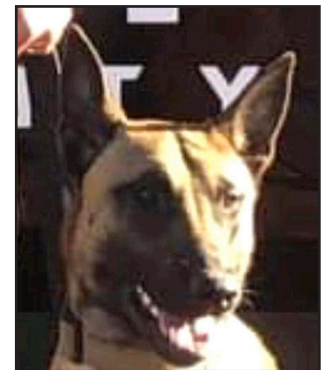
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Hometown Hero: Dakota McWhorter - Paramedic/ Shift Leader



Dakota McWhorter
Gray County EMS
Paramedic/ Shift Leader

By **VALERIE GRAY**
pampanewsreporter@gmail.com

senior year of high school. Jacob Clifton, McWhorter's future co-worker, taught part of that class. Eventually, McWhorter began working for American Medical Response Amarillo and greatly enjoyed his time there. Clifton attempted to convince McWhorter to work for Hemphill County's emergency services. "There was never really a good time," McWhorter said. "I was

going to West Texas A&M University, trying to get my Bachelors Degree."

Things ultimately worked in favor as McWhorter got his Paramedic License from Amarillo College and began working at Hemphill County. Then when Gray County EMS was founded, McWhorter was brought on as a full time Paramedic and is now the Shift Leader for the A Shift.

McWhorter fondly reflects upon the bonds he has formed with his fellow teammates.

"It's phenomenal. It really does feel like a family," McWhorter said. "We come together, rib on each other, and give each other grief. But, at the end of the day, we all care and support each other."

Even in the most difficult times, every EMS member works together.

"I recently broke my foot. I've

been out of work and on light duty for the last couple of weeks," McWhorter said. "These guys stepped up and made sure there were no gaps in our coverage."

McWhorter offers his advice for people looking to get into the EMS industry.

"Now is the best time we had in several years to become an EMT," McWhorter said. "Explore your options and if you're still not sure, you should take an EMT class. Who knows, you may catch the bug and make a long term career out of this."

For more information about Gray County EMS, call (806) 440-0280.

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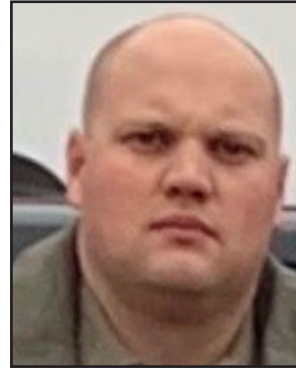
Trooper Jesse Cerda



Trooper Lynn Hudson



Sgt. Chris Ray



Trooper Kaleb Criswell



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Trooper
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THANK YOU HOMETOWN HEROES



Hometown Hero: Michael Ryan - Sheriff of Gray County

By VALERIE GRAY
pampanewsreporter@
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Michael "Big Mac" Ryan has had an impressive history in Law Enforcement. From Fire Marshal to Sheriff, Ryan has been representing Gray County for a multitude of years.

reasoning behind his decision.

"He said to me 'The way you talk and deal with people, you oughta run.'" Ryan said.

With such a life changing decision, Ryan discussed the situation with his wife.

Ryan ran for the Gray County Sheriff position and won.

Ryan reflected upon his first couple of years as Sheriff.

"It's an amazing job. The first two years I was there, everything was on point," Ryan said. "We were rocking and rolling."

Unfortunately, Ryan suffered a stroke and had to take a step back from his occupation.

"After I had my stroke, I was out for five months,"

Ryan said. "Once I came back, I was fortunate that

everything in the office

was slow. I had some guys who really helped me out and really got me through it. I'm happy to say that things are running smoothly and better than ever."

Ryan expressed his sincerest gratitude to all those who have helped him throughout his time as Sheriff.

"I'd like to thank the people of Gray County," Ryan said. "The people at the office who help me

with work, elections, and took good care of me."

Ryan thanked his family, especially his sons, for their support.

"I'm grateful for my wife and kids," Ryan said. "I understand I'm gone a lot and it's hard. Starting out, I missed a lot of football games. Now, I'm happy to say that I haven't missed one game this year."

For those interested in a career in Law Enforcement, Ryan offered his advice.

"Law Enforcement is a great career. It's a job you gotta dedicate your life to," Ryan said. "You need to live everyday with the thought that you may not come back. With that, if it's something you want to do, you should pursue it."



Michael Ryan
Gray County Sheriff

Originally from Shamrock, Ryan and his family have been living in Pampa for nearly two decades. Ryan has been happily married to his wife, Dora, for 22 years. He is the proud father of two sons, Marcus and Anthony.

Ryan kicked off his career in Law Enforcement when he joined the Pampa Police Department in 2005. After working there for some years, Ryan became employed for the Pampa Fire Department where he worked as the Fire Marshal. Ryan eventually transferred to the State Fire Marshal's Office where he worked for four years. Soon after that, he won the election for the Gray County Sheriff's position.

Ryan recalled the time when he first considered running for Sheriff.

"Don Copeland, the Sheriff before me, told me to run," Ryan said. "I was talking to him and he said, 'I'm retiring. I think you oughta run for Sheriff.'" "Though Ryan was stunned, Copeland explained the



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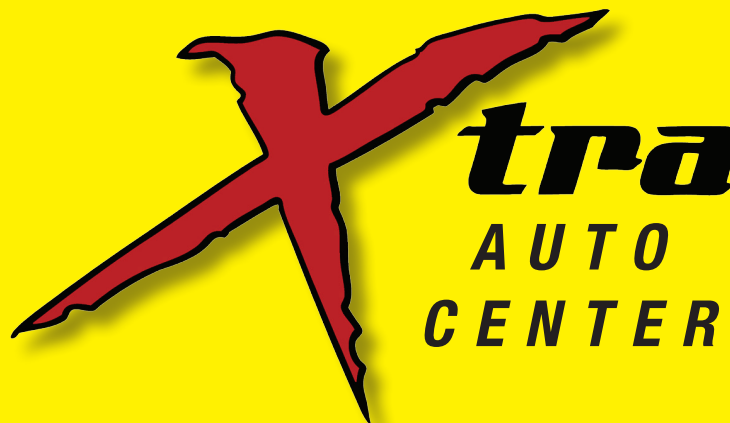
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