

Answering the call



*Recognizing
Area Law
Enforcement,
Ambulance
and Fire
Department
members*



Honoring First Responders in the Following Communities:

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Washburn
Wilton
Underwood
Turtle Lake
McClusky**

**Dunn
Hazen
Pick City
Stanton
Riverdale
Mercer County**

**Beulah
Zap
Golden Valley
Center
Oliver County**

To our first responders, we see you.

BHG put out a call in September for the public to nominate first responders that go above and beyond, and the people answered.

Nearly 100 votes came into the online survey, with dozens of individuals nominated on behalf of their communities. Firefighters, EMTs and law enforcement officers were recognized for their selflessness, their positivity, their never-ending willingness to help and much more. The theme of the survey was clear -- the good deeds being done by first responders are not going unnoticed. The public sees it, and is grateful.

The individuals nominated over and over during the poll are being recognized here in honor of National First Responders Day on Oct. 28. The individual in any BHG community who received the most nominations is included in this special section, with direct quotes from poll takers on exactly why he or she is deserving of recognition.

Peruse the publication and help us in recognizing the men and women who keep us all safe.

Keeping Your Home Safe

Fire Prevention

CHECK YOUR SMOKE DETECTORS

20% of homes have smoke detectors that **do not** work or are missing batteries.

2x Working smoke alarms can **double your chances of survival** in a fire.

Smoke alarms should be installed on **every floor** of your home.

KNOW THE RISKS

10 There is a house fire **every ten seconds** in the U.S.

30 Home fires can spread in as little as **thirty seconds**.

Make sure that your family has a **fire escape plan** for your home and practice it regularly.

Cooking is the **leading cause** of house fires.

More than **15,000** fires a year are started by clothes dryers. Clean the vents at least once a year.

Remember: If there's ever a fire, **GET OUT, STAY OUT and CALL** for help.

MAINTAIN YOUR ELECTRICAL SYSTEM

Electrical fires can be caused by: broken wires, wire insulation drying out, loose switches or receptacles, and overheating caused by dirt and oil.

Get your electrical system checked by a licensed electrician **every four years**.

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For the important role they play in protecting our lives and for their brave and selfless sacrifice, we thank the dedicated men and women of our nation's fire departments. We gratefully recognize their service to our communities, and we honor the memories of those who have fallen in the line of duty. You are all heroes, and we thank you for all that you do.

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Emily Retterath,
Washburn ambulance
What makes her the best around?
"For saving a life after being pronounced dead for 37 minutes."

"She always responds promptly and always knows what to do she is very caring and treats every situation professionally."

"She is caring, smart and is always willing to take that extra step to make sure everything goes smoothly on a run."

JD Youngbird,
Wilton Fire and McLean County Sheriff's Deputy
What makes her the best around?
"His many years of dedication to public safety in McLean County."

"He is always calm and collected in an emergency and provides comfort to everyone around him. He goes above and beyond."

Jesse Carr,
Underwood Fire Chief
What makes him the best around?
"Community involvement and community activities"

Kathy Hanson
Turtle Lake Ambulance
What makes her the best around?
"She has been dedicated to the community for countless years. She is the only paramedic on the squad and goes out on just about every run. She is the heart and soul of the ambulance squad and is an invaluable member. I can't think of anyone more deserving. She also teaches cpr and acls classes to further educate the community."

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Garrison-Max



Ambulance

He does it all

Garrison-Max paramedic Zabka stands out

BY TYSON SMEDSTAD

Luke Zabka is a busy guy. He received the most votes for the “Nominate a Hero” first responder promotion that ran in the McLan County newspapers in September for his work with the Garrison-Max Ambulance as a paramedic. But that is only one of the hats Zabka wears.

He grew up in and graduated from Max High School in 2004 before pursuing a career as an electrician.

“I worked as an apprentice beginning in Garrison at MEC Services many years ago and then for several different electrical companies progressing from apprentice to journeyman,” Zabka said. “And ultimately to master electrician and starting my own company.”

In 2008 he began volunteering at the Max Ambulance as a volunteer CPR driver and then as a volunteer at the Max Fire Department.

“I started having fun with that,” Zabka said.

By the next year, he was enrolled in an E.M.T. Course. He completed the whole class and did the hands-on practical testing, but didn’t end up finishing because he joined the National Gaurd to help out with the floods in Minot.

He ended up going to basic training in the guard in 2010. By the time he got done with basic training, it had been too long since he had left class to get his E.M.T. license. He would’ve had to start the program all over. “At that time I wasn’t really looking at EMS as a full-time career. I was working on my journeymen’s license for electrical,” Zabka said.

But he did eventually go

back and got his EMT license.

“I thought I’d never go anywhere beyond my ETM license because it was quite literally the hardest test I’ve ever done. Harder than my master electrical test,” Zabka said. But six months, later he enrolled in paramedic school at Bismarck State College. Hefinishedupparamedicschool in August of 2017, just in time for a 10-month stint in Afghanistan with the National Guard. He returned to the states on December 15, 2018, and was back at the ambulance in both Garrison and Minot by January 1.

He also still runs his electrical business and is active in his community.

Zabka the Vice President of Ambulance Board, is on the Max School Board, is one of the Chief Paramedic on the Minot Ambulance and is a squad leader in the National Gaurd.

With four jobs, Zabka works a lot and doesn’t spend much time at home.

“I have a very understanding and gracious wife,” Zabka said. “She makes it possible.”

But, the work he does on the ambulance department makes it all worth it.

“I like meeting everyone, that is probably my favorite part. I’d do it free if I didn’t have a house payment and vehicle payment. I love coming to meet them and hearing their stories.” Zabka said. “A lot of people don’t need my paramedic knowledge, they just need someone to talk to and listen while I’m doing my stuff.”

When asked if he will do this job forever, he answer was a resounding, “Absolutely.”

Garrison-Max Co-manager and Paramedic Amanda Melby



Lucas Zabka has worked at the Garrison-Max Ambulance since 2008

had nothing but good things to say about Zabka and his work ethic at the ambulance. “Luke is a paramedic. He is an amazing asset to the communities that we serve. He goes above and beyond what he is required to do and has a true passion for helping people,” Ambulance Manager Melby said. “Luke also is passionate about learning new things and teaching others.”

With the onset of COVID-19, the ambulance staff has had to put an extra emphasis on cleaning, personal hygiene and personal protective equipment.

“You can’t help somebody if you are not able to take care of yourself,” Zabka said.

Extra care needs to be taken to protect themselves in order to be able to go out on calls and help others.

“There are only a finite number of us. If one gets sick, we all get sick, so we have to be extra careful,” he said. “but we are all doing pretty well, spirits are still high. We all signed up to do this job and knew there were risks.”

He spoke about the need for more people to volunteer and help out.

If any youth are thinking about this as a possible career option, he encourages them to reach out to him.

“If there is even a slight chance you are interested in it, come hang out with me. I love to teach, I love to mentor. We put on classes all the time. Just go for it,” Zabka said. “If you have the inkling, go for it.”

Luke Zabka
NR-P, Paramedic Garrison Ambulance Service
What makes him the best around?
“He is kind and thorough and goes above and beyond his duties.”

“He is talented, knowledgeable, caring. He is an asset to our community. He works so hard to make sure our Ambulance service is the best for the community and the people it serves. He takes amazing care of the patients he comes into contact with. He is not only on our crew but also Minot. He takes great pride in his profession. He is a great leader and to work along side him is a great honor.”



A hearty “THANK YOU” to all our citizens who volunteer and so generously give their time and effort to keeping us all safe in times of disasters.

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Zabka restocks the ambulance.



For their courage, skill and dedication, we recognize the men and women whose work as first responders saves lives and protects the greater good. Thank you for your service to our communities!

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Sheriff Trent Naser
(Most Votes Overall)

What makes him the best around?

"No matter the time of day or what he is doing, if he gets a call, he is out the door and willing to help. Even in his personal life, he is dependable and willing to help anyone who asks. Trent has done A LOT for his hometown and his home county. He deserves recognition."

"He doesn't just do his job, but tries to help those people out that are in trouble or unsafe situations. He's very compassionate and really cares for people."

"He's always willing to lend a helping hand to anyone who may need it. He is selfless and amazing at what he does."

"He responds to any situation with compassion, respect, humility, and grace. He helps wherever there is a need. He cares deeply about Sheridan county. He goes above and beyond as the county sheriff."

Thank you Volunteers!

KNOW 2 WAYS OUT

PLAN YOUR ESCAPE FROM FIRE!

- ✓ Draw a map of your home that shows 2 ways out of every room. These are usually a door and a window.
- ✓ Practice how to escape from each room and how to get outside.
- ✓ Choose a place outside where everyone will meet if there is a fire.

IF THERE IS A FIRE...

- ✓ Get out fast! Don't stop to take anything.
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Every day volunteer emergency responders selflessly put themselves in harm's way to help those in need, whether it be pulling you out of a burning building, rescuing you after a car accident or getting you to the hospital when moments are critical. These men and women train for and perform these duties with integrity, never asking for a thank you.

RTC recognizes the need for these volunteers and would like to thank our employees and others in the communities we serve.

<p>NEW TOWN New Town Fire Department Will Thelen</p> <p>MAKOTI/RYDER Ryder-Makoti Fire Department Jon Hansen</p> <p>Ryder-Makoti Ambulance Dar Huus</p> <p>PARSHALL Parshall Ambulance Board Rick Hovda</p> <p>Parshall Ambulance Lori Huus Mary Nielsen</p> <p>Parshall Fire Department Payton Two Crow</p>	<p>GARRISON Garrison Fire Department Chad Betz</p> <p>KENMARE Kenmare Fire Department Scot Ness</p> <p>WATFORD CITY Watford City Fire Department Cody Allard Brian Deutsch Ed Elkins Pat Fitzgerald Alex Quale Dave Uhlich - Chief</p> <p>McKenzie County Ambulance Ed Elkins</p>
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Honoring Our First Responders



When danger rears its head, they are the ones who run forward.

Whether they are patrolling the streets, providing education at local schools or answering emergency calls, first responders are there, offering safety and assurance to the communities they protect. Law enforcement, ambulance squad and fire department members spend every day responding to emergencies or working to prevent them, all while putting their lives on the line.

They're tasked with maintaining law and order, despite the constant pushback and threats often posed.

They're made responsible for the lives of others through first aid, fire prevention, traffic enforcement, criminal apprehension and more.



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Tony Melberg,
 Hazen PD
 What makes him the best around?
 "His pride/passion for his job and dedication to his community."

"Officer Melberg is always ready to go when help is needed. Not only pertaining to work but also in family matters. Tony works very hard to keep his community and everyone around him safe."

"The town knows him as a kind and fair peace officer."

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WASHBURN/WILTON



Ambulance



Emily Retterath proudly standing beside an ambulance truck.

There's no place like home

EMT Emily Retterath relishes serving her friends and neighbors

By Ralph Mancini

Addressing the medical needs of Washburn locals has a special meaning for volunteer EMT Emily Retterath, who knows the vast majority of the patients she helps during her ambulance shifts.

"It's surreal when you start thinking about the decisions we're making. We have someone's life in our hands," she said when describing a recent life-saving episode involving her dear friend, Clark Price.

The 55-year-old owner/operator of River AG — a farming and ranching business — thought he was experiencing a routine bout of heartburn last May, when, in fact, he wound up suffering a potentially fatal heart attack.

"I feel that if we were not there when we were and he was not in our hands, the outcome would have been different," recalled Retterath.

Thanks to the quick work of Retterath and her colleagues Mark Lelm and Jill Wiese from the Washburn Ambulance, the trio of volunteers were able to properly diagnose Price's condition, supply him with ample oxygen and perform CPR when he failed to register any vital signs.

Those life-saving actions are exactly what the 41-year-old married mother of four envisioned while growing up in rural Washburn.

"I originally was going to school to be a nurse and things came up in my life and I was not able to do that," shared Retterath. She ultimately filled that void of helping people by earning her EMT license once her children were old enough to allow Retterath to make good on her goal.

Like most EMTs, the Washburn-born first responder holds a regular full-time job and communicates with her peers to create a schedule that sees her average between 120-140 service hours per month.

Retterath recently was hired as an administrative assistant by Washburn Elementary School, where she'll soon be conducting CPR classes.

The key to pulling off the balancing act of being a wife, mother, career woman and volunteer, she says, is securing your family's support given the obligations that come with contributing as an emergency volunteer.

"It's not just the runs, it's the fundraisers, it's the monthly meetings," she added. "It's not for everybody. But what I tell people is to come down, come to our meetings, ride along if you would like to. There are other positions besides that of EMT."

One person who Retterath is currently breaking in is her daughter, Olivia, 17, who's been helping out the local ambulance force since September.

And though Retterath's enthusiasm for her EMT service is manifested by the countless hours she dedicates toward her own constant learning and professional development, a lot of that fervor stems from where she's working.

"I definitely feel like when you know the people, it's definitely that much more fulfilling ... I think I would always want to have that. But it's [also] the people I work with. I can't say enough about our ambulance crew — we have an amazing crew," she mentioned while also citing how well her team works in concert with deputies from the McLean County Sheriff's Office and the local fire department.

But as much as the Washburn Ambulance operates like a "well-oiled machine," Retterath voiced her concern with how her crew will go about replacing a few members that are nearing retirement.

Those interested in learning about a career with Washburn Ambulance are invited to visit the group's Facebook page or to contact them at washems.westriv.com.

Fire Department



When J.D. Youngbird isn't out enforcing the law as a sheriff's deputy, he can be found tending to his equipment and crew at Wilton's fire station at 120 Dakota Ave. (Ralph Mancini)

Tackling the 'unknowns'

Wilton's J.D. Youngbird reflects on serving as fire chief and deputy

By Ralph Mancini

Seeing J.D. Youngbird run to the scene of fire, car accident or a neighborhood barn blown over by strong wind gusts has become a familiar sight for residents of Wilton and the immediate surrounding areas.

Unlike many first responders who represent one branch of law enforcement or city services, Youngbird, 59, answers the call of duty as a McLean County Sheriff's Office deputy by day and chief of the Wilton Volunteer Fire Department by night.

When asked if wearing both hats allows him to get enough sleep, the Whiteshield native conceded lack of rest was once an issue. But nowadays he can rely on a volunteer staff of 36 at three fire stations in Wilton, Baldwin and Regan.

And though his day job follows a more structured schedule, Youngbird's dedication as a firefighter sees him check in on his crew and equipment seven days a week.

"We probably do a lot of the same things," he pondered when asked to compare and contrast his responsibilities as a law man and firefighter. "We get a lot of unknowns. We get a lot of harder things to take care of, where fires and accidents are some of the toughest jobs we have to do. We have to get there quickly, get them loaded into an ambulance and get them on their way. So, they're similar. They go hand-in-hand."

The married father of three's unique career path began during the 1980s in Minot, where he served as a firefighter before accepting an offer to become a McLean County deputy sheriff in 1991. Four years later, Youngbird went to take over the reins of the Wilton Volunteer Fire Department.

Being in the business that long — and saving lives along the way — would probably

lead most to believe that Youngbird has a treasure trove of stories. However, the self-effacing public servant couldn't pinpoint one or two most rewarding moments. Instead, the long-time fire chief prefers to live in the now, always thinking about how to best prepare for the next emergency.

"I don't do things for that pat on the back. I don't do it to get the thank you. I do it because somebody needs to do it and it's got to get done."

As for how he deals with potential burnout from witnessing accidents and tragedies, Youngbird points to the camaraderie he enjoys with fellow first responders that emboldens him to keep going.

"We're pretty much a family. We take care of each

other and we take care of the communities around us. There is some burn out, but it also makes you feel good about what you're doing," he observed.

Youngbird's wealth of experience has been invaluable in helping each of his three children find their calling in life, including his youngest who's assisting her father in the Wilton fire station.

And when it comes to advising others who are looking to volunteer, the veteran firefighter keeps it simple and brief.

"Nothing's by the book in firefighting. You can go to all the training in the world, which is good ... I can't sit down and read a book and tell you how to do everything. If you go out and do it, you're going to learn," he stated.

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THANKS TO ALL OF OUR LOCAL FIRST RESPONDERS.

UNDERWOOD



Fire Department

Repnow named to Firefighter HOF

By Suzanne Werre,
BHG News Service

It's not all that uncommon for someone to volunteer for an organization, then quit after a few years due to burnout.

The idea of being burnt out still hasn't hit Underwood's Oliver Repnow, as Oct. 10 he was named to the North Dakota Firefighters Hall of Fame, honoring him for his 40 years of service to the Underwood Fire, Rescue and Ambulance Squad.

Repnow has not only been active with the Underwood combined Fire/Rescue and Ambulance Department, including Fire Chief for 22 years. He's also participated on multiple statewide boards. He has been the North Dakota Firefighters Association President, and a trustee, and has been a North Dakota EMS Association board member. He has also been an integral part in the development and improvement of the North Dakota Fire School.

He has been an auto extrication instructor and helped many squads start and maintain their own rescue services. He also helped start the local Jr. Firefighter program in Underwood, which encourages high school youth 16 years and older to become fire fighters.

While his work with statewide organizations is remarkable, it's his work on his local department that is a testament to his dedication to the EMS squad.

"Oliver Helped bring a small town fire and ambulance service into a robust and highly trained group of volunteers," said Garrison's Mike Matteson, MC of



Underwood's Oliver Repnow was recently named to the North Dakota Firefighters Hall of Fame, honoring him for his 40 years of dedication to the Underwood Fire, Rescue and Ambulance Squad.

the North Dakota Firefighters Museum Banquet.

Matteson also described Repnow's willingness to help others on the squad hone their skills, an attribute to which fellow squad member Brianna Robinson can attest.

"Oliver is one of the most experienced guys we have on the squad, both ambulance and fire," said Robinson. "He's one I look up to and go to for advice, and even if it's just someone to talk to if it's a bad run or something—he always has something wonderful to and knows how to kind of relate to everything you're going through."

"He's my go-to guy," added Robinson.

Repnow has seen pretty much any scenario a rural firefighter/EMT can get called to, said Robinson, so he's a great guy to have alongside you in the fire truck or

in the ambulance.

"He's one of those guys you always see there," said Robinson. "He's one of those guys you want to see there."

It's not only his know-how that makes him a welcome face to see, it's his familiarity with so many people in the community, and his compassion.

"He knows so many people in the community – and it's nice for the patients to see a familiar face," Robinson said. Sometimes just seeing that familiar face will help the patient feel a little better, a little more safe, right away.

In his acceptance of his award, Repnow related one of his proudest accomplishments as a member of the Underwood squad – when he was able to help other squads from throughout the state get extrication equipment and training.

"One of the best experiences in my career was in 1990 we came to Garrison to put on an extrication class . . . through the DOT -- we ended up getting grant money to each put out 20 sets of tools that year first year," Repnow said. "We went out and took pictures again, met with people who had been out training and took the pictures back and I said I think we should submit this to the DOT -- they were so impressed we ended up with three more years of putting (extrication) tools across the state of North Dakota."

Repnow's volunteer efforts will continue on through the years, not just in Underwood, but across the state because of his efforts to continually improve fire, rescue and ambulance training.



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 **UNDERWOOD** 

TURTLE LAKE

 **Fire Department**

 **Ambulance**

Carr “giving back” with fire department

EMT dedicated to TL ambulance since ‘92

By Suzanne Werre,
BHG News Service

Everybody has their own reason for volunteering their time to an organization. For some it's a way to make friends. For others it's a way to spend some spare time. And for others, they want to do something to contribute to their community.

The last reason is why Underwood's Fire and Rescue Dept. Chef Jesse Carr became a member of the Underwood Fire, Ambulance and Rescue Squad about 11 years ago.

“There are quite a few reasons to volunteer,” said Carr. “It's my way of giving back of giving back to the community. Everyone's got their own reasons.”

Carr said he initially joined the combined Fire/Rescue/Ambulance squad as a way to meet people. Those people quickly turned into a new “family.”

“It was my way to meet people. Now it's gotten to the point where it's just my way to give back,” said Carr.

There are currently 24 members on the squad, with Brianna Robinson taking on the role as Ambulance Squad leader. The squad holds two Mondays each month, one Monday handling squad business and the other dedicated to training.

The Fire/Ambulance Squad



Underwood's Jesse Carr has been a member of the Underwood Fire, Rescue and Ambulance Squad for the past 11 years, and is currently the Fire Chief.

has responded to a total of 15 calls so far this year.

Like all rural volunteer organizations, the Underwood squad is always looking for new members, noted Carr.

Anyone interested in checking out being a member of the Underwood Fire, Rescue and Ambulance Squad is invited to contact the department on the

Underwood Volunteer Fire, Rescue and Ambulance Facebook page. Better yet, according to Carr, stop by the fire hall sometime, or call him directly.

“They can reach out on Facebook, or they can stop in any time they see someone at the fire hall,” said Carr.

Carr can be reached at 701-320-7207.

By Suzanne Werre,
BHG News Service

Turtle Lake's Kathy Hanson has been a dedicated member of the Turtle Lake Ambulance Squad since 1992. That's a lot of ambulance calls to respond to.

She has no plans to stop volunteering any time soon.

“I'll be doing it until I can't get up and down from the ground anymore,” said Hanson. “When I kneel down to help a patient, and I can't get back up, that's when I'll know I have to be done.”

Hanson isn't an office on the squad, although she does help with some training, she said. She initially got involved because her husband Dave, the current chief, was on the squad. She was working at the hospital in Turtle Lake at the time, and an Emergency Medical Technician course was being offered, so she signed up and never looked back.

Getting new volunteer to sign up is probably the toughest part of being on the squad, she said.

“The biggest challenge is membership, and keeping up with the rules set out by the state is tough sometimes, too,” she said.



Kathy Hanson

The reason Hanson continues on the ambulance squad after all these years is simple, she says.

“Just the sense you get when you know you've helped someone,” Hanson said. “Sometimes we get to people when they're feeling at their worse and we're able to make their lives a little easier, maybe take the pain away. It's just that sense of doing something to help them.”

There are currently 12 members on the Turtle Lake Ambulance Squad. Anyone interested in becoming a member of the squad is encouraged to contact Chief Dave Hanson at 448-9288.



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**Sean Cheatley,
Beulah Fire Department**

What makes him the best around?
"His willingness to always help out. He even responded to a fire call during our wedding rehearsal."

"Selfless in his community and his unwavering commitment."

"His willingness to always help out. He even responded to a fire call during our wedding rehearsal."

**Mickie McNulty-Eide,
Oliver County Ambulance Squad leader**

What makes her the best around?
"She's been an EMT for a very long time and is very good at it."

"She is a caring person that cares so much for her community that she dedicates her time to keeping the Center ambulance running smoothly and offers her talents to care for people when she is called on runs."



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Answering the call

Section 2



MCCLUSKY



Law Enforcement

Ambulance



Sheridan County Sheriff Department members are, from left: Sheriff Trent Naser, Office Secretary Sheila Faul, Deputy Benjamin Kothrade and Chief Deputy Delbert Hoffman in the center office of the law enforcement headquarters.

Department head's name: Trent Naser, Sheriff

Number of employees/volunteers:

Four employees, 0 volunteers

Biggest challenge facing the department: Crimes and the tools to fight crime evolve rapidly. With only three sworn officers and budget constraints, it can be tough to get to trainings we need and to purchase the equipment we need to fight crime. The costs of some trainings and lack of man-power to cover the county, while some are attending trainings, can make it difficult to attend. The crimes we are seeing are getting more serious and should require at least two officers responding. We do not always have two officers available, since it is difficult to cover 24 hours a day, 7 days a week with only three officers.

Who to contact to join/volunteer: Trent Naser, 701-363-2200

Phone: (701)363-2200 Fax: (701)363-2702

Physical Address: 215 2nd Street East, McClusky North Dakota 58463

Mailing Address: PO Box 410, McClusky North Dakota



Sherry Korus, Amber Scheurer, Wayne Houston and Cheryl Helm received the NDEMSA award for the McClusky Ambulance Service.

McClusky Ambulance Service receives 2019 NDEMSA Southwest Regional Service award

The North Dakota Emergency Medical Services Association (NDEMSA) named the McClusky Ambulance Service as the 2019 Southwest Regional service of the year. The honor was received at the Annual EMS Rendezvous Conference and Tradeshow.

An EMS system that exemplifies outstanding professionalism and service to its community would be a great candidate for the Regional Service of the Year Award. The intent of this award is to recognize a service that significantly contributed to the provision, development and improvement of pre-hospital care and EMS education in their community.

Any EMS organization licensed or certified in the state of North Dakota, including rescue, quick response units, industrial services, etc., is eligible. The regional winners will be forwarded for consideration for the EMS Service of the Year

award presented at the Annual North Dakota EMS Rendezvous Conference and Tradeshow.

McClusky Rural Ambulance District tirelessly serves the residents of Sheridan County and beyond. In recent years, when many services have struggled, they have managed to thrive through many different changes in their region.

They successfully took over a large portion of territory after the Goodrich Ambulance closed, and have been a model service in the search for ways to collaborate with other services in their region.

McClusky Ambulance persistently trains, and strives to obtain more knowledge to provide the best care for their patients. They understand their history, from where they came, and have a clear picture and understanding of what the service needs to do to provide exceptional service to their community for years to come.

It is the day in, and day out, operations of the service, that make McClusky Rural Ambulance District an ambulance service worthy of the SW Regional Service of the year.

McClusky Rural Ambulance Service Members have trained with Sanford Health EMS education for more than 400-50 hours on average over the last three years. They are always looking for more information, and want to keep up to date on the standard of care.

The North Dakota EMS Association, founded in 1976, has grown to represent over 1,700 North Dakota EMS providers trained to provide many levels of pre-hospital care. It is the mission of this association to provide resources, services, and effective representation for its members to continuous improving emergency care in North Dakota. This association is based in Bismarck.

Ambulance

The McClusky Ambulance District's largest concern currently is staffing. Wayne Houston, secretary/treasurer for the group, said, "We will be starting an EMT class here in McClusky on November 5. Sanford Health EMS Education will be coordinating that for us.

Currently, we have 15 members, some of whom are currently enrolled in the first responder class and will be continuing in the EMT class.

"All in all, the call volume for a year's time is remaining about the same."



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MCCLUSKY

Fire Department



McClusky Fire Department Assistant Chief Samantha Demunbrum and McClusky Fire Chief Jeff Martwick alongside one of the several fire trucks in the fire district service.

Fire Dept needs: The McClusky Fire Department's priority list puts replacing the SCBA (self-contained-breathing-apparatus) units in top place. The current units expire in 2023, the cost (per unit) is \$6,000, and six units are required. Each team needs to SCBA units: active team, backup team, and emergency team. The good news on the \$36,000 purchase is, besides the tank and metering, each unit is equipped with an alarm for the firefighter carrying the unit. If there is no movement for 30 seconds, an alarm sounds to alert for a possible emergency with the firefighter.

McClusky Rural Fire Protection District
 Phone: (701) 363-2240 Fax: (701) 363-2529
 Mailing Address
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DUNN



Law Enforcement



Photos Submitted

Dunn County sheriff celebrates Bike Safety Day by teaching safety and handing out helmets and freeze pops to local children.

Law enforcement grateful for community

By Jenelle Sprague

Tim Sullivan, Dunn County law enforcement officer, answered a few questions about the sheriff's department.

Question: Is there any need for volunteers or community support?

Sullivan: We definitely appreciate any and all community support. We're here for our Dunn County community.

Q: What is it like to serve this community?

Sullivan: We do our best to serve our Dunn County community. It's important to us that we be the best and most professional we can for Dunn County.

Q: What is an average day look like as a Dunn County Sheriff's deputy?

Sullivan: As far as an average day, the thing is with law enforcement, no day is the same as the last. Every day is different and brings different challenges.



Dunn County sheriff deputies spend the day handing out fresh produce to community members.

Q: Do you consider yourselves heroes?

Sullivan: We don't consider ourselves to be heroes. We're just normal everyday people doing our part to serve and protect our community.

Q: How has COVID-19 impacted you?

Sullivan: As far as COVID, we will continue to do what we can to help flatten the curve but want things to get back to normal hopefully soon.



DCSO Deputies improve their skills at the semi-annual rifle and pistol qualifications.

A glimpse at Dunn County

Mission Statement:

The mission of the Dunn County Sheriff's Office is to protect and serve all persons within our jurisdiction. To do so we shall provide firm, equal and ethical law enforcement.

September 2020 Monthly Stats

Calls for service: 536 •
 Case reports initiated: 52
 2019 September Calls for service: 541
 2019 September Case reports initiated: 67

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DUNN

Ambulance



Photos Submitted
Killdeer Area Ambulance Service relied upon air transport to assist in an emergency call.

Dunn County Responders true caretakers

By Jenelle Sprague

In honor of National First Responders Day, The Beacon asked Dunn County emergency responders of the Killdeer Area Ambulance Service (KAAS) about their role in serving the region.

KAAS is a nonprofit emergency health organization that have been serving Dunn county since 1993 and continues to provide life-saving assistance to the community averaging over 600 service calls a year.

KAAS maintains high standards of care and quality for its a community, continually providing two EMS teams each doing 24 hour shifts to be ready to serve when needed.

Although life as an emergency service provider is busy on calls, KAAS also provides several non-emergency services to the community. Crews assist at local sporting events, host fundraisers, provide volunteer home care for the elderly and disabled, youth scholarship and training programs and much more.

Covid-19 has had an impact on the service. Extra precautions including sterilizing and putting on protective gear has extended call response call several minutes when seconds count. In addition, after each ambulance service run the entire vehicle and all exposed equipment is then completely sanitized.

However, KAAS officials said they plan to keep some of these new high standards even when it's no longer required.

Despite the heroic work, two workers they are anything but. Dustin Lien, deputy chief of EMS, said, "I am a caregiver that is how I would describe myself that is where I have always fallen in life. I really love working here it has given the capacity to practice medicine like never before Because of



The ambulance is a true fan at all the local sporting events.

KAAS Mission Statement

"The members of Killdeer Area Ambulance Service dedicate our resources to provide competent, compassionate, professional emergency medical care to those we serve, with dignity and respect."

the demand over distance in the time that you get to spend with people it's. Been a wonderful experience."

Daizjionelle, EMT worker, said, "I really don't I see others as heroes but because of that modesty not myself. I see myself as an average person just following their passion. Helping someone on their worst day and being able to stay calm while providing a light for them when they need it most."

KAAS is always looking for volunteers from the community. Anyone interested can stop in or call anytime.

Fire Department



West Dunn Volunteer Fire Department crew 2020

Dunn fire department ignited by volunteers

By Jenelle Sprague

Ryan Hauck, West Dunn Fire Chief, took time to answer a few questions about the life of a firefighter in Dunn County.

Question: Is there any need for volunteers or community support?

Hauck: Volunteer wise we are fortunate to be sitting really well. We have 36 guys on the active roster. We are currently selling tickets for a gun raffle. This is being conducted by both West Dunn Fire and Halliday Fire protection districts.

Q: What services do you provide to the community?

Hauck: West Dunn Fire Protection District is completely staffed by volunteers. These volunteers give up family time, gathers and leave work as soon as the tones drop, to go help in whatever capacity they are needed. They are all proud and humble individuals serving their community. Knowing that they are seeing people on one of their worst days, with a small community it sometimes means a family member or close friend.

A sample of what we respond to is automobile accidents, hazmat situations, structure fires, grass fires and wherever else we are needed.

West Dunn covers between 900-1,000 square miles. We are governed by a board of directors and have two halls, one in Killdeer and the other in Dunn Center. The west border, of the territory is McKenzie County and Billings County, eastern border is east of Dunn Center. We go north to the Little Missouri River and south of Manning approximately 7-8 miles. We aid in any calls, out of our protection district, when asked for mutual aid.

So far this year West Dunn Fire has been called out for service 72 times. We were fortunate to have a quieter summer than average, so calls are down from the previous five year trend.

Q: What is it like to serve this community?

Hauck: To serve the community, with the capacity in which we do, can be overwhelming in a good way. You're serving the community in which, for most

of us grew up in. People are happy to see you and know the sacrifice not only the person putting on the helmet makes, but the family in which gives up the time, for that individual to train and respond for the call. For us it's doing our job, to take care of people and protect life and property

Q: What an average day is like?

Hauck: With all of us being volunteers, our days vary. When the tones drop, employers give the individual time off to run, or you leave the seat of your tractor or the saddle of your horse to head for the hall.

Q: Do you consider yourselves heroes?

Hauck: The group of guys don't look at it for the hero aspect. We are volunteers taking the time to train and respond to make sure everybody goes home safe. We are doing this to make sure that when 911 is called, you can count on someone to be headed your way to help.

Q: How has COVID-19 impacted you?

Hauck: COVID has made us be more aware of the surroundings and keep ourselves safe, so we can still answer the call. We have postponed events and large gatherings because our first and utmost duty is to be available for any emergency. We want to make sure we don't leave this community unprotected.

Q: Is there anything you would like to add?

Hauck: Folks, if you could do us a favor we sure would appreciate it. It's awful dry out there, so PLEASE refer to the ND Fire Index, the ND Fire Danger Map, and the weather forecast if you plan on burning anything. Remember that your pit fire still has the capability of reigniting a day or two or more after the visible flames are out. Mother Nature and her loyal minion the Great Plains Zephyr, can create some pretty ugly firefighting conditions. Thanks!

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Law Enforcement



Hazen Police Department

Police Chief: Jim Wolff
Contact: 701-748-2414

Number of staff: 5 members: A.J. Beyer, Jesse Folkerts, Anthony Melberg, Samantha Melberg and James Wolff

Age range: over 45 years of law enforcement service among the staff

Areas seeking additional help: No specific areas. Hazen police are jack-of-all-trades, and rely on support with neighboring law enforcement, while also in turn supporting them.

Average number of calls a month: Around 120 calls last month, as an example

Squad meeting schedule: Varies based on members' schedules

Fire Department



Hazen Fire Department

Fire Chief: Cory Beery
Contact: 701-745-3332

Number of staff: 34 people: Hazen Fire and Rescue: Cory Beery, Tom Beery, Dave Brousseau, Josh Bubel, Jesse Buck, Aaron Conrad, John Crane, Mitchell Dean, Brian Dillman, Dan Ganske, Matt Goodwin, Garrett Grossman, Kevin Holen, JR Kaylor, Amanda Kendall, George Kirick, Doug Leidholm, Matthew LeMasters, Dave Lundstrom, Miles Mettler, Kurt Milbradt, Garrett Nelson, Adam Sailer, Landon Schmidt, Steven Schwarz, Codi Soland, Jamie Soland, Mark Wasem, Bob Weisz, Justin Weisz, Dustin Wiedrich, Savannah Winkler and Bill Zingg

Age range of staff: roughly 30-45 years old

Areas needing help: Will always take applications. Like to be sitting around 36 total members.

Average number of runs: 150 calls per year

Squad meeting schedule: Second Tuesday at 7 p.m. for staff meeting; fourth Tuesday at 7 p.m. for staff training

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HAZEN



Law Enforcement

Dedicated to serving and protecting others

By Daniel Arens

Tony Melberg doesn't consider himself a hero. He simply sees his path in life as reflecting his deep desire to help others.

Melberg, is a police officer with the Hazen Police Department. He has served in that position for six years now.

Being a police officer isn't the result of some childhood dream or long-prepared career path.

"In my personal opinion, most people who do these jobs, I think they have an underlying desire to keep people safe, protect people," he said. Although he temporarily worked with construction earlier, he found that job didn't satisfy this deeper desire.

Melberg is originally from California, the son of a military serviceman. His mother was originally from Williston, and the family moved back to that area of North Dakota in 1994. In fact, they soon moved to his mother's family's original homestead.

"It was kind of a culture shock moving here," Melberg said, laughing. "We hit Williston the day after New Year's."

Melberg recalled that the culture shock wasn't just the subzero temperatures, either.

"This is not cool at all," he thought to himself. "It's really cold, they're vehicles just sitting around running, a lot of them have rifles in the back."

All very different from the California life.

However, Melberg adjusted, and gradually grew fond of the North Dakota life.

"Eventually, it grew on me," he said. "I went to Williston High School, graduated from there."

Melberg ended up working with juvenile services in Williston, which began opening his mind to the kind of opportunities available in that field. He also worked with the Williston Police Department

While serving there, he ended up having a son, and wanted him to have a more stable childhood. After marrying his current wife and expanding the size of their family, he began looking for another option.

"Hazen popped up, and I kind of jumped at it," he said. He ended up accepting a police job in Hazen in 2014, and his wife also works part-time with the city police.

"Honestly, I think it was the best choice I could have made for my family. All three of my kids have thrived here."



For the last six years, Tony Melberg has diligently and faithfully served the community of Hazen. For him, the greatest reward of the job is seeing the change he can help bring to the lives of people who are struggling.

Melberg has latched onto the community, really making it a home for his family. That also helps him to better serve the people around him, as he has come to know them as neighbors and friends. It also helps him to know he's serving his own family in the process.

"A lot of people, you live

.....

In my personal opinion, most people who do these jobs, I think they have an underlying desire to keep people safe, protect people."

- Officer Tony Melberg

.....

where you live, and you want to make sure those people stay safe," he said. "Knowing you have a family, you're the one that they have to call. You're the one that has to stay up late. You have to catch the bad guy."

Melberg said the most rewarding part of being a police

officer is those times when you interact with someone who is in trouble with the law or in a tough place in their lives, and then you see a change and know you had a part in that.

"I'm a big believer in treating others the way you want to be treated," he said. "Seeing someone kind of pick themselves up and move forward; sometimes you just need to start over."

Melberg said he has particularly enjoyed working with youth around Hazen, developing relationships with several of them where they continue to talk with each other, and where he has an opportunity to see the way they grow.

"I try to stay in touch with those kids who are impacted negatively," he said. "They still have choices. Kids are at the beginning of their lives. They just need some encouragement."

Melberg said anyone can perform the kind of service to their community that he has done for Hazen over the last six years, if they're willing to put in the work on it.

"Anybody can do it, if you give them enough time," he said. "You can train a person to do anything."

He added that he does not consider himself to be a special hero, since the majority of the times he responds to a situation, he is part of a team effort, working alongside other law enforcement officials and sometimes with fire, ambulance and other emergency services.

"Unless you're part of a situation where you're the only one who's there, it's everybody helping everyone," he said.

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 **PICK CITY** 

 **Fire Department**



Pick City Fire Department

Fire Chief: Dan Wettstein • Contact: 701-745-3332

Number of staff: 12 members: Arv Anderson, Jimmy Dean, Evan Johnson, Kyle Little, Kerry Neuberger, Kevin Neuberger, Brandon Resier, Brandon Sailer, Rick Sailer, Kel Westman and Dan Wettstein.

Age range of staff: roughly 28-60 years old

Areas needing help: No specific areas. Keep someone on call.

Average number of runs: 8 runs this year, previous year averages closer to 5

Squad meeting schedule: Third Tuesday of the month at the city hall in Pick City

RIVERDALE

 **Ambulance**

Riverdale Ambulance Service

Manager: Brianne Skachenko
Contact: 701-654-7466

Number of staff: 14 volunteers, with 2 paramedics, 2 advanced EMTs, 3 EMTs and 7 drivers: Jared Bichler, Dave Bicknese, Marcus Bicknese, Jamison Boehler, Karley Burns, John Crane, Amanda Fuentes, Ben Gumke, Justin Mutschler, Mark Ness, Jim Rask, Brianne Skachenko, Ron Slaba, Scott Sterling and Kevin Trautman.

Areas needing help: In desperate need of help in all areas. Challenges due to the pandemic and also due to many of the staff being fully volunteers and working full time jobs in addition.

Average number of runs: 50-60 runs a year

Squad meeting schedule: Third Wednesday of each month at 7:00pm at the Riverdale Ambulance Bay

MERCER COUNTY

 **Law Enforcement**

Mercer County Sheriff's Department

Sheriff: Dean Danzeisen • Contact: 701-745-3333

Number of staff: 29 full time, 2 part time: Mercer County Sheriff's Department: Michelle Anderson, Waylon Boyer, Chuck Dahl, Dean Danzeisen, Brandon Doll, Mark Erhardt, Jessica Hirsch, Paul Martin, Danielle Milbradt, Kurt Milbradt, Ashley Miller, Dave Olson, Ron Olson, Amanda Palmer, Pamela Pehl, Colin Peterson, Rachel Poitras, Kent Roth, Kaitlynn Rueb, Michelle Sailer, Dawn Sayler, Breanna Schutt, Mark Schmitt, Rona Schutt, Ryan Taylor, Terry Ternes, Lenny Tesky, John Tunge, Christopher Waller, Warren Wiedrich, Kurt Zazeski

Where help is needed: The citizens of Mercer County can help law enforcement by reporting odd or suspicious activity. Being aware of what is going on around you and calling law enforcement to report anything out of the ordinary is very helpful. Our deputies cannot be everywhere at once. The citizens are our eyes and ears in the county, and their help in the way is critical to maintaining a safe environment for all.

Average number of calls in a year: In 2019, about 15,000 calls

Squad meeting schedule: Varies

 **STANTON** 

 **Fire Department**



Stanton Fire Department

Fire Chief: Gordy Neumiller • Contact: 701-745-3332

Number of staff: 12 members: Eric Brost, Nick Chapman, Rick Dockter, Bobby Gartner, Larry Lang, Ryan McKay, Andy Miller, Bruce Narveson, Gordon Neumiller, Joey Neumiller, Dallas Sailer and Hubert Sailer.

Age range: 27-81

Areas needing help: No specific areas. Have mutual aid with other Mercer County fire departments, both giving and receiving help to each other.

Average number of runs: 5 runs a year on average

Squad meeting schedule: Third Tuesday of the month. Currently at civic center, where the fire hall is located; likely to change soon to the new Stanton Fire Hall currently under construction

When we needed them, they are there. Thanks to our lifesavers, lives and property are spared nearly everyday and losses reduced.

Join us in saying "Thank You!"

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MERCER COUNTY



Fire Department

One of Mercer County's favorite first responders

By Jerick Tafoya

After conducting a recent Facebook poll, Beulah Firefighter Sean Cheatley was voted as one of Mercer County's favorite first responders. Eligible candidates were from Mercer County Ambulance, all Mercer County fire departments, and all Mercer County police departments.

A firefighter of 17 years, Cheatley shared his past experiences, thoughts one being voted, and more.

Q: What were your first thoughts?

Cheatley: Umm, why me? It's something I guess I didn't expect. I don't do this for publicity or anything like that. It was shocking. I thought it was a joke – like April Fools, but it's not April. It was out of left field. I didn't even know that a contest was going on.

Q: How long have you been a firefighter?

Cheatley: In Beulah, going on six years. Overall, about 17 years. I was with Devil's Lake City for one year, Devil's Lake Rural for nine years, and I've also been with Richardton.

Q: What inspired you to become a firefighter? Where did that passion come from?

Cheatley: My father. Growing up while we were living in Richardton, he was a firefighter. He would take me on Sundays to go check over fire trucks. He'd let me turn the sirens on and the lights – that's kind of where I got my love for firefighting. And watching movies with firefighters in it. Backdraft was a good one. And of course, Ladder 49 came when I was a firefighter. I still have pictures taken by my mom and dad where I was a young kid and wearing my dad's fire boots. And I had his fire helmet on and I'd be putting on imaginary fire with a garden hose. I guess it's been a lifelong goal to become a firefighter and here I've been doing it for 17 years.

Q: What would you say is the most important quality for a firefighter?

Cheatley: It really is hard to pick just one. But I guess the willingness to help others would be the main one. There are times where you have to put your life on the line to save someone else. The willingness to help others and help the community is probably the main one.

Q: Do you ever get scared?
Cheatley: Oh yeah. Like in Ladder 49, it rings true – you see enough fire, you find God. That does ring true.

Q: Is it hard to balance your family and your career?

Cheatley: No. My wife is really understanding. She knows that the department is a big part of my life. She is actually a part of the auxiliary fire with the wives. A lot of the guys that I hang out with are



Pictured here is Sean Cheatley, his wife Ginny Cheatley, and their two-year-old daughter Kara Cheatley.

in the department. So we have family get-togethers with some of the guys.

Q: Ever lost anybody?

Cheatley: Oh yeah. The hardest ones are the younger kids. We've seen that a lot in Devil's Lake. In Devil's Lake, we did auto accidents and auto extrication. So I've seen a lot of younger kids that way. When you pull up on a scene and there's a fatality – you never forget that.

Q: Fondest memories?

Cheatley: The one that sticks out is when we started Truck or Treat here in Beulah. We get together with Mercer County Ambulance, Mercer County Sheriff's Office, Beulah Police Department. We would have a fire truck, an ambulance, and two squad cars sitting out there and we would just hand out candy to the kids. That kind of all started my first year here. I live on the south side. The first Halloween here, I bought

like \$40 or \$50 worth of candy. I had one trick or treat all night. So that's kind of where we came up with the idea of Truck or Treat. We kind of got the ball rolling and it's taken off. It's gotten bigger every year. Seems like we've gotten more kids. Unfortunately, we can't do it this year because of COVID.

Q: What's the most rewarding part about being a firefighter?

Cheatley: The community's appreciation would be the most rewarding. And every year we instruct up at the North Dakota Firefighters Association State Fire School – which is usually the last weekend in February. And it's departments from all over North Dakota getting together and just have a weekend of training. That's probably another one of the accomplishments that I'm proud of. I'll keep doing it as long as they have me back.



Ambulance



Mercer County Ambulance Service

Manager: Marcy Sailer

Contact: 701-748-5558

Number of staff: 14 full or part time, 25 volunteers:

Mercer County Ambulance Service: Jared Bichler, Robin Braun, Frankie Buchert, Roger Bosch, Vanessa Bosch, Jayden Crane, John Crane, Linda Erickson, Colinda Fischer, Cloe Frey, Miranda Furncher, Russ Goodwin, Shari Hafner, Arlene Helling, Lee Houn, Monica Johner, Kevin Kalvoda, Ron Olson, Sara Odden, Randy Pacht, Garrett Placke, James Porter, Marcy Sailer, Dawn Saylor, Jodi Schreifer, Shari Selzler, Frank Senn, Levi Senn, Codi Soland, Marcia Steffen, Lenny Tesky, Theresa Torgerson, Mark Wasem, Travis Watson, Walt Wolf and Stacy Zuern.

Age range of staff: roughly 30-70 years old

Areas needing help: The ambulance service doesn't have a lot of young people because they have children, someone needs to be available to watch the kids if you have to respond while on call. Urgently seeking help at all levels, whatever people are willing to work, even just one hour shifts a week can help fill in spaces. Call time typically from home, if you live within 5-7 minutes' drive from the ambulance bay.

Average number of runs: 60-70 a month

Squad meeting schedule: Second Monday of the month at 6:30 p.m. Due to COVID, meetings have been held at the Hazen Ambulance Bay or on Zoom

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Thank you to each and everyone for your contributions

They are our friends, family, neighbors and sometimes folks we don't know. But when they are called, they respond and do their vital duty for us all.

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BEULAH



Law Enforcement



William Elmore
With the Beulah Police
Department since 4/25/2013



Jeff Gooss
With the Beulah Police
Department since 3/14/2018



Adam Baker
With the Beulah Police
Department since 4/15/2019



Marcie Krumwiede
With the Beulah Police
Department since 11/1/2013



Frank Senn
With the Beulah Police
Department since 10/30/2000



Ben Newman
With the Beulah Police
Department since 10/27/2015

All photos are courtesy of Destinee Jensen Photography

Fire Department

Total members: 40
Age range of the roster: Mid 20's to late 50's.
Shift availability? On call 24/7: Everyone is on call 24/7. There's no schedule for taking calls for the fire department.
Monthly trainings: The 4th Tuesday of the month.
Need additional volunteers: Not at the moment. They are fortunate to be fully staffed.
Number of total runs: Anywhere from 35-40 per year.
Members: Marvin Bauer, Dave Layton, Mark Grunhoyd, Terrance Dschaak, Jim Wenning, Joey Nelson, Mike Doe, Mick Dettmann, Shawn Yeager, Dennis Horning, Eli Schumann, Justin Feil, Sam Dschaak, John Neuberger, Doug Moore, Rod Skalsky, Kris Oyen, Mike Carns, Mike Heidel, Sean Cheatley, Adam Bornemann, Bryce Brady, Casey Renner, Travis Watson, Reed Nash, Eric Hauser, Robb Moore, Chris Palmer, Eric Jeide, Mike Johnston, Ryan Holder, Tanner Erickson, Joey Barbot, Sierra Wetzell, Ron Gunsch, Darell Herman, Dean Emter, Doug Neuberger, Brad Gunsch, Jason Erickson



ZAP



Fire Department

Total members: 15
Age range of the roster: 30 years of age to 55 years of age.
Shift availability? On call 24/7: Everyone is on call 24/7. There's no schedule for taking calls for the fire department.
Monthly training s: They are typically on the third Monday.
Need additional volunteers: Absolutely. Always look for good people who can devote the time to the training.
Number of total runs: Anywhere from 10-25 per year.
Members: Jamey Boutilier, Adron Dore, Terry Dschaak, Steve Goetz, Duran Horning, Cody Migille, Adam McDonald, Micheal Mohl, Tanner Reinhardt, Macy Smith, Malissa Smith, Jaden Vettel, Kayla Vettel, Mitchell Weigum, Kelly Wilhelm

GOLDEN VALLEY

Fire Department

Total members: 23
Age range of the roster: 24 years of age to 65 years of age.
Shift availability? On call 24/7: Everyone is on call 24/7. There's no schedule for taking calls for the fire department.
Monthly trainings: The last Monday of the month.
Need additional volunteers: Not at the moment. They are fortunate to be fully staffed.
Number of total runs: Anywhere from 5-6 per year.
Members: Delon Bauman, Jordan Bauman, Kerby Entze, Robert Fitterer, Casey Helling, Bob Johnson, John Lindemann, Kyle Lukenbach, Shannon McKay, Mike Moos, Kenton Richau, Krista Richau, James Scheurer, Riley Schriefer, Steve Senske, Clay Solem, Steven Stern, Adam Wanner, Justin Wanner, Jake Wilmer, JD Wolff, Matt Zeadow, John Zimbro



Many of our employees are highly trained emergency responders and local volunteers.

We are proud of their contributions and are pleased to recognize them and all their fellow lifesavers.





CENTER/OLIVER COUNTY



Ambulance

McNulty-Eide Oliver County first responder

By Jarann Johnson

Mickie McNulty-Eide, the Oliver County Ambulance Association squad leader, is known for her role in the community as a first responder. She started out like many other first responder volunteers, questioning her ability to be a volunteer ambulance member.

Originally, about 26 years ago, McNulty-Eide started with a CPR class. McNulty-Eide said her first CPR class was organized by Shirley Hagemeister.

"I started out with taking a CPR class. I moved to Center in 1994 and I took a CPR class from Shirley Hagemeister, who was very involved with the squad. She was involved with the start of the squad with the ambulance service in the 70s," McNulty continued.

"She was teaching a CPR class. I always wanted to take it. I went up and took it. Then she asked me later because I had questions for her. I had come across an accident and asked how could I have handled this differently. So, she

told me when they were going to start what was called first-responder at the time. Now, it's called emergency medical responder."

McNulty decided to take the first-responder class after a discussion with her husband and enjoyed it. "They were going to have a first-responder class, so she came over and asked me if I'd be interested in taking it. I talked it over with my husband, at the time, and asked what do you think. So, I took it and I went on my first ride-a-long before I finished my class. I just kind of got bit by the bug I guess," McNulty said.

She has enjoyed her time as an ambulance volunteer. She said she likes the family feel of her squad and being involved with helping the community.

"First of all, it was very good for building self-esteem and getting to know people. The ambulance crew is like a family. We have a really close-knit crew overall. Just being able to help people when they are in an emergency situation,"

McNulty-Eide said.

"Even if you can't save them all the time, you are still helping the family by doing everything you can to save them."

Many future volunteers spend time wondering and second-guessing if they can do the job. McNulty-Eide said she felt similar. But giving emergency services a try is the only way one can truly know if they have the ability to help.

"I would tell them I didn't know. I didn't know if I'd be able to handle it. I didn't know until I went on my first ride-along. It was a car accident. It was high school kids, four of them. I showed up and that night - both of our ambulances ended up going out," McNulty-Eide said.

"I was like 'OK, should I or shouldn't I.' When I finally went over both ambulances were gone. So, I drove out in my own vehicle. Once I got there then it was like 'OK, I can do this. Now, I know I can. Because it was trauma.' The only way to find out is to try."

Oliver County Ambulance

Age range of crew: 16-70

Number of runs: About 60 runs a year, about 60 percent of all Oliver County runs.

Meetings: Usually the third Monday of the month

Pay: Driver or EMR-\$25/per shift, EMT-\$30/shift, weekend shifts- everyone \$40/ shift, Holiday shifts- everyone \$55/shift.

Needs: All positions. COVID has lowered the squad's size, which normally is around 19 members to about 11 active members. Volunteers.

About the service: "We're basic life support, so we only have up to the EMT position. We have a couple of nurses who are on the squad. When they come on runs they perform their duties up to what we are allowed to do," McNulty-Eide said.

New Equipment: The Oliver County Ambulance will get a new rig in November. New rigs typically cost between \$180,000-\$200,000.

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