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By and For the People of Love County

**Richard Barker,
Administrator**

**Ambulance Emergency
911**

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276-2400**

**Hospital Information
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**Adult Day Center
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**Community Resources
211**

**Domestic Violence Help
276-2042
Hotline - 226-6424**

**Growers Market
276-9410**

EMS/Fire Brigade Firefighters Attracted to the Helping Field

David Villines, Firefighter/EMT

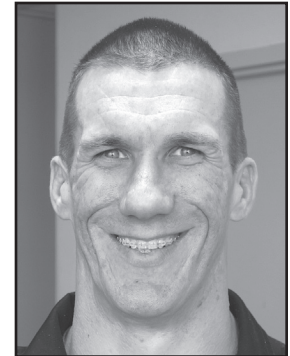
David Villines spent a dozen successful years in industrial and financial services work. Then at age 34, he restarted his career, this time as a probationary firefighter/EMT at Station 2, WinStar Casino.

"I made a career change from helping companies make money to serving people," Villines said. Money isn't everything. Service to others makes me happy and is my new priority."

Prior to joining the department in October 2018, Villines earned firefighting and emergency medical technician certifications from Haz-Co Fire Training Academy in Denison TX.

Villines also brings a high level of physical strength for lifting heavy loads or dragging hoses as firefighters are required to do. After 15 years as a weightlifter, in 2014 he discovered cross-fit, a workout program that combines weights with high-intensity movements for added aerobic fitness. He is a part-time instructor at a gym in Sherman.

"At times it can be go, go, go," Villines says of his new career. "You get a call to go out and you don't know exactly what you will find until you arrive. I like the excitement and the physicality of the fire department."



Tyler O'Neal, Firefighter/EMT

Tyler O'Neal's abilities and interests led him from the playing fields to the helping field.

He lettered in football, basketball, and tennis at his hometown high school in Texas, took one year of pre-medical studies at Midwestern State University, then graduated in the programs for emergency response from Grayson County College and Haz-Co Fire Training Academy.

"I was attracted by the possibility of helping people, and this is a way to get paid at the same time," O'Neal said. After joining Love County EMS/Fire Brigade in November 2018 as a first aid attendant at WinStar Casino, he transferred in July to Station 2 as a probationary firefighter/EMT.

O'Neal answers fire calls and also assists paramedics by taking the vital signs of ambulance patients. "I get more and more confident as I go forward," O'Neal said. "Now I can reassure a patient that they are in good hands and we will care for them to the best of our abilities."

His next goal is to qualify for the 18-month training program at Love County EMS/Fire Brigade leading to licensure as a paramedic.



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