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*By and For the People of Love County*

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## **EMS/Fire Brigade First Responders Rely on Their Training**

### **Ciara Cardona, CNA/CMA, First Aid Attendant**

Ciara Cardona has been avidly making a living and studying in the health care field since graduating from high school. She joined Love County EMS/Fire Brigade in August 2018 as a first aid attendant at Riverwind Casino in Norman.

The prior two years she was a certified nurse's aide and a certified medication aide at a nursing home. She also is a senior at Southern Nazarene University, majoring in health care administration.

Her model health care worker is her mother, who is a nurse in Altus. "She's good at what she does," Ciara said. "She was my boss at one point, and I learned a lot about nursing from her." Cardona confidently goes about her duties rendering first aid to casino patrons and employees. She once performed CPR on a non-responsive patron until an ambulance arrived with paramedics to transport the patient to the hospital.



### **Lacey Winans-Mercurio, EMT, First Aid Attendant**

Recovering from a near-death experience at age 18 eventually led Lacey Winans-Mercurio to a career in emergency medicine.

"I had no pulse, no breath, and was put into an induced coma for several weeks in an intensive care unit. Remembering the ambulance ride impressed upon me the importance of emergency response," Mercurio said.

She has been a first aid attendant for Love County EMS/Fire Brigade, assigned to Riverwind Casino, since January 2019. Several days a week, she also rides out with a rural ambulance. She will enter paramedic school in May.

With her experience and training, Mercurio has a good handle on what a first aid attendant can accomplish. "I want to be an effective communicator at the scene with the patient, with the casino security who assist me, and with the ambulance service that I may call to respond. I try to make a reasoned recommendation as to the best next step for the patron or employee, considering their illness or injury," she said.



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# **Mercy Health/Love County**

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**300 Wanda - Marietta, OK 73448**

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