

# Smith, Gamble voted Ms., Mr. Gibson County

## *Ms. Gibson County Sherry Jo Smith*

Sherry Jo Smith may not have been born and raised in Humboldt and Gibson County, but that doesn't mean she's not a Humboldt girl. Smith said she loves Humboldt and has lived here most of her life.

"I was blown away," Smith said when she heard she was voted Ms. Gibson County. "It's an honor, especially not being from Humboldt. But I am a Humboldtian."

Smith was born and raised in Selmer to Charles and Jo Jarnagin and was the oldest of her siblings.

So how exactly did she end up in Humboldt? After attending UT Martin in 1977, Smith took a job with the Gibson County Juvenile Court with Judge Bonds. At the time, the juvenile court was under the county executive's authority. Edwin "Cotton" Pigue was county executive. Since then, the title of county executive has been changed to county mayor.

A year later, Smith moved to Humboldt when she and Kenny married in 1978. Their daughter, Terri Crider, was also voted Ms. Gibson County in 2014. Now instead of the daughter following in the mother's footsteps, the shoe is on the other foot and Sherry Jo is following in Terri's footsteps. The Smith ladies are the first mother/daughter combination to be voted Ms. Gibson County.

Smith took a job with the Humboldt Law Court working for Evelyn Glisson until 1992.

"Sheriff Joe Shepard hired me as a warrants clerk," Smith recalled of her career. "Two years later, I applied for the chief jailer position. Now I'm the jail administrator and still there today."

Smith did take a leave for a year but came back when Paul Thomas was elected sheriff of Gibson County.

"Paul is a good man," Smith said of her boss. "He's always available. We're all equals and he treats everyone fairly."

Smith said she answers to Thomas and Chief Deputy Danny Lewis. Working with both men, Smith said the jail is a good place to work. Smith has worked for the county for 41 years total.

In her time working as jail administrator, Smith has seen many changes but none as big as when the new Gibson County Correctional Complex was opened in 2006.

"There are electronic locks on the doors," Smith said of the new technology. "We have electronic booking, fingerprinting and photos. All judgments are scanned into computers. We're coming into the electronic age. It's a lot different from back in the day."

Soon after Smith got her feet wet as a Humboldtian, she began getting more and more involved in the community. With their daughter, Terri,

**see SMITH page 4**



**Ms. Gibson County**  
1st - Sherry Jo Smith  
2nd - Janeice Frisbee  
3rd - Brittany Keller

## *Mr. Gibson County Tyler Gamble*

When Tyler Gamble was contacted about this year's Best of the Best contest, he automatically thought it was about McDonald's winning multiple categories again. Little did he know it was to let him know that the Humboldt Chronicle readers voted him Mr. Gibson in the 2020 Best of the Best contest.

"I'm shocked and humbled," Gamble said. "I never dreamed about it."

When his parents, Jeff and Laurie Gamble, moved to Humboldt to open the McDonald's restaurant, it was a big event. They started their family here and put down deep root. Tyler and his brother Chase were both born and raised here and graduated from Humboldt High School.

"I went through Humboldt City Schools and graduated in 2002," Gamble said of his roots. "I graduated Rhodes College in Memphis in 2006 with a BS in Biology."

The next three years of his life, Gamble worked in Jackson for Package Corporation of America in sales. But 2010 changed his life when he joined the family business with McDonald's.

"At the time we just had the Humboldt store," Gamble noted. "In 2012, we opened the Bells and Medina locations. In 2016, we added Brownsville and Corinth, Miss. stores, and in 2018, we bought the Jackson market with five stores."

Tyler and Jeff are co-operators of 10 McDonald's restaurants that operate with approximately 650 employees. They've built quite an empire in the region.

Gamble served on the Humboldt Chamber of Commerce Board of Directors and also served as chamber president. He was in office when Executive Director Sherri McCarter left her position for a job in Nashville. During his tenure, he and the board hired Lee Williams as director and Anna Surratt as executive assistant.

So many people in Humboldt have known Gamble all his life, from a newborn baby, to a student-athlete, to a college graduate, and now to an entrepreneur. McDonald's and the Gambles have always been wonderful business citizens of Humboldt. There is little doubt their community involvement was a factor in Gamble being voted Mr. Gibson County.

Gamble is moving up in the ranks and is now on the National Supply Chain Leadership Council for McDonald's. He is the equipment lead for the United States and goes to Chicago, Ill. about once a month for meetings.

NSCLC is a group of operators that oversee all the raw materials and products from suppliers to the distribution centers, and from there, to the restaurants.

**Mr. Gibson County**  
1st - Tyler Gamble  
2nd - Harry Davidson  
3rd - John Alsobrook

**see GAMBLE page 4**