



# WASHINGTON COUNTY SHERIFF'S OFFICE

Conserving the Peace Through Values Driven Service  
Sheriff Pat Garrett

## PRESS RELEASE

### Man Brings Bird to Court Appearance

December 1, 2016 – On November 28, 2016, Washington County Sheriff's Deputies assigned to the Courthouse Complex had to contend with a large macaw located in a tree. It was determined that the bird belonged to Craig Buckner (top inset photo) who was at the courthouse for a court appearance.

Mr. Buckner had not expected to be at the courthouse long and had placed the bird into a tree on the courthouse grounds to wait. Mr. Buckner was taken into custody on his court case and was very concerned for the well-being of his companion animal. The 4-year old macaw, named "Bird," was very well trained and would not leave the tree for anyone other than Mr. Buckner. Court security deputies escorted Mr. Buckner outside to retrieve "Bird" from the tree. Sheriff's Deputies allowed the macaw to accompany Mr. Buckner inside the court booking area to eat and cared for.



After several phone calls, deputies were able to locate a friend of Mr. Buckner who could pick up and care for "Bird" while Mr. Buckner resolves his court case.

Deputy Shoana McKelvey (bottom inset photo), who cared for "Bird" during the course of events said, "Our Sheriff's Office has very strong core values of doing the right thing. I also have very strong moral values of treating all people with compassion no matter what role I am taking. Mr. Buckner was already in a stressful position and did not need the additional stress and worry of his loved pet, Bird! Bringing the two together brought me joy and brought relief to Mr. Buckner and safety to his bird."

