

## Emergency medical services may merge

By Karen Krien  
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Cheyenne County Commissioners met with Sherman County Commissioners late Thursday afternoon at the courthouse in St. Francis. The purpose of the meeting was to discuss the possibility of merging the two county's emergency medical services. No decisions were made, but there was plenty of discussion with the meeting ending on the agreement to meet in Goodland in the very near future.

What was intended to be an informational meeting turned into an emotional and angry two

hours, as some of the Cheyenne County's emergency medical technicians were unhappy with the turn of events, mostly, it appeared, because of the lack of communication.

Government regulations, said Dale Patton, Cheyenne County Commissioner, are making it more and more difficult for small, rural counties to provide services. We feel we will need to collaborate to make our emergency medical service work, and to keep the service. We want to provide quality service for our residents.

At the Jan. 28 meeting, Duane Wright, Sherman County Emer-

gency Medical Service director, Ryan Murray, Cheyenne county emergency manager, and Dr. Mary Beth Miller, county emergency director, met with the commissioners for 40 minutes of executive session. Following the executive session, they discussed the possibilities of merging with Sherman County.

The following day, Janelle Bowers, Cheyenne County Emergency Medical Service director, posted in an e-mail that she was resigning.

We must have an interim director, Mr. Patton said.

Some of the technicians felt

like there had not been adequate communication. Concerning Mrs. Bowers, they asked if the commissioners had given her an ultimatum to either quit or be asked to quit?

"No," Mr. Patton said. "We - I was blindsided."

Mr. Murray said he had an e-mail from Mrs. Bowers a week prior to the meeting where she had written that she planned to resign.

Several years ago, Sherman County had problems with their emergency medical service. They had hired Mr. Wright, a Cheylin graduate, to take over the man-

agement, and also hired a bookkeeper.

Now, with their service up and going, they are willing to share their knowledge, protocols and personnel, including the director and bookkeeper. At the same time, Cheyenne County service would keep it's identity.

Mr. Klemm said, in the end, there are three goals that should be met: 1) provide high quality service; 2) make sure it is cost effective for taxpayers; and 3) see to those who are making a living at this.

By January 1, 2015, Cheyenne County emergency medical ser-

vice will need to have electronic charting implemented. That means equipment must be purchased and technicians trained.

The commissioners were unaware of this newest requirement. Sherman County is already using electronic charting.

Following the discussion, Mr. Wright said he would send Sherman County's protocol to Mr. Murray, who would distribute them to the technicians. The second meeting for discussing the merger has not been set yet. Before the meeting, county technicians were urged to come up with a plan.

## Warmer weather encourages more outdoor activities

By Norma Martinez  
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The warmer weather has brought the pheasants, wild turkeys and deer that stayed behind during the winter out into the wheat fields enjoying the warmer temperatures of 55 - 70 degrees. Sunday afternoon Mike and Ben McGilvray had their newest piece of art built, for Doak Farms in Las Cruces, N.M., outside, finishing off the polishing. This piece of art is a Hitch Wagon (originally called a Freight Liner). The only original piece on this wagon is the undercarriage parts. The McGilvray's rebuilt everything from there up.

Mike and Ben started working on this project last October and were held up for a month and a half waiting on all the chrome pieces to finish it off. There is only one place in the United States that was able to make the chrome lamps and trimming. Lots of hours were spent on getting the shine the owner wanted. Sunday, with daylight savings time and the warmer weather, they were taking advantage of the extra hour of that warm sunshine to work on it in the sunlight.

Their newest project is a Hol-som auto they are completely rebuilding from scratch for Norman House in Goodland.



MIKE AND BEN MCGILVRAY work on a hitch wagon outside, enjoying the warmer weather.

Times staff photo by Norma Martinez



RODNEY NEITZEL discusses plans for the July 4th celebration with the City Council. It will be held in Bird City this year. Look for more information in next week's paper.

Times staff photo by Norma Martinez

## Cheyenne County Relay for Life takes on new dimension this year

By Amanda Miller  
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Cheyenne County 2014 Relay for Life is taking on a new dimension.

Pat Rose, committee chairman, said, "As a committee, community caregivers, and survivors, we all understand the concept of relay going from sun-down to sun-up. Just as the cancer survivor struggles, fights, and becomes weak and tired, relayers become physically exhausted as they "fight" the early morning hours, waiting for the sun to come up to begin a new day."

This year will be different, however. The Relay for Life will begin at noon and end at midnight. It will be held on June 7, at Sawhill Park. There are plenty of exciting new ideas to go along with the new hours as well.

During the afternoon, there will be games such as a bounce house, sponge toss, and all kinds of surprises. The activities are open to the community, with all proceeds going to

the Relay for Life.

A silent auction will be held for donations, and baskets will be there as well. There will be special drawings throughout the day and evening that can only be won by those registered on a team.

Any number of people can register for a team. Team members can be any age as well. In order to receive a Relay for Life T-shirt, a team member must raise \$100. This can be raised individually, or if a team chooses to raise it as a team, that is fine. For example, a team can consist of 10 members, and they may raise \$1,000 as a team. This money may be raised by selling luminaries, team fundraisers, sending out emails, or however chosen.

The sooner teams are registered, the more time they will have to raise money. Teams are also encouraged to have on-site fundraisers.

Even though the hours have been changed, teams are still to have at least one team

member on the track at all times throughout the day and into the night.

If you would like more information, please contact Christy Wurm at 332-0260, Pat Rose at 332-5348, or Vicki Coates at 332-4151.

"If you would like to help us in this fight against cancer and would like to help serve on the committee, contact me or Vicki," Mrs. Rose said. She went on to say, "Cancer is not an individual fight; it is a fight surrounded by friends, family and a community."

The community supper will be served at 6 p.m. by Jim and Pam Bolin, with a free-will donation being taken. The proceeds from this supper are donated by Jim and Pam to Relay for Life. All survivors eat free.

Following the supper, the survivor, caregiver, and team laps will be taken. Entertainment will follow in the bandshell.

As the sun begins to set, the luminary ceremony will begin. This honors survivors and remembers those who have lost the fight.

## Appreciation dinner being held for local emergency responders

The Bird City Community Club will be holding an appreciation night fund raiser for local firemen, emergency medical technicians and first responders on Saturday, March 22.

On Saturday evening at the Emergency Building, there will be a free will donation "fireman style" barbecue dinner for everyone beginning at 6:00 p.m. Following the dinner, tour the building and see the new equipment. The ambulances, emergency vehicles and fire trucks will be on display and personnel available to explain how everything works, when it is used and how it prevents injuries or save lives.

At 7:00 p.m., there will be an introduction of the volunteers. Several groups are coming to give presentations as well. Mid-west Energy will present a pro-

gram on the danger of and how to avoid injury from electricity. The Cheyenne County Emergency Preparedness Department presentation will focus on the importance of community involvement partnerships, planning, and preparedness. Cody Beeson and the Sheriff's department will be explaining the direction of the future of emergency service training for Cheyenne County.

This is a community event, so bring the family, let the kids see the trucks and have their pictures taken in the firemen's gear. It is a great opportunity to thank all the volunteers who have taken the training, attended the meetings and are willing to answer our cries for help at a moment's notice.

All of the donations will go to the Bird City departments.



GEESE were caught taking off, enjoying the warmer weather. Most people are looking for signs of spring.

Times staff photo by Tim Burr