

April 2 to April 8, 2014

Todd County Standard

FISH & GAME

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THE AFTERNOON RITA SUE JENKINS DIED

Ambulance
response time
questioned
in local
woman's
death



BY TONYA S. GRACE
TODD COUNTY STANDARD

The death of an Elkton woman following what her family described as a lengthy ambulance call is prompting the Todd County Emergency Medical Services to review its policies with such calls, and the woman's family, while not quite sure what course of action they will follow, is consulting an attorney.

Rita Sue Poe Jenkins, 62, died March 24 at her home, just minutes after ambulance personnel arrived at the residence.

The family had called 911 to request an ambulance.

The call came into Todd County Dispatch at 4:23 p.m.

An ambulance arrived at Jenkins' home at 5:06 p.m.,

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Want better service? Prepare to pay for it

In the tragic story of the last minutes of Rita Sue Jenkins' life, it seems that there were several mistakes:

- The call for service to a backup ambulance that was somehow delayed 10 minutes.
- The time it took for Jenkins to get medical service.

What we, as in all of Todd County, find acceptable or, almost as sad as Jenkins' death, what we are willing to pay for.

In reporter Tonya Grace's story in this week's Standard it seems that an



RYAN
CRAIG

—
Home Cookin'

imperfect storm of events transpired in keeping Jenkins from receiving the care she needed. Now, would that missing service have saved her life?

That is for those who are smarter

than I to decide (if it can even be determined), and the shame of it all is that, by all accounts, a wonderful person known for her kindness and generosity may have died because Todd County and its taxpayers have — long before the current fiscal court — had a policy of shortchanging services in a rural county without a hospital or even a triage center.

In 2007, the Standard ran several articles based on suggestions from experts and ideas generated by the newspaper's readers.

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**CHILDHOOD OBESITY
PREVENTION**

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