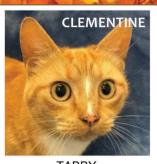
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## 911: County deals with sketchy service, bad technology

Continued from Page 1

tems across the country, one of the major obstacles to interoperability. at the regional level, is having multiple PSAPs," the agency's report states. "Combining the two relatively small centers into one is recommended."

All of the studies concluded that neither facility is adequate in staffing or space needs, Rusiecki said.

Mayor Henry Balensifer relayed an experience he had several years ago while riding along with a sheriff's deputy in Hamlet. The officer was dispatched to a domestic violence call.

"There were eight people in the building and no radio reception and that gets a little scary," Balensifer said.

In 1999, each agency had its own radio system, records management software and Seaside used a different computer-aided dispatch program, Rusiecki said. No agency could share information without great difficulty.

The 2007 windstorm magnified the vulnerabilities. Iimprovements have been made, but there are still communication problems.

Grants and other funding has been available for consolidations and other improvements, but leaders countywide haven't made that move.

"Shame on us," Rusiecki said. "Technology is expensive and for us to sit here for 30 to 40 years with our head in the sand and not ask for it (funding) is wrong."

Balensifer has been a proponent of consolidating the centers and brought it up more than a year ago during an annual meeting of countywide elected officials.

"Astoria seemed to have a little pushback and Seaside did as well." Balensifer said.

The goal is for a centralized 911 center to have control over all the mountaintop equipment, Rusiecki said, and to have technology administration under one authority.