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WHAT'S Inside

Box Elder High School

Class of 2019

Graduation special section

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Discovery during pregnancy leads to fight for life

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Wednesday, May 22, 2019

County approves five-year extension of Pointe Perry CDA

Perry City to also seek approval from school district, other taxing entities

By Nelson Phillips

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A request from Perry City to extend by five years a tax increment agreement with the county on a commercial subdivision was approved by the Box Elder County Commission at its Thursday meeting.

In the mid-2000s, Perry City took out bonds to finance infrastructure upgrades in the Pointe Perry commercial subdivision, located west of I-15 near 1100 South, with hopes of recouping that investment through higher property taxes and a special assessment which property owners were supposed to pay.

The 2007 recession hit the development hard, and multiple property owners defaulted on their obligations. The city picked up the properties through foreclosure sale, and continued to make the bond pay-

"Perry" on page 3

School board grapples with extension request for Brigham City EDA

By Nancy Browne

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The Box Elder School District Board of Education grappled Thursday with whether to extend by five years tax increment funding for an economic development area in northwest Brigham City instead of using the money to educate Box Elder children.

After lengthy discussion, the school board decided to take action on the matter at its June 12,

"EDA" on page 8

School board: More study needed before partnering in proposed recreation facility

Cost and location are sticking points for board in work meeting discussion

By Nancy Browne

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The Box Elder School District Board of Education pulled in the reins a bit Thursday after receiving a surprise request last week from Brigham City to cooperate in construction of a recreation facility for both community and school use.

School board members expressed concern during the work session that the facility, slated to be built near the pickleball courts, was too far from

"Rec" on page 8

Accident claims the life of Brigham City woman

A Brigham City woman is dead, and her passenger hospitalized, after her car ran off a freeway overpass Monday.

According to Lieutenant Lee Perry of the Utah Highway Patrol, at 11:13 a.m. on Monday the woman was driving westbound on 1100 South in Brigham City. She was approaching the freeway overpass when she somehow lost control of her vehicle.

"Just after entering the diverging diamond intersection over I-15 the vehicle left the roadway to the left and crossed over the northbound off ramp from I-15 at a high rate of speed," said Perry. "After crossing the off ramp the vehicle went airborne off the overpass embankment for approximately 100 feet. The vehicle landed into a ditch then flipped over and came to rest on its top."

"Accident" on page 7

Proposed BC motel ordinance tabled again for legal review

By Nelson Phillips

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The Brigham City Council on Thursday again tabled consideration of a controversial ordinance designed to punish lodging establishments whose properties generate frequent public safety responses, in order to have its provisions reviewed by an independent law firm.

The ordinance, first introduced in February, would set minimum requirements for room cleanliness and maintenance in hotels, motels and other lodging establishments, and mandate an annual inspection of the property by city officials or corporate franchise inspectors. It would also create a three-tiered system that would incrementally in-

crease regulations on the properties based on the average number of police calls per room at an establishment.

"If a facility has a large amount of illegal activity there are additional measures that are intended to deter crime," said Paul Larsen, the city's economic development director.

From .75 to one call per room per year the facility would be rated as a tier one, from 1 to 1.5 calls per room per year a tier two, and anything above that as a tier three.

In addition to the minimum requirements for cleanliness and safety, tier one establishments must also obtain full guest names, dates of birth, addresses, and vehicle information. Tier two establishments would also need to install and maintain surveillance cameras that cover all public areas, and undergo a crime prevention assessment con-

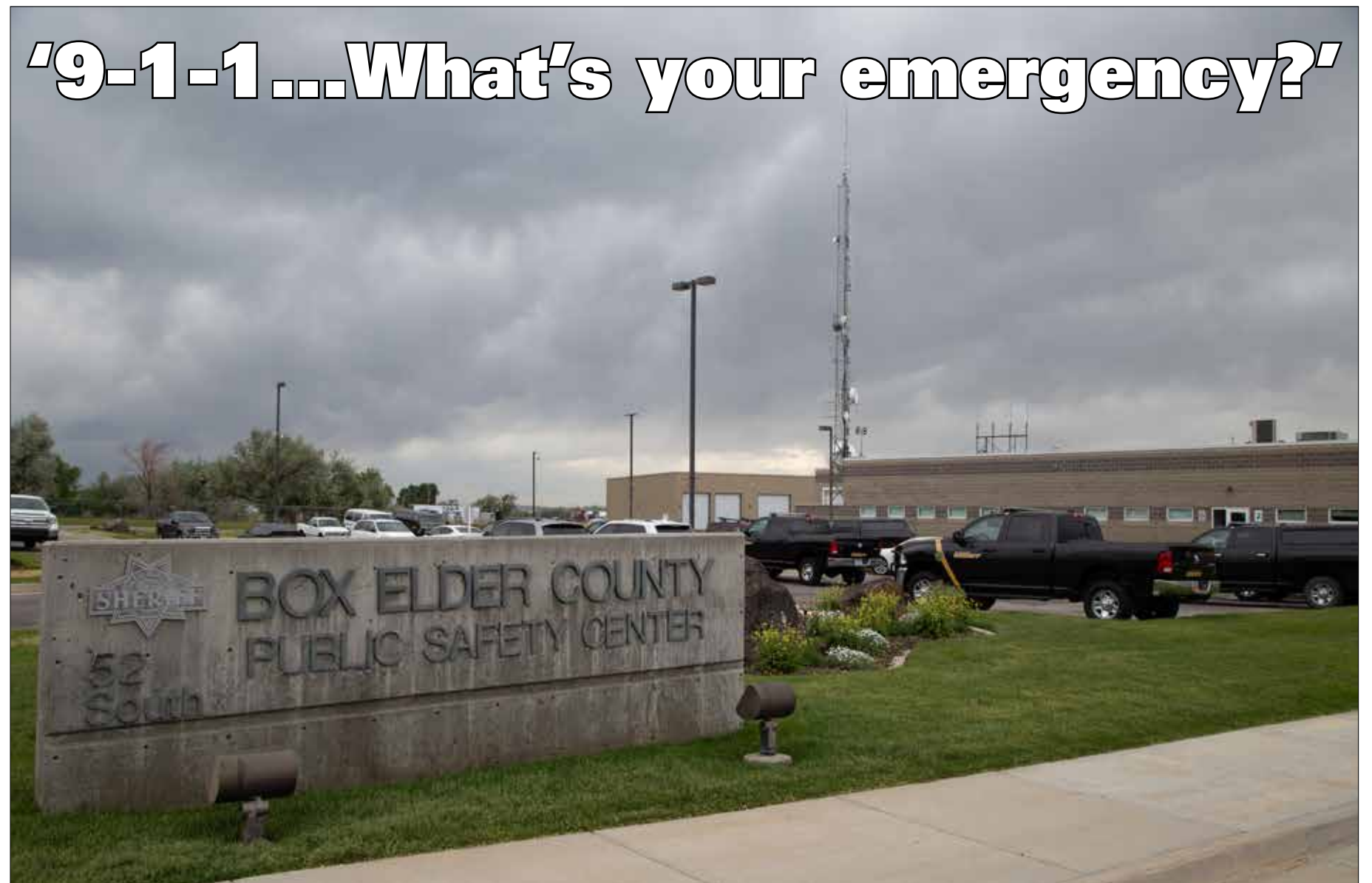


According to figures from the Brigham City Police Department, the Galaxie Motel is the only lodging facility in the city that would be subject to tier three regulations under a proposed ordinance.

ducted by the police department. Tier three locations would also need to hold employee crime prevention training by the police department, prohibit alcohol consumption in

public areas, maintain key logs, issue parking passes, light all common areas, keep records of trespass-

"Tabled" on page 3



All photos Hailey Hendricks / Box Elder News Journal

Located inside the Box Elder County Public Safety Center is the dispatch center where two dispatchers are required to be there at all times. Dispatchers are not the most visible part of public safety, but are the front line between those who need help and those who provide it.

Dispatchers do an important, stressful—sometimes humorous—job for county's public safety operations

By Hailey Hendricks

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"9-1-1 dispatch, what's the address of your emergency?" are the first words you hear when you call 9-1-1.

The dispatcher then proceeds with a list of questions from The International Academy EMD Protocol they are required to ask the caller before sending help.

Once knowing whether the caller needs police, fire or emergency medical services, the dispatcher pages out the proper information to get the caller the help they need; all while sometimes staying on the line with the caller until someone arrives on scene.

"Even though we are behind the scenes, we're the first, first responders because we're picking up the call," said Nickie Richards, the dispatch manager of the Box Elder Communications 911 Center. "We're the ones that are giving them updated information."

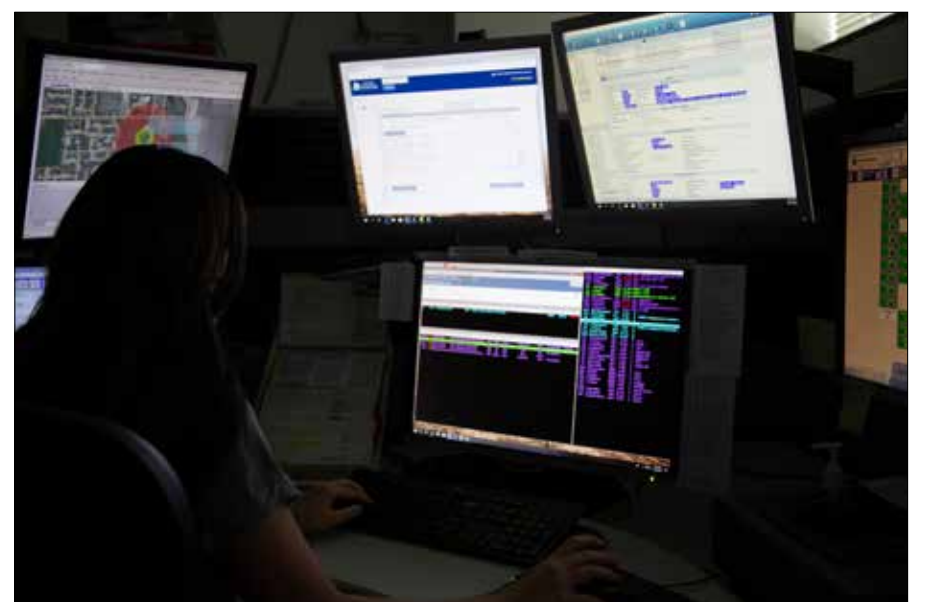
While the first dispatcher is

the only person a caller will hear, there's also a second dispatcher talking to all law enforcement agencies throughout Box Elder County. Some may think this job is less stressful, however, Richards said this job is just as stressful because you never know what is going to come over an officer's radio.

While taking emergency and non-emergency calls and communicating with officers, dispatchers are also required to call wreckers for car crashes, input information such as runaways or stolen vehicles into a statewide and/or nationwide system, and also keep updated records of all the livestock in the county in case there's an animal issue.

This is just a small list of the many tasks dispatchers are required to do and Richards said many people don't often realize or acknowledge the vast amount of things they do.

"We get more criticism and more complaints than we do, 'Hey, you did a great job,'" Richards said.



Dispatcher Kylee talks with law enforcement officers and pulls up locations and information on her computer. The amount of information dispatchers need to track is significant, including keeping updated records of all livestock in the county, just in case there's an animal problem.

Being ready for the call

Located inside the Box Elder County Public Safety Center, the dispatch center has at least two dis-

patchers working at all times.

Incoming calls vary on the day and time and weather conditions,

"Dispatch" on page 11

"Dispatch" continued from page 1

but no matter the circumstances, dispatchers must be prepared to answer any kind of emergency or non-emergency call.

"It is nerve-racking because you never know what's going to be on the other end," Richards said. "So that's a stress in and of itself...It's scary because you can't help. I mean, you're on the phone and you're helping that way, but you're not physically there."

Commending all dispatchers for the work they do, Box Elder County Sheriff's deputy-in-training, Tyler Bouslaugh, sat in on the dispatch end of things for two days to better understand what goes on behind the scenes. Coming from the Ogden City Police Department, he's aware of the difficult job dispatchers have.

"They are the first ones to sit there and cry with the mom or the dad or whoever's on the phone that they've lost their baby," Bouslaugh said, "but then they have to sit there and wonder what happened."

"And take calls in between," said dispatcher Jessica.

"I guarantee everyone here has talked someone through CPR and has lost somebody, and the next person that's called is complaining about how their neighbor has their garbage can

in front of their house," Bouslaugh said. "And they have to have a professional tone in their voice."

"Even though you just want to break," Jessica said.

Remaining calm in an emergency

As a dispatcher, there are plenty of difficult calls to take, but then there are some that one will never forget.

When asked about the hardest call taken, Richards thought back to Nov. 18, 2016, when she received the initial call that Utah Highway Patrol Trooper Eric Ellsworth had been struck by a car.

"All these emotions of trying to picture it all together because honestly, my first thought was, 'Did somebody purposefully run him over?'" Richards said.

With her own thoughts and emotions ready to overcome her, Richards said as a dispatcher, there's no time in an emergency situation to process the initial shock, as she has to remain calm for people in any kind of situation.

"I had to page, I had to take a huge deep breath...I got in the mode, I got people where I needed to...but inside, I was falling apart but I didn't want



An inside look of the Box Elder Communications 911 Center where all 9-1-1 and non-emergency calls are received and dispatched.

that to come over the radio," Richards said.

Richards said she also conducted Trooper Ellsworth's last call.

To numb the pain from that difficult call, Richards said she started going duck hunting every night after work to get her mind off the situation.

While everyone handles grief and processes their emotions

in their own way, Richards said there is a peer support group that dispatchers can go to. Also, there are counselors trained to specifically help dispatchers and law enforcement officers.

Incoming calls to 9-1-1

While there are plenty of emergency calls taken each day, dispatchers Kylee, McKen-

zie and Jessica, unanimously agreed some of the most frequent calls in Box Elder County are about car crashes, reckless drivers or medical calls.

In the midst of those 9-1-1 calls, the dispatchers said they get callers who will call and ask what the weather is like or why the power is out and when it will come back on.

Other calls are found to be humorous such as the time a caller asked Richards how to cook a turkey for Thanksgiving dinner.

"I told them that I've only ever cooked one, so I honestly, I can't tell you," said Richards.

Being safe while out and about

With the 100 deadliest days of summer beginning on Tuesday, May 28, Richards cautions people to be safe whether driving or participating in recreational activities. She said summer is a busy time for dispatch, but it just depends on the day, time and weather.

When asked about the consistently busier times of year, Richards said it tends to be around The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints' General Conference in April and October and the evenings of any major holidays.

Area of coverage

The Box Elder Communications Center provides communications services to Bear River, Beaver Dam, Blue Creek, Bothwell, Brigham City, Collinston, Corinne, Deweyville, Elwood, Fielding, Garland, Grouse Creek, Honeyville, Howell, Lynn, Mantua, Park Valley, Penrose, Perry, Plymouth, Portage, Promontory, Riverside, Snowville, Thatcher, Tremonton, Willard and Yost.

The center provides services for 12 law enforcement agencies, 15 fire departments, 14 ambulances and first responders departments.

In case of an emergency, call 9-1-1. For non-emergency calls, call the center at 435-734-3800.

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PD ready to help out SO

Members of the Brigham City Police Department, Lt. James Crapse (left), Detective Nathan Rackham (second from right), and Assistant Police Chief Chris Howard (right) are excited to support the Special Olympics in the annual Law Enforcement Torch Run, which is scheduled for Thursday, May 23. Pictured are Special Olympics athletes, Jesse Eden (second from left) and Alex Beard (center).

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