

Washington state pastor on a rescue mission

Wait said he does not look for applause

By PATRICK WEBB
For EO Media Group

KENNEWICK, Wash. — Pastor Harley Wait believes in serving his fellow man in practical, as well as spiritual, matters.

The Long Beach Peninsula pastor is active with the South Pacific County Technical Rescue Team.

His service has earned him the Washington American Legion's Emergency Medical Technician of the Year award. It was presented at the Legion's state convention in Kennewick last weekend.

Lifesavers nominated by the Don R. Grable American Legion Post 48 of Ilwaco earned two of the Legion's four 2017 state awards. Named Firefighter of the Year was Agnes Waliser from Pacific County Fire District 1. Other winners were a policeman from Renton and a retired Marine from Maple Valley.

Wait and Waliser were among 11 community heroes honored last November by the Ilwaco post at its annual ban-



Patrick Webb/For EO Media Group
Harley Wait of Ocean Park is pastor of Oceanview Baptist Church. He is pictured at the Seventh-day Adventist Church building in Long Beach, which his congregation shares. He was honored by the Washington American Legion as the state Emergency Rescue Technician of the Year.

especially pleased by the participation from the supervisors of these organizations who take the time, from what must be very busy schedules, to recommend one of their own for recognition."

Wait was nominated by Doug Knutzen, president of the rescue team; Waliser was recommended by Chief Jacob Brundage of Pacific County Fire District 1.

'Always there'

Wait, 46, said he does not look for applause. "Praise from the community is not necessarily what drives me," he said. "It's more duty and obligation to help out our fellow man."

However, Knutzen is delighted Wait's service has been rewarded at local and state level.

"His contribution is ground support — not jumping into the ocean or 'hanging out' on cliffs," he said. "He does a good job. He is always willing to help. He is that soft-spoken, mild-mannered person who is always there."

For Wait, the practical help is part of his makeup. "I have always had that 'frontiersman' ethic," he said. "There is a job that needs to be done and somebody has to do it."

Settled

Because his father was a career soldier, Wait's upbringing meant multiple moves, including postings in Germany. It gave him an expectation that he would uproot frequently, which he did in his early adult life.

However, four years ago he moved from Tacoma to become pastor of Oceanview Baptist Church and he noted that he and wife, Shauna, are settled on the peninsula.

"The bustle of the big-city life isn't something we like. We enjoy the slower pace here, and it's a good-sized community." The couple lives in Ocean Park and has two children, Aubrey, 20, and Eli, 17.

Oceanview is an independent fundamentalist Christian church. Wait has no formal theological training, but describes himself as a "biblicist," meaning he believes in the content of the Bible literally.

His congregation — of up to 40 — shares a building with the Seventh-day Adventists in Long Beach. He also helps with a jail ministry and men's mission program in Astoria.

He prepared for his first pastor job during his 15 years in Tacoma by serving as a Sunday school teacher, leading a

bus ministry and spearheading children's and adult programs. All this was accomplished while operating his own landscape gardening service.

Not 'Baywatch'

When he arrived on the peninsula, he offered his services to Pacific County Fire District 1 as a chaplain. Because that role was filled, he was encouraged to volunteer in other ways and learned emergency medical skills. That led to his service with the rescue team.

While he was not expecting it to be exactly like TV's "Baywatch," serving the group focused his mindset in a practical way.

"When I entered into this, my eyes were closed because we have a lot of preconceived notions on what goes on," he said.

"But when you come face to face with an actual emergency, the glamorous and grandiose comes to a close. The world comes into a smaller perspective. You lose the big picture working in emergency situations — your focus is where you can help."

Counseling

Knutzen, the rescue team's leader, praises Wait

for drawing on his counseling skills and compassion when accompanying family members at the scene of rescue attempts. This has included recent ocean drownings.

"You cannot leave these people alone," Knutzen said. "Local law enforcement does a good job, but they cannot always be there." Wait is the rescue team's point of contact, offering relatives comfort while they wait for news. "He has a gift," he said.

Wait said this derives from his counseling experience. "We see the worst days of people's lives sometimes."

His participation means team members are free to perform other important duties at the rescue scene.

"You get the most qualified person at the point in time. They know I'm a pastor," Wait said. "It's the job that nobody else wants. Often you deal with breaking bad news, or consoling a person."

"This is where faith enters in. Because the Lord developed me and made me who I am, I am able to connect with people in a certain degree and bring calmness and hope at the same time."

FIVE-DAY FORECAST FOR ASTORIA



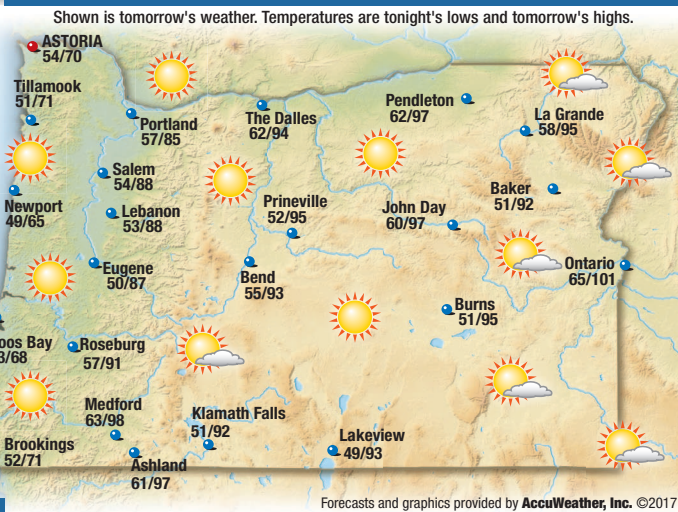
ALMANAC

Astoria through Thursday.
Temperatures
High/low 68°/57°
Normal high/low 68°/54°
Record high 90° in 1958
Record low 37° in 1930
Precipitation
Thursday 0.00"
Month to date 0.10"
Normal month to date 0.94"
Year to date 49.67"
Normal year to date 36.85"

SUN AND MOON

Sunset tonight 8:51 p.m.
Sunrise Saturday 5:54 a.m.
Moonrise today 11:59 a.m.
Moonset today 11:54 p.m.
First Full Last New
July 30 Aug 7 Aug 14 Aug 21

REGIONAL WEATHER



UNDER THE SKY

Tonight's Sky: After sunset, the waxing crescent moon and Jupiter will be within 2-5° degrees of one another.

TOMORROW'S TIDES

Astoria / Port Docks
Time High Time Low
6:25 a.m. 6.7 ft. 12:32 a.m. 1.3 ft.
7:00 p.m. 7.8 ft. 12:32 p.m. 0.8 ft.

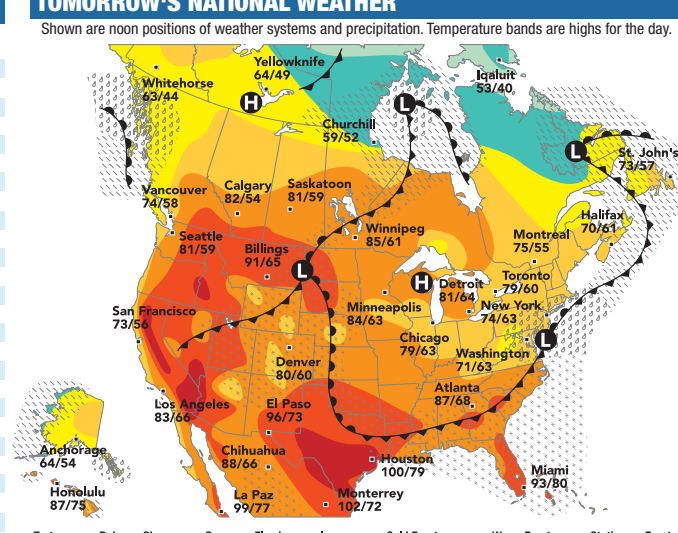
NATIONAL CITIES

City	Hi	Lo	W	Hi	Sat	W
Allanta	86	71	t	87	68	pc
Boston	79	63	pc	70	61	c
Chicago	79	62	s	79	63	s
Denver	91	63	t	80	60	t
Des Moines	84	63	pc	83	62	pc
Detroit	78	60	pc	81	64	s
El Paso	95	74	t	96	73	t
Fairbanks	73	54	pc	73	55	c
Honolulu	86	75	pc	87	75	s
Indianapolis	80	57	pc	77	59	s
Kansas City	82	63	pc	80	61	pc
Las Vegas	106	83	pc	104	82	pc
Los Angeles	85	67	pc	83	66	pc
Memphis	87	71	t	87	64	s
Miami	92	80	t	93	80	pc
Nashville	85	67	t	84	63	pc
New Orleans	94	78	s	88	75	t
New York	82	67	pc	74	63	r
Oklahoma City	91	70	c	92	66	c
Philadelphia	84	68	t	73	62	r
St. Louis	87	64	s	84	64	s
Salt Lake City	93	69	s	95	71	t
San Francisco	72	55	pc	73	56	pc
Seattle	79	57	s	81	59	s
Washington, DC	82	69	t	71	63	r

REGIONAL CITIES

City	Hi	Lo	W	Hi	Sat	W
Baker City	90	51	s	92	53	pc
Bend	91	55	s	93	56	s
Brookings	65	53	pc	70	56	s
Eugene	85	50	s	87	53	s
Ilwaco	65	55	pc	67	58	pc
Klamath Falls	90	51	s	92	52	s
Medford	95	63	s	98	64	s
Newberg	84	53	s	87	56	s
Newport	63	49	s	65	51	s
North Bend	65	53	pc	67	54	s
Olympia	81	51	pc	82	55	s
Pendleton	94	62	s	97	63	s
Portland	83	57	s	85	60	s
Roseburg	86	57	s	91	59	s
Salem	86	54	s	88	57	s
Seaside	67	54	pc	69	58	pc
Spokane	90	62	s	93	62	s
Springfield	85	52	s	88	54	s
Vancouver	82	55	s	85	59	s
Yakima	96	59	s	98	62	s

TOMORROW'S NATIONAL WEATHER



Governor authorizes the National Guard for eclipse

Associated Press

PORTLAND — Gov. Kate Brown is authorizing the Oregon National Guard to deploy soldiers to help deal with an influx of tourists during next month's total solar eclipse.

Oregon Public Broadcasting reported that the National

Guard will stage six aircraft and about 150 soldiers and airmen ahead of the Aug. 21 celestial event.

The moon's shadow first hits Oregon as the moon passes between the Earth and the sun and up to 1 million people are expected to visit the state to see it.

State and local governments have been planning for months to prepare for an influx of people that could jam highways and stretch resources.

The eclipse coincides with peak wildfire season in Oregon and the National Guard could help fight fires if necessary.

OBITUARIES

Judith Harper

North Augusta, South Carolina
June 24, 1949 — June 10, 2017

Judy was in a U.S. Navy family, and she moved around a lot, but settled in Seaside, Oregon, where she graduated in 1967.

She moved to Oroville, Washington, where she married and was blessed with a son. She lived in Oregon, Washington, South Carolina, Guam and Germany, but mostly in the Portland, Oregon area. She moved to South Carolina to be closer to her son and

grandchildren.

Besides her family, she loved hockey, especially the Portland Winterhawks.

She is survived by her son, John (Angela) Harper; grandchildren, Amberlyn, Austin and Jayden; and her brother, Jim. She was preceded in death by her parents, Art and Ruby Faust; and her brother, Gene.

At her request, there will be no service.

ON THE RECORD

DUII

• At 9:05 p.m. Wednesday, Scott Blaesing, 44, of Wenatchee, Washington, was arrested by the Warrenton Police Department on the 1500 block of S.E. Discovery Lane and charged with driving under the influence of intoxicants. His

blood alcohol content was 0.18 percent.

• At 9:47 p.m. Wednesday, Christopher J. Travis, 34, of Seaside, was arrested by the Seaside Police Department on U.S. Highway 101 and charged with DUII. His blood alcohol content was 0.13 percent.

PUBLIC MEETINGS

TUESDAY

Seaside Community and Senior Commission, 10 a.m., Bob Chisholm Community Center, 1225 Avenue A.
Seaside Library Board, 4:30 p.m., Seaside Public Library, 1131 Broadway.
Miles Crossing Sanitary Sewer District Board, 6 p.m., 34583 U.S. Highway 101 Business.
Seaside Planning Commission, 6 p.m., City Hall, 989 Broadway.
Cannon Beach City Council, 7 p.m., City Hall, 163 E. Gower St.

LOTTERIES

OREGON

Thursday's Pick 4:
1 p.m.: 2-5-1-2
4 p.m.: 4-8-7-3
7 p.m.: 0-1-0-7
10 p.m.: 0-6-9-7

WASHINGTON

Thursday's Daily Game: 6-5-5
Thursday's Keno: 04-13-14-26-27-28-29-33-35-38-41-44-46-48-50-61-65-70-72-73
Thursday's Match 4: 02-03-10-18

OBITUARY POLICY

The Daily Astorian publishes paid obituaries. The obituary can include a small photo and, for veterans, a flag symbol at no charge. The deadline for all obituaries is 9 a.m. the business day prior.

Obituaries may be edited for spelling, proper punctuation and style. Death notices and upcoming services will be published at no charge. Notices must be submitted by 9 a.m. the day of publication.

Obituaries and notices may be submitted online at www.dailyastorian.com/forms/obits, by email at ewilson@dailyastorian.com, placed via the funeral home or in person at The Daily Astorian office, 949 Exchange St. in Astoria. For more information, call 503-325-3211, ext. 257.

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