

Halverson recognized for his leadership at Astoria police

Deputy chief was the 'glue' during shake-up

By KATIE FRANKOWICZ
The Daily Astorian

City leaders and police officers gave Astoria Deputy Chief Eric Halverson a standing ovation Monday night in recognition of how he led the department through a difficult transition last summer after the former police chief abruptly retired.

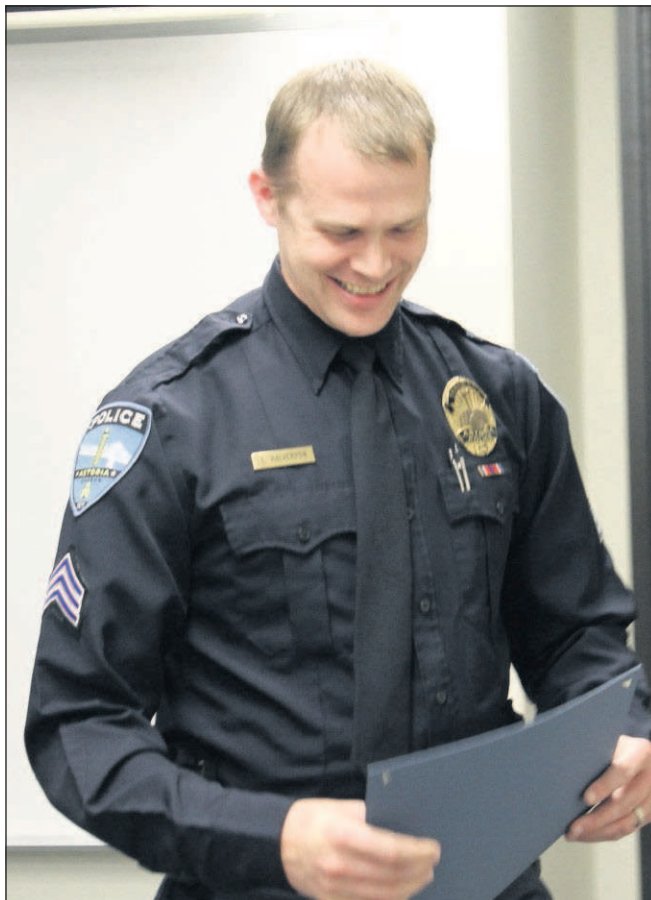
Halverson stepped up as interim chief last August, working as both the chief and deputy chief until Police Chief Geoff Spalding came on board later that month. At the time, an independent assessment of the police department under former chief Brad Johnston's leadership documented low morale, staff shortages and conflict within the department, but singled out Halverson as a well-respected leader.

Spalding called Halverson the "glue that has held the department together in some challenging times."

On Monday, Spalding presented Halverson with a distinguished service commendation.

"This is the highest honor that we can recognize someone in this organization without some form of a heroic act — which he came pretty close to, I think, in what he had to do here," Spalding said.

"One of the things that makes this honor, to me, more significant is the fact it's a recognition from his peers," he added.



Astoria Deputy Chief Eric Halverson

'It was the members of the department that kept the department together.'

Eric Halverson
Astoria deputy chief

City Manager Brett Estes echoed the police chief's praise. "It was an honor to work along side you," he told Halverson. "I appreciate all the effort that you made and all of

the challenges that you took on during that time of transition."

Halverson hadn't been told he was receiving the honor. He was there to watch the swearing in of the department's newest police officer, Alex Whitney.

"I don't have a whole lot to say other than the fact that it was the members of the department that kept the department together," Halverson said. "I was just fortunate enough to be there and have people stand behind me and help me. This is really for all of our staff that hung in there."

Halverson joined the department in 1993 as a police cadet and became a police officer in 1998. He was promoted to sergeant in 2008. He was promoted to deputy chief in 2015 when Johnston was police chief. He acted as interim chief for most of last August before Spalding took over. Spalding was hired permanently in January.

The department is on firmer ground going into this summer.

Spalding submitted a quarterly report Monday in which he reported the past few months had been "relatively quiet with minimal high-profile incidents."

Whitney's swearing-in brought sworn staff up to 17 officers, Spalding wrote, but staffing continues to be a challenge for both the police department and the 911 dispatch center.

As staffing levels increase, and as two other new officers get ready to patrol on their own, Spalding is looking at gaps in service. He is contemplating filling a second detective position and is also evaluating what it would take to be able to participate in the inter-agency drug task force and restore the school resource officer position — two priorities that came up during city budget discussions this spring.

Unemployment falls below 4 percent in Clatsop County

The Daily Astorian

Seasonally adjusted unemployment dipped below 4 percent in Clatsop County in May, according to state statistics.

Seasonally adjusted figures compare expected with actual employment.

Clatsop County's seasonally adjusted unemployment was at 3.9 percent in May, a

slight drop from the previous month and year. The rate was 4.9 percent in Columbia County, 4.2 percent in Tillamook County, 4.1 percent statewide and 3.8 percent nationwide.

Clatsop County was expected to gain 290 jobs in May but only added 170. Nonfarm payroll employment was 18,620, 310 higher than the year prior. Over the past

year, construction has added 130 positions, and hospitality another 80. Retail trade has gone down 80 positions over the past year.

Clatsop County was tied with Morrow and Wasco counties for the 10th-lowest unemployment rate in the state in May. The statewide unemployment rate was 4.1 percent, and the national rate 3.8 percent.

Jobless rates for May*

Area	May 2018	April 2018	1-yr. ago
Clatsop	3.9	4.1	4
Columbia	4.9	5	5
Tillamook	4.2	4.3	4.2
Oregon	4.1	4.1	4.1
U.S.	3.8	3.9	4.3

*Preliminary, seasonally adjusted rates. Source: Oregon Employment Department Daily Astorian graphic

Port director hopes for citywide enterprise zone

Designation on the waterfront

By EDWARD STRATTON
The Daily Astorian

Jim Knight, the executive director of the Port of Astoria, is hoping the Astoria City Council will designate the entire waterfront an enterprise zone.

Enterprise zones provide a state property tax break for three to five years for manufacturers, processors, shippers, call centers and headquarters. Hotel and resort businesses are also eligible in some enterprise zones.

Clatsop County, Warrenton and the Port in 2015 partnered to create the Clatsop Enterprise Zone covering clusters of industrial and commercial properties around Warrenton, Hammond, Miles Crossing, Jeffers Garden, the Astoria Regional Airport and Knappa.

The Astoria City Council rejected involvement in the enterprise zone over mistrust of the Port, preventing properties along the waterfront from taking advantage of potential tax breaks.

Hyak Maritime recently purchased North Tongue Point, an industrial dock on the eastern edge of Astoria, and replaced the Port as oper-

ator, hoping to create a marine fabrication and repair facility. The City Council has expressed interest in expanding the enterprise zone to help the development. The expansion needs to be approved by the state.

"I have heard clearly that there is an intention of Tongue Point, and perhaps even our East Mooring Basin," Knight said of the city's deliberations. "But I just think our community would be remiss not to take advantage of the rest of the waterfront."

Knight has pushed for more public-private partnerships to refurbish the Port's aging, crumbling properties. He successfully campaigned for eastern Astoria to be one of the 86 census tracts designated as opportunity zones by the state. The federal designation could lead to an infusion of money by investors hoping to lower their capital gains tax burden.

Knight said he plans to speak with Astoria's city manager about further expanding the enterprise zone and potentially enlist Port commissioners to help sway the city.

Frank Spence, president of the Port Commission, said he is pleased to see the city revisiting enterprise zones, considering how many properties in Warrenton are already taking part.

The Port Commission on

Tuesday approved a \$12 million operating budget, including nearly \$3 million in personnel services, \$2.3 million in capital investments, \$1.6 million in debt service payments and nearly \$4.4 million in materials and services. Most of the Port's revenue comes from operations and grants, but a small portion will come from countywide property taxes of 12.56 cents per \$1,000 of assessed value also approved by the Port Commission.

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On the date of the attack, an interpreter will be at Battery Russell and the Pacific Rim Peace Memorial with displays and information about the attack.

June 21, 1992: The 50th Anniversary of the Japanese attack. Over 150 Fort Stevens veterans gathered at Battery Russell to remember the event and to dedicate the Pacific Rim Peace Memorial.

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A: Many options exist to address this situation. Factors which determine the best option are patient interest, position of tooth, position of gum level, height and width of the bone, esthetic concerns and challenges, condition of adjacent teeth, and patient expectations. Available options to consider and discuss are doing nothing, fabrication of an economical removable "flipper", construction of a fixed bridge, and placement of a dental implant supporting an implant crown. The bridge and implant options are the most durable, esthetic and pleasing options to consider.



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Q: Are there any public burial/cremation societies to care for those who die without family or means to care for their final expenses?

A: How a State handles "indigent deaths" is specific to statutes of that State's legislation. The State of Oregon does not have any public burial/cremation societies (as they used to exist historically in Europe or the early parts of the settling of the New World). Instead, our State has a special program that involves specific criteria which each funeral provider must investigate thoroughly before the state will qualify a decedent as indigent. Those funeral establishments who participate in the program truly live up to William Gladstone's quote: "Show me the manner in which a nation cares for its dead and I will measure with mathematical exactness the tender mercies of its people, their respect for the laws of the land and their loyalty to high ideals."

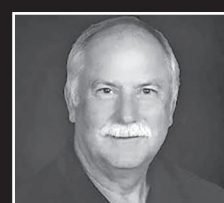


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Q: We are planning a Summer/Fall wedding is it too late to book a photographer?

A: I prefer three weeks schedule to prep, for most of my work. I'll work with a budget at low to nothing cost changes.



Steve Putman
Medicare Products

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Q: I just received my new Medicare ID card, do I need to do anything?

A: It depends. If you have a Medicare Supplement Policy you need to call the customer service number on the back of your insurance card and give them your new number. Advantage Plan and Part D Prescription Plan members do not need to. Medicare Services (CMS) will do that for you. Remember, never give out your info to an incoming caller.

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