

**OBITUARIES**

**Harvey ‘Wade’ Halbrook Jr.**



**Seaside**

**Sept. 9, 1962 — Sept. 20, 2021**

Harvey “Wade” Halbrook Jr. took his last breath after a gallant fight with cancer on Sept. 20, 2021, leaving this world too early at the age of 59.

Wade Halbrook was born in Seaside to Marilyn Jean Halbrook and Harvey “Swede” Wade Halbrook Sr. (both preceded in death) on Sept. 9, 1962.

Wade graduated from Seaside High School in 1980 and attended Chemeketa Community College in Salem. Wade lived in Arizona for a short time. His heart brought him back to Seaside where his family and friends were.

Wade worked at the Gearhart Dairy Queen (eating all the profits), haying for Don Fall- eur, logging for F&B Logging, Gary Hansen Concrete, fishing in Alaska for Dave Lethen and more concrete work for Arizona Suntec before opening his own business, Halbrook Concrete, in the early 1990s. He truly loved what he did, to quote Wade: “Best dollar ever spent.”

Wade was an amazing first baseman, he had such a passion for baseball, hunting, fishing, clam digging, golfing and traveling, spring training in Arizona, hunting in Canada, fishing in Alaska with Jamaica mixed in and then there was his dog, “Yogi,” man’s best friend. Wade loved living this life.

Wade was extremely generous, always helping others in need, donating his time and money through the American Legion local scholarship fund, which began in honoring his friend Danny Mac beginning as a baseball tournament and later became a golf tournament when they all got too “old” to play.

Wade only wanted to talk about living and living he did. Wade loved being Santa (the laugh) and the Easter Bunny. Wade had a huge heart and an even bigger love for his family and friends, memories made were cherished. Wade knew very few strangers in his life and remained friends with all he met along his journey. Wade was very rich in the friend department.

Along with the huge heart came the larger than life persona and the infectious laugh, you knew when Wade was in the room and you wanted to be a part of it.

Wade is survived by his sister, Janet Halbrook; brother, John Halbrook; aunts, Mary Kay Erickson, Ganet Moe (preceded in death); uncle, John Johnson; former spouses; Jennifer Braun and Myra Cordova; Wade’s very special friend, Joanne Olson; cousins, David (Tuf) Gould, Kevin Gould and Kim Gould, Randy (Tammy) Moe, Scott Moe, Greg Gould, Ronnie Gould, Sydney Gould, Samantha Gould, Nicole Gould, Joel Routh, Beau Routh, Ashtyn (Kyle) Elliott, Karlee and Kaitlyn Moe; nieces and nephews, Mindy Olson, Jessica Heslop, Jobe Johnson, Jalisa Johnson, Gunder Halbrook, Valerie Kent and Angela Tuers; and great nieces, nephews and cousins, Alyssa, Zion, Elijah, Mia, Aiden, Joel Jr., Kylie, Trey, Leo, Kane and Sophie.

The last 2 1/2 years Wade fought a valiant fight against cancer. Wade had cancer but it never had him — such strength, dignity and humor. He like his sweet momma never gave in or up. There is no doubt that Marilyn was first in line with open arms waiting for her Wade. He was a very proud mama’s boy. Wade was bigger than life and will be missed by his family and friends. He was loved from his first breath to his last and will never be forgotten. Honor Wade by living your best life each day, share his stories and remember to laugh.

Those wishing to contribute in Wade Halbrook’s honor may do so to: Seaside American Legion Scholarship Fund; P.O. Box 285 Seaside, OR., 97138.

A celebration of Wade’s life will be held at 3 p.m. Oct. 9 at the Seaside American Legion.

# Astoria dispatch temporarily moving to Seaside

By **KATIE FRANKOWICZ**  
The Astorian

**BOTH DISPATCH CENTERS ARE IN THE TSUNAMI INUNDATION ZONE. IN MORE RECENT TALKS ABOUT POSSIBLE CONSOLIDATION, DISCUSSIONS HAVE FOCUSED ON THE NEED FOR ANY CONSOLIDATED CENTER TO BE LOCATED OUTSIDE OF THE INUNDATION ZONE.**

Short on staff for nearly two years, Astoria’s emergency dispatch center will temporarily move operations to Seaside in October.

The dispatch center has been running with only a handful of dispatchers since early 2020, a situation that has required staff to shoulder a significant amount of overtime each month and that Astoria Police Chief Geoff Spalding said is undesirable and unsustainable. Meanwhile, the Seaside Dispatch Center has been fully staffed for a while for the first time in more than a decade.

Over the past year, Seaside dispatchers have traveled north to help out in Astoria, but the new agreement between the two cities will place Astoria’s four dispatchers in the Seaside office until four new hires can be fully trained. The arrangement could last as long as six months.

The combined office will handle 911 calls countywide, together covering all the fire and police entities served under separate Seaside and Astoria dispatch agreements.

The arrangement means there will be more dispatchers available to field calls at any given time — a major plus for emergency responders, said Mitch Brown, the communications manager for the Seaside Police Department. The combined dispatch could shorten the time it takes to organize mutual aid calls.

**Staffing levels**

The Astoria Police Department can’t point to any one reason why staffing levels have dipped so low.

Some dispatchers retired and others left unexpectedly. Four new dispatchers are in training or set to begin training soon and could be on board in the next three to six months. The dispatch center is authorized for nine full-time dispatch positions, one operations supervisor and one communications manager.

It can easily take up to six months to get someone proficient in dispatching. Then some hires ultimately discover the job is not for them once they are working the desk. It is a difficult job that requires a high level of multitasking skills, Spalding said.

Then there are the peculiarities and challenges of dispatching within small communities. A dispatcher must remain professional no matter what, said Jennifer Schermerhorn, a Seaside dispatcher.

“And you may know someone who is calling 911 on the worst day of their life,” she said.

Talks of consolidation — to combine the two dispatch centers — have occurred at various times over the years with no concrete steps toward a single countywide dispatch center. Seaside has continued to invest in its own equip-

ment and continues to fine-tune radio issues to reliably reach all corners of its coverage area.

The combined operations set to begin in October could act as a sort of test run for future consolidation, Brown allowed.

“We’ll be able to see what works and what doesn’t work,” he said.

But laying the groundwork for possible consolidation is not the point of the agreement between Seaside and Astoria, officials say.

“This is to address a more immediate need of staffing shortages,” Spalding said. “We are definitely not going into this that it’s a test for some future consolidation effort.”

“The simple answer of it is anything is always possible,” said Jon Rahl, Seaside’s assistant city manager. But, he added, echoing Spalding, “It’s not the conversation right now. The conversation is, ‘We have a staffing issue. How are we going to solve it?’”

There are other issues that need to be addressed in any discussion about consolidation. It isn’t as straightforward as moving all operations to one of the existing centers.

Both dispatch centers are in the tsunami inundation zone. In more

recent talks about possible consolidation, discussions have focused on the need for any consolidated center to be located outside of the inundation zone, Spalding said.

And while the separate Astoria and Seaside dispatch centers now use the same software and hardware, the dispatchers wear different hats. In Seaside, dispatchers also handle some front desk work and manage the records division, Spalding noted. The Seaside center also handles a lower volume of calls because they have fewer subscribers to dispatch services than Astoria.

**Workarounds**

Seaside dispatch supports Seaside police, Seaside fire, Cannon Beach police, Gearhart police and several rural fire protections services on the south end of Clatsop County. Astoria dispatchers serve the Astoria and Warrenton police and fire departments, a number of rural fire protection services on the north end of the county and the sheriff’s office.

Still, Spalding told the Astoria City Council at a meeting last week that the workarounds the two centers have developed to address staffing shortages in Astoria mean the different dispatch staffs have now worked closely together. They’ve covered areas of the county they wouldn’t have before, are familiar with each other’s operations and have established relationships with one another.

The agreement with Seaside could be extended if necessary. Though Astoria dispatchers may be in Seaside for up to six months, Spalding expects it will be closer to three.

**PUBLIC SAFETY LOG**



**Sept. 24**

**12:06 a.m.**, Turnaround restrooms: Graffiti is reported. Public Works is advised to clean up.

**7:40 a.m.**, 2500 block N. Roosevelt: Caller said she woke up to find pizza on her counter. She reported this as suspicious.

**10:11 a.m.**, 2400 block, U.S. Highway 101: Caller reports a foul odor coming from a motel; police drove by and said there was no smell consistent with what was described.

**5:11 p.m.**, 1000 block Avenue F: Caller reports her boyfriend left her. Police tell her he was just arrested 15 minutes earlier for driving while intoxicated. The couple were reunited at the police department.

**Sept. 25**  
**2:03 p.m.**, 900 block 12th Avenue: Abandoned junk is reported.

**6:27 p.m.**, Turnaround: A young child reported lost is found by an officer and reunited with its parents.

**6:43 p.m.**, Quatat Park: Caller reports people on the boat docks they believe are trespassing; the business owner is contacted and says its employees and there is no need for police intervention.

**Sept. 26**  
**11:04 a.m.**, Avenue D and Lincoln: Caller reports motorhome they suspect of camping. Police were unable to contact the occupants who were not there. A parking pass for a local campground was on the vehicle’s windshield so police thought it was unlikely the camper would be remaining in the area long or any indication of unlawful lodging.

**2:04 p.m.**, Necanicum River and 12th Avenue: A kayak found floating in the river was fished out by firefighters and brought to police headquarters.

**Sept. 27**  
**1:45 a.m.**, 400 block Second Avenue: A person who said they wouldn’t leave left after a conversation with a police officer.

**12:07 p.m.**, Police headquarters: A person came in to register as a sex offender.

**11:58 p.m.**, 300 block S. Franklin: Caller reports hearing screaming in the area. Patrol is unable to locate anyone in distress.

**Sept. 28**  
**10:57 a.m.**, Quatat Park: A banjo is reported stolen.

**5:45 p.m.**, 1500 block S. Roosevelt: Caller reports subject lying on his back in an adjacent property all day. Police make contact and the person said they will be moving on.

**9:24 p.m.**, Quatat Park: Property crimes are reported.

**Sept. 29**  
**6:40 a.m.**, Broadway: Caller reports male at the entrance to a building. They said the person was acting strangely and making employees nervous. Subject was contacted and advised to move along.

**1:06 p.m.**, Carousel Mall: A subject is trespassed.

**1:08 p.m.**, N. Roosevelt: Police assist a person looking for their missing ankle monitoring device. The search was unsuccessful.

**10:52 p.m.**, 800 block Necanicum: Dog bite reported.

**Sept. 30**  
**9:25 p.m.**, 400 block N. Prom: A disturbance is reported.



**Sept. 24**

**6:31 p.m.**, 2400 block S. Roosevelt: Fire alarm.

**10:23 p.m.**, 500 block S. Broadway: EMS.

**Sept. 26**  
**8:18 p.m.**, 700 block OceanWay: Fire alarm.

**8:24 p.m.**, 300 block N. Prom: Fire alarm.

**Sept. 27**  
**6:38 p.m.**, 1400 block N. Wahanna: EMS call.

**Sept. 28**  
**7:44 a.m.**, 1100 block N. Roosevelt: Fire alarm.

**8:00 a.m.**, 800 block N. Holladay: EMS call.

**8:36 a.m.**, 3600 block Sunset Blvd., Fire investigation.

**8:45 a.m.**, 2500 block S. Roosevelt: EMS call.

**Sept. 29**  
**11:11 a.m.**, N. Wahanna: EMS call.

**Sept. 30**  
**2:24 p.m.**, 300 block S. Roosevelt: EMS call.

**3:41 p.m.**, East End of Avenue D: Fire investigation.

**7:18 p.m.**, 1600 block Cooper: EMS call.



**Flashing**

Troopers went to the Sunset Beach area Sept. 18 at 3:40 p.m. after receiving a report of a woman flashing naked portions of her body to passing motorists. After speaking with the reporting party, the subject was located in her car heading back to U.S. Highway 101. She said she had been on the beach in various degrees of nudity and was dancing. She volunteered to take the field sobriety test and was not intoxicated. She told police she had a concealed firearm in her car in her purse and she had proper paperwork to carry it from Washington. A records check was conducted and came back clear. She was informed the case of the flashing complaint would be referred to the district attorney’s office. She is 31 and from Deer Park, Washington. The complainant is a 50-year-old woman from Lake Oswego.

**Car in water**

A trooper on patrol on U.S. Highway 101 near milepost 13.5 Sept. 18 at 11:51 p.m. saw a black four-door sedan off the road in standing water. The female operator said she’d been traveling north when she applied her brakes on a curve and lost control of the wheel. The trooper thought she seemed intoxicated and performed the field tests; the woman was arrested on scene, charged with driving while under the influence of intoxicants. After she was medically cleared at Columbia Memorial Hospital she was transported to the Clatsop County jail where she took the breath test providing a blood alcohol content percent of .14. She was issued criminal citations for driving while intoxicated and reckless driving. No further information was available identifying her.

**Two-car crash**

A two-car crash happened Sept. 20 at 10:46 a.m. on U.S. Highway 101 at milepost 1. No one was injured. Both cars were stopped behind a flagger at a construction site. A Ford box truck due to mechanical failure rolled downhill, rear-ending a Prius. The box truck, operated by a Seaside man, was towed by Classic Towing as it couldn’t be driven. The Prius was driven from the scene.

**Rollover**

Troopers responded Sept. 24 at 3:46 p.m. to a crash on U.S. Highway 101 at milepost 23 when a GMC SUV traveling northbound slowed for heavy traffic was struck from behind by Dodge Caravan also traveling north. As a result of the impact, the GMC rolled once in the highway. The driver said they were slightly injured but refused medical attention. The Caravan was operated by a 79-year-old man from Cannon Beach. The GMC operator is an 85-year-old man from Manzanita.

**Cell phone stolen**

A 24-year-old Portland woman told state police Sept. 26 at 4:00 p.m. her cell phone was stolen from her bag while she was surfing at Indian Beach. She was calling from Portland and said she was trying to track her phone. Information was taken for a report and options given.

**Eluded police**

A 24-year-old Warrenton woman whose name is known to police eluded an officer on patrol Sept. 28 at 2:07 p.m., on U.S. Highway 101 at milepost 17 southbound. State police say while on patrol they observed a car speeding on the highway; patrol got behind it and attempted to initiate a traffic stop, and the driver did stop, but then activated its turn signal and sped off. Patrol did not pursue. Seaside police later located the car abandoned. A search of the area for the driver was unsuccessful. Her white Ford Edge was impounded and towed by Classic Towing. The case is open pending further information.

**One-car crash**

A 37-year-old Seaside man told police he dozed off behind the wheel Sept. 30 at 5:09 p.m. on U.S. Highway 26 at milepost 7, causing him to leave the highway where he was traveling west, drive on to the shoulder, head into a ditch, travel the ditch for approximately 150 feet before rolling over

several times, strike a power pole and land on all four tires. The Hamlet Fire department assisted troopers at the scene. The driver, Geoffrey Troy Poole, admitted his license was suspended and arranged for his own tow. No injuries were reported.



Gearhart Fire Department responded to a call received via 911 on Sept. 21 at 3:43 p.m. responding to a potential water rescue just north of the Del Ray Beach access. As crews responded firefighters gathered information as to who the potential victim was, their possible location and their description. Volunteers, alongside responding Seaside Fire and Rescue, were able to locate the individual in under 15 minutes. The individual denied medical care and advised us he was not in distress, just enjoying the water. Along with Seaside Fire, the U.S. Coast Guard, and Medix Ambulance assisted in the response.

**Sept. 1**  
**9:10 a.m.**, emergency medical service, Tressel.

**3:16 p.m.**, unauthorized burning, First Street.

**Sept. 2**  
**9:27 a.m.**, emergency medical service, First Street.

**4:51 p.m.**, unauthorized burning, Second Street, Gearhart.

**Sept. 3**  
**2:58 a.m.**, emergency medical service, Tressel.

**8:46 a.m.**, emergency medical service, First Street.

**6:14 p.m.**, authorized controlled burning, Hager.

**Sept. 4**  
**1:41 a.m.**, emergency medical service, Gearhart Greens.

**11:23 a.m.**, emergency medical service, Manion, Surf Pines.

**6:06 p.m.**, emergency medical service, 2657 U.S. Highway 101.

**Sept. 6**  
**5:45 a.m.**, emergency medical service, 88767 U.S. Highway 101.

**4:03 p.m.**, emergency medical service, Railroad.

**Sept. 7**  
**12:53 a.m.**, emergency medical service, Manion, Surf Pines.

**6:27 a.m.**, emergency medical service, Astoria.

**3:09 p.m.**, emergency medical service, Cullaby Lake, Warrenton.

**Sept. 8**  
**12:00 a.m.**, forest, woods or wildland fire.

**12:13 p.m.**, good intent call, Pacific Way.

**9:33 p.m.**, smoke scare, odor of smoke, Lewis, Sunset Beach.

**10:33 p.m.**, emergency medical service, Seabreeze, Surf Pines.

**Sept. 9**  
**12:12 a.m.**, building fire, Fifth Avenue, Seaside.