

## IN BRIEF

## Dismal Nitch shooting believed to be self-defense

LONG BEACH, Wash. — Authorities have described an early morning shooting at Dismal Nitch on July 5 as self-defense.

A man was sleeping in the bed of his truck when he woke to someone trying to break the windows out of his canopy, according to law enforcement.

The suspect was armed with a blunt object. The victim allegedly confronted the man and was struck with the item multiple times and suffered an injury.

“(The victim) then shot the guy with the club in self-defense,” Pacific County Chief Criminal Deputy Pat Matlock said. “The guy who got shot was transported to Columbia Memorial Hospital in Astoria and then was shipped out with a gunshot wound to the abdomen” by helicopter to a trauma center in Portland.

The victim was released after being interviewed by law enforcement and is not expected to face charges.

“The case is still active,” Matlock said. “However, charges are expected to be filed against the man who was shot.”

The suspect survived his injuries, but neither his name nor the victim’s name has been released due to the ongoing investigation.

— Chinook Observer

## State fines Fishhawk Fisheries for wastewater issues

Fishhawk Fisheries in Astoria is facing a state fine tied to seafood processing operations.

The state claims the company, owned by Steve Fick, exceeded pollutant limits allowed under its wastewater permit. Fishhawk Fisheries had been cited for going over these limits during multiple months in 2018, 2019 and 2020.

The Oregon Department of Environmental Quality has issued a penalty of \$6,200.

Fick said he is working with the state.

## Police update information on vehicle break-ins in Warrenton

WARRENTON — Police have released updated information on a series of vehicle break-ins that took place on Tuesday morning.

According to police, one occurred at about 4:45 a.m. at Pacific Rim Apartments on Snowberry Lane. Surveillance footage captured a Subaru Forester — not a Honda CR-V — roll into the parking lot. Suspects then broke into vehicles. In addition, a Ford pickup in the lot — not a Toyota — that was stolen that morning from Rod’s Auto & Marine was found damaged and burgled.

Around the same time the Ford was stolen, another vehicle break-in occurred at TJ’s Auto Repair, police believe.

## County continues vaccine task force updates

After announcing that the July 16 vaccine task force update would be the last, Clatsop County has chosen to continue weekly updates on vaccinations against the coronavirus.

“After more discussion we’ve decided to continue the update for the time being,” a county spokesman said in an email on Friday.

The county set a goal of having 70% of the population — 27,533 people — vaccinated to try to achieve herd immunity against the virus. As of Friday, 55.6% — 21,949 people — had been fully vaccinated.

— The Astorian

## MEMORIALS

**Saturday, July 31**  
DONOVAN, Nancy Joan — Celebration of life from 1 to 4 p.m., Wickiup Grange, 92683 Svensen Market Road.

SHELLABARGER, Steve and Joyce — Celebration of life and potluck from 12:30 to 4 p.m., Big Creek Lodge, 92878 Waterhouse Road in Knappa.

## ON THE RECORD

**Strangulation**  
• Peter McClellan Santiago Stucky, 38, was indicted July 8 for strangulation, assault in the fourth degree, menacing and harassment.

**Theft**  
• Brandon Pridgen, 42, and Amber Russell, 33, of Florida, were

arrested Wednesday at Eighth and Duane streets for theft involving a stolen gun.

**DUI**  
• Stephen Craig Johnson, 73, was arrested Thursday evening on U.S. Highway 101 for driving under the influence of intoxicants.

## PUBLIC MEETINGS

## MONDAY

**Astoria School District Board**, 7 p.m., (electronic meeting).  
**Seaside City Council**, 7 p.m., City Hall, 989 Broadway.

## TUESDAY

**Astoria Planning Commission**, 5:30 p.m., City Hall, 1095 Duane St.  
**Seaside Airport Advisory Committee**, 6 p.m., City Hall, 989 Broadway.  
**Warrenton City Commission**, 6 p.m., City Hall, 225 S. Main Ave.

## the Astorian

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Pallbearers from the Astoria Police Department and the Clatsop County Sheriff’s Office take Astoria Police Officer Sam Whisler’s casket out of the Seaside Civic and Convention Center.

Photos by Hailey Hoffman/The Astorian

## A CELEBRATION OF LIFE

The Astorian

A law enforcement procession made its way from Astoria to Seaside on Wednesday afternoon to honor the late Astoria Police Officer Sam Whisler at the Seaside Civic and Convention Center.

Whisler, 26, died at home unexpectedly on July 9 from natural causes. He leaves behind his wife, Christin, and two young children.

Astoria Mayor Bruce Jones called Whisler “a true public servant.”

Whisler was known for his friendly, positive attitude. He volunteered with the Clatsop County Sheriff’s Office search and rescue team as a teenager and later became an enforcement cadet and then a reserve deputy with the agency. He also volunteered with the Gearhart Fire Department and was a lifeguard and rescue swimmer for the Seaside Fire Department before joining the Astoria Police Department in 2020.

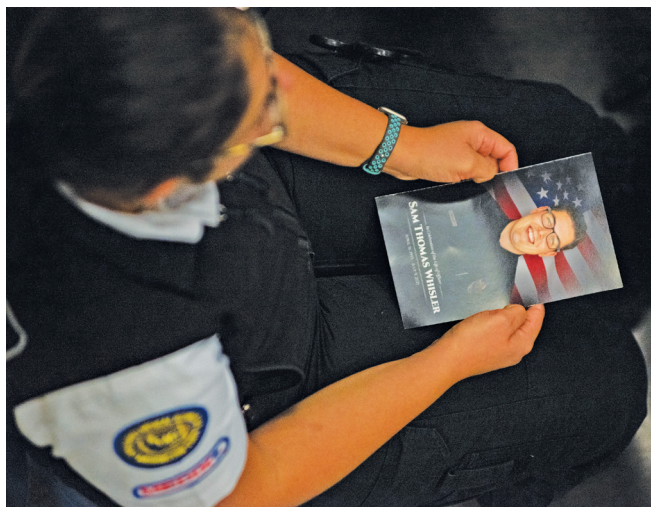
“Sam was truly a dedicated officer who left a positive impact with everyone he touched,” Astoria Police Chief Geoff Spalding said.



LEFT: Whisler’s wife, Christin, walks out of the service with a folded American flag. The flag serves as a monument to her late husband. RIGHT: The hearse holding Whisler departs Astoria in a motorcade to Seaside.



Whisler’s family members, including his wife and two children, sat in the front row at the celebration of life service.



An attendee holds a photo of Whisler.



Mark Whisler speaks about his son’s life from childhood to his early death at 26.



LEFT: The Portland Police Highland Guard opened the service. RIGHT: Astoria Police Chief Geoff Spalding spoke about his time working with Whisler, who joined the Astoria Police Department in 2020.

