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Procession held for Astoria police officer

A young Astoria police officer, who died of apparent natural causes while sleeping at his Warrenton home, was honored Wednesday with a motorcade procession of public safety leaders and a funeral at Seaside Convention Center.

Samuel T. Whisler, 26, was discovered dead in his Ninth Street home at 4:32 p.m. July 9.

The medical examiner's office determined the death was not suspicious and family members said he had suffered from seizures as a child.

Whisler had been sworn in as an Astoria police officer in January 2020, but he had spent many years in public service before then, following in the footsteps of his father, Mark, a retired Clatsop County Sheriff's deputy.

As a teenager, Whisler spent eight years as a volunteer for the county's search and rescue team. While still in high school, he volunteered with the Gearhart Fire Department. In 2013, he became a



Lenard Hansen/Warrenton Fire Department

Ladder trucks from Astoria and Warrenton fire departments work in tandem to form an arch for Officer Samuel Whisler's procession.

cadet with the sheriff's office and was sworn in as a reserve deputy four years later. He also served as a volunteer lifeguard and rescue swimmer for the Seaside Fire Department.

Whisler was raised in Seaside and graduated from Seaside High School in 2013.

The motorcade route was announced in advance and members of the public came

out to honor him from Astoria to Camp Rilea to Seaside.

He is survived by his wife, Christin; daughter, Penelope; stepson Maverick Rankin; parents Mark and Lisa Whisler; four sisters, Aimee Walker, Amanda Laird, Korissa Whisler, and Sarah Whisler; three brothers, Josh Whitmore, Justin Laird, and Patrick Whisler; and grandmother, Shirley Whisler.

Man convicted in \$4.5 million fraud scheme

A federal jury convicted a man from Long Beach, Wash., and a business partner for their roles in a \$4.5 million telemarketing scheme.

Mark Oman, 36, of Long Beach and Manuel Chavez, 30, of Miami, Fla., each were convicted of one count of conspiracy to commit mail

and wire fraud, six counts of wire fraud, one count of conspiracy to commit international money laundering and six counts of international money laundering. Sentencing will follow.

According to court documents and trial evidence, the men participated in a scheme that defrauded victims throughout the United States from a call center in Costa Rica.

Several co-conspirators posed as U.S. government officials and contacted victims to tell them that they'd won a substantial "sweepstakes" prize.

After convincing victims -- many of them elderly -- that

they stood to receive a significant financial reward, the co-conspirators had them make up-front payments before collecting their supposed prize, purportedly for taxes, customs duties and other fees.

Oman worked at the fraudulent call center soliciting victims and also collected victim funds in Costa Rica, according to evidence presented at trial.

Chavez, Oman, and their co-conspirators stole approximately \$4.5 million from victims, according to the Department of Justice.

Each defendant faces a maximum penalty of 20 years in prison per count.

Warrenton High School All-School Reunion

11 a.m. - 4 p.m.
Sat., July 24
High School Cafeteria
Light refreshments
All teachers invited