

Eugene man dies in accidental shooting

by Cheryl McDermott

A 21-year old Eugene man died in surgery after the rifle his friend was carrying accidentally went off, striking him in the back after an evening of shooting and fishing on an Oregon coastal lake, police reported.

Oregon State Police (OSP) detectives, in conjunction with the Lane County District Attorney's Office are continuing the investigating into the death of Weston Schoener.

Police said that a group of four friends returned to a private dock on Munsel Lake near Florence after an evening of shooting and fishing in a small boat when the incident occurred about 9:30 p.m., Sunday, June 24.

Two were walking ahead, and Schoener and an unidentified friend were bringing up the rear when a small caliber rifle carried by the victim's friend discharged, striking the young man in the back near his waistline, an OSP news release reported.

When troopers and emergency personnel with Western Lane Ambulance arrived, Schoener's friends were administering first aid.

After troopers secured the scene and firearms so the medics could take over, the victim was transported to Peace Harbor Hospital in Florence where he later died during surgery.

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