

Body found at base of 100-foot waterfall likely suicide

by Cheryl McDermott

COOS BAY, Ore. -- Police report that the death of a 46-year old Coos Bay man was likely a suicide. His body was discovered Friday lying on boulders at the base of a 100-foot waterfall in Golden & Silver Falls State Natural Area after park employees reported an abandoned vehicle.

Dale Martin Thomas, 46, had been reported missing by family members earlier in the week, and missed a court appearance on a misdemeanor charge on February 12, Oregon State Police (OSP) said. Thomas' family told troopers he may have been suicidal.

Friday morning troopers received a report from State Parks personnel, who said an abandoned vehicle had been in the parking lot for a couple days. The park is about 24 miles northeast of Coos Bay, troopers said.

While investigating, OSP discovered Thomas' body at the base of the falls. An on-scene preliminary investigation by the Coos County Medical Examiner indicates the death was caused by the fall onto the boulders below the Golden Falls, troopers said.

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