

Investigation continues in suspicious death of Oregon prison inmate

by Bend_Weekly_News_Sources

ONTARIO, Ore. -- Police and prison officials have identified the inmate found dead in his cell under suspicious circumstances as a 61-year old Coos County man who was incarcerated in the Snake River Correctional Institution for various sex crimes.

According to an Oregon State Police (OSP) news release, OSP, the Malheur County District Attorney and the Oregon Department of Corrections (DOC) are continuing the investigation into the death of James Ivan Briggs.

Briggs was found dead in his cell under unspecified "suspicious" circumstances just before 7 a.m. on May 12, OSP said. An autopsy is scheduled to be performed at the State Medical Examiner's office in Portland on May 14.

DOC officials said Briggs was scheduled to be released in 2026 after serving time since his 2002 conviction for sexual penetration, sodomy and first-degree sex abuse in Coos County.

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