

Inmate commits suicide at Oregon prison

by Cheryl McDermott

A 24-year old inmate scheduled for release in a little more than three months was found hanging in his cell within the Disciplinary Segregation Unit at Oregon State Correctional Institution (OSCI) in Salem late Wednesday night, authorities reported.

During a routine tier check shortly before midnight on May 9, prison security found Jeremy Ayala hanging in his cell. Security and emergency responders attempted unsuccessfully to resuscitate the man, and he was pronounced dead at the Salem Hospital at 12:41 a.m. Thursday.

Ayala was serving a 15-month sentence for being a felon in possession of a weapon — charges stemming from Hood River County. According to a news release, he was concurrently on post-prison supervision for first-degree burglary, auto theft, and theft. Ayala was most recently admitted to prison in August 2006 and was scheduled to be released on August 22 of this year.

OSCI is an 895-bed medium-security men's prison located in Salem. Oregon State Police are investigating.

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