

Search Website / Search Newspaper Archive

Search this website: Enter keywords in the Search Box at top-right. Search Results include N-R articles published/updated online. Search results first display articles with key words in the headline; next, those with key words in the article summary; finally, all other articles.

Search Printed Newspaper Archive: Set Search Specifications in "Newspaper Archive Search" boxes at right to search complete newspaper archive dating to January 1999.

Subscriber Log-in required to view full Archive stories.

Tort claim notices filed over county jail deaths of two men

Sep 14, 2021 

By NICOLE MONTESANO
Of the News-Register

The estates of two men who died at the Yamhill County Jail this year have filed tort claim notices against the county, preserving their right to sue.

Both are represented by Portland attorney Matthew Kaplan, who wrote that in both cases, the claims “may include failure to

adequately supervise and monitor inmates, and failure to provide timely medical care to an inmate.”

The sheriff’s department reported that inmate Brent Cordie had died of “apparent suicide” on Jan. 20. The 28-year-old McMinnville man was reportedly found hanging in his cell during a security check. The jail said deputies attempted unsuccessfully to revive him.

He had been arrested twice for driving under the influence of intoxicants, within 24 hours, and was also charged with driving while uninsured and on a suspended license, in December.

Five months later, Shane Rader died by hanging, of “apparent suicide,” on June 29, after being arrested on June 18. The sheriff’s department reported that Rader had been found when they performed a security check. They attempted unsuccessfully to revive him.

Rader had told investigators from the Sheriff’s office that he intended to kill his family and himself. Rader was facing charges including attempted murder, after attacking his domestic partner, kidnapping his young sons and shooting his 3-year-old son in the head with a pellet gun. He reportedly released both children at the Providence Newberg hospital, and the 3-year-old was treated at a Portland hospital.

The department did not say whether either man had been on suicide watch, or how they managed to hang themselves.

Cordie and Rader were the fourth and fifth deaths at the county jail in the past six years. Sheriff Tim Svenson had promised a variety of reforms after the previous deaths.

Kathleen Margaret Norman died in January 2018. Norman was arrested on Jan. 14 for failure to appear at a court hearing. Initially, she was treated at Providence Newberg hospital for alcohol and drug overdose. After being released from the hospital, she was placed in

the jail's medical cell and checked on several times, but was denied additional medication. The following morning, about 3:30 a.m., deputies found her unconscious. She was taken to the hospital, where she later died. Her family is suing the county and jail medical provider Wellpath in federal court.

Debra Samples hanged herself in the jail in October 2016. Samples had tried to kill herself by hanging earlier in the evening; her family called 911, hoping that paramedics could aid her in getting help. But deputies who also responded to the call found there were warrants out for her arrest, because she had violated probation on a misdemeanor conviction. After she was released from the hospital, she was taken to jail where she was left alone in a cell with a phone cord, which she used to hang herself.

Jed Hawk Myers died in May 2015. Meyers, a jail beating victim, died in a medical observation cell after several hours of crying out in pain for help from jail deputies. He had been placed in the cell in the wake of a beating inflicted by two other inmates that left him suffering from a broken clavicle, lacerated kidney, traumatic brain injury, visible bruising and swelling and ultimately fatal internal bleeding. After Meyers' death, the county contracted with an outside provider for increased medical services.

There was also a death in the jail in May 2008. Casey Eric Healey was punched twice in the head by another inmate in the work release center of the jail. Other inmates administered CPR and summoned deputies. Healey died of his injuries two days later at Willamette Valley Medical Center.

Those were the only reports the News-Register found of deaths in the Yamhill County Jail in the past 20 years,

In 2019, Oregon Public Broadcasting joined with KUOW and the Northwest News Network for an investigation of jail deaths in the Pacific Northwest, and concluded that death rates in Oregon and Washington exceeded those nationwide.

In addition, it said, suicides in county jails exceed both the national rate and the rate of people who die by suicide while in prison. At the time, Svenson told the News-Register “I hate that it takes tragedies like that to invoke change. But now we are making positive changes in people’s lives.”