

Man who fled from hospital is recaptured

By Alan Gustafson

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State police on Tuesday recaptured an Oregon State Hospital forensic patient who escaped from the Salem psychiatric facility on Sept. 3, bolting from staff supervision while on a group walk.

Matthew Ingle, 21, was taken into custody without incident at a Sandy-area residence around noon, police said.

A tip received Tuesday by state police detectives led them to the undisclosed home where Ingle was found and arrested.

Ingle was transported to the Marion County jail, where he was being held on an outstanding escape warrant.

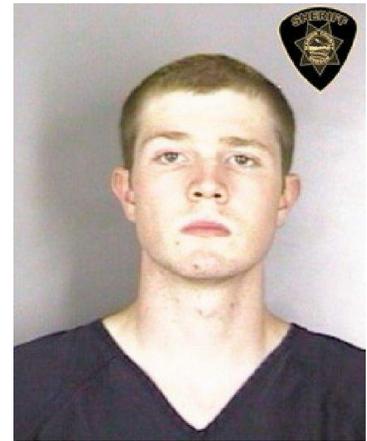
No other arrests have been made while detectives continue to investigate how Ingle escaped and what outside help he might have received.

Ingle escaped around 9:30 a.m. Sept. 3 while on a supervised walk with patients and staff at the hospital campus in central Salem. Hospital officials said he ran ahead of the group and jumped into a waiting car.

In the wake of the escape, the hospital is conducting an ongoing review of privileges that allow criminally committed patients to take on-campus walks and other outings as part of their treatment, hospital spokeswoman Rebeka Gipson-King said Tuesday.

The state hospital houses more than 300 forensic patients who were judged guilty, except for insanity, of crimes ranging from misdemeanors to murder. By law, they were sent to the hospital for treatment instead of to state prisons or county jail.

Last week, hospital staff members examined the medical files of each "guilty except for insanity" patient "to make sure that they all had their privileges at the right level," Gipson-King said. "So now, we are looking at the policies and procedures themselves."



Ingle

Hospital policy review

The Oregon State Hospital is conducting an ongoing review of policies and procedures governing patient outings, said hospital spokeswoman Rebeka Gipson-King.

The internal review follows the escape of a patient who fled from a supervised walk on Sept. 3 and remained at large until Tuesday, when he was caught by state police.

"Any time that we have an incident, we make sure that we go over all of our policies and procedures to make sure that they are meeting our safety and security needs for both the community and our patients," Gipson-King said. "We're still in that review process."

Ingle was court-committed to the state hospital forensic program in November 2009 after he was found guilty except for insanity of two counts of second-degree manslaughter in connection with a double-fatal traffic crash in Clackamas County.

Ingle reportedly was suffering from schizophrenic delusions when he ran a red light west of Sandy and slammed into another car.

The driver of the other vehicle, Pamela Benson, and her daughter, Clarice, 11, both were killed.

On the day of the crash, Ingle reportedly had taken prescription anti-depression and anti-psychotic drug. He told an investigator after the accident that a spaceship might have "locked on" to the steering wheel of his 1987 Toyota 4Runner, according to press accounts.

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