



# WASHINGTON COUNTY SHERIFF'S OFFICE

Conserving the Peace Through Values Driven Service  
Sheriff Pat Garrett

## PRESS RELEASE

### **Banks Man Takes His Own Life while Lodged in Jail**

March 20, 2017 -- Early this morning, a man who harmed himself while lodged in the Washington County Jail, died at a local hospital.

On March 17, 2017, at 6:55 p.m., a Washington County Sheriff's Deputy found Ryan Freeman, 36, unresponsive in his cell. Jail medical staff, as well as other deputies, responded and immediately began lifesaving measures. Medical personnel arrived and transported Mr. Freeman to an area hospital.

On March 20, 2017, Mr. Freeman succumbed to his injuries and was pronounced deceased at the hospital. Mr. Freeman was housed in a single cell in the jail's Medical Observation Unit. He was discovered by a jail deputy during regularly scheduled 15 minute checks of the inmates. Preliminary investigation shows that Mr. Freeman intentionally took his own life by tying an item around his neck.

Mr. Freeman was lodged in the Washington County Jail on January 16, 2017. A Grand Jury indicted him on charges including Assault, Harassment, Sexual Abuse, Unlawful Sexual Penetration, and Attempted Rape.

The Washington County Jail has an extensive suicide prevention and assessment program, which begins before a person is lodged into the jail and continues throughout their stay.

Detectives with the Washington County Sheriff's Office are conducting a thorough investigation, which is standard procedure.

Mr. Freeman's family has been notified.