



Office of Ross County Sheriff

GEORGE W. LAVENDER, JR., SHERIFF

ROSS COUNTY-CHILLICOTHE
LAW ENFORCEMENT CENTER
28 NORTH PAINT STREET
CHILLICOTHE, OHIO 45601

Emergency.....911
Service Calls.....773-1185
Civil Division & Records..773-1186
Sheriff773-1186
Jail & Jail Records773-1187
Detective Bureau773-1188
Fax(740) 773-1248

News Release

01/15/2014

Sheriff Lavender reports that on 01/14/2014 at approximately 10:30 p.m. his Corrections Staff received information from a prisoner in the jail that another prisoner Thomas E. Lewis was going to attempt suicide.

Corrections Officers were responding to the housing area where Mr. Lewis was being held. Mr. Lewis ran out of his cell with a sheet tied around his neck and attached the other end to a rail on a second floor walkway and jumped off.

A prisoner standing near Mr. Lewis attempted to restrain Mr. Lewis before he jumped, but was unsuccessful.

Several other prisoners standing underneath Mr. Lewis were able to catch him and the prisoner standing next to him was able to pull him back up to the walkway.

Corrections Officers upon entering the housing area secured Mr. Lewis and immediately called for medical assistance. A Chillicothe Fire Department Squad arrived and transported Mr. Lewis to Adena Regional Medical Center, where Mr. Lewis was checked and released back to the custody of the Ross County Jail.

The Crisis Center was contacted to conduct a Mental Health Evaluation on Mr. Lewis and Mr. Lewis is currently on “suicide watch” with 24 hr. observation.

The investigation into this incident is ongoing.

Sheriff Lavender wants to recognize the efforts of his staff, and is grateful to the prisoners whose quick action saved the life of Mr. Lewis.

Mr. Lewis has been in the Ross County Jail since 11/06/2013. He is being held on charges of Burglary, Receiving Stolen Property, and Impersonating a Peace Officer. Mr. Lewis is currently under a combined \$510,000.00 bond.

