



# KITSAP COUNTY SHERIFF

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For immediate release:  
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Friday, Dec. 26, 2008

## Update on found body

**Port Orchard, Wash.** -- Kitsap County Sheriff's detectives made an arrest, Tuesday evening, in conjunction with the remains of a deceased man that was found alongside a Central Kitsap roadway last weekend.

The body of Nathen L. Merritt, age 34, of Tacoma, was discovered partially wrapped in a blue-colored tarp near the intersection of NW Erlands Point Road and Kitty Hawk Drive NW, in the Chico area of Central Kitsap.

Merritt had been previously reported missing to Tacoma Police Department.

Dana Marie Franks, age 45, was taken into custody by detectives at her apartment in King County. A search warrant was served at her residence and a vehicle believed used in the disposal of Merritt's body was impounded.

Detectives believe that Merritt's body was left alongside the road sometime Saturday evening. The discovery of the tarp and body was reported to 9-1-1 just after 12:00 p.m. on Sunday.

Franks was booked into Kitsap County Jail for violation of:

- RCW 68.50.020: failure to notify coroner (of a deceased person).
- RCW 68.50.130: unlawful disposal of remains.
- RCW 46.20.342.C: driving while license suspended, 3<sup>rd</sup> degree.

The bail amount on the above charges was set initially at \$30,000. The booking charges are misdemeanor offenses.

Franks was arraigned on her arrest charges this afternoon. Appearing before Kitsap County District Court Judge W. Daniel Phillips, Franks entered a plea of not guilty. Judge Phillips increased Franks' bail amount to \$100,000. Her next court date is scheduled for Jan. 21, 2009.

The investigation remains open.

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