



# KITSAP COUNTY SHERIFF'S OFFICE

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For immediate release:  
KCSO news release #10-021 / 125 / 19

Saturday, May 8, 2010

## South Kitsap man arrested in death investigation

**Port Orchard, Wash.** -- Kitsap County Sheriff's detectives are investigating the death of a man found lying on the ground outside of an apartment building in South Kitsap.

A local resident is in custody in connection with the investigation.

**Location:** South Park Greens Apartment Homes, 1900 block of SE Larch Lane, South Kitsap.

**Time & date:** The body was discovered at 5:39 a.m., Saturday, May 8, by a sheriff's deputy.

### Synopsis:

Sheriff's patrol deputies were dispatched to the South Park Greens Apartments at 3:35 a.m. concerning a report of shots fired by an apartment resident during an alleged burglary.

Deputies responded and contacted the resident, a 72 year-old man. This person reported that he was awakened by a noise inside of his apartment. He said that he armed himself with a handgun and left his bedroom to investigate. He reported that he confronted a young adult male, unknown to him, in the living room.

The man stated that a struggle followed where the intruder was pushed out of the apartment's front door and ran away. The resident said that he fired several shots in the direction of the fleeing intruder.

Initially, deputies didn't find any indication of forced entry into the apartment or evidence that someone had been shot. Two handguns and a rifle, along with several boxes of ammunition, were confiscated from the resident for immediate safekeeping as the investigation was just starting. One of the handguns showed signs of having been fired.

Just before sunrise, while searching the apartment complex premises, deputies found the body of a man in his early twenties positioned face down against the side of an apartment residential building. Emergency medical service personnel from South Kitsap Fire & Rescue responded and declared the man deceased.

Sheriff's detectives were notified and are continuing the investigation. A search warrant was obtained so that crime scene investigators could enter the resident's apartment to search for possible evidence.

During the initial on-scene examination of the body by detectives and a deputy coroner, an apparent gunshot injury to the torso was found. Further into the investigation detectives developed probable cause to arrest the 72 year-old man. He was booked into Kitsap County Jail on one count of manslaughter, 1<sup>st</sup> degree. Bail was set initially at \$100,000.

The relationship between the apartment resident and the deceased man, if any, is still being determined. Sheriff's detectives don't believe that there are any other persons involved.

The Kitsap County Coroner's Office has taken custody of the remains. The coroner is responsible for formally identifying the man. An autopsy is scheduled for Monday morning. The coroner will make a determination as to cause and manner of death. Following next of kin notification the man's name may be made available for public release.

The arrested man is scheduled to make an initial appearance at 3:00 p.m., Monday, in Kitsap County District Court.

Persons with information concerning this investigation are asked to contact Detective Lori Blankenship at (360) 337-5615.

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