



OFFICE OF
Steve Boyer

KITSAP COUNTY SHERIFF

614 DIVISION ST. MS-37 • PORT ORCHARD, WASHINGTON 98366 • (360) 337-5698 • FAX 337-4923

For immediate release:
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Thursday, Sept. 25, 2008

Community Notification: Level III Sex Offender

Port Orchard, Wash. – The Kitsap County Sheriff’s Office is releasing the following information pursuant to RCW 4.24.550, and a Washington State Supreme Court decision in *State vs. Ward*, regarding public notification of the anticipated residency of convicted sexual offenders.

“The person who is named in this advisory has been convicted of criminal offenses that require registration with the sheriff’s office in the county of residence,” said Sheriff Steve Boyer. “Further, his previous criminal history places him in a classification level that reflects the *potential* to re-offend.”

Name: Leslie Paul Rhoads Jr., white male, age 47.

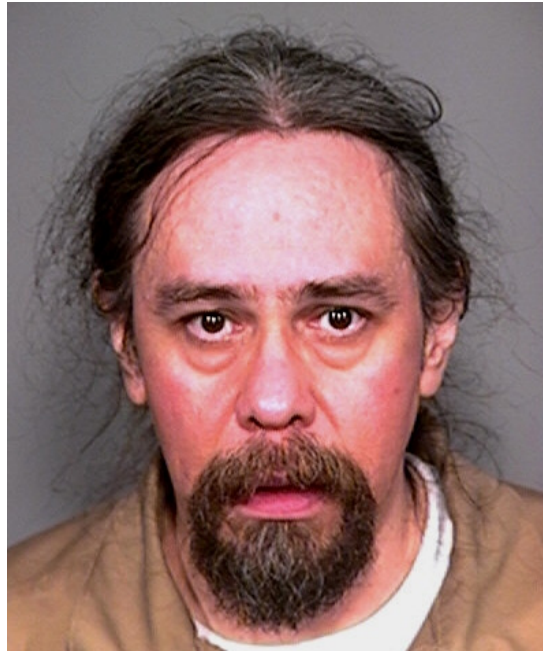
Residence location: Rhoads was recently released from prison and has registered as a transient, with no fixed address, with the Kitsap County Sheriff’s Office. As a transient, Rhoads is required to check-in with the sheriff’s office once per week.

Description: 5’ 11” ht., 200 lbs. wt., hair: brown, eyes: brown.

Criminal history: According to court documents Rhoads was convicted in 2001 of child molestation, 1st degree, and of child molestation, 2nd degree, after sexually assaulting two juvenile females. In 1980 Rhoads was convicted of attempted sexual abuse for sexually assaulting the daughter of his girlfriend. He also was convicted of assault, 4th degree, after assaulting a prostitute with a knife. Rhoads has additional convictions for forgery and theft. Rhoads has not participated in any type of sex offender treatment.

Community meeting: Since Rhoads is a transient, no community meeting is scheduled.

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Leslie Paul Rhoads Jr.
Date of photograph: 09/16/2008

This notification is not intended to increase fear; rather, an informed public is a safer public.

The Sheriff's Office has no legal authority to direct where a registered sex offender may or may not reside. Unless court-ordered restrictions exist, registered offenders are constitutionally free to live wherever they choose.

Sexual offenders have always lived within our communities. It wasn't until passage of legislation entitled the "Community Protection Act of 1990," which mandates sex offender registration, that civil authorities even knew where they were living.

Abuse of information provided through the sex offender notification process, in order to intimidate, harass or threaten registered offenders, will result in an investigation and the filing of criminal charges against the perpetrators. Such abuse could potentially end law enforcement's ability to conduct community notifications. The only person who 'wins,' if community notification is halted, is the registered sex offender, as sexual offenders derive their power through secrecy.

As of Sept. 18, 2008 there are 20,313 sex offenders who have registered as required and are living in the State of Washington. Of this number, 503 are living in locations within the unincorporated areas of Kitsap County, while 237 offenders are living within the limits of incorporated municipalities in the county; 82 are incarcerated in jail or with the state department of corrections and 17 are transient.

The Sheriff's Community Resource Officer, Deputy Pete Ball, is available to assist communities in establishing block or neighborhood watch programs and to provide the public with information on personal safety. He may be contacted at (360) 337-7074.

For further information on registered sex offenders in Kitsap County, please contact Detective Doug Dillard at (360) 337-5617.

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