



KITSAP COUNTY SHERIFF

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For immediate release:
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Wednesday, Dec. 17, 2008

Missing South Kitsap man found deceased

Port Orchard, Wash. -- A missing South Kitsap man was found deceased this afternoon in a heavily wooded area not far from his residence.

The man was last observed by family members around 7:00 p.m. yesterday, but he wasn't reported as missing until 10:00 a.m. today.

The Kitsap County Coroner's Office has identified the man as John Clarence Makepa Basso, age 36.

Sheriff's patrol deputies responded to Basso's residence in the 11900 block of Ridge Rim Trail SE after his family called 9-1-1. A decision was made to initiate a search and rescue (SAR) mission to search for Basso based on a number of factors:

- The man was determined to be a danger to himself due to diminished mental capacity resulting from a medical condition.
- He was attired in very light clothing with temperatures below freezing.
- Recent history of erratic behavior.

With establishment of a command post, SAR personnel who responded included:

- Twelve members of Washington State Explorer Search and Rescue, Kitsap County Unit.
- Four dog teams from German Shepherd Search Dogs of Washington State.
- Officers from Suquamish Police Department specially trained in tracking skills and techniques ("man tracking").

Basso was found by Suquamish police officers, around 2:20 p.m., in underbrush behind a residence off of SE Lakeway Blvd.

An autopsy conducted by the county's forensic pathologist is scheduled. The Kitsap County Coroner will make a determination as to the cause and manner of death.

The investigation remains open. At this time sheriff's investigators do not believe that criminal actions were a factor in the death of the missing man.

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