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For Immediate Release:
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Tuesday, April 5, 2005

Courthouse rabbit captured

Port Orchard, Wash. – A South Kitsap man, wanted as a fugitive from justice after bolting from a Kitsap County Superior Court, is now back in custody.

Jody Ray Lemon, 31, was arrested at approximately 11:00 a.m. today at a house in the 1100 block of Woods Road SE, South Kitsap. The arrest occurred without incident.

Acting on intelligence developed through investigations, West Sound Narcotics Enforcement Team (WestNET) detectives and Sheriff's patrol deputies served a search warrant at the property and found Lemon inside the residence. Other details concerning the outcome of the search warrant are not being released.

Lemon was in court during the early afternoon of Jan. 26 when a jury returned with verdicts of guilty on two counts of manufacturing methamphetamine. The verdicts also contained mandatory 24-month sentencing enhancements because the illegal manufacturing had occurred within school zones.

The clerk of the court had read the verdicts and the next step in the process was to poll the jury. Lemon decided not to wait for the poll or the sentence that the judge would subsequently hand down. He ran from the courtroom, down a flight of stairs and out an employee entrance.

At the time of the incident Lemon was not under arrest and had not been remanded into custody. He had previously posted bail following his arrest on the drug manufacturing charges and had attended his trial with his defense attorney, as scheduled.

Following his flight to avoid justice, two warrants were issued for his arrest.

Lemon was booked into Kitsap County Jail on the two warrants: failure to appear / contempt of court for violation of the uniform controlled substance act. He is being held without bail. Lemon will make his (delayed) re-appearance in superior court tomorrow at 3:00 p.m. Officers will be present in the courtroom.



Jody Ray Lemon

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