



OFFICE OF
Steve Boyer

KITSAP COUNTY SHERIFF

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For Immediate Release:
KCSO News Release #05-020/125

Thursday, June 23, 2005

South Kitsap proprietor dies following shooting; suspect now in-custody

Port Orchard, Wash. -- The well-known and highly respected proprietor of a privately-owned neighborhood convenience store died earlier this afternoon, after being shot on the store premises by a lone gunman. The suspect in the shooting is now in-custody.

Mr. Alan Russell Kono, age 48, the owner of P J's Market, 1598 Woods Road SE, South Kitsap, was pronounced dead at Harborview Medical Center, Seattle, after being airlifted to the regional trauma center following the shooting.

Responding medic units from South Kitsap Fire & Rescue provided initial emergency medical care and coordinated airlift of the victim from a landing zone at South Kitsap High School.

The suspect, a 44 year-old male, also of South Kitsap, was apprehended by Sheriff's patrol deputies at a residence in the 6100 block of East Hilldale Road, South Kitsap, 16 minutes after the initial report to Kitsap County Central Communications (CenCom), the county's 911 public safety / emergency response telecommunications organization.

A motive or reason for the shooting has not been determined.

Sheriff's patrol deputies and detectives responded to the store, as well as to East Hilldale Road, following the initial 911 dispatch broadcast at 1:21 p.m. The suspect was apprehended by patrol deputies at 1:37 p.m.

Sheriff Steve Boyer publicly noted the quick reaction by observant witnesses in the suspect's arrest. "Immediate action on the part of two individuals provided invaluable assistance to patrol deputies, in the apprehension of the person whom we believe is responsible for this crime," said Sheriff Boyer.

A fire lieutenant with South Kitsap Fire & Rescue, together with a field representative of a major international beverage company, followed the suspect after the shooting as he left the market, headed northbound on Woods Road in a 1989 Chevrolet Celebrity 4-door. The two trailing witnesses provided details of the suspect's physical description, vehicle description and direction of travel to 911 call receivers, via cellular telephone. CenCom dispatchers were able to relay and update this critical information, within seconds, to patrol deputies arriving in the area, directing them to the suspect's location.

Responding patrol deputies arrested the suspect at gunpoint outside of his vehicle on a private driveway on Hilldale Road without further incident. The 1989 Chevrolet Celebrity was impounded pending further investigation.

Sheriff's detectives have obtained search warrants for the suspect's residence, and his vehicle, to obtain evidence related to the shooting.

The suspect was transported from his arrest location to the Kitsap County Jail and booked on a charge of murder, 1st degree. Bail was set initially at \$1 million. The suspect will make an initial appearance tomorrow (Friday, 06/24/2005) at 3:00 p.m. in Kitsap County Superior Court.

The investigation into Mr. Kono's death remains open. Although Sheriff's detectives have interviewed a number of witnesses, there may be others who have not yet been contacted. Persons with any information about the shooting are asked to contact Detective Steve Duckworth at (360) 337-5669 or Detective Lisa Gundrum at (360) 337-7111.

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