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# KITSAP COUNTY SHERIFF

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For immediate release:  
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Saturday, Feb. 23, 2008

## North Kitsap

### **Burglary / theft ring: five arrested**

**Kingston, Wash.** -- Kitsap County Sheriff's detectives and patrol deputies have broken a burglary / theft ring in an investigation into a plague of property crimes that have victimized residents in the north end of the county since at least the beginning of the year.

Five suspects were arrested, three men and two women, over the past two days, in connection with this investigation. Detectives and patrol deputies are still looking for at least four additional suspects believed to be involved.

**Note:** information on those arrested is contained in an addendum on pages 4 & 5 of this news release.

The scope and breadth of the crimes have included all communities in North Kitsap, from State Route 308 in Poulsbo north to Hansville, and from the Hood Canal Bridge in Poulsbo east to Port Gamble, Kingston, Indianola and Suquamish, and also includes a number of similar reported crimes on Bainbridge Island:

- More than 50 residential burglary investigations.
- Greater than 100 mail theft and vehicle prowl cases.
- At least seven thefts of motor vehicles and motorcycles. Of this number, three vehicles and two motorcycles have been recovered. Two vehicles are still listed as stolen.

The estimated value of stolen property exceeds \$250,000, and that is only what has been reported thus far. The number and value of stolen items is expected to increase as additional crimes are reported.

Detectives have recovered about \$75,000 worth of stolen items.

In addition to the vehicles and motorcycles, stolen property includes:

- High-end electronic equipment such as large, wide screen high definition televisions and associated in-home theater components.
- Computer systems, personal entertainment devices (iPods, X-Box, etc.), jewelry, cellular telephones, video & digital cameras, firearms, antiques and alcoholic beverages.

- Construction and home shop equipment, including air compressors, nail guns, power saws, drills, and high-end lawn and garden equipment such as riding mowers and gas powered chain saws.
- Personal financial paperwork and identifying information, such as driver's licenses, passports, social security information and bank checks.

A significant break in the investigation occurred when detectives tracked one of the stolen vehicles down to an address in Lakewood, Pierce County.

During the course of burglarizing a house and stealing a 2001 Oldsmobile Aurora from a residential property in Poulsbo, the suspects found the title to the Aurora inside the home. Forging the registered owner's signature on the title, the vehicle was sold to a third party in Pierce County who, subsequently, was able to identify the suspects. The Aurora was recovered.

The other recovered vehicles in this investigation include two Yamaha dirt bikes, a 1990 GMC truck and a 2006 Honda Accord. Still missing and listed as stolen are:

- 1989 Ford Ranger pick-up truck, burgundy in color, taken from a residence in the 25000 block of South Kingston Road NE, Kingston.
- 1991 Ford Explorer SUV, forest green in color, taken from a residence in the 26000 block of Port Gamble Road NE, Poulsbo.

As sheriff's detectives compile information and data regarding such a large number of property crimes, they have found several common denominators:

- Residential properties are burglarized without forced entry: suspects are gaining access into homes through unlocked doors and windows.
- Homes and properties left unattended for long periods of time, generally while the owners are away on vacation or residing elsewhere for the winter. In situations involving forced entry, the suspects know that the probability of discovery is very low and therefore invade the residence with impunity.
- Evidence discovered during the course of this investigation includes newspaper delivery route lists, for the Kitsap Sun newspaper, indicating newspaper recipient's vacation dates. Two of the arrested suspects deliver newspapers for the Kitsap Sun in the North Kitsap area.
- Vehicles are stolen when ignition keys are easily found inside a burglarized residence, or are left in the vehicle's ignition.
- Mail is left uncollected in roadside mailboxes.
- Personal items such as purses, wallets, iPods, bank check books, etc., are left inside vehicles. Often, vehicles are left unlocked.

- Some residences are equipped with alarm systems but the systems are not activated while the homeowners are absent.
- Neighbors notice suspicious activity in progress, but don't pay much attention and / or don't report it to law enforcement until after the crime is discovered.

With the high volume of mail being reported stolen, along with personal paperwork taken during residential burglaries, the opportunity for identity theft increases dramatically.

Identify theft occurs when personal information is stolen and used without the owner's knowledge to commit fraud or other crimes. Identify theft will cost the victim time and money. It can destroy a person's sound credit rating and ruin their name.

The Kitsap County Sheriff's Office urges those who receive their mail in a rural route mailbox to consider renting a post box through their local post office or other commercial mail receiving activity. As an alternative, the U. S. Postmaster has authorized the use of locking curbside mailboxes.

The U. S. Postal Service has teamed with the Federal Trade Commission to provide the public with information needed to help protect against identity theft. Further information can be found here: <http://www.ftc.gov/bcp/edu/microsites/idtheft/>

The investigation continues.

Persons with information about these property crimes, and those who have been victims of property crimes and want to check on recovered stolen items, are asked to contact Detective Steve Duckworth at (360) 337-5669 or Detective Lori Blankenship at (360) 337-5615.

Those wishing to remain anonymous can contact Crime Stoppers of Puget Sound at 1-800-Crime-13.

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## *Addendum*

### **Persons arrested in connection with North Kitsap property crimes**

**Name:** Paul Eugene Woods, age 23, Suquamish resident.

**Time / date of arrest:** 7:45 p.m., Thursday, Feb. 21, 2008.

**Location:** 6000 block of NE Middle Street, Suquamish.

**Arrest charges:** Possession of stolen property, 1<sup>st</sup> degree; trafficking in stolen property, 1<sup>st</sup> degree, and forgery. Bail set by arresting detectives at \$125,000.

Woods appeared in Kitsap County Superior Court on Friday, Feb. 22. He was charged in court with possession of stolen property, 1<sup>st</sup> degree. Bail was reduced by the judge to \$2,500.

Woods made bail / bond and was released from custody at 6:37 p.m., Feb. 22.

**Status:** Woods was re-arrested at 3:30 p.m. this afternoon (Sat., Feb. 23), and booked into jail on charges of identity theft, 1<sup>st</sup> degree, and unlawful possession of a payment device. Bail has been set at \$100,000.

Woods will make another court appearance on Monday, Feb. 25, in connection with today's arrest.

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**Name:** Tina Louise Wallace (AKA: Posadas), age 32, Suquamish resident.

**Time / date of arrest:** 9:20 p.m., Thursday, Feb. 21, 2008.

**Location:** 6000 block of NE Middle Street, Suquamish.

**Arrest charges:** possession of stolen property, 1<sup>st</sup> degree; trafficking in stolen property, 1<sup>st</sup> degree; identity theft; forgery and possession of methamphetamine. Bail set by arresting detectives at \$150,000.

Wallace appeared in Kitsap County Superior Court on Friday, Feb. 22. She was charged in court with identity theft and possession of methamphetamine. Bail was reduced by the judge to \$5,000.

**Status:** Wallace remains in jail on the identity theft charge and on a no bail warrant of arrest for escape from community custody, filed by Washington State Department of Corrections.

**Name:** Lois Leann Ewing (AKA: Hoffmann), age 43, Poulsbo resident.

**Time / date of arrest:** 7:00 a.m., Friday, Feb. 22, 2008.

**Location:** 24100 block of Port Gamble Road NE, Poulsbo.

**Arrest charges:** possession of stolen property, 1<sup>st</sup> degree and possession of methamphetamine with intent to deliver. Bail set by arresting detectives at \$100,000.

**Status:** Ewing remains in jail on these charges. She will make an appearance in Kitsap County Superior Court on Monday, Feb. 25.

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**Name:** Michael David James McCarroll, age 31, Poulsbo resident.

**Time / date of arrest:** 7:00 a.m., Friday, Feb. 22, 2008.

**Location:** 24100 block of Port Gamble Road NE, Poulsbo.

**Arrest charges:** theft, 2<sup>nd</sup> degree and a misdemeanor warrant of arrest for failure to appear / contempt of court. Bail set by arresting detectives at \$25,500.

**Status:** McCarroll remains in jail on these charges. He will make an appearance in Kitsap County Superior Court, on the felony charge, and in Kitsap County District Court, for the misdemeanor warrant, on Monday, Feb. 25.

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**Name:** Steven Patrick McGuire, age 25, Poulsbo resident.

**Time / date of arrest:** 7:00 a.m., Friday, Feb. 22, 2008.

**Location:** 24100 block of Port Gamble Road NE, Poulsbo.

**Arrest charges:** possession of stolen property, 1<sup>st</sup> degree; violation of a no contact order and for a misdemeanor warrant of arrest for failure to appear / contempt of court. Bail set by arresting detectives at \$75,000.

**Status:** McGuire remains in jail on these charges. He will make an appearance in Kitsap County Superior Court, on the two felony charges, and in Kitsap County District Court, for the misdemeanor warrant, on Monday, Feb. 25.

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