

This is KPTZ 91.9 FM in Port Townsend. I'm Jim Burke, with your local news and commentary for Tuesday, January 23, 2024.

The following story contains details that may be disturbing to some listeners.

From the *Peninsula Daily News*: The man arrested in connection with the death of an infant in Kah Tai Park appeared in court yesterday, when Jefferson County Superior Court Judge Brandon Mack found probable cause to hold him for investigation of two charges with a third pending. Jordan T. Sorensen, 37, of Port Townsend will be arraigned on February 2 on one count of unlawful disposal of human remains and one count of removal/concealment of a dead body. A potential charge of second-degree kidnapping-domestic violence is pending while investigators determine if Sorensen is the father of the boy, a newborn less than a month old identified in court records only as "OS," and whether Sorensen was legally able to have custody of him. Sorensen was being held Monday at the Jefferson County jail in lieu of \$205,000 bail.

The probable cause statement filed Monday gave the following account of events: Port Townsend police officers were dispatched Friday to help the state Department of Children, Youth and Families (DCYF) regarding Sorensen and the infant, who was described as being his son. The probable cause statement read: "Shortly after his birth, DCYF received a report on December 26, 2023, that the mother and the baby tested positive for fentanyl. The other concern in the report was that she was not bonding with the child." Sorensen was caring for the child most of the time, so a safety plan was developed. Sorensen was required to live with a woman, Pamela Andrews, and given temporary custody with the stipulation that he was not to be alone with the baby until he provided a clean urine sample and submitted to weekly testing. The probable cause statement did not identify Andrews' relationship to Anderson.

Jefferson County Chief Criminal Deputy Prosecuting Attorney Chris Ashcraft wrote in a Monday afternoon email: "We think she's somehow family but we don't really know. I haven't seen or heard how she's tied into this awful situation." Sorensen was allowed to be with the child unsupervised after a urinalysis returned clean on January 8. He was required to provide another urine sample at a January 11 doctor's appointment for the boy but left without doing so. Sorensen did not respond to a January 16 text message from DCYF that he was required to provide a urine sample that day and that a referral was being put in. He ignored another message on Wednesday. Andrews met with DCYF and told them Sorensen was bragging about passing his urinalysis by buying urine from a retail store. On Thursday, Andrews contacted DCYF and told them Sorensen had told her he had given the baby to "Aunt Mary" who is not identified in the court records. Later that night, Andrews messaged DCYF that Sorensen and Anderson were back home, but the child was not with them. On Friday, DCYF tried contacting both Sorensen and Anderson, but neither answered and nobody was at the apartment where the baby was supposed to be. Then Andrews told DCYF that Sorensen had taken the infant to hide from Child Protective Services. A representative from DCYF called law enforcement late Friday morning after learning that Anderson and Sorensen were visiting transient friends at Kah Tai Park and the baby was not with them. Just before 5pm Friday, Mack authorized law enforcement to secure custody of the child and arrest anyone trying to prevent them from doing so. On Saturday, police received a call around 10am from a transient in Kah Tai Park saying that Sorensen was hiding in the back of his tent and the baby's location was unknown. Officers located Sorensen and took him into custody after a brief struggle, but the baby was not located. As Sorensen started walking officers to the baby's location, he started mumbling that the child was dead. He then explained that he had woken up on Wednesday in a chair in Andrews' apartment with the baby lying face down between himself and the chair. He freaked out and did not know what to do. Sorensen stated that this was when the baby died. The child was located deceased in his car seat in bushes in the park.

Jeffco PUD put out a public service announcement on NextDoor; What should you do if a power line falls on your vehicle while you're inside? STAY PUT! Make sure to call 9-1-1 right away and DO NOT touch the outside of your vehicle. We are always ready to assist in emergency situations, so please remain calm and prioritize your safety!

KPTZ 91.9 FM brings you local news Monday through Friday at noon and 5pm and at noon on Saturday. You can reach out to us at news@kptz.org. This is Jim Burke. Thanks for listening.