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Double homicide suspect arraigned in court

Port Orchard, Wash. -- Attired in a red-colored jail inmate uniform, the primary suspect in a double homicide was arraigned in court this afternoon, following a process lasting almost four months to return him to Washington State, and Kitsap County, to face charges.

Bryan Christopher Matsen, 36, appeared before Kitsap County Superior Court Judge Russell W. Hartman at 3:00 p.m., where he was charged with two counts of aggravated first degree murder (domestic violence). The suspect entered a plea of not guilty.

Matsen is alleged to have killed his wife, Evelyn Tumbaga Matsen, 34, and her son, Wahren Agonoy, 13, at the family residence on NE Woods Place, East Bremerton, last November.

Judge Hartman set bail for Matsen at \$1,000,000, and appointed the Port Orchard law firm of Crawford, McGilliard, Peterson, Yelish & Dixon to represent him.

The Kitsap County Prosecutor's Office has 30 days, from arraignment, to notify the court if the prosecutor will try this as a capital punishment case and seek the death penalty.

Sheriff's patrol deputies went to the Matsen residence just after 1:00 p.m., Sunday, Nov. 6, for a welfare check on Evelyn when she didn't report for work as scheduled. The request for a check of Evelyn was made by her employer and co-workers, as they were aware of immediate past domestic violence incidents involving Evelyn and her husband.

Upon making entry into the house deputies found the bodies of Evelyn and Wahren. Following an autopsy, the Kitsap County Coroner determined the cause of death of both to be from gunshot wounds. The manner of death was listed as homicide.

With discovery of the bodies, Sheriff's detectives initiated an investigation that resulted in a murder warrant being issued for Matsen's arrest. He was arrested on the campus of the University of New Mexico, Albuquerque, NM, during the early morning hours of Thursday, Nov. 10, and held in the Bernalillo County Jail, Albuquerque, without bail.

Matsen fought extradition back to Washington, since his arrest in Albuquerque, until last week, when he waived further proceedings and agreed to be returned to Kitsap County.

Matsen was taken into custody by Kitsap County Sheriff's detectives, at the jail in Albuquerque, at 10:15 a.m. Friday, Feb. 23. He was transported back to Washington and booked into the Kitsap County Jail at 9:55 p.m. that night.

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