

Burglary 'an element'

No arrests yet in double murder

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Despite an intensive investigation, Sheriff's deputies Tuesday had still made no arrests in the double slaying last weekend of Goleta physician Robert Offerman and Santa Maria psychologist Debra Manning.

Offerman, 44, and Manning, 35, were found shot to death Sunday morning, December 30, in Offerman's 767 Avenida Pequena condominium.

Based on evidence at the scene and the testimony of neighbors, who reported hearing early morning gunshots, the times of death have been tentatively established as 3 a.m.

Although Sheriff's investigators at the end of the week had been unable to determine whether anything was missing from the deceased's residence, Sgt. Bill Baker, who is heading the investigation, said that he believes robbery or burglary was an element in the crime.

Manning had received a final divorce decree the Friday before her death, however Baker said that investigators were, "reason-

ably certain that the family has nothing to do with it."

A resident of the Cathedral Oaks Village condominium complex, where Offerman lived, told the VALLEY NEWS on Friday that, despite the recent murder, the Sheriff's Department had refused to increase patrols in the area, citing the need to provide backup to the City of Santa Barbara during its police strike.

However, Baker disputed that allegation, noting that the only request which had come to his attention was for a special 24-hour guard at the condominium complex.

He added that, because of manpower constraints, such requests are routinely denied by the Sheriff's Department, unless there is specific information to suggest that a crime may occur at the location.

A spokesperson for the Department said that, despite the stretching of manpower resources resulting from the recent strike of city police, heavier-than-usual patrols were

being instituted in the Cathedral Oaks Village area.

The Sheriff's Department has established a special 24-hour hotline for persons possessing information about the crime. That number is 964-2868.

Offerman, an orthopedic surgeon with offices in Santa Barbara and at the Valley Medical Building in Goleta, was born Aug. 6, 1935 in Dyersville, Iowa. A graduate of the University of Iowa Medical School, he completed his surgical residency at the University of California in San Francisco before coming to Santa Barbara to practice in 1968.

A past treasurer of the County Medical Society, Offerman was an orthopedic consultant at UCSB and Dos Pueblos High School.

He is survived by his wife Barbara; a son, Steven Robert of Santa Barbara; and a brother and sister.

Funeral services were held last Thursday at Welch-Ryce with a Friday burial service at the Old Mission.

Manning was a clinical psychologist in the Santa Maria school system.

