

Double Murder in Goleta May Be Linked to '79 Killings

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THERE IS "A good possibility" Monday's double homicide in Goleta is linked to a similar dual murder that happened just a few blocks away in December 1979, according to sheriff's deputies.

Shot and bludgeoned to death were Greg Sanchez, 28, and his friend Cheri Domingo, 35, found dead in the front bedroom of a home at 449 Toltec Way, Goleta, by a realtor who was inspecting the house.

According to sheriff's deputy Russ Birchim, detectives feel it is possible the deaths may be linked to a similar, unsolved homicide of Goleta orthopedic surgeon Robert Offerman and Debra Manning, a Santa Maria psychologist, who were found shot at Offerman's home at 767 Avenida Pequena in 1979, just a few blocks from Monday's murder.

Domingo, a divorced mother, was

house-sitting with her 16-year-old daughter Debbie who happened to be spending the night with friends. The owner of the house, Bernard Mass, died earlier this year and his heirs — to whom Domingo is related — had the house up for sale.

Partial results of an autopsy showed a number of severe head wounds to both Sanchez and Domingo, and at least Sanchez was shot also.

"There doesn't appear to be anything taken from the house," said Birchim, who described the murders as "brutal." The bodies were found about noon on Monday by the realtor. A neighbor told police that about 3:30 a.m. on Monday morning she heard shots and a woman scream and when she woke and told her husband, he passed it off as firecrackers, Birchim reported.

Although the Sheriff's department is

not releasing many details until the full autopsy is finished, the detectives feel there are similarities with the Offerman/Manning murders due to the close proximity of the crimes, the theory that there is one man involved, forced entry into the houses, the similar times (3 a.m.) of the crimes and, no robbery.

A psychological profile of a possible killer was made after the Offerman/Manning murders and one will be developed for this case also, Birchim said.

Sanchez was described by friends as the boyfriend of Domingo, although they had split up recently but remained good friends. Sanchez worked as a technician at Burroughs in Goleta and Domingo was unemployed at the time of her death, having been laid off from an administration job at Trimm Industries recently. ■

—John Hankins