

Sanders' autopsy raises more questions

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An autopsy report for Tamera Sanders — a local woman whose body was discovered in a burned down barn in May — raises more questions than answers.

The body of 29-year-old Sanders was discovered by sheriff's deputies following a fire at a barn on Bertsch Avenue and Howland Hill Road. Since then, the Del Norte Sheriff's Office has been investigating the suspicious death.

According to the autopsy report, which the Triplicate recently obtained, Sanders died due to carbon monoxide poisoning from smoke inhalation. However, the state medical examiner could not conclude whether her death was malicious or accidental — leaving the manner of death “undetermined.” The examiner did conclude methamphetamines were present in Sanders' system during her death.

The report also reveals more details from the night of the incident.

According to the report, the building was completely engulfed in flames around midnight on May 2. Around that time the owner of the building, who lived nearby, allegedly heard a woman screaming.

Sanders' was a known homeless resident of the community, and according to local homelessness officials, she was also known by the alias, “Magica.” The sheriff's office urges the public to come forward if they have any information regarding her death.

“Tamera may have been experiencing challenges towards the end of her life, but it is important to remember that she was a mother, daughter, loved one and friend,” wrote the sheriff's office in a Facebook post last month.

“If you have any information that may help conclude this investigation and bring closure to her family, please contact the Del Norte County Sheriff’s Office at 707-464-4191. It should also be mentioned that if this case is determined to be a homicide, family and friends are offering a reward for information leading to a conviction.”