



SHASTA COUNTY SHERIFF

Michael L. Johnson
SHERIFF - CORONER

MEDIA RELEASE

Major Crimes Unit Makes Arrest for Homicide

On July 3rd, 2026, at approximately 1746 hours, the Shasta County Sheriff's Office received a report of a gunshot victim on the 3300 block of Shane Lane in Cottonwood. It was reported that George Charles Barker, age 68, of Cottonwood, had shot his sister, Georgia Darlene Barker, age 71, of Cottonwood. Additionally, it was reported that a neighboring structure had been set on fire by George Barker and was actively burning.

Deputies responded to the residence and located a deceased adult female inside. The circumstances at the scene, including evidence of gunshot wounds, indicated the death was the result of a homicide. CalFire units responded and were able to extinguish the fire at the neighboring residence. Information was developed that George Barker had fled the residence after the homicide and was outstanding. George Barker was located and detained shortly thereafter in Tehama County on Cypress Drive in Cottonwood, CA, after reportedly being involved in a separate hit-and-run incident.

Detectives and Evidence Technicians from the Shasta County Sheriff's Office Major Crimes Unit (MCU) responded, obtained a search warrant, and began processing the residence and collecting evidence. The Shasta County Coroner's Office responded to the scene. The victim was positively identified as Georgia Darlene Barker, and next of kin was notified.

Based on the totality of the evidence developed during the investigation, Detectives established probable cause to believe George Barker was responsible for Georgia Barker's death and caused the fire to the neighboring residence. It was further determined that George Barker was on active Felony Probation out of Shasta County for 422(a) PC and 69(a) PC.

George Barker was transported to the Major Crimes Unit where he was questioned by detectives. He was later booked into the Shasta County Jail with bail set at \$1,025,000 on the following charges:

- 187 PC Murder
- 452(b) PC Causing a Fire of an Inhabited Structure
- 29800(a)(1) PC Felon in Possession of a Firearm
- 14601.1(a) VC Driving on a Suspended License
- 23152(a) VC DUI
- 23152(b) VC DUI with a BAC of .08 or Greater
- 1203.2 PC Violation of Probation

The Shasta County Sheriff's Office would like to thank the Anderson Police Department, CalFire, the Tehama County Sheriff's Office, and the California Highway Patrol ground and Air Operations units, for their assistance during this investigation. This remains an active investigation. Anyone with information related to this case is asked to contact the Shasta County Sheriff's Office Major Crimes Unit.

Case # SCSO26-003355

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Date: 07/04/2026