

Saturday fundraiser planned to further Wienckowski case

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By Lou Michel

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An effort to raise money to hire a private investigator in an attempt to change the official cause of death from accidental to homicide for Kenmore native Amanda L. Wienckowski is scheduled for 3-6 p.m. Saturday.

The auction, which also will include a drawing for a 46-inch flat-screen television, will be held in Kate's Bar & Restaurant, 1125 Tonawanda St., near Vulcan Street, in Buffalo's Riverside neighborhood.

Admission is \$10, a charge that will be waived for those who purchase a raffle ticket for the television. Food donated from area organizations and restaurants will be served.

Wienckowski's body was found frozen and upside-down in a plastic trash bin outside a church at Clinton and Spring streets more than four years ago, after she went missing. Her family and friends conducted fundraisers to hire an out-of-town pathologist who, in a second autopsy, determined the 20-year-old woman died from strangulation, rather than an accidental drug overdose as the county had determined.

The county medical examiner's office has refused to change its ruling.

Leslie Brill, Amanda's mother, said Friday that if a private investigator puts together a strong enough case, with the potential of finding new evidence for a homicide ruling, she is hopeful that it will persuade the county to change the death certificate.

"This is going to be a monster-size auction. There's so much to be auctioned," Brill said.

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