

Witness intimidation tactics in style in Florida?

Mother-in-law: Slain woman saved my life

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PARKER — For Maggie Gutierrez, it still is strange that the person who saved her life had her own life taken violently only months later.

Gutierrez, Anna Beach's mother-in-law, said she always will remember Beach as a loving, giving woman who cared about others before herself.

Beach, 35, died last week after being strangled and shot, according to investigators from the Parker Police Department and Bay County Sheriff's Office.

Mark Bomia, a 43-year-old Parker police officer and Anna Beach's ex-boyfriend, has been arrested and charged with murder in connection with the death.

"If you ever wanted to meet a human being who was good and caring, that was Anna," Gutierrez said. "She didn't deserve to die like that."

Anna Beach married Gutierrez's son, Jeff Beach, 17 years ago, she said. Though the two did not get off to an ideal start, Gutierrez said it was



ANNA
BEACH

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when she was at her lowest that she saw and fully appreciated Anna Beach's loving and warm-hearted nature. When Gutierrez lost her job as a corrections officer in Lake City, she wanted to move closer to her family and she returned to Parker. She had trouble finding a job and found herself living out of her car for about seven months.

At her lowest, when she had disputes with her family, was exasperated about finding work and struggling with the logistics of being homeless, Gutierrez said it was Anna Beach who came to see her day after day. In January, Gutierrez said, she had decided to kill herself, but it was Anna Beach who talked her out of it, encouraged her and motivated her to make her life better.

"I loved that girl. If it wasn't for her, I probably wouldn't be here," she said. "I probably would have gone ahead and committed suicide."

Anna Beach's mother, Karen Hinebaugh, said her daughter's relationship with Gutierrez was very special; however, she showed the same compassion to everyone in her life.

"She was a very good-hearted person," Hinebaugh said. "She was very loving to everyone, and everyone loved her."

Gutierrez now works at Arizona Chemical Co. and Walmart, has a residence of her own and said she believes she owes it all to Anna Beach's support. Like her entire family, Gutierrez said Anna Beach's tragic death has her reeling. She and her son, who Gutier-

rez said was in the process of reconciling with his estranged wife, are teaming up with Hinebaugh to help the four boys, left motherless by the tragedy, cope.

The boys, ages 8 to 18, were very close to their mother, Gutierrez said. Though she was strict, Gutierrez said, Beach was attentive and loving toward her sons and was involved with their lives; her loss has been very painful and confusing for all of them, despite being surrounded by family.

Gutierrez said she hopes Bomia pays for robbing the family of Anna Beach. Although family and acquaintances have said Bomia stalked Anna Beach, Gutierrez said she recently was told by one of Anna's friends that Bomia was abusive and physically violent toward her daughter-in-law.

Rumors and whispers have swirled around the case, but Gutierrez said Anna Beach was a good person, despite mistakes she might have made.

"We were lucky enough to know her better than anyone else," Gutierrez said. "People do things that sometimes can't be explained. That doesn't make you a bad person."

Investigators said Bomia was on duty, in uniform and driving a patrol car when he killed Beach inside her home and disposed of her body in the woods near her home. After being arrested Saturday, Bomia admitted to the killing, investigators said.

On Tuesday, the Bay County Sheriff's Office began diving near the DuPont Bridge off Tyndall Parkway in an attempt to recover the weapon used in Beach's death, BCSO spokeswoman Ruth Corley said.

Witnesses intimidated by the old clownz standard: "I'm a cop, and you don't know whos backing me" threat being used ?