



# ***Gulf County Sheriff's Office***

## ***Sheriff Mike Harrison***

418 Cecil G Costin Sr Blvd • Port St. Joe, Florida 32456 • [www.gulfsheriff.com](http://www.gulfsheriff.com)  
850-227-1115 • 850-639-5717 • Fax 850-227-2097

*Contact:* Capt. Chris Buchanan  
*Telephone:* 850-227-1115  
*Email:* [cbuchanan@gcso.fl.gov](mailto:cbuchanan@gcso.fl.gov)

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### **HOMICIDE INVESTIGATION: ACCOMPLICE ARRESTED - SHOOTER STILL AT LARGE**

The investigation into a murder that occurred shortly after 10am yesterday morning on St. Joe Beach continues. Investigators continue to put pieces of the puzzle together and are seeking search warrants to further build the case. Yesterday and into the early morning hours of today, the Florida Department of Law Enforcement's Crime Scene Unit processed the scene on Sea Pines Lane and a vehicle used in the crime. Based on evidence and interviews the shooting is believed to be the result of a drug deal that went bad.

Investigators continue to seek information from the public on the whereabouts of 34-year-old Stephen Michael Smith. The U.S. Marshals Service has offered a \$10,000 reward for information that results in his arrest. In addition to this case, Smith is also wanted for absconding from a work release program out of the state of Georgia where he was serving his sentence for robbery.

Several interviews were conducted of potential witnesses and one arrest has been made pertaining to the case. Destiny Jene Terry (44) was arrested early this morning. Although she is not the shooter, the investigation revealed she was present during the shooting and helped facilitate the contact between Smith and Upton. The victim, prior to losing consciousness, identified Smith as the shooter and Terry as being present. She is charged with Principal to Second Degree Murder and was booked into the Gulf County Detention Facility; she remains in custody.

The Gulf County Sheriff's Office is working closely with law enforcement agencies in the southeastern United States to apprehend Smith. If you see Smith call 911. If you have any information on his location contact the Gulf County Sheriff's Office at 850-227-1115, your local law enforcement agency, or you may remain anonymous by calling Crime Stoppers at 785-TIPS.

Prepared by: Capt. Chris Buchanan  
Approved by: Sheriff Mike Harrison