

Case 21-2008 Double Homicide

Victims: Maggie Murdaugh and Paul Murdaugh

Monday June 7, 2021 at 2211 Hours I, Detective Laura Rutland, was notified of a death scene with two victims at 4147 Moselle Road, Islandton, Colleton County, SC. I first responded to the Colleton County Sheriff's Office Headquarters to prepare a search warrant for SLED to process the location of the scene. After preparing the search warrant I met with Magistrate Judge Duffie who granted the search of the property/location of the incident 4147 Moselle Road with a property identification number of 123-00-00-002.000.

Upon my arrival at the incident location, which was near the dog kennels and large outbuildings for storing farm equipment on the property, of 4147 Moselle Road, I observed several law enforcement personnel from CCSO and SLED on the scene. I met with my supervisor, Captain Chapman, who informed me that SLED would be the lead agency on this case and assigned me as the liaison from Colleton County Sheriff's Office to assist SLED lead Senior Special Agent David Owen.

I then partnered up with Agent Owen and we walked the crime scene. The scene was marked by "crime scene" tape and was secured by multiple Deputies. I observed a deceased white male lying face down at an angle away from the building, his feet were in the doorway to a storage room attached at the end of the dog kennels, and his body was outside the room laying across the outside concrete pad. His arms/hands were underneath his body. There was no weapon by the body. The body was covered by a sheet. Wadding to a shot gun shell was observed behind the decedent's feet, inside the shed. A rear window to the shed had several holes in the glass. Large amounts of blood spatter and brain/skull matter were on the door to the shed and on items within the storage building. I observed a pool of blood all around his head, and he had a large opening where the top of his head was, exposing the entire inner cranial cavity, his brain was next to his body near his legs. The deceased female was approximately 20-30 feet (estimate) from the male's body, located at the end of a carport section of a large workshop type building. The female was face down also with her arms and hands underneath her body. She had an obvious gunshot wound to her head. There was a large hole in the back of her head and wounds to her back and legs. There was a large pool of blood underneath her head. There were no weapons near her body. I learned the bodies were identified by the 911 caller Alex Murdaugh, as his son, Paul Murdaugh and his wife, Maggie Murdaugh.

Interview with Alex Murdaugh: (This is a summary, please refer to the body camera and report of Agent Owen) June 7, 2021 2357 hours

Agent Owen and I then located Alex Murdaugh who was with his personal attorney, Danny Henderson, and his brother Randy Murdaugh. Agent Owen requested we speak with him and he agreed. Due to the rain we sat inside Agent Owen's department issued unmarked vehicle. Agent Owen utilized his body worn camera to record our conversation.

Interview of Nolen Tuten (summary of interview, please refer to Agent Owen's body camera recording) and report, June 8, 2021 0130 hours-estimate late Monday into early Tuesday

Nolen stated he has been friends with Paul his whole life, they're like a second family. He stated he last saw Paul in person on Tuesday or Wednesday of last week in Dove Field. (Murdaugh Property) He stated he last spoke to Paul on the phone tonight at 6:34 pm. He stated Paul was telling him about a new employee who sprayed the wrong chemical and killed a whole Dove Field. He stated Paul sounded like he was in a good mood and had just gotten off work and was halfway home.

When asked if Paul had any recent negative encounters Nolen stated it never stops. He began to talk about the boat accident that killed Mallory Beach. He stated due to the constant issues he would stay home or go hang out with friends in Columbia, SC. He stated most of the threats Paul received were in passing and he could not think of any direct threats.

Nolen was forthcoming with information on his friendship and relationship with the Murdaugh family and please refer to the SLED report for full interview.

Crime Scene Processing Assistance:

Once we concluded the interviews we returned to the crime scene to continue to assist SLED. While canvassing the crime scene, as I observed the outer edge-furthest away from the dog kennels- of the large workshop I located several fresh footprints, dog prints, and tire tracks. I located shoe impressions that were clearly from a flat type sandal or flip flop. I observed the deceased female victim to be wearing flat sandals that matched these shoe impressions. It looked as though she was walking one direction when she turned around and walked back toward the way she came from. These impressions were in the direction back toward the dog kennels, and her final resting place. I notified the SLED agents on scene of this discovery.

We also located a fresh bullet hole in the workshop-almost directly across from the shed where Paul's body was located. Chunks of wood were found inside the workshop consistent with the projectile exiting the wall.

Near the body of Maggie Murdaugh were a few clumps of her hair and a broken earring was located near a UTV tire, at the corner of the building she was lying next to.

Once the bodies were removed and released to the Coroner we continued to look for evidence. On the ground underneath where Maggie's body was, we dug a large hole sifting through each shovel of dirt in an attempt to locate a projectile. None were found.

A projectile was recovered from a dog house that was directly behind where Maggie was lying.

**Several other items were processed and collected by SLED Crime Scene, this is just documentation of what I observed or assisted with.

Tuesday June 8, 2021 I reviewed the body worn cameras of the first responding Deputies and listened to Alex's 911 calls in great depth. I also drove back out to 4147 Moselle Road to get a look at the scene in daylight. When I arrived there was a News 4 Van parked out front recording. When I drove up the driveway I observed a company cleaning the shed, so I departed the area after seeing no more law enforcement were at the scene. I continued canvassing Moselle road for any other residences that may have video surveillance.

Wednesday June 9, 2021 I attended the morning briefing with SLED and tasks were assigned. I continued to assist Agent Owen. I transcribed the 911 call placed by Alex and provided the document to Agent Owen. Later in the day the SLED Crime Scene Unit responded to the Colleton County Sheriff's Office to begin the Forensic Processing of the black Chevy Suburban that Alex Murdaugh was driving the night of the incident. Once they completed that vehicle they also processed the White F-250 King Ranch Pickup truck that was recovered from the side of the road by officers the previous day. (This truck was later confirmed to have been driven by John Marvin Murdaugh the night of the incident and broke down on his way to 4147 Moselle Road.)

Thursday June 10, 2021 SLED scheduled interviews of the Murdaugh Family. I was assigned to work with Agent Joe Albayalde to interview Randy Murdaugh. Many SLED agents and I met with the Murdaugh Family around 2:00 pm at one of their private residences and conducted the interviews. Randy consented to and provided Agent Albayalde with his cell phone for a Forensic Analysis as well as a buccal DNA swab. ** Please refer to the SLED report for details on the interviews.

Friday June 11, 2021 I met with SLED at their office and we had a meeting to discuss the day prior. Miscellaneous leads were assigned to SLED agents to follow up on as well as some more interviews of friends of the family. I was able to put together a timeline of the information I have so far on Alex's phone, as well as some phone calls that were made by Rogan to Paul and Maggie. A copy of this timeline is in the electronic case file on the CCSO Z-Drive. I worked on administrative tasks for most of this day-including the start of my supplemental report.

Saturday June 12, 2021 I assisted SLED with the removal of the internal computer/black box of the 2021 Chevy Suburban. I arrived at the Colleton County Sheriff's Office Headquarters to open our secured impound lot to allow SLED and their Computer Crimes Tech Agent to process the vehicle. I stood by throughout the process and secured the impound lot upon the completion of the removal of the computers.

Monday June 14, 2021

After attending a meeting with SLED I was assigned by Lt. Charles Ghent of SLED to obtain a search warrant for Maggie's Mercedes after we received data showing her cell phone connecting

to the Bluetooth in her vehicle prior to the murders. I completed the search warrant and it was signed by Circuit Court Judge Mullen.

With the signed search warrant in hand I went with Agent Albayalde to 4147 Moselle Road to have the Mercedes's towed as well as interview the family Maid, Blanca Turrubiate-Simpson. Please refer to the SLED report for a detailed summary of her interview.

At the conclusion of our interview with Blanca, Maggie's Mercedes was towed from 4147 Moselle Road by Eric Bailey's Towing and brought to the Colleton County Sheriff's Office. It was placed inside the secure evidence bay and all the doors were taped off with tamper proof evidence tape. I confirmed with SLED that the Crime Scene Unit would be processing the Mercedes the next day, Tuesday.

Tuesday June 15, 2021

After attending a meeting at SLED Capt. Chapman, and I were assigned a lead from 3rd party information that was coming in via the tip line. We concluded this information was irrelevant due to the subject residing out of State.

I then continued to work on this supplemental report and reviewed the 911 call again after it had some background noise removed. I was able to clearly hear car doors opening, as well as a door chime.

The SLED Crime Scene Unit responded to the Colleton County Sheriff's Office to complete the processing/search of Maggie's Mercedes. I provided SLED, Senior Agent David Owen, with the original search warrant I was granted by Judge Mullen. Due to a personal obligation I left for the day and turned the bay/search over to Capt. Chapman and SLED.

Wednesday, June 16, 2021

On this day the CCSO assisted the SLED dive team with a search of the Moselle Property- focusing on the water ways (ponds and Salkehatchie River access points) for any potential evidence from the crime. Utilizing ATV's we canvassed the 1700 acre property.

Thursday, June 17, 2021

On this day we continued to assist the SLED dive team with the completion of a search of a large pond on the property. Once this was completed we also searched a white F-250 that was parked on the property and was a truck known to have been used by Paul. I assisted by taking photographs of the vehicles exterior and interior. The photos were later copied in to the electronic Z drive case file. While we were searching the vehicle, Roger Davis, an employee who cares for the Murdaugh's dogs arrived. We were able to look at his vehicle and the tire tracks made by his vehicle are of similar shape and size to the tire tracks that were located under the

carport the night of the incident. The employee stated that he parks there twice a day, every day, while he cares for the dogs. We could see several old/new tire tracks consistent with this information.

Friday, June 18, 2021

I attended a meeting with SLED and confirmed the leads assigned to me had been completed. I looked through the crime scene photographs and autopsy photographs with Senior Agent Jeff Croft and noted some injuries to Paul's face that appeared to have been the result of some type of struggle (bruising and possible scratches-will need a medical examiner to confirm this). I also noticed a few strands of what appeared to be brown hair, unable to determine the length from the photo, in Maggie's hand/fingers.

I contacted John Marvin Murdaugh and Randy Murdaugh and spoke with them about picking up Maggie's Mercedes and the white Diesel F-250 Farm truck that we had at the Colleton County Sheriff's Office. They were making arrangements to retrieve them today.

A short time later, Randy Murdaugh called me back and stated Blanca Simpson would be picking up the Mercedes and Jimmy Butler towing would pick up the F-250. Once JB Towing arrived, I released the F-250 to them and issued property receipt #7229. Blanca Simpson arrived and I released the Mercedes to her, issuing her Property Receipt #7230. The property receipts were scanned in to the electronic case file for this incident on the CCSO Z- Drive.

Saturday, June 19 and Sunday June 20, 2021

Over the weekend I monitored social media activity involving this case and located several Facebook groups and Youtube platforms where this case is being discussed. At this time it is apparent the individuals involved in these forums have no connection to the case and are speculating about what occurred.

Monday, June 21, 2021

No activity-learned family is going to a post a \$100,000 reward

Tuesday, June 22, 2021

No activity-advised SLED would call us if I am needed.

Thursday, June 24, 2021

I received copies of the Murdaugh's call log records and cell cite analysis records from Dylan Hightower and an updated timeline of events. These files were downloaded in to the electronic case file.

Thursday, August 26, 2021

I received an email from Agent David Owen requesting an interview be burned on to a disc for him related to this investigation. The interview was of an individual, Bryan Crews, that we spoke with after receiving a tip that he may have information on the double murder. This person was ruled out and did not have any involvement in the case.

Friday, August 27, 2021

I provided SLED Agent David Owen with the disc he requested the previous day and assisted SLED while they had SCHP Investigators at CCSO to review evidence. Nothing was processed or collected by this Detective.

Saturday, September 4, 2021

Hampton County SO responded to the scene of a shooting on Old Salkehatchie Road involving Alex Murdaugh. He received a superficial wound to the back of his head and was taken to a medical facility for treatment. SLED responded and assumed the investigation.

Tuesday, September 7, 2021





Wednesday, November 17, 2021

Since September 7, 2021 This Detective has not been actively involved in the Murdaugh Case and new information regarding Alex Murdaugh has been learned by SLED. He and Curtis E. Smith have been charged with several crimes to be prosecuted by the SC Attorney General Office.

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