



EPISODE 42: Who Killed Maggie and Paul? Part Three

Mandy Matney 00:02

I don't know who killed Paul or Maggie Murdaugh, but it looks like we're closer to getting answers. As we exclusively reported this week on FITS News, high velocity impact spatter directly links Alex Murdaugh to the homicides of his wife and son, according to our sources, and that is a big deal. My name is Mandy Matney. I've been investigating the Murdaugh family for more than three years now. This is the Murdaugh Murder's Podcast with David Moses and Liz Farrell. So back in early January, in our first episode of 2022, we broke a big story in the double homicide investigation of Maggie and Paul Murdaugh. In episode 26 we reported that there was direct physical evidence that placed Alex Murdaugh at Moselle at the time his wife and son were killed back in January. We couldn't tell you what that evidence was. But since then, multiple sources have told FITS News that high velocity impact spatter was present on the shirt Alex Murdaugh was wearing the night of the double homicides. And this evidence has been independently analyzed and confirmed by multiple forensic experts, including at least one out of state laboratory. This evidence not only directly places Alex Murdaugh at the scene of the double homicide at the time of the killings, it puts him in proximity to one or both of his family members as they were shot. As a reminder, Alex has maintained his innocence from the beginning. His attorneys say they accounted for every move of his that night. And at the time the coroner says Maggie and Paul were killed they claimed Alex was with his mother, 20 minutes away, watching a game show on television with her. We're gonna play a short clip when Jim Griffin was interviewed by Fox Carolina in October 2021.



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Jim Griffin 02:25

I can assure you that we have Alex's whereabouts accounted for completely during that period of time that night. He is sitting on the bed side of his mother at her house when the coroner says these murders happen. She has dementia. There's a house sitter caregiver around the clock and they're watching a game show on television..

Mandy Matney 02:51

What Jim Griffin is saying here directly conflicts with what sources are saying the evidence in the case points to. It's important to note that according to our sources, this body fluid spatter is not the only piece of evidence placing Alex at Moselle when he claims he was nowhere near there. But its analysis could in part explain why the investigation has continued for more than 10 months without arrest. Sources have not disclosed details about whether the spatter was from blood, fluid or other biological matter. They have referred to the evidence as significant. This evidence is separate from what we've already reported about the guns in this case, multiple sources told FITS News at least one of the weapons used in the double homicide belong to the Murdaugh family. Now it's been several months since we last talked in detail about the double homicide investigation. So in this episode, we'll tell you everything we know about the June 7th double homicide, including a lot of new information about the Murdaugh family, we will speak with an expert about what high impact spatter is and what it means and most importantly, we will put all of this into context. So we have talked at length about what happened at Moselle on June 7, 2021. But we haven't told you much about what was going on with the Murdaugh family around that time. This week, FITS News founding editor Will



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Folks reported one of many bombshells in the Murdaugh saga that the state grand jury was investigating the Murdaugh family's financial situation before the double homicide.

Will Folks 04:39

This news outlet has learned exclusively that Murdaugh's finances were the focus of a statewide grand jury. In fact, a judge in Columbia, South Carolina Judge Robert Hood was made aware at the very least, perhaps signed off on but we know is made aware in April of 2021 of a subpoena by the grand jury to get out Murdaugh's bank records and obviously given the relationship between Murdaugh and these various banks in the low country. It's a fair assessment that if the banks were aware of this subpoena, they probably told Murdaugh pretty quickly given that the banks have been, by all appearances anyway, an integral part of the various financial scams that Murdaugh ran against his former law firm clients.

Mandy Matney 05:20

In fact, a subpoena was issued for investigators to comb through the Murdaugh's finances in April of 2021. That's less than six weeks before the murders.

Liz Farrell 05:33

Keep in mind Alex Murdaugh was still stealing money at this point. Allegedly. According to the indictments between March and July of 2021 Alex is accused of manipulating a Bamberg county attorney named Chris Wilson, who was also one of Alex close longtime friends into writing him three checks totaling \$792,000 for his share of the legal



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fees. In a case these two were working on together, instead of writing that check to PMPED per protocol, according to the indictment, Murdaugh told Wilson that he was going to structure his fees himself because of his potential civil liability in the Mallory Beach boat crash. According to the indictment, he was apparently admitting that he was trying to hide money from the beach family. He allegedly lied to Wilson and told him that PMPED was aware of this. Murdaugh didn't structure the fees. He just took the money for himself, allegedly. In fact on April 20 2021, Alex allegedly stole one of those checks. The state Grand Jury subpoena would definitely throw a large wrench in Alex Murdaugh's stealing millions from clients scam. Why was the state Grand Jury investigating Alex Murdaugh's finances? Remember, in the spring of 2021, Paul Murdaugh was out on bond for the fatal boat crash that killed 19 year old Mallory Beach. While that case wasn't close to trial, even though it had been more than two years since the crash. The grand jury was investigating something else in the spring of 2021. Alex, and his family, as well as certain members of law enforcement that they counted as friends, unbeknownst to most people at the time, were being investigated for interfering in the 2019 boat crash investigation and obstructing justice. Maybe they were trying to determine whether any of the Murdaugh's had paid South Carolina Department of Natural Resources officers or others to muck up the scene, destroy or lose evidence or not offer Paul Murdaugh a field sobriety test that night. Those are just a few guesses.

Mandy Matney 07:42

Anyway, pressure was most certainly building on Alex Murdaugh in the spring of 2021. Adding to the mountain of problems he was facing at



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the time, Alex's father, the family patriarch Randolph Murdaugh, the third was dying of cancer. Randolph was powerful. He served as a solicitor over the 14th circuit for two decades before he retired in 2006. Randolph was respected by powerful players across a low country, especially by law enforcement members, but that respect did not carry through to the next generation. That respect just wasn't there for Alex and his brothers like it was for Randolph. Randolph dying of cancer meant that the Murdaugh family was losing their fixer the man who always kept the Murdaugh family together and was always able to keep his boys Alex especially from facing the consequences of their actions for Alex his family's power was dying to the Murdaugh name wasn't what it used to be not sensible crash. Alex's family wasn't what they used to be either, as we've reported before the Murdaughs appear to be living separate lives in the spring of 2021. Maggie was living in Edisto, South Carolina at the family's beach house where she moved in 2020. Buster was living in the Charlotte area where he was working and Paul. Well Paul was all over the place something we want to note here because it's important as we're talking about Alex's situation leading up to the murders. Paul's reckless behavior didn't seem to change at all after the boat crash. In fact, he seemed to learn nothing from the whole experience and was becoming an even bigger liability for Alex the summer after the crash. We heard from people who had seen Paul out partying, drinking and boating around Edisto Beach and up until his murder. Liz and I both receive regular reports of Paul's excessive partying and drunken outburst in and around the low country and in Columbia. But something we haven't reported before Paul's credit card was apparently denied in a bar in Charleston in the weeks leading up to the murders. According to a source close to the situation, several



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sources told us that this was strange for Paul, he often used his mother's credit card. We mentioned this credit card thing because it's something a reliable source told me last summer. But now that so many pieces of the puzzle are in place, it's coming into focus again. You might remember a while ago, we told you about a Daily Mail article that said that a source close to the family told reporters that Maggie had been worried about their financial situation in the months leading up to the murder. The source told the Daily Mail that Maggie was upset because the check she had written to a local charity had bounced a few months before the murders. Also remember what the probate documents told us about the Murdaugh's finances at the time. According to the documents that John Marvin chose to disclose Maggie had just \$57 left in her bank of america bank account, the only bank account solely in Maggie's name listed at the time of her death. Maggie apparently owed a lot of money. Over 2.1 million was owed in the mortgages on both of their properties. It looks to us like the Murdaughs weren't paying their Palmetto State Bank mortgages at all. And on top of all that Maggie had over 10 grand and unpaid bills. It's safe to say that Alex Murdaugh's financial situation was stressful at the time around the murders.

Liz Farrell 11:42

And again, there's the boat crash lawsuit for more than two years. The Murdaughs refuse to settle the lawsuit that was filed by Mallory Beach's mother from Mallory's wrongful death. At that point last spring, two insurance companies had already refused to cover the crash. Only one of Alex Murdaugh's insurance policies Progressive Insurance agreed to cover the Murdaughs in the lawsuit but the policy was only worth



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\$500,000 and the claims from the lawsuit would likely be millions given the number of victims and the amount of damage. Alex Murdaugh was apparently going around town claiming to be poor so Mark Kinsley, the beach family attorney decided to call his bluff and began formally demanding proof of Alex's financial situation in the fall of 2020. Murdaugh's attorneys made it clear to the court and to Tinsley. That Alex had no intention of answering any of the questions he was being asked, calling the questions irrelevant and immaterial. He wasn't going to share information about his checking and savings accounts, his retirement accounts, the properties he owned or had an interest in his stock holdings, his life insurance policies or his investments, and he certainly wasn't going to provide the name of the person who prepared their taxes for the last three years. As we now know. He apparently had a lot of reasons not to share that information. The pressure on Alex Murdaugh to open his books kept increasing though and a hearing was scheduled for June 10 2021 When the judge would hear arguments in the beach family's motion to compel Murdaugh to show them his money. Which brings us to June 7, just three days before that scheduled hearing. On the day of his death, Paul worked at his uncle John Marvin's equipment rental store, ate dinner with his uncle's family and around six o'clock went to Moselle to check on his friend Rogen, Gibson's dog who was boarded at the dog kennels at Moselle. This is important because it means that Paul's presence at Moselle that night was unexpected. Even if we didn't know this information, though, Paul's pattern would have been difficult to predict. Maggie, however, was expected to be at Moselle that night. In fact, multiple sources have told us at FITS News that Alex Murdaugh lured Maggie to Moselle that night. According to our sources, Maggie told others that she was hesitant to



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go to Moselle that night, but ultimately, she decided it was the right thing to do. It's not clear whether any of this information was found on Maggie's iPhone, which appears to have been tossed in the woods near Moselle. It was found the next morning by Alex co-workers at the 14th circuit solicitor's office with some help from Alex's younger brother.

Mandy Matney 14:23

We don't know exactly what happened after Maggie and Paul arrived at Moselle, the we're told there is another piece of evidence that places Alex at the dog kennels on the property before they died, which is contradictory to what he told law enforcement from the get go in his 911 call that night, which he made at 10:07pm. There are a couple things that stick out to us now, knowing what we know. First, as you probably know, 911 calls start recording typically soon after you dial the number. Here's what it sounded like when Alex called. After the dial in you can hear dogs barking in the distance then a ring then silence then you hear Alex Murdaugh sobbing.

Alex Murdaugh 15:20

Emergency Moselle road my wife and...

Mandy Matney 15:32

During that call it sounds like Alex is moving around a lot which could be for a number of reasons including poor cell phone reception at the kennels. That was bad. The next part is important because it's the first time that Alex told authorities he was not a Moselle before this.



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911 Operator (2) 15:51

Okay, did you hear anything? Or did you come home and find up and going back to your house?

Alex Murdaugh 15:56

No, ma'am. Please hurry.

Mandy Matney 16:10

When the dispatcher asked whether he saw anyone in the vicinity of the home when he arrived. Alex Murdaugh said no. He was then asked whether he noticed anything out of place and

911 Operator (2) 16:23

Does anything look out of place?

Alex Murdaugh 16:33

No, not particularly really. No, ma'am.

Mandy Matney 16:36

At one point in the call, the dispatcher asked Alex not to touch the bodies of his family members.

911 Operator (2) 16:43

Okay. I don't want you to touch them at all. Okay, I don't, I don't know if you've already touched them. I don't want you to touch them just in case they can get any kind of evidence okay?



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Mandy Matney 16:52

But Alex was quick to tell the dispatcher that he had already touched the bodies.

Alex Murdaugh 16:58

I already touched them trying to get to see if they were breathing.

Mandy Matney 17:03

This is important because it sounds like Alex is attempting to establish a reason for having blood on his clothes. And one more thing to note about the 911 call when it was first released to the public. A lot of people noticed that Alex seemed to be saying to himself, Paul, why do you have to get involved? Once you hear it? It's hard to hear anything but that. Your house? Maybe Paul wasn't supposed to be there. Maybe he wasn't the target. We'll be right back.

Mandy Matney 17:43

According to police reports, deputies from the Colleton County Sheriff's Office arrived on scene at 10:25pm and immediately began investigating the case as a double murder flood was contacted 21 minutes after Alex Murdaugh called 911. The Colleton County Sheriff's Office asked SLED to take over the case due to the complexity of the investigation and the agency's multiple ties to the powerful Murdaugh family. According to our sources, at least one of the weapons used in the double homicide belong to the Murdaugh family. But our sources have never said why they believe this to be the case or whether the other weapon also belongs to the Murdaugh family. They also have never said whether either weapon was recovered. Ultimately, the



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weapons will play a key role in the investigation, especially now that it appears that high velocity impacts better places Alex so physically close to the actual shootings. If the weapons weren't recovered, though, the obvious question is going to be where did they go? And when maybe even more importantly, is how do they get to wherever they went? For instance, if the weapons weren't recovered, did anyone help dispose of the weapons and was that person compensated for their assistance?

Liz Farrell 19:06

More than two weeks after the murders, a public relations firm hired by the Murdaugh family released a statement announcing a \$100,000 reward to anyone providing tips that led to arrests by law enforcement. However, tips were required to have been submitted before September 30 2021. To qualify for that reward when that deadline expired. A spokesperson who represented the Murdaugh family released the following statement to multiple news stations.

DAVID MOSES 19:35

We are disappointed that no one has stepped forward with any leads to solve the murder and claimed the \$100,000 reward. At this time the family is evaluating what additional steps can be taken to solve the murders of Maggie and Paul.

Mandy Matney 20:00

Patterns in blood stains and other bodily fluids can help investigators determine what occurred during a violent death, particularly as it relates to the positioning of the victim in the suspect. To learn more about high velocity impact spatter in the science involved in analyzing



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blood stain patterns, or the patterns of other fluids and biological matters at a crime scene, we spoke with Linda Rourke, who is a professor at the John Jay College of Criminal Justice in New York. Just a quick note about our conversation. We didn't ask Linda any questions specific to the details of the case, nor is she commenting on the Murdaugh murders investigation in any way.

Linda Rourke 20:45

High Velocity impact typically, that's associated when they're the use of a high velocity weapon. So if a high velocity or a high energy rifle is used, for instance, and especially if it's used a close range, this is physics. Basically, greater force means greater, you know, the force that impacts especially something like a human body, you're going to have a lot more damage occurring. And there are certain patterns that are more consistent with a high velocity impact. And you may have seen this yourself in doing your research that you're more likely to get this combination of some larger blood stain pattern, so larger droplets of blood, and then in the background, it'll look like there's a mist, like a cloudy mist of blood in the background. And this is more likely to occur. When you have a situation where there is a high velocity impact, you will not get that can think of a situation where let's say someone got stabbed. And you know, no one has the quote unquote, power or the energy to create the kind of damage that you would see that will result in this combined pattern of larger blood droplets along with the mist of blood that comes about because of the high energy impact.



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Liz Farrell 22:07

In the case of the Murdaugh's Sources close to the investigation tell FITS News that Maggie Murdaugh was shot multiple times with a high powered rifle. One of the bullets reportedly went through her back and the other allegedly went through the back of her head as she was lying on the ground face down. This is the first time multiple sources have confirmed details about Maggie Murdaugh's balloons. According to his death certificate, Paul Murdaugh was killed by two shotgun wounds, one to the chest and the other to the head. The gunshot wounds to both Maggie's and Paul's heads could be a reason sources told FITS News on June 8 2021, that the two were killed execution style Alex Murdaugh's clothing that night was stained with blood, which is consistent with his account of touching the bodies, but it is the high velocity impact spatter on his shirt that places him at the scene and in proximity to one or both of the victims at the time of their shooting deaths.

Linda Rourke 23:05

To differentiate high velocity impacts that are with a more passive transfer, let's say there's a scenario where you come home and there's a loved one on the ground, on the floor, and they seem to you know, be bleeding. And you're you're trying to provide let's say CPR, mouth to mouth, a bleeding person, you know, there's going to be wet blood, especially, you know, if it's a recent situation, you can consider the possibilities where you come back and it's been a week and the person has been there and things have dried up and you're not going to have transfer in the same way. So for a fairly fresh incident where there's what blood on the victim, then touching the victim leaning against



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them, the wet blood from their clothing can easily transfer to the your own clothing or to your hands or wherever you happen to be touching a bloodied area of that victim. That does not typically look the same as high velocity impact spatter. Now, if you would have asked me about possible scenarios, it would be really kind of stretching it if that victim on the ground happened to have some kind of high velocity impact that are on them because someone else got shot, for instance, and then you went to kneel against them, and the similar pattern got transferred onto clothing. That is just like quite a convoluted scenario for that to happen. More likely, if and especially if the victim has been shot or stabbed or bludgeoned, and they're quite bloody, the blood that is coming out of their wounds would likely obscure any previous pattern that was on their clothing. So you're going to be getting transfer patterns that are an indication of where the pair should we find the victim touching the victim.

Mandy Matney 25:05

What exactly the high velocity impact spatter might mean to the investigation will remain unclear until charges are filed against the person or persons determined to be responsible for killing Maggie and Paul Murdaugh. Stay tuned. As we were writing this episode, we got some big breaking news in the Bowen Turner case on Tuesday night Will Folks have FITS News.com reported something huge outrage from the victims and their families as well as from the public, many of whom are our listeners and our readers prompted prosecutors to revisit one of the three rape cases specifically solicited Bill weeks David Miller's boss is reportedly reconsidering his decision to dismiss the Dallas Stoller case and that is a big deal. And this takes me to my final points of this



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podcast on the Bowen Turner case. Richland County's decision to withhold public records in our social media presence, corruption, incompetence and dereliction of duty does not survive under scrutiny. public dollars are used to employ and pay for a number of public services. But the quality of those services suffer when left to operate in a vacuum. It's up to the public to either expose malfeasance on their own or the public can choose to support media agencies that can do that. For them. That is our plight as journalists to uncover the rot so that citizens can take action. We believe that our show and FITS News is reporting help pressure solicitor Bill Weeks to desperately try to correct his assistant solicitors mistakes by canceling the effort to drop Bowens rape charges. But that is not enough. In our opinion. It should have been handled properly in the first place. It seems like it's very hard for those in power to do the right thing from the beginning moving forward and with your help, we want to make it hard for these same people to do the wrong thing. We know putting pressure on public agencies like at the Richland County abutments office is the right course of action to expose whatever rot is waiting to be discovered in Alex Murdaugh's phone calls. Assistant County Attorney Chris Ziegler's decision to withhold those calls, even though no temporary injunction has been granted, is doing a disservice to the citizens of Richland County in the state of South Carolina. We're calling it Ziegler's decision, by the way, because he's the one that signed the letter saying that we wouldn't be getting the recordings. Ziegler is a public employee. He receives his paycheck from public tax dollars. He works for the public and we believe that is 100%. In the public's best interest for the recordings of Alex Murdaugh's jailhouse phone calls to be released. There are many unnamed victims in this saga. And now is not the time



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to be providing cover for anyone causing harm Bill Weeks, David Miller, Brad Hutto, Dick Harpootlian, the Attorney General, SLED, Chrissie Glare and up until his arrest Alex Murdaugh are/were public officials who took a salary and power of some kind from the public and the people of South Carolina, that privilege to work for the public to serve the public, as politicians like to say when they're seeking votes, opens them up to public scrutiny, whether it's from a podcast fits news, the people of the state or even each other. That is how a representative Republic works. This is what the Freedom of Information Act seeks to protect. I shouldn't have to say this, but there are a few people out there who do not get the distinction or maybe they didn't learn this in school. I am not a public employee nor am I an elected official and this podcast is not paid for by any public funds. When public money is in play that means accountability is not expected. It's mandated. There are checks and balances and the media is one of those checks. Chris Siegler and all of the other public employees accepted their position knowing that they have a much different standard to live up to then those of us in the private sector on a similar note, our social media channels are not meant to be an open forum for people on the wrong side of history to troll. We want our pages to be a place of positivity and truth. Start your own channel. If you want to troll people or post your negativity elsewhere, we are working hard to build a following of people who, like us are sick and tired of government agencies and bad actors working against the interests of transparency, truth and justice. Again, corruption, incompetence and dereliction of duty cannot survive in the sunlight. We will continue to call out people and agencies who are on the wrong side of history and we hope that our listeners and followers will continue to heed our calls for action until those in the public sector

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who tried to dodge accountability from their boss, the citizens are run out of office, the town, the county or the state that they have failed to serve. An informed public means a safer, healthier and better community. Thank you for listening and stay tuned to fitsnews.com and the Murdaugh Murders Podcast for the latest updates in this case. The Murdaugh Murder's Podcast is created by me, Mandy Matney, and my fiance David Moses. Our executive editor is Liz Farrell.

DAVID MOSES 31:39

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PODCAST