



EPISODE 26: Who Killed Maggie and Paul? Part Two

Mandy Matney 0:02

I don't know who killed Paul or Maggie Murdaugh. But it looks like we will be getting answers soon. As I exclusively reported this morning for FITSnews, direct physical evidence links Alex Murdaugh to the double homicide of his wife and son. And that is a big deal. In the past seven months, we have learned a lot about the circumstances surrounding the Murdaugh family around the time of the murders, and it's time that we put all of that into context. Just like FITSnews has been told from the beginning all roads lead to Alex. My name is Mandy Matney. I'm the news director at FITSnews.com. And I've been investigating the Murdaugh family for almost three years now. This is the Murdaugh murders podcast with David Moses and Liz Farrell.

Happy New Year MMP fans! With your support and encouragement we were able to do amazing things in 2021. We launched social media pages on Facebook and Instagram recently. And just for a reminder, please follow us by searching Murdaugh Murders Podcast on facebook and instagram or click the links in the episode description. We have lots of exciting giveaways coming up and new announcements that you will not want to miss. So be sure to check out those social media pages. In 2021. We invested in equipment programs and people so we can deliver a better listening experience to our audience. I am so thankful to work with amazing people at both FITSnews.com. And on this podcast, we are proud to have helped grow FITSnews.com. Through our reporting. FITSnews is truly South Carolina's best hope for keeping its public entities and agencies held accountable. If you haven't already, please go to FITSnews.com. And subscribe to the latest news on this case and others. And finally, we're very proud that we connected with advertisers who believe in our mission to expose the truth wherever it leads. Good journalism is expensive. It takes time and a lot of resources. Please know that these products and services believe in our mission. And for that we are so grateful we plan to continue this trend of delivering better episodes with more in depth coverage on all of these investigations and plan on providing answers to victims in each case this year. So keep listening and let us know what you think so we can continue to get better. And on that note, we are so grateful for our listeners and our supporters. We are grateful for you for listening to us right now. So thank you. We want to start out this episode by saying that we heard you listeners told us they wanted an update in the murder investigation of Maggie and Paul Murdaugh. Well, we got one for you. And it is serious. After seven months. We too were wondering what the holdup was at the



EPISODE 26: Who Killed Maggie and Paul? Part Two

South Carolina Law Enforcement Division. So Liz Farrell, Will Folks and I all at FITSnews.com went back to our sources with some information that we've been hearing for months that there was direct physical evidence that placed Alex Murdaugh at Moselle at the very moment his wife and son were murdered. Turns out this is absolutely true According to our sources, and that is a big deal. We can't say what that evidence is exactly. But we have been told that it is substantial, and I would not be reporting it right now. If it wasn't, however, direct physical evidence sometimes is it enough to hang a case on so in this episode, we're going to take you through everything that we know about the murders, we're going to talk about the surrounding circumstances, possible motives, theories and evidence. So due to the unforeseen amount of crimes that we've uncovered during the course of this podcast, it's been a long time since we've talked about the double homicide. I figured we could all use recap. So here we go. 52 year old Maggie Murdaugh and her 22 year old son Paul Murdaugh were found dead on their 1700 acre panting property in college and County, South Carolina around 10pm June 7 2021. Paul Murdaugh was killed by two shotgun blasts one to the chest and another through the arm and head Maggie Murdaugh died of multiple gunshot wounds by a semi automatic rifle. The bodies were found near the dog kennels on the Moselle property by Alex Murdaugh, who called 911 at 10:07pm. Soon after they arrived on scene, the college and County Sheriff's Office asked the South Carolina Law Enforcement Division to take over the case. Due to both the complexity of the investigation and the agency's multiple ties with the Murdaugh family. SLED agents arrived on scene at 11:47pm. More than an hour and a half after Alex first called 911. And remember Maggie Murdaugh's phone was discovered by law enforcement on our rule road outside of Moselle on the day after the double homicide. FITSnews founding editor will focus exclusively reported that Alex Murdaugh was a person of interest in the murders, which was later confirmed by one of Alex's attorneys Jim Griffin, and an interview with Fox Carolina news this past October. During that same interview, Jim also told viewers that Alex had no motive to kill Maggie or Paul, we beg to differ, Jim.

Liz Farrell 5:58

In the past few weeks, there have been a crazy number of reports with big screaming headlines about how Maggie left all of her assets to Alex as if this were the smoking gun that clearly implicates him in her and Paul's deaths. But lawyers we've spoken to have told us there really is nothing out of the ordinary with that. It's pretty standard. Husbands typically leave their assets to their wives, wives typically leave their assets to their husbands. And if both have died, they leave their assets to their kids. And if the kids are minors, the assets go into a trust for them. The will doesn't really do



EPISODE 26: Who Killed Maggie and Paul? Part Two

anything for us. So we're thinking it's much more important to focus on the events of what led up to Maggie's and Paul's deaths. So the walls began closing in on Alex in 2019. With the Mallory beach lawsuit, Alex had just hired two of the state's most expensive attorneys to defend Paul after Paul was charged with three felony counts of BUI. Incidentally these are the same two attorneys who are now defending Alex Paul's case was not only high profile it was destined to be drawn out for years and incredibly costly. At this very same time. However Alex was putting out the words the beach family attorney Mark Kinsley, of Gooding and Gooding law firm and Allendale that he was flat broke and therefore wouldn't be able to offer a settlement nevermind pay whatever jury decided his liability to be, of course, the Murdaughs didn't appear to be all that broke on the outside anyway, as we all know, now they definitely weren't. One thing we want to note here is that in 2019, sources had told us that Maggie and Alex were headed toward divorce but the boat crash and Paul situation derailed their plans. More recently, sources have told us that shortly before Paul's and Maggie's deaths a realtor had shown them houses for sale in the Hilton Head Island area. Also something we wanted out here because it's important when we're talking about Alex 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 Mandy and I receive regular reports of Paul's excessive partying and drunken outbursts in and around the Low Country area and in Colombia. In the meantime, the public was calling for justice for Mallory and people were starting to talk more about the shady boots weigh the Stephen Smith case was handled because Alex was claiming to be poor Tinsley 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, 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 past three years. As we now know, he apparently had a lot of reasons not to share that information. The pressure on him to open his books kept increasing, though and a hearing was scheduled for June 10. When the judge would hear arguments in the beach family's motion to compel Murdaugh to show them his money. Also looming out there, Maggie and Paul could be sued at any moment by the beach family for their roles in the boat crash and Alex



EPISODE 26: Who Killed Maggie and Paul? Part Two

knew this, but first, the absolute worst was starting to happen. Around April 2021, word began to spread that Randolph Murdaugh, the family patriarch, the revered and powerful former solicitor, who put bandages over the good ol boys cuts and scrapes and bandanas over the eyes of anyone who witnessed their falls had terminal cancer. Shortly after sometime in May, Alex's law firm allegedly discovered a check on his desk that led them to believe he had stolen money from them. At some point after that the firm hired a forensic accountant in Colombia to take a deeper dive. Then on June 7, just three days before his financial reckoning in court Alex told investigators he had come home to find his wife and son heard

Mandy Matney 10:05
and we'll be right back.

From the beginning, we have been working off of a timeline that I'm not sure that we can rely on that Paul and Maggie Murdaugh were murdered between nine and 9:30pm on June 7 2021. It's suspicious because it's based off of the college and County Coroner's account, which likely relied on when Alex said he got home which we all know that we cannot trust. Remember at the time, a lot of public officials in the area feared the Murdaugh family and would have never second guessed anything they said. So the chances that local officials took Alex at his word to establish a timeline is pretty high.

Liz Farrell 10:59

Let's look at the science of this real quick. When a person dies, rigor mortis, or a stiffening of the muscles starts to set in. This becomes detectable usually within two to four hours of a person's passing and can take up to 18 hours to fully set in so a coroner can determine whether it's started by trying to move the person's jaw or their fingers to see how much resistance there is. If it hasn't been said, they can generally guess that the person died within the past two to four hours. Generally speaking, coroners aren't making official declarations on time of death like this one did, and they're definitely not using narrow timeframes like this one did unless investigators have already established a timeframe based on when the person was last seen alive. So according to like arrived home around 10 and discovered the bodies let's assume there was no rigor mortis. At that point based on the coroner's estimate that they died shortly beforehand. This means they could have died much much sooner than the coroner said.

Mandy Matney 11:55



EPISODE 26: Who Killed Maggie and Paul? Part Two

And again, we keep going back to the fact that we cannot trust anything here, especially when it comes to the local first responders. And despite the fact that the Murdaugh camp claimed that Alex had a rock solid alibi. He does not. And if he actually had a rock solid alibi, we really haven't heard it. So 10 days after the murders Alex brothers John Marvin and Randy Murdaugh spoke to Good Morning America, who reported that Alex took his father to the hospital that day on June 7. Then he checked on his mother at her home in Hampton county before returning home to Moselle where he allegedly found the bodies. That is not an ironclad alibi by any stretch of the imagination. We've heard that Randolph was actually released from the hospital that night, not taken to the hospital. And based on conversations that we've had with sources, we have reasons to question the rate Randolph was released from the hospital. Was it actually authorized by medical personnel? Or was something else going on? If Alex was actually on camera at the time that the murders allegedly occurred? Why haven't his Bulldog defense attorneys released that footage? Or at least told us about it? Was he ever really at the hospital that day, there's something really off about this hospital story. And we plan to get more details about that soon. When Alex Attorney Jim Griffin was interviewed by Fox, Carolina in October, Griffin claimed that his clients whereabouts were completely accounted for during that nine to 930 window that night, which is also again, the window that we cannot trust.

David as Jim 13:36

The transcript of that interview reads, And I can assure you that we have Alex's whereabouts accounted for completely during that period of time that night. He's sitting on the bedside of his mother at her house when the coroner says these murders happen. She has dementia, there's a house sitter or a caregiver with around the clock care, winning, and they're watching a game show and watching a game show on television.

Mandy Matney 14:03

But despite what Jim says, This is not an ironclad alibi, and this version of the alibi that we're hearing, he mentions that Alex saw His mother who has dementia in a caregiver who is probably terrified of the Murdaugh family and a TV show that was on? For instance, Alex was caught on a ring camera outside of his mother's house at 9:15pm. You would think that he would have mentioned that. So what we're saying here is that Alex does not have a solid alibi, and if he did and his attorneys didn't reveal it clearly and publicly while the whole world watches this case and questions Alex Murdaugh, then his defense attorneys are worse than we thought they were.



EPISODE 26: Who Killed Maggie and Paul? Part Two

Liz Farrell 14:48

On top of the physical evidence that links Alex to the murders, there are a few other things we want to note about the crime scene. Let's start with the 911 call Mandy discusses the call with you guys in Episode Six when the app episode aired, listeners noticed a peculiar detail. It seems like Alex says For God's sake, Paul, why did you get involved? Take a listen.

Justin Bamberg 15:10

Was anyone else at your house?

Liz Farrell 15:14

Obviously this raises a few questions, namely this one involved in what we should also take a look at: who was Moselle after the call? It's positively surprising that we haven't heard anything about photos from the scene being passed around over the past seven months, given the number of Bubba's with smartphones and poor judgment who stopped by the Murdaughs. For a looky loo that night. There were so many people at the scene. Generally speaking, the number of people who should enter a crime scene is very, very small. Investigators are very cognizant of limiting every opportunity for evidence to get tainted. They are very careful not to allow anyone behind the tape who doesn't absolutely need to be there. According to the crime scene log, a whopping 24 People went behind the crime tape when all was said and done. And here's the crazy part. Most of those on the list were with the Colleton County Sheriff's Office, which is very disturbing. And given that they immediately handed this case over to SLED, they knew that SLED was on its way; they should have stopped what they were doing, and stayed outside the perimeter until SLED could get there. And how many South Carolina corners does it take to declare two people dead? Turns out the answer is three three corners went behind the crime scene tape. Three, we questioned whether they even needed to be behind the tape until after the investigators cleared out. Especially because any one of the four EMTs who were behind the tape would have already been able to declare Maggie and Paul dead. And then there's the 14th Judicial Circuit solicitor and his band of roving investigators for some reason they were on the property that night and for days afterward and even got caught on camera chumming around with Alex's younger brother John Marvin. Remember, these are Alex Murdaugh's guys, who were as FITSnews later reported, apparently conducting their own shadow investigation to make sure SLED didn't mess up. Defense Lawyers survive in the courtroom by throwing doubt on every piece of evidence presented. They only need



EPISODE 26: Who Killed Maggie and Paul? Part Two

to persuade one person on the jury that there's a problem with an investigation having so many Colliton County Sheriff's Office deputies, law enforcement officers who live and work in Murdaugh country behind the tape is certainly something that Alex would like seeing. And one more important piece of information about the crime scene, a guns willful acts that FITSnews reported early on that at least one of the weapons used in the double homicide belonged to, you guessed it, the Murdaugh family.

Mandy Matney 17:32

And we'll be right back. So let's talk about the summer of 2021 and where Alex was for a minute. Throughout the summer I kept hearing reports on Alex's whereabouts. We heard that he was having a good time in Key West in July. Also in July, several people reported seeing Alex and his son Buster at the Governor's Cup fishing tournament in Edisto, South Carolina. On both occasions in July, Murdaugh was described as carefree, having a good time and specifically not someone his wife and son were killed. That's the language that was told to me. I was also told that he was not wearing a wedding ring for whatever that's where I like was spotted again on Hilton Head Island in August. This time people told me that he looked like hell quote unquote. And in fact there were rumors about solicitor Duffy Stone the prosecutor who took after Randolph the third being spotted with Alex Murdaugh on Hilton Head Island that same weekend at the trial lawyers convention. Then suddenly, just days after the convention, Duffy recused himself from the case, which was a really big deal at the time. And an August 11 letter to the South Carolina Attorney General stone asked Wilson to handle prosecution of the case quote considering the events of today's SLED investigation and quote, however, he did not elaborate on his exact reason for stepping away in the case.

Liz Farrell 19:02

We were told by Sources close to the investigation that this indicated that SLED was narrowing its investigation. Stone had a long list of conflicts of interest, starting with the fact that Alex had a special position in his office that allowed him to use a badge and lights on his car like he was a prosecutor. Previously Stone justified his unusual involvement in the case by saying there was, quote, no clear suspect in the case. So when Stone recused himself, many of us closely watching this thing unravel thought it had to be because his employee was now a suspect. Around the same time behind the scenes. We kept hearing them and the rest was coming soon.

Mandy Matney 19:45



EPISODE 26: Who Killed Maggie and Paul? Part Two

Well, Duffy stone recused himself on August 11. The public was not alerted until August 25. And behind the scenes, it was clear that pressure was building on Alex Murdaugh. So just a week and a half after it was publicly The Duffy stone stepped out of the double homicide investigation. Alex did something very stupid and there is no allege with that sentence. Whatever Alex did on September 4 was very stupid and sent his life spiraling out of control. We're not going to talk about what actually went down on September 4. We're not going to debate on whether or not Alex was shot. But we're going to talk about something we haven't talked about before. Alex admitted to hiring Eddie Smith to shoot him on the side of the road in broad daylight on September 4 2021. He claimed that this was still his son could collect a \$10 million insurance payout, one that he did not read the suicide clause on according to his own lawyers, but the reasoning for the September for shooting makes sense to no one Why would anyone commit suicide and leave their son who just lost their mother and brother in a horrific double homicide without any immediate family members and all for money? And if Eddie Smith would have killed Alex, and made it look like a random shooting? Wouldn't that have left Buster scared to leave his home in fear that someone was after his family who would want that kind of life for their son? Which makes us wonder why Alex wants it to look like someone was after him? Why did he set up a scenario going as far as allegedly slashing his own tires and lying to the police unless he had a good reason to make it look like someone was after his family? What if Alex never actually intended on dying that day? What if he just wanted someone to shoot at him and make it look like people, perhaps drug traffickers were after him and his family?

Liz Farrell 21:59

And that leads us to the suspects and the theories. In the immediate hours after word got out about Maggie and Paul on June 8. Those with deep connections to the Murdaughs began to circulate with a lot of certainty in some cases that Paul and Maggie were killed by a groundskeeper up Moselle after Paul had gotten into an argument with him over a hunting field getting seated too soon. In the meantime, people on the internet were speculating that the Murdaughs were killed and an act of revenge for the boat crash Stephen Smith's death or Gloria Satterfield stuff, and then the Labor Day weekend situation happened. All of this leads us to wonder if this theory was leaked by the Murdaugh camp to tie up SLED and send armchair detectives in a new direction.

Mandy Matney 22:41



EPISODE 26: Who Killed Maggie and Paul? Part Two

Whatever Alex was planning on accomplishing on September 4, it backfired in ways that no one could have ever predicted in the next month, Alex's entire reputation crumbled in the public eye as we found out about his game to steal millions of dollars from clients allegedly during this downward spiral. An interesting story emerged from the Post and Courier and Island Packet Newspapers whose coverage on the saga has noticeably favored Murdaugh and his defense attorneys. The newspapers reported that a local game called the Cowboys was being investigated by the state grand jury in connection with the Murdaugh murder saga. Specifically, the newspapers reported that they were investigating if a trail of absurdly large checks Murdaugh allegedly made to his drug dealers link back to this cowboy gang. And then like clockwork soon after the story broke. Lots of people on social media started to question if this gang was involved in the double homicide.

Mandy Matney 23:45

All of this leads us to wonder if this theory was leaked by the Murdaugh camp to tie up SLED and send armchair detectives in a new direction.

Mandy Matney 23:54

Finally, we need to talk about the few calls for justice from the Murdaugh family. Typically, in a case like this, when nearly every major news outlet in the country is covering a murder. You usually hear the family on the news, often calling for Justice and Accountability on behalf of their murdered loved ones. But in this case, we barely heard from the family. A week after the murders FITSnews founding editor will folks pointed out that neither the Murdaugh family nor P MPD have offered any reward money for information leading to an arrest and the double homicide. Then, just a few days later, Randy and John Marvin suddenly appeared on Good Morning America and asked the public's help and find Maggie and Paul's killer. This was the first and only time they did this. And again, we know everybody grieves differently. But if the Murdaugh family truly believed that a random person or gang targeted and killed two of their family members, wouldn't they want to publicly pressure law enforcement to solve the case? Wouldn't they be begging news outlets to continue to write about the double homicide to get answers for them. And then there was that strange \$100,000 reward they offered a few weeks after the double homicide to anyone who provided information on the murders of Maggie and Paul that led to an arrest. The award was announced by MP strategies, a PR firm hired by the Murdaugh family. But here is the thing that the reward expired on September 30, which was really odd. And when it expired, the PR company working for the Murdaughs released the following statement.



EPISODE 26: Who Killed Maggie and Paul? Part Two

David as Alex 25:38

The transcript of that interview reads, We are disappointed that no one has stepped forward with any leads to solve the murder and claim 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 25:56

We haven't heard anything from the family or MP strategy calling on justice in this case since they released that statement in September. On Tuesday, we reached out to SLED officials who declined to comment on the status of the investigation.

Unknown Speaker 26:13

So what does all of this mean? Like we said, all roads seem to lead to Alex. And now that we know physical evidence directly links him to the homicides. The only question we have now is when can we expect an arrest?

Mandy Matney 26:29

So before we in this episode, we have an important update from last week's podcast about Attorney Justin Bamberg taking on PMP. D.

Justin Bamberg 26:38

Since the last podcast a or I think people have started to look a little more at what's going on and how they were done by Alex in their situation. I've had multiple calls, but we have been retained to represent another five individuals over misappropriated money, including a couple of individuals for whom no indictments have been levied as of yet those people also I have not actually even been given their money back. And that is something that we are presently working on.

Mandy Matney 27:12

Okay, wow. So what Justin is saying here is that since the podcast aired, which was last Wednesday, five alleged victims of Alex Murdaugh have stepped up and hired him as their attorney. That is a total of seven clients for Justin Bamberg, and his fight against the firm. And some of those victims haven't been included in the indictments yet, which means, as we already knew that more financial charges are coming down for Alex

Justin Bamberg 27:43



EPISODE 26: Who Killed Maggie and Paul? Part Two

peace. People in general have always had reservations, it's, you know, well, I don't want my name in the newspaper, or, you know, my loved one. And they mentioned my father who passed on, and it makes them nervous. Again, I think it is important when someone is a victim, who they are matters. And the fact that you're not just a number, you're not just a victim number five, or a Jane Doe with no identity, your loved one was a living breathing person, or someone who unfortunately passed away, who was done wrong. And we want the public, we want society to understand that Alex wasn't stealing from numbers on a piece of paper, he was stealing from people whose lives were drastically altered because of his greed. And you don't have to be afraid. You don't have to be staring. You don't have to worry about backlash or someone bothering you or intimidate you. Right? There are processes in place to protect you. And victims of crimes in this state have certain rights under the South Carolina constitution, there was a victim's Bill of Rights, and you have the right to be free from intimidation. You have the right to be informed as to what's going on as the perpetrator is prosecuted by the state government. And I think that the South Carolina Law Enforcement Division, I think that the South Carolina Attorney General's office has been doing a very good job of the victims advocate. The victim advocates that are at SLED and at the Ag office have been doing an amazing job in making sure that the victims of Alice's misdeeds and crimes are comfortable. And that's one thing that my office has been focused on in this process is yes, we're pursuing claims. Yes. Alex Murdaugh works sewer claims against the firm and the banks involved. Right. But we also want the clients to know and other people to know that there are people who have your back. You're not going at this alone.

Mandy Matney 30:31

As I said at the beginning, I hope everyone had a happy holiday and a happy new year. We have loved hearing all of the stories about families getting together and talking about the podcast. We've heard about grandmothers and granddaughters bonding on a long drive. While listening to the podcast. We heard one story about sisters reconnecting after years when one of them brought up the podcast over Christmas dinner. We love it. We are here for it. And we are thankful for you, the listener for being a part of this. Our audience is why we have been able to make such a huge impact and hold agencies accountable. You are the reason why we are seeing change unfold before our eyes. Thank you for listening and thank you for helping us expose the truth wherever it leads. There is so much more to unpack in the seven investigations related to Alex Murdaugh. We're only two workdays into 2022 and I have been hit with nonstop insane breaking news that I haven't all uncovered yet. We have so much more news on P MPD. Alex alleged financial crimes and a lot of



EPISODE 26: Who Killed Maggie and Paul? Part Two

other things that are happening behind the scenes stay tuned to FITSnews.com in the Murdaugh murders podcast for the latest updates in this case, see you next week.

The Murdaugh murders podcast is created by me, Mandy Matney and my fiance Moses produced by luna shark productions

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