



EPISODE 01: South Carolina's Chappaquiddick

Mandy Matney 00:00

I don't know who killed Paul Murdaugh. I don't know who killed Maggie Murdaugh. I can't say who killed Stephen Smith. I don't know who if anyone killed Gloria Satterfield. But I think I know who killed Mallory Beach and I know that her family will never get justice in our case. And that keeps me up at night. My name is Mandy Matney. I'm the news director at FITSnews.com. And this is the Murdaugh Murders Podcast. There are five recent deaths connected to the Murdaugh family, and I hope to get answers for each and every one of them. I have been investigating the Murdaugh family for the better part of two and a half years now. And it is by far the craziest, most twisted saga I have ever written. Ever since I heard the news of the boat crash on February 24 2019. I just couldn't stop evidence suggests the 19 year old Paul Murdaugh was drunkenly driving a boat that crashed jets outside Parris Island South Carolina around 2am.

911 Operator 01:25

emergency police and fire Hello.

01:32

We're in a boat crash on Orchard Street. There's six of us and one is missing.

Mandy Matney 01:39

A 19 year old Mallory Beech was ejected into the dark water during the crash. Her body was found a week later, Mallory was a bright, bubbly teenager who lit up every room she walked into. She was the embodiment of a sweet southern girl. Mallory had long blonde hair and a stunning smile. Most of all, she was the type of person who was genuinely kind to everyone she met. She suffered a horrific death on February 24 2019. And so many lives were forever changed by her death. Paul was charged with three felonies in that crash, but he never spent a minute in jail. So who was Paul Murdaugh? To understand Paul we have to understand his family. Paul Murdaugh's grandfather, great grandfather and great great grandfather all served as the solicitors of the 14th Judicial Circuit from 1920 to 2006. In South Carolina, a solicitor is an elected official similar to the district attorney; they are considered by many to be the most powerful position in the South Carolina judicial system. The Murdaugh family power loomed large over law enforcement and influenced courtrooms in the low country for the last 100 years. They are one of the most prominent families in the state. Many people say that the Murdaughs are the law in Hampton County, one of the poorest counties in South Carolina with a depleting population and a vanishing industry. cantina is about an hour from Hilton Head, but it feels a world away, a place where time stood still and hasn't moved much since the 1950s. Hampton county is known as a judicial hellhole due to its longtime reputation of siding with plaintiffs and rewarding an unusually high amount for damages. The Murdaugh family law firm files a majority of those big money lawsuits enhancing County. So when we talk about how the Murdaughs gain power over the last century, they did this not only through their roles as prosecutors, but also through their well known law firm. Over the years, I've spoken with over 100 people about the Murdaugh family about the power they had over others about the favors they did for people about their close ties to law enforcement about their deep pockets about their vast tracts of land, and about the disconnect between their private and public personas. Many call the boat crash South Carolina's Chappaquiddick a story entangled in the twisted web of politics, power money, investigative failures and flagrant cover ups. But then on jun sevens, the story took a wild unexpected turn that no one saw coming. Paul Murdaugh and his 52 year old mother Maggie Murdaugh were found murdered on their 1700 acre property about 60 miles west of Charleston. The property is called Moselle. It's the family's hunting lodge. The bodies were found outside Police have released almost no official information in the double homicide. But several law enforcement sources have helped us if it's news piece together information and leads in the case a murder investigation like no other sources have told FITSnews that Paul Murdaugh was killed by two shotgun



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blasts one to the chest and another through the arm and head. Maggie Murdaugh died of multiple gunshot wounds by a semi automatic rifle according into our sources to weapons. We're using the double homicide which is highly unusual. They were reportedly found near the dog kennels on the property. Its new sources have confirmed that the family's dogs were not killed during the incident, which is one of many rumors swirling around this crazy story. Alex Murdaugh, Paul's father and Maggie's husband called 911 around 10:07pm to report that he had just found the bodies. According to the autopsy report, Maggie and Paul Murdaugh died between nine and 9:30pm. Soon after the Collin County Sheriff's Office arrived on scene at Moselle, South Carolina Law Enforcement Division, also known as SLED took over the case SLED to cover the case for two reasons. First of all, the complexity of the case was beyond what the college and County Sheriff's Office resources could handle and the Colleton County Sheriff's Office had too many ties to the Murdaugh family to rightfully recuse itself from the case. Alex Murdaugh, a prominent local attorney, who again was Maggie's husband and Paul's father was named Person of Interest early on in the investigation According to our sources, however, he is reportedly provided please with an ironclad alibi, according to law enforcement sources. Good Morning, America reported that Alex was taking his father to the hospital on the day of the killings. After that he reportedly checked in on his mother before returning to the hunting lodge where he allegedly discovered the bodies of his wife and son. This is what appears to be the ironclad alibi that FITSnews sources told us about. Also Sources close to the Murdaugh family have told FITSnews that Alex is not a suspect in the case and is cooperating fully with lead investigators. These sources further claim that Alex Murdaugh interview with SLED was all about closing the book on him as any sort of suspect in the case. However, multiple sources with direct knowledge of the investigation have cautioned its news against accepting them interpretation. Have I mentioned that this case is so confusing and a murder investigation like no other? There are some things we do know. We do know that Alex Murdaugh is being looked at not only in this inquiry, but another investigation related to the 2019 boat crash. Sources told FITSnews that there's credible evidence that obstruction of justice occurred in that investigation and that the Murdaugh family members are being looked at and that obstruction of justice investigation. That is a big deal. So all of this is inextricably tied to the double homicide investigation. As the investigation into the Murdaugh murders moves forward, we have to look back at the three other mysterious deaths with connections to the wealthy, powerful Murdaugh family. We have to go back to 2015 to the shocking horrific death of Stephen Smith. I will be clear here the Murdaugh's were never named as suspects in Stephen's death, but like the 2019 boat crash, the 2015 investigation and deceit and stuff was chaotic from the beginning, clouded the jurisdictional confusion and suspicions of investigative interference. Smith was found dead in the middle of Sandy Run Road in Hampton County around 4am on July 8 2015, he was 19 years old at the time of his death. Crime scene photos obtained by FITSnews are horrific. Stephen's face was covered in blood and there was a seven inch gaping hole on the right side of his forehead. His head was misshapen by blunt force. Officially, Stephen's death was classified as a hit and run. And that decision skewed the entire investigation off course. The theory was that Stephen got hit by a truck near which is hard for anyone to believe, especially those who know Stephen. Also there was no evidence at the scene that would lead anybody to believe that a vehicle did this to Stephen police found virtually no evidence at the scene. No tire marks, no debris from a vehicle, nothing in the aftermath of his death. Investigators with the South Carolina Highway Patrol received multiple tips linking Stephen's case to the Murdaugh family.

09:03

I'm not saying that the Murdaugh boy did it because I don't know. If we're gonna start throwing out names I'm not withholding his name. Because of who he is, his name is gonna be out there just like anybody else's name. That is on my radar.

Mandy Matney 09:18

According to the investigation file Paul's older brother Buster was rumored to have been linked to Stephen intimately, but detectives never proved his connection. Stephen's death has shaken many family and friends in Hampton. Stephen was an openly gay young man in a small town which wasn't always easy, but he made the best of it. According to those who loved him. Stephen was bright and determined to make a better life for



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himself. He was in school for nursing at the time of his death. The case went cold less than a year after receipt and stuff, and his mother is still wrestling without answers or justice. Now, that brings us to Gloria Satterfield stuff. In December 2018. Just a few months before the fatal boat crash that killed 19 year old Mallory Beach, Paul's father Alex Murdaugh settled a separate wrongful death claim. In that case, the 87 year old Gloria Satterfield died after a trip and fall in Hampton County on February 26 2018. According to court documents, documents do not say where Gloria fell or how she knew the Murdaughs but several sources close the case have said that she's the Murdaugh family housekeeper. Gloria left behind two sons. She liked tennis, loved kids, and her favorite color was purple. Her obituary said most of all, she will be remembered for her laughter and Her outgoing personality. There has been a lot of speculation about Stephen, Gloria and Mallory's death, and we will get to all of that in later episodes. In the last two weeks, I've seen national media swarm and on the saga, and many of them are just not getting it. This is just not a case where you can parachute in and get right, like I said, is twisted and every turn takes you down a very dark rabbit hole. You don't know who to trust, you don't know who you can talk to and the rumors are just as crazy as the truth. Which brings me back to the double homicide investigation. What the media isn't focusing on is that prosecutor Duffie Stone, who has a long long list of conflicts of interest in the case is still not recused himself. I say conflicts of interest because there are many one of those is that elec Murdaugh, one of the original persons of interest, carries a badge for the solicitor's office. He is a volunteer for the solicitor's office and has been working for their office for many, many years. Another one of those conflicts of interest is that Duffie Stone was handpicked, according to many, many sources by the Murdaugh family to continue the line of prosecutors in the 14th circuit. So Duffie Stone took after Paul's grandfather Randolph Murdaugh, the third in 2006. And everybody that I've talked to and low country says that the Murdaugh family hand picked him for the job and fully supported them with their money in their power. This is one of the many angles I will be digging into on this podcast. So where are we in the investigation in one of the biggest developments of this entire saga? Today, June 22 SLED made a big announcement. The agency is opening an investigation into the death of Stephen Smith. Sandy Smith called me today to tell me the news and it was one of the most emotional phone calls of my entire career. She thanked me for all of my reporting. And honestly she said she couldn't even cry yet. She was just so overwhelmed with joy. All she wants in all of this is a fair and accurate investigation. And I hope now she's gonna get it. Another big part of that was what SLED told me was that they reopened the investigation based on information gathered during the course of the double homicide murder investigation of Paul and Maggie Murdaugh. We don't know exactly what that means at this point. But it is a big deal that they said that and we're going to try to find answers. On Thursday, June 17. SLED officials were searching a swamp about two miles from the Murdaugh property. We still don't really know what they were doing there. But there were a lot of rumors surrounding that search on Monday June 21. SLED released a stack of heavily redacted supplemental reports from the initial investigation of the double homicide. Unfortunately, the reports didn't say much other than the fact that police seized a vehicle from the crime scene. SLED appears to be casting a wide net as it is apparently working to exclude individuals who might have had a motive in this double homicide. According to our sources, all of the boat crash survivors and Beaches family members have voluntarily submitted to questioning and volunteered to provide their DNA as a part of the double homicide investigation. A source close to the family also told FITSnews that the Beaches have not been questioned again since providing their statements and DNA national media really seem to be focusing on boat crash victims as potential suspects. But the truth is we have no evidence to see them as anything besides victims at this point. Something that the world outside of South Carolina just doesn't seem to understand about this case is how fearful people are talking about this family. When I first started investigating this case two years ago, sources wouldn't even speak to me on the phone. They were so scared. They wanted to meet in person to talk. Everyone knows who the Murdaughs are in the low country. They know how powerful this family is; they know all have their ties to law enforcement. And they also are very much aware that murdering two of their family members would be one of the most high risk crimes you could even think of. And again, the baseless theories floating around that are implying this was a crime of revenge. Just only re-victimizes the victims in this case, there are still no official suspects in the case. And there's still a lot of unanswered questions about the weapons, about the crime scene, about where the bodies were. We're not sure where this podcast is



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going, which is produced by my fiance, who has been sitting with me at our kitchen table all through the weekend, nights and weekends. And we don't know where the investigation is going. But every week, we're going to publish an episode on this saga, not only about the double homicide investigation, but about Stephen's case. And about Mallory's case and about Gloria's case, we want to find answers for all of these. I don't know how many voices I will be able to bring to the story because so many people, frankly, are just terrified to speak about this. But I will speak for my sources and I will protect them. This podcast isn't going to be like the others that are simply bumming off other people's reporting. I have worked hard to report every fact that I'm speaking about in this case, this story is not a southern cliché, it's far worse. And I want to tell it in my own words straight to you, the listener for the best breaking news updates on this case throughout the week, is it FITSnews.com That's f i t s news.com. For the latest updates, I promise you, we will not let you down, we will be the best, we will be the fastest. If you believe in our mission in our reporting and in this story and would like to learn more about partnership or sponsorship opportunities. email info at Murdaughmurderspodcast.com That's m u r d a u g h, murders podcast.com. And if you could leave a review, preferably a five star review really appreciate that. So for the latest developments on this case, visit FITSnews.com or follow me on Twitter at twitter.com/mandy m a n d y Matney m a t n e y. And don't forget to leave a five star review unless you're going to be nasty and talk about my vocal fry. The Murdaugh Murders Podcast is created by me, Mandy Matney and my fiance David Moses, produced by LUNA SHARK productions.

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