



EPISODE 03: Who Killed Mallory Beach? Part One

Mandy Matney 00:00

I think I know who killed Mallory Beach, and I think something went wrong in the investigation after her death, but I want you to hear the evidence and decide for yourself. My name is Mandy Matney. I'm the news director at FITSnews.com. I have been investigating the Murdaugh family for more than two years now. And this is the Murdaugh martyrs podcast. Before we start, I want to say thank you, thank you to our sponsors. Thank you to everyone who has left a five star review. Thank you to everyone who shared this podcast. We're just blown away. So thank you again. And thank you to FITSnews. When I first started investigating this case, I was at another newspaper. And now I'm beyond thankful that I'm at FITSnews for all of the latest information on this case and the best news around South Carolina visit F I T S news.com. So I follow a lot of these loose groups on Facebook about the Murdaugh murders. And I just want to say a couple things before we get into this episode. So first of all, the name is pronounced Murdaugh, not Murtaugh. If you hear a reporter saying the name without the Cook. At the end, they're basically admitting to having no sources in Hampton County and not knowing what they're talking about. Also out licks is pronounced elec. That's just the way that it is. That's how all of my sources, and people that know him say it. So it's elec Murdaugh. And the second thing I saw another pose asking where has Manny Matney been and questioning if I have been silenced by the Murdaugh family, I promise you I have not been silenced. I don't think people understand everything that happens behind the scenes when reporting a story. When I'm not publishing a story on this, I'm almost always working on it and calling sources for updates and calling other sources and talking to them several times before I ever publish anything that they say. Just because I'm not publishing stories does not mean that I'm not working on this. And it does not mean that I'm giving up on this case. There are so many moving parts with a story and I would rather take my time and get the facts straight. And unlike most other journalists reporting on the story, I take this very, very seriously, and I'm not going to report on anything that isn't verified. In the last episode, we left you with several cliffhangers in the Steven Smith case, but we're going to switch to the 2019 boat crash. I made this podcast so that people could get a better understanding of the current news surrounding this national saga. I understand how complicated this story is. And I want to help guide you through the twists and turns before jumping to conclusions. So for a quick review on June 7 2021, Paul and Maggie Murdaugh, who are members of one of the most prominent families in South Carolina are found murdered on their 1700 acre hunting property about 60 miles west of Charleston, South Carolina. So to understand why the Murdaugh's were so prominent and powerful in South Carolina, we have to look at the family's history. 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 a district attorney, they're very much connected to law enforcement. They're considered to be by many one of the most powerful positions in the South Carolina justice system. So while the



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Murdaugh family was powerful and prominent for years, they didn't start making headlines until the 2019 boat crash in Beaufort County, South Carolina. In the recent weeks since the murders. I've seen some bloggers and web sleuths ranting about how they don't understand why the boat crash is such a big deal. Since Paul Murdaugh's death, we have learned more shocking information about the boat crash that killed Mallory Beach, and the investigation that was chaotic from the beginning. So what happened on the night Mallory Beach was killed. Everything I'm about to tell you is straight from depositions in the case. And just as a warning, I'm going to say according to the depositions a lot because we don't want to get sued. February 23 2019 was date night for Mallory Beach, two of her best friends and their boyfriends. They were a bunch of college aged kids between the ages of 18 and 20. They had plans to boat to a friend's oyster roast on Paki island before they all were going to spend the night At the Murdaugh's river home and yes, the Murdaughs have a river home among many other impressive properties on the South Carolina coast. That residence is located on what the kids call Murdaugh island on the Chechessee River and Beaufort County, South Carolina. So around 5:30pm on February 23 2019, pomp Murdaugh bought White Claw, Natural Light and Michelob Ultra from a clerk at Parker's 55 gas station in Ridgeland. According to court documents, Paul was 20 years old at the time and allegedly used his older brother's ID for the purchase. According to depositions. The kids heard that there was an alcohol checkpoint that night and that's why they went by boat so the plan was to drive the boat owned by Paul's dad, the 17 foot Sea Hunt, which didn't have working lights to the oyster roast. So for about five hours, the six friends hung out at the oyster roast according to depositions. Several adults at the party and Mallory Beach's boyfriend Anthony Cook, who is the oldest in the group suggested that the group get an Uber because of the alcohol they consumed. One of the voters testified and said everybody at the party was talking about how they shouldn't be driving the boat back. Several of the boaters testified that Paul was intoxicated when he left the party, but was also determined to drive the boat back. Paul, who was already allegedly intoxicated then decided he wanted to get a shot from Luthers in downtown Beaufort. According to depositions, Paul Murdaugh and Connor Cook each purchased two rounds of shots. One lemon drop shot and one quote unquote cup of Jäger at Luther's Rare and Well Done in downtown Beaufort. According to depositions. While they were at Luthers, Paul Murdaugh allegedly became very drunk. His friends claimed that he had a drunk Alter Ego named Timmy who came out that night. According to Paul's friends, his eyes would get quote unquote as wide as half dollars without blinking when he goes into this, Timmy mode. Deposition said Paul would sprawl his fingers out he would do erratic movements with his arms and quote, he was an angry drunk too, so you could always tell when he became Timmy Paul was allegedly so intoxicated at Luthers that he almost got into a fight with another customer and started throwing chairs before they left according to depositions. Meanwhile, the four other friends waited near the boat and share their last moments together with Mallory Beach timestamp video, evidence from the dock shows that they were at Luthers for only about nine minutes when the boat left downtown Beaufort around 1am Paul was visibly intoxicated according to depositions. So according to depositions after they left the dock and



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view for Paul started driving extremely slowly, Paul then allegedly took his clothes off while they were on the boat. The temperature was about 59 degrees at the time. This was something that Timmy the alter ego was known to do another boater so that Paul was acting like he was on drugs, quote, unquote, and making a fool out of himself. On several occasions, Connor Cook allegedly took the wheel while Paul allegedly paced around and shouted at his then girlfriend around this time and argument broke out. According to depositions, tensions appear to be boiling within the group for more than an hour. At this point, it looks like the four voters who did not go to the bar were mad that Paul and Connor went to the bar and it was late it was well past 1am Paul, slow and erratic driving at times in circles was irritating the frustrated group. According to depositions, Anthony and Paul were fighting because Mallory was telling Anthony that she was scared and Paul said something to Mallory along the lines of shut up and according to the other passengers, Anthony did not like that. Then there was one final argument. Paul Murdaugh's then girlfriend was at the front of the boat, a quote unquote belligerent Paul Murdaugh within leaves a we'll walk to the front of the boat to yell at her, while Connor Cook would then grab the wheel. This happened three times. According to depositions. Paul Murdaugh then pushed spit on and slapped his then girlfriend in the face. According to multiple depositions in the back of the boat Mallory Beach and her boyfriend Anthony Cook had enough according to depositions. 19 year old Mallory yelled at Paul to stop. I'll read Anthony Cook's deposition here quote, "he turned and pointed at her and I could tell he was about to say something and I told him to not make that mistake, and then he stared at me for a second and went to the steering wheel. I believe that's when we took off' end quote the boat and accelerated rapidly according to depositions after entering the twisted waterway of Archers Creek, which is near Parris Island, Anthony Cook sat on the bottom of the boat clinging to his girlfriend Mallory in his lap because the boat was going too fast and they were scared according to depositions seconds later, as a 17 foot boat struck a piling at archers Creek Bridge, Mallory beech and Anthony Cook were both flung into the dark water only one of them resurfaced. The boat crash investigation was chaotic from the second It began when Connor Cook called 911.

911 Operator 10:36

Call 911 Where's your emergency? Police, Fire, EMS.

Connor Cook 10:55

We're in a boat crash on Arthur St.

911 Operator 10:59

Clear. Whereabouts on Archer street.

Connor Cook 11:01

In Archer's Creek, the only bridge on Archer Creek



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911 Operator 11:05

Archers Street? Creek. Archer's Creek. What's going on?

Connor Cook 11:18

We are by Paris Island.

911 Operator 11:19

what? What's going on?

Connor Cook 11:23

We're in a boat crash.

911 Operator 11:25

You know what, what kind of a boat?

Connor Cook 11:32

A boat crash.

Mandy Matney 11:35

911 recordings are hard to listen to. It takes the 911 dispatcher several minutes to determine the exact location of the crash. Also, Connor Cook who was speaking has a broken jaw at the time. The dispatcher appears nervous and breathy and she can't get a grasp of what's going on. It's important to note that this dispatcher resigned from the Beaufort County Sheriff's Office soon after this crash.

911 Operator 11:59

Okay and it will who's out in the background?

Connor Cook 12:03

There's there's six of us and one is missing.

911 Operator 12:07

The sixth one is missing. So 6 of you guys. Do they have life jackets on?

Connor Cook 12:12

Yes ma'am. We have we have more than enough life jackets but we're on the bank.

911 Operator 12:17

say what missing? Who is missing?

Connor Cook 12:20



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Female Mallory Beach is missing.

911 Operator 12:35

What's your name sir?

Connor Cook 12:37

My name my name is Connor Cook.

911 Operator 12:42

What kind of a boat are you? We're on a sea ball. Did you crash into the did you crash into the bridge?

Connor Cook 12:55

We're under the only bridge in Archer's creek.

Mandy Matney 13:03

it's frustrating because the dispatcher wastes so much time on questions that just don't matter. She asked about life jackets about the type of boat they're in about what Mallory looks like and about what Mallory's wearing. It's the only boat and the water and she would be the only person in the water should be getting there anytime.

911 Operator 13:21

Can you hear sirens.

Connor Cook 13:23

Ma'am?

911 Operator 13:24

Can you hear sirens?

Mandy Matney 13:26

They didn't hear sirens for another 30 minutes because first responders were sent to the wrong bridge. So when first responders finally arrived on scene, they had three missions. Some were assigned to find Mallory Beach in the water. Some were assigned to treat the injured and get them to the hospital and others were assigned to gather initial evidence in the criminal investigation. In South Carolina. All boat crash investigations are handled by the South Carolina Department of Natural Resources also known as DNR. Because it took DNR a while to get to the scene. The Beaufort County Sheriff's Office collected some initial evidence in the case. Reports from several officers who were on scene that night indicated that there was confusion and determining who drove the boat. But what's there. According to a Beaufort County Sheriff's Office report a deputy documented that it was unclear who was



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driving the boat despite the fact that Anthony Cook told authorities that Paul Murdaugh was driving and none of the other voters said anything to contradict that. A Beaufort County Sheriff's Office reports that Paul was almost aggressive towards EMS personnel during the ambulance ride to the hospital. Those reports underscore concerns as to why Paul Murdaugh was never administered a field sobriety test. And unlike the vast majority of fatal DUI cases across the country, in this case, Paul Murdaugh, who was the alleged driver was not offered a field sobriety test that night, nor was he arrested that night, despite the belief that he was grossly intoxicated according to most of the officers on scene weeks ago, FITSnews was first to report that Alec Murdaugh and possibly other members of his influential family were part of an ongoing investigation into the alleged obstruction of justice related to the ongoing boat crash probe According to our sources. Now, years later, sources are questioning if obstruction of justice took place that night. This obstruction of justice investigation is currently before the statewide grand jury in Columbia, South Carolina, according to FITSnews sources in a statement to FITSnews and attorney representing Connor Cook recently said that there was missing evidence in the case but whatever happened that night and the investigation definitely delayed the case and it took two months before Paul Murdaugh was charged with three felony boating under the influence counts for allegedly killing Mallory Beach and severely hurting to other people. In May 2019, Paul Murdaugh appeared in his first court hearing unlike most other bond hearings that involve crimes with alcohol, Paul was not ordered to wear an alcohol monitor. Instead, he was ordered to stay within a five county region in South Carolina. Paul Murdaugh was not treated like other defendants who are charged with multiple felonies. He was never booked in jail. Like other defendants, he never had to wear a jumpsuit. He was never handcuffed. When I asked authorities about a mugshot. On the day of the hearing, I was sent a photo and when I opened up the files properties, I saw that this photo was taken in the courthouse hallway and it was taken on an iPhone seven and Paul was wearing a plaid shirt. This is not normal. Months later, in July 2019. Paul's attorneys decided that his bond conditions were too much and they asked the court to loosen them. Specifically they asked for the court to allow Paul to roam the entire state of South Carolina while unbond the prosecutor for the Attorney General's Office fought this specifically she asked the court to at least put a alcohol monitor on Paul

Paul's Attorney 17:07

are there requesting them to change what Shawn has put in place to adjust from going to college, the state is asking that we do in fact put in an ankle monitor or rather an alcohol monitoring situation. And second to that either we raised the amount of the bond or put in some sort of GPS monitors given that he's now moving outside the circuit.

Mandy Matney 17:28

But her request was denied by the court. That was it. That was the last of the criminal case before Paul was murdered on June 7 2021. So that brings us to the civil case, while Paul Murdaugh was indicted on three felony DUI charges in the aftermath of the boat crash he



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was never named as a defendant in a civil lawsuit. Instead, the lawsuit blamed a chain of convenience stores and members of the Murdaugh's influential family including his father elec Murdaugh, and his brother Richard Alexander Murdaugh is also known as Buster Mallory Beach. His mother Renee Beach is seeking damages from Parker's 55 gas station where the underage Paul Murdaugh allegedly purchased alcohol prior to the crash as well as Murdaugh's brother and father who facilitated Murdaugh's drinking. According to the lawsuit. The focus of the civil suit isn't simply who was at fault for Mallory's death. It's who's at fault for Paul Murdaugh's alleged intoxication prior to the crash? Was it Paul Murdaugh's father and brother of whom are accused of allowing Paul to purchase and drink alcohol illegally on multiple occasions in the past? Or is it Parker's and nearly billion dollar gas station company, which is allegedly responsible for selling the underage voters most of the booze that they drank on that fateful evening, it's important to note that there was a hearing scheduled on June 10, and this lawsuit that would be three days after the murders. Renee Beaches lawyer Mark Tinsley, said that that hearing involves a number of motions including requiring elec and Buster Murdaugh to fully respond to previous requests for financial disclosure, requiring Parker's to produce evidence in the case and asking a judge to have the case moved to Beaufort County. This hearing could have meant that Paul and Maggie Murdaugh would be added to the lawsuit due to an obscure maritime law, which I will get into later, the lawsuit will move forward despite the double homicide. So while national and some local media have pushed this theory that the murders could have been an act of revenge for the 2019 boat crash. According to my sources, there is nothing to suggest that there's any credence to this theory. According to our sources, all of the boat crash survivors and Mallory Beaches, family members voluntarily submitted to court questioning and volunteer to provide their DNA as a part of the double homicide investigation. And that brings us to the latest developments. FITSNews reported earlier this week that elec Murdaugh's marital status, whatever it was, is one of the areas of interest and sleds ongoing investigation. According to my sources, more information should be released soon about the obstruction of justice allegations. And we should learn more about what happened in the aftermath of the boat crash. So let's rewind the boat crash is important because in a lot of ways, it's served as a catalyst in this awful story. And it's sad because there's so much surrounding Mallory Beach's death that her story gets forgotten and all of this. She deserves justice. Her family deserves justice. And so to all the other victims in the saga, this case is nowhere near over. And this should be one of several episodes about the tragedy on archers Creek. Stay tuned. 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](https://twitter.com/mandymatney). 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