



EPISODE 05: Who Killed Mallory Beach? Part Two

Mandy Matney 00:00

I think I know who killed Mallory Beach. And the more that I find out about what happened in the first few hours of the investigation, the more I'm disturbed with our criminal justice system. I think several things went wrong in the criminal investigation after her death. But I want you to listen to the facts of the case and decide for yourself. My name is Mandy Matney. I'm the news director at FITSws.com. I have been investigating the Murdaugh family for more than two years now. And this is the Murdaugh Murders Podcast. So before I get into this week's episode, I want to say thank you for all of the support, we have well over 100,000 listens and more than 60,000 downloads in just four episodes, which is incredible. So thank you, but some of you, especially some on Facebook have not been so supportive. So this podcast is produced by my fiance and I in our free time, but I get my salary from FITSnews, and my job as news director will always be my first priority. The news I'm reporting on this podcast is only possible because of my job at FITSnews, which is supported by our subscribers. Investigative journalism is expensive and we need subscribers to support our work. It is not cool to copy a journalist's entire exclusive story and post that story to a sleuth group on Facebook. I work really hard on these stories and copying and pasting my work only hurts me and the company that I work for. The news industry is broken right now. And a big reason for that is because people refuse to pay for news online, sharing the link is totally fine. Just don't screenshot or copy and paste every single word of the story and paste that into Facebook. So I will say this again for the latest updates in this case, subscribe to FITSnews.com F I T S news.com. It's less than a Netflix subscription and your money goes a long way. So thank you again to all our subscribers. In the last episode of The Murdaugh Murders Podcast we left you on several cliffhangers in the Stephen Smith case, but in the last few days huge news broke in the Mallory Beach investigation. And we think it's important to dedicate this week's episode to the boat crash investigation. I made this podcast so that people could get a better understanding of the current news surrounding this national news saga because I understand just how complicated the story is, and I want to help guide you through the twists and turns before jumping to conclusions. So on Friday, July 16, the South Carolina Department of Natural Resources also known as SCDNR release hundreds of documents and several video clips in the 2019 boat crash investigation to for a recap on February 24th 2019, Paul Murdaugh allegedly crashed a 17 foot center console fishing boat into a piling just outside of Parris Island, South Carolina. 19 year old Mallory Beach was ejected in that crash her body was found a week later. In the third episode on archers Creek, part one we told you about the information that was released in the investigation mostly through depositions and the civil lawsuit filed by Beach's mother. If this is your first time on this podcast, please go back and listen to that episode, so this episode makes a lot more sense. On Friday, the giant file released by SCDNR included chilling videos that show surveillance footage of Mallory Beach and Paul Murdaugh and for their friends in the last hour of Mallory Beach's life you can see these videos compiled together on our new Murdaugh murders



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YouTube channel, and we'll also be releasing the podcast on that channel too. So stay tuned. In this episode, we're going to go through all of the new information in the case. Let's go back to the beginning on February 23 2019, which was date night for Paul Murdaugh, his girlfriend at the time her two best friends in their boyfriends. Newly released video shows Paul Murdaugh who was a small 19 year old purchase beer and white Claus from Parker's gas station in Richland, South Carolina around 5:30pm on February 23. Paul fidgets as he's buying the booze. According to court documents, he was using his brother busters ID while Buster had red hair like Paul Buster was about 60 pounds heavier and seven inches taller, but the ID works after he illegally purchases the alcohol Paul Murdaugh heads to the parking lot where he raises his boxes of booze in the air signaling victory to his friends waiting for him around 6:30pm The friends meet at the Murdaugh river home which is owned by Paul's grandfather Randolph Murdaugh before they leave in Paul's father's boat and head to an oyster roast around 8pm the six friends arrived at the home of Christie woods for an oyster roast. In her statement to please she said she only served water and lemonade ate at the oyster roast. While at the woods home, the three young couples consumed the alcohol that they stored on the boat. According to depositions. Several adults at the party and Mallory Beach's boyfriend Anthony Cook, who was the oldest in the group suggested that the group get an Uber because of the alcohol that they consumed. Christie told police that she offered for them to stay because it was cold outside, it was about 60 degrees, which is not pleasant on the water at night. Paul, who has already allegedly intoxicated then decided that he wanted to get a shot from Luthers and downtown Beaufort. According to depositions on the way to downtown Beaufort, Paul's driving got worse according to witness statements that said He almost hit the woods Memorial Bridge. It took two tries to park the boat and downtown Beaufort so while only Paul and Connor wanted to get shots the rest of the group stayed behind. Surveillance video at the Waterfront Park captures the group. You can tell that Paul and Connors girlfriends look annoyed that they are going to Luthers according to depositions, they were just tired and wanted to go home at this point. Security cameras capture Paul and Connor entering Luthers at around 12:55am They sit down for a few minutes in order of shots. Paul and Connor then purchase two rounds of shots, one lemondrop and one Jager shot each. While Connor said in deposition that Paul almost got into a fight and was throwing chairs while inside Luthers. This is not shown on the video. Paul use his mother Maggie's credit card for the shots. His math does not add up on the tip. While Paul and Connor were at Luthers. The rest of the group waited at Waterfront Park. This footage is heartbreaking to watch. Now Mallory and her boyfriend Anthony appear to be doing their best to make light out of the situation. You can tell Mallory and Anthony really love each other. She lights up when she looks at him. In the video. They share an inside joke and they both laugh. These are some of their last moments together. Paul and Connor meet up with a group Paul's girlfriend looks angry and they fight. Paul throws his hands up in the air and appears to yell at her Paul looks drunk and swaying as he walks at around 1:17am The kids loaded to the boat and they leave downtown Beaufort. In the video you can see just how small a 17 foot boat is. They looked cramped once the boat entered archers Creek it only took them seven minutes to



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travel 1.7 Miles according to witness statements Paul's behavior and driving became worse at this point. You think you know this river better than me? Paul Murdaugh said according to a witness statement. This is my boat and I'll be damned if anybody else drives. Everybody in the bow was trying to get Paul into letting Mallory's boyfriend Anthony Cook drunk the boat according to depositions. But he refused. Paul started to scream horrible things at his girlfriend according to a witness statement. As we said before, there was one final argument with Paul's girlfriend at the time then says what are you going to do hit me like you did all those times before. According to a witness statement, Paul Murdaugh pushed spit on and slapped his girlfriend in the face. According to multiple depositions. He then headed back to the helm of the boat and accelerated according to GPS data released from SCDNR the following times and speeds were recorded in the last seconds of their voyage 2:20 Am and three seconds 25 miles per hour 2:20 Am and 31 seconds 24 miles per hour 2:20 Am and 33 seconds 29 miles per hour 2:20 Am and 40 seconds GPS coordinates place them at the bridge. Paul Mallory and Anthony were ejected into the water. Conor and Paul's girlfriend were severely injured. Blood was everywhere and Mallory was gone. Miley, who is Mallory's best friend was able to brace herself a split second before the crash. The next day, she spoke with SCDNR about what happened during the crash.

Miley 09:03

So Anthony was like all the way over there, like where we hit. And Paul was in on like, the closest pile to the shore, or like the second closest one to the shore. So like, I think, like whenever we the boat started going again, like I think like he got like, you know, like going out there and cuz I don't really know about that part because I wasn't I didn't see any of it. But like he was closer to the shore than he was and he stayed in the water for like 10 minutes, just like holding on to the pile and just screaming Morgan's name. And then Anthony was out there screaming Mallory saying like I couldn't hear anything because Morgan was screaming so loud. So I was like, No, I was like, the first person I'll check on was Connor because like he's my boyfriend and I wanted to make sure he was okay. I found him and like Mallory was just like nowhere to be seen. Like it was just like she disappeared. And then Anthony was screaming in the water for Mallory, and that's when I knew like something bad happened like that Mallory was missing Connor had his phone still on him. So I was like calling on one and it took us like five minutes like regroup ourselves to like be able to call. And so it was like maybe like 5-10 minutes before we even caught anybody in like we didn't know where we were what the bridge was called. So we didn't know like what to say. Like, you know, we didn't know like what bridge to say we were at or when we really only thing we knew was that we're in Archer's Creek.

911 Operator 10:41

Police, fire, EMS.

Connor Cook 10:44



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we're in a boat crash on Archer's Creek

911 Operator 10:47

Whereabouts in Archer's Creek?

Connor Cook 10:51

The only bridge on Archer's Creek

911 Operator 10:54

Archer Street?

Connor Cook 10:56

Archers Creek

911 Operator 10:57

Creek, Archer's Creek

Connor Cook 11:01

It's by Parris Island.

Miley 11:03

And then Paul came up to us it just in his underwear, like no pants or anything. So I don't know, like, when I would if he took off his pants before he hit water or just like, he's pretty sure he's wearing a belt. Like the water, the impact, just need to rock experience. I don't know. But then he came back short. And he tried to help Morgan. And she was didn't want anything to do with him. She was like, Get away from me. She didn't want to talk to him at all. And like he didn't care that Mallory was missing. Because she was like upset because she was like, Get away from me like I'm fine. But Mallory's missing. No, it's gonna have something interested in register with him and like she was missing.

Mandy Matney 11:46

And I'm sorry about this audio, apparently, and the only recorded interview of the entire investigation file SCDNR decided to vacuum in the middle of it. So I apologize. It's hard to hear.

Miley 11:59

He just like didn't say anything besides just wanted to call his granddad just let me call my granddad. He took my phone. Because there's only 1%. So that's why I was like, hesitant to call 911 Because I was like, it's a 1% Like, I don't know if it's gonna go through or not. So he called his granddad the first person call and just told him.



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SCDNR 12:19

did you hear the conversation?

Miley 12:21

Anthony was just like, you know, he was just like, belligerent about everything. Like he was just like, so sad. And he didn't want to like you know, cooperating there. But that's understandable because it was broken. He just wanted to stay.

Mandy Matney 12:33

While they were waiting for the ambulance to arrive. Paul and Anthony almost got into a fight.

Miley 12:38

Paul came to Connor and I wrapped his blanket around them and asked him if Paul smiled or something, Anthony saw him smiled. Like you think this is funny noise kind of stuff. And he like, was like, about to like, go and like, tie him because he was that mad because you like smiling about it. So then they told us I mean, the ambulance and all them and gotten nearby them. And they told us that we needed to go into the ambulance and sit down because it was warm in there and Paul followed him. I was just so so hot. Like I was so hot and I just couldn't breathe like had the seatbelt on me and I felt like I was gonna like suffocate because I just I couldn't breathe.

Mandy Matney 13:17

Miley like so many others from that night described Paul as belligerent and out of control. Paul apparently got into a deputy's face and was so out of control to the point where they had to strap him down in the ambulance, and he still was not arrested.

Miley 13:35

And you're just sitting at Paul was just like going on and on and on. And I got into several officers faces and we're like, just like saying like because they're trying to get calm down, sit down. And because they're like, We need to take you to the hospital. And he was just like being a brood about it just saying because it was like it for the officers and managers to their lady EMS is and lady was trying to be nice and just like calm and down at first. And then he got into the guys, the officers face it was like you think that you're like a bigger man than I am and all this kind of stuff. And it was just like, I need to like get out right now. And then Paul was having this conversation with the officer police officer. He was like in his face like cussing at him.

Mandy Matney 14:28

Miley tells investigators something interesting. She says that Paul begged her to use her phone so that he could call his grandfather former solicitor Randolph Murdaugh. For a



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reminder Paul's grandfather, great grandfather and great great grandfather also served as a solicitor over a five county region from 1920 to 2006. A solicitor is South Carolina's district attorney and elected official who is considered by many to be the most powerful position in our judicial system. It's in trusting that Paul skipped the chain of command and his family and directly went to the most powerful person, even while he was drunk.

SCDNR 15:08

You said Paul took your phone to call his granddad. Why they call his granddad and say why? Well, why didn't he call his dad or was there

Miley 15:17

Well because they're lawyers and stuff? Because that's what he does every day.

SCDNR 15:25

Is his dad a lawyer.

Miley 15:27

Yes.

SCDNR 15:29

Why didn't he want to call his dad?

Miley 15:31

Because he's kept going back and forth about calling his dad. He's like, I need to call big red. That's what they call him. He's like, I need to call him.

SCDNR 15:41

Big red is..

Miley 15:42

Alex his dad And so he just kept on going back and forth. Like I need to call him call and he can't call.

Mandy Matney 15:51

So what Miley says here is that Paul called his grandfather because his family is full of lawyers. And that's what he always does in situations like this call his granddad. New court documents allege that law enforcement officers might have conspire to cover up in the investigation. The documents were filed by attorneys representing Connor Cook, the young man who has heard in the 911 call. The documents are explosive. They alleged that officers from DNR and the Beaufort County Sheriff's Office possibly conspired to essentially frame Connor Cook as the driver and intentionally shifted the investigation away from Paul Murdaugh. That is a big deal.



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Most of the alleged conspiracies circled around three officers Michael Brock and Austin Prichard of SCDNR and John Keener of the Beaufort County Sheriff's Office. All three of the officers have some ties to the Murdaugh family. In depositions attorneys question and almost accused those officers of falsifying the reports to favor Paul Murdaugh, which would then create confusion about who was driving the boat and multiple depositions. Attorneys played audio from the scene where Mallory Beach's boyfriend Anthony Cook was very clear about who was driving the boat. Anthony got angry at Paul officers were on scene. Anthony Cook told DNR officer Austin Prichard the Paul was driving. That conversation was picked up on car audio, according to depositions. But Prichard did not write this in his report. Instead, he wrote that Anthony said he didn't know who was driving. This is very different from what the audio said. According to depositions. A Parris Island officer said in a sworn affidavit that he was there when Anthony Cook told Officer Michael Brock of DNR that he knew Paul was driving the boat and that Paul killed his girlfriend, but Brock did not write that in his report. Instead, he wrote that Anthony flipped out and was yelling at Paul, John Keener of the Beaufort County Sheriff's Office wrote in his report that it was quote unquote, unclear who was driving the boat, but he admitted in deposition that this was his personal opinion and no one said anything to him that would indicate that Connor may have been driving. One thing that nearly all of the reports and Depositions are clear about is that Paul Murdaugh appeared grossly intoxicated in the hours after the crash one Beaver County Sheriff's Office report so that Paul was almost aggressive toward EMS personnel during the ambulance ride to the hospital. Deputy John Keener of the Beaufort County Sheriff's Office testified that Paul was quote, being belligerent and stupid and quote to the point where they had to send a deputy in the ambulance to ride with him. At the hospital, DNR officer Austin Prichard said that Paul appeared to be intoxicated, and was quote, acting pretty out of control and quote, he said that he was strapped to a gurney and there was a security officer monitoring him at the hospital. Paul Murdaugh was never offered a field sobriety test that night, which was a move highly criticized by the public at the time, Austin Prichard testified that his superior a DNR Michael Brock ordered him to only offer Connor Cook a field sobriety test that night preacher said that he offered Connor Cook a field sobriety test because he was starting to quote unquote, zero in on him as a main suspect. Prichard wrote in a report that Connor refused to take a field sobriety test such report does not exist for Paul Murdaugh, son of the owner of the boat, who was heavily intoxicated. According to multiple police reports. Preachers said that he was trying to get a statement from Paul Murdaugh, when Paul's father elec Murdaugh and his grandfather, Randolph Murdaugh, the third walked in and stopped him, quote, they came in and said, Paul's not saying anything else. And I told him, I'm talking to Paul and they said, No, you're talking to us now. In quote, Prichard testified that that moment was when quote, everything clicked in who the Murdaughs were in, quote, So about 10 minutes after Paul Murdaugh arrived at Beaufort Memorial Hospital on February 24 2019. Paul's father elec Murdaugh and grandfather former solicitor Randolph Murdaugh appeared. According to witnesses. elec Murdaugh appeared to be more concerned with orchestrating a plan in the criminal investigation than he was with finding Mallory Beach who had just gone missing. In



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fact, a security guard overheard Alec Murdaugh on the phone saying she's gone Don't worry about her. Multiple nurses noted that Alec Murdaugh was often looking at the emergency room screen trying to track down crash victims. Several nurses noted that they observed Alec Murdaugh moving from room to room a lot while the other patients parents stayed with their children. The charge nurse also told a security guard to keep an eye on Alec Murdaugh because he was trying to enter other patients rooms specifically Alec Murdaugh was seen multiple times trying to get into Paul's girlfriend's room the same woman Paul had spit on and slapped moments before the crash coordinator witness statements Alec Murdaugh tried to get into a room and was telling the nurse that he had to tell her what to say. While Alec Murdaugh was allegedly going from room to room orchestrating a plan Paul was restrained in his hospital room. Paul's nurse described him as one of the most arrogant teenagers to ever come to the ER she said he was the most intoxicated and most belligerent of all those involved in a security guard had to stay with Paul because he was so out of control. Family patriarch Randolph Murdaugh kept telling Paul to keep his mouth shut according to a security guard another security guard so that Randolph seemed angry at Paul and said his grandson was quote, as drunk as cooter Brown. Unquote. Remember, Alec Murdaugh is a volunteer for the Solicitor's Office, which means he works with solicitor Duffy Stone, who will later recuse himself from the criminal case against Paul due to conflict of interest. Alec was also seen multiple times talking to Connor Cook who broke his jaw on the crash and telling him that they were going to figure everything out. Nurses also reported seeing Alec Murdaugh attempting to talk to Connor Cook on the way to his cat scan. An ER tech told SCDNR that she overheard Alec Murdaugh tell Connor Cook he was handling it and told him not to say anything. Paul's friends told SCDNR that they were afraid of the Murdaughs and assume that they were working on a cover up mentioning previous similar incidents. Paul's girlfriend told her nurse that Paul and his drinking habits almost killed them in a vehicle accident before all of this happen. She didn't mention details but said that they were in a truck was this another cover up because there does not appear to be any law enforcement records of this crash. Anthony Cook Mallory's boyfriend told DNR several days after the accident that Connor was not driving the boat, and he said that his cousin was scared because well, the Murdaughs are out to pin it on him. Unquote. But while testimony is one thing physical evidence is another attorney suggests that several pieces of evidence appear to be missing in this case, including pulse found which was picked up by another officer on scene according to audio Paul's pants which attorneys assume contain his wallet with his fake ID inside DNA swabs from blood on the boat and corresponding photographs of DNA collection which could prove where Connor was positioned in the boat at the time of the crash and an audio recording of Anthony Cook telling Michael Brock the Paul Murdaugh killed his girlfriend Mallory Beach. SCDNR never sought a warrant to compel the hospital to draw Paul's blood that night. But the hospital did anyways because he was behaving so erratically. They thought he might have a head injury. At 4am. His BAC level was about point 286, which would mean that he was 3.5 times over the legal limit to drive. Because of the confusion and the initial investigation. It took two months for authorities to charge Paul with



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three felony counts of voting under the influence unlike the vast majority of felony b Why cases Paul Murdaugh never stepped foot in a jail. At the time of his death he was facing 25 years in prison for the charges. Paul Murdaugh was murdered on June 7, which ended the criminal investigation of the boat crash however, there is another criminal investigation ongoing in this case. 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 FInews sources So one big question remains in the case did the Murdaugh's and their law enforcement connections conspire to frame Connor Cook and create confusion in the investigation? Stay tuned to the Murdaugh murders podcast and FITSnews.com for the latest updates in the case, or follow me on Twitter at [twitter.com/mandy M A N D Y Matney M A T N E Y](https://twitter.com/mandyMANDY) 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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