

The Stuart News

TREASURE COAST NEWSPAPERS

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PART OF THE USA TODAY NETWORK

MARJORY STONEMAN DOUGLAS HIGH SCHOOL SHOOTING

So many red flags missed

Brett Murphy
Naples Daily News
USA TODAY NETWORK - FLORIDA

Long before authorities accused Nikolas Cruz of killing 17 people at his former high school in less than five minutes, state social workers, mental health counselors, school administrators, police and the FBI received warnings about his declining mental state and penchant for violence.

Instead of taking decisive action to

help Cruz, the troubled 19-year-old diagnosed with depression, autism and ADHD was left essentially to continue on his own down a path that prosecutors say led to the shooting Wednesday at Marjory Stoneman Douglas High School with an AR-15 rifle, records obtained by USA TODAY NETWORK show.

Social workers, mental health counselors and school administrators — the front line of defense for many young adults — documented and dismissed

red flags during home visits and school evaluations, the records show.

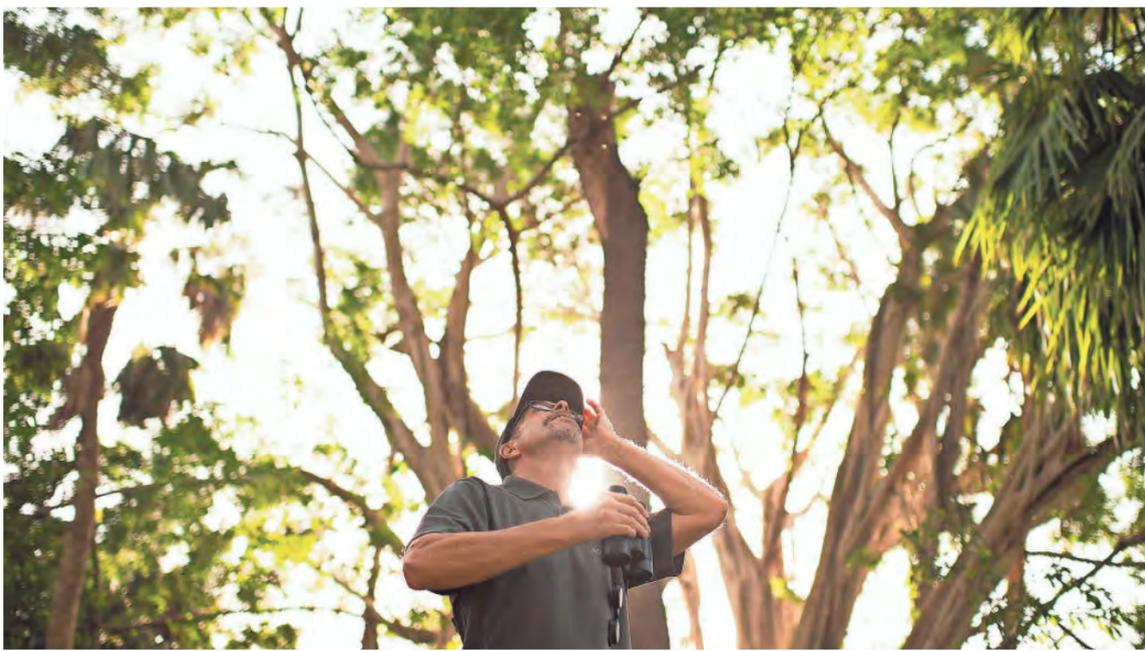
"Mr. Cruz stated he plans to go out and buy a gun," an investigator with Florida's Department of Children and Families wrote on Sept. 28, 2016, four days after he turned 18 and six months before he legally bought the assault rifle. "It is unknown what he is buying the gun for."

Police visited the family home

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Mourners attend a candlelight vigil for those slain and injured in a mass shooting at Marjory Stoneman Douglas High School at the Parkland Amphitheatre on Thursday. Thousands were in attendance. ANDREW WEST/THE NEWS-PRESS



The weekly migratory bird-banding study led by permitted bander Nancy LaFramboise and her husband Bill LaFramboise (pictured) took place at the Martin County Audubon Society's Possum Long Nature Center on Tuesday in Stuart. The study is open to the public. The next scheduled banding at Possum Long will be this Tuesday. More information can be found at www.brdbander.blogspot.com. PHOTOS BY HOBIE HILER/SPECIAL TO TCPALM

Birds-a-banding



The LaFramboises lead the weekly migratory bird-banding study at the Martin County Audubon Society. On Tuesday, the pair found two gray catbirds (pictured), a yellow-rumped warbler and an ovenbird.



Nancy LaFramboise studies the feathers on a gray catbird caught at the Martin County Audubon Society's Possum Long Nature Center on Tuesday. The gray catbird had already been banded in October and its information was taken to further understand its habits. "Today we are going to see what's here, whether it's wintering birds or migrating birds," said LaFramboise, adding, "We are gearing up for the spring migration."



Anthony Westbury
Columnist
Treasure Coast Newspapers
USA TODAY NETWORK - FLA.

Historic plane ride stirs memories for FP woman

Flying in a 90-year-old piece of history is incredible in itself; holding papers that were aboard during the first commercial passenger flight across the United States is something else entirely.

On Thursday, volunteers from the Experimental Aircraft Association based in Wisconsin flew a 1928 Ford Tri-Motor airplane into Treasure Coast International Airport in Fort Pierce.

Sally Chapman of Fort Pierce was especially excited when she saw the ad in the News-Tribune about the plane's visit. Her grandmother, Dorothy Binney Putnam, had been a passenger on the very first transcontinental flight of a sister plane from New York to Los Angeles in July 1929.

A wealthy socialite, Putnam had been invited on the adventure by her friend, famous aviatrix Amelia Earhart. The passenger list was a veritable who's who of the late 1920s. Also on board were Hollywood actress Gloria Swanson and flying ace Charles Lindbergh, who'd made the first trans-Atlantic flight only two years earlier.

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A restored 1929 Ford Tri-Motor airliner flies over South Beach and the Fort Pierce Inlet on Thursday, Feb. 15. The plane, one of only six Tri-Motors still flying and now owned by the Experimental Aircraft Association, is almost identical to the aircraft Dorothy Binney Putnam flew in July 1929 from New York to Los Angeles. ANTHONY WESTBURY/TCPALM



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Here come the Mets!
Port St. Lucie approves Mets' construction plan. **Inside, 3A**

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