

# SOUTH FLORIDA Sun Sentinel

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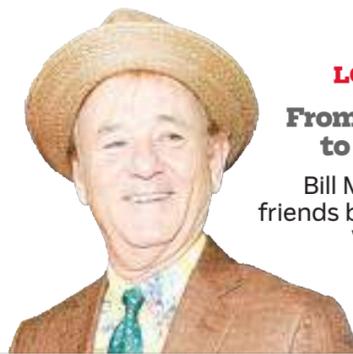
**WEATHER**  
**High: 85**  
**Low: 62**  
 Forecast, 12B



**SHOWTIME**  
 Willie Nelson is back and good to go for SoFla makeup date.

**INDEX**  
 Opinion.....15A  
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 Obituaries ..6B  
 Money .....8B

**Go!** **Weekend movie releases**  
 Bruce Willis in "Death Wish" and more. **12B, Showtime**



**LOCAL**  
**From comedy to music**

Bill Murray and friends bring "New Worlds" to Festival of the Arts Boca. **1B**



**SPORTS**  
**Defense falters**

Heat allow 131 points in loss to Lakers. **1C**



**Test passed**

Young pitcher Alcantara settles down vs. Mets. **1C**

## Shooting alters budget plans

State lawmakers look to divert housing funds to make schools safer, hire resource officers

By **GRAY ROHRER**  
 Tallahassee Bureau

TALLAHASSEE — Florida lawmakers writing the state budget wanted at least \$180 million in tax cuts and plenty of funding for affordable housing and the opioid crisis.

Then a gunman walked into Marjory Stoneman Douglas High School in Parkland on Feb. 14 and killed 17 people, upending those plans.

"The tragedy in Parkland changed everything," said Senate budget chief Rob Bradley, R-Fleming Island. "The safety of

the children comes first." GOP leaders in both chambers are advancing bills with \$390 million in spending in response to the shooting — the money going toward school resource officers, child welfare case managers, mental health programs in schools, plans to "harden" schools and firearms training for teachers who volunteer to carry weapons in schools.

To find the money, lawmakers are reducing the amount set aside for reserves, forgoing \$100 million in tax cuts and sweeping money from an affordable housing trust fund.

Democrats agree the spending is necessary, but object to diverting affordable housing funds, which are generated by a tax on real estate transactions.

See **BUDGET, 10A**

## Texting, driving bill all but lost

Plan to crack down stalls in Senate amid concerns over privacy, profiling

By **DAN SWEENEY** | Staff writer

TALLAHASSEE — This was supposed to be the year the Florida Legislature got tougher on texting while driving. Instead, the idea appears to be dead.

The legislation has stalled in the Senate and will not be heard in its final committee. Its chair, state Sen. Rob Bradley, R-Fleming Island, cites worries about police invading drivers' privacy and minorities being treated unfairly.

The decision comes despite support in the House. House Speaker Richard Corcoran, R-Land O'Lakes, had announced support for the bill, which would make texting and driving a "primary offense," allowing police to stop a driver immediately after seeing the person texting. Currently, officers need another reason to stop the car first.

The House on Thursday passed a texting bill by a vote of 112-2, a month after a South Florida Sun Sentinel investigation revealed that crashes typical of texting and driving increased at a staggering rate between 2013 and 2016.

The total number of accidents increased by 11 percent in Florida during those years, but crashes caused by careless driving rose by as much as four times that amount, the

See **TEXT, 10A**

## Shooter's name taken off park fence



TAIMY ALVAREZ/STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER



JUAN ORTEGA/STAFF

The names of school gunman Nikolas Cruz and his brother Zachary were on two slats in a fence surrounding the playground at Liberty Park in Parkland. The slat with Nikolas Cruz's name has been removed by the city.

By **LISA J. HURIASH**  
 Staff writer

The city of Parkland has removed a wooden fence slat at Liberty Park that was inscribed with the name of school shooter Nikolas Cruz.

For years, playground visitors could see "Nikolas J. Cruz" emblazoned on the piece of wood. But after the massacre at Marjory Stoneman Douglas High, removing it

"seemed the only logical course of action," city spokesman Todd DeAngelis said.

Cruz's mother, Lynda, had gotten Cruz and his brother Zachary involved in the building of the 7-acre playground, which opened in 2000. The public had been invited to fund engraved items that surround the playground.

Nikolas Cruz has admitted to killing 17 people and wounding 16 on Feb. 14 at Stoneman Douglas. In a news article pub-

lished this past weekend, the South Florida Sun Sentinel reported that the slat with Cruz's name remained at the park.

The city got rid of it Sunday as soon as it learned about the engraving. Although Cruz's name was removed, the slat with his brother's name remains.

Ken Shack, a bicyclist who stopped by Liberty Park on Thursday, said he was glad the slat is gone. "It should come down," he said.

**MORE COVERAGE**

**DRAWING SCRUTINY:** Senate committee will examine law enforcement breakdowns surrounding shooting. **2A**

**SENATOR'S PLAN:** Marco Rubio proposes giving schools grants to add security and train teachers to identify threats. **14A**

**HELP FROM ABROAD:** Trauma specialists from Israel come to school to help teach resilience in face of terror. **1B**



**Broward teachers: We don't want firearms**

Two Broward County teachers and the president of the Broward Teachers Union visited the South Florida Sun Sentinel on Thursday to talk about proposals to put firearms into the hands of educators in an effort to protect schoolchildren. **Story, 14A**

**Amazon wants to know South Florida in detail**

With South Florida on the list of finalists for Amazon's second headquarters, economic development leaders from Palm Beach, Broward and Miami-Dade counties have been working together to provide the e-commerce giant copious information on the region. At stake? Some 50,000 jobs and \$5 billion in investment. **Story, 8B**

**YOUR NATION, YOUR WORLD**

**Nuns' treatment criticized**

Vatican denounces nuns' working for cardinals and bishops at next to no pay. **5A**

**Economy for EPA chief?**

Environmental Protection Agency's Pruitt addresses scrutiny of first-class flights. **6A**

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# Local

**WOMAN WAS IN BED**

## Raft crashes through roof

A woman escaped serious injury when a helicopter's inflatable raft detached from a passing helicopter and fell through the roof of her home in northeast Miami-Dade.

Turns out the 80-pound raft became detached from a Royal Canadian Air Force CH-146 Griffon helicopter that was heading to the Coast Guard station in Opa-locka.

A Royal Canadian Air Force spokesman said its personnel were in South Florida for a few weeks "taking advantage of the warm weather" for search and rescue training purposes, the Miami Herald reported.

The woman living in the home on Northeast 10th Court was lying in her bed shortly before 3:30 p.m. Wednesday when the object from the air came crashing through the ceiling of her bedroom.

"When I saw that I was, like, shocked. It was like 'Boom!'" Luce Rameau told WTVJ-Ch. 6.

Rameau was the only one inside the home when the bizarre incident happened. She sustained only minor injuries, according to Miami-Dade Fire Rescue officials.

**Staff and Associated Press**

**PARKED AT PLAZA**

## Baby boy found alone in car dies

Police say a 1-year-old boy died after being found inside a car parked at a shopping plaza where witnesses said his mother works at a beauty salon.

Miami-Dade police tell news outlets that the child was taken to a hospital on Wednesday afternoon, where he later died.

Officials said several calls came in shortly after 1 p.m. Wednesday about a child left unattended in a car at the plaza near Bird Road and Southwest 97th Avenue. Witnesses told local television stations that the mother works at the salon there.

The woman reportedly went to work at 9 a.m. and her child was discovered about 12:30 p.m., WFOR-Ch. 4 reported.

The temperatures were in the lower 80s in the Miami area on Wednesday afternoon.

Whether the woman would face any charges will be determined by Miami-Dade prosecutors, WPLG-Ch. 10 reported Thursday.

**Staff and Associated Press**

**MIAMI SCHOOLS CHIEF**

## Carvalho won't take NYC post

NEW YORK — The superintendent of schools for Miami-Dade County shocked New York City officials on Thursday by backing out of an already announced agreement to lead the city's 1.1 million-student public school system.

Superintendent Alberto Carvalho told an emergency school board meeting in Miami that he was breaking his agreement with New York City to honor "an agreement and a pact I have with the children of Miami."

"I underestimated the emotional tug, the level of commitment, the power that crying members of the community have had on me," Carvalho said.

A spokesman for New York City Mayor Bill de Blasio blasted Carvalho on Twitter for his surprise change of heart.

Carvalho, 53, has led the Miami-Dade system for 10 years.

**Associated Press**

# Resident's arson damaged 28 condo units, police say

**By DOUG PHILLIPS**  
Staff writer

A custody dispute with his fiancée led a man to start a blaze that killed three cats and caused nearly \$4 million in damage to 28 condo units, including his own, police say.

Nathan Counts, 39, started the noon-hour fire Feb. 12 at the Ramblewood East Condominium subdivision in Coral Springs, according to a Coral

Springs police arrest report. He used a gas can he bought and filled that morning, poured the gas on a love seat and mattress in his condo, and lit it with a cigarette lighter, police said.

Counts is charged with 59 counts that include arson, felony cruelty to animals and criminal mischief. He was arrested Tuesday, records show.

After evacuating dozens of people from two buildings that afternoon, rescuers said the

fire appeared to have started on the second floor and spread quickly through the attic to other units.

In the condominium unit that Counts shared with his fiancée, the mother of their child, investigators didn't have to look far before finding evidence to suggest the fire was set on purpose.

"A five-gallon gas can was found in the living room. Also, a cigarette lighter was located in

the living room," the arrest report said.

An investigator determined that the fire pattern indicated the fire originated from at least two spots — the living room and the bedroom — the report said.

The blaze caught other residents of the condos by surprise. On the day of the fire, Sheila Mardy told reporters she

See **BLAZE, 5B**

**'Happy to be alive'**



POMPAÑO BEACH FIRE RESCUE/COURTESY

The engine of a Piper PA-32 airplane would not slow down. Instead of a smooth landing, the plane sped toward earth at 120 mph. It took off again and as it turned, it crashed into a fence at Pompano Airpark on Thursday. The two men inside walked away from their destroyed aircraft, one with only a scratch. **Story, 5B.**

## Christian leaders pray for victims, sheriff

**By LINDA TRISCHITTA**  
Staff writer

About 100 Christian leaders from Broward County gathered at a Pompano Beach church Thursday to pray for the 17 victims of the Feb. 14 mass shooting at Marjory Stoneman Douglas High School as well as for Broward Sheriff Scott Israel, who a clergyman said is under attack.

Israel briefly attended the morning service at Word of the Living God Ministry, an organizer said, but did not appear before reporters who received a news release about it, apparently from the church.

Broward Sheriff's spokeswoman Veda Coleman-Wright said in an email that "it wasn't a media event or a BSO event. He made his remarks to the people who attended the private prayer service. He thanked the clergy and people from the community for their prayers for the families."

Israel meets with clergy every month, according to the spokeswoman.

"He said Parkland needs prayer like never before," Coleman-Wright said.

The church, at 140 NW 26th Ave., is led by Apostle John Mohorne Jr., who since 2013 has been an associate chaplain for the Sheriff's Office. Mohorne also declined to speak

See **PRAY, 6B**

## Parkland gets help from Israeli trauma specialists

**By LOIS K. SOLOMON**  
Staff writer

Clergy members, therapists, first responders and teachers working at Marjorie Stoneman Douglas High School are gaining insight from two psychologists who are deeply familiar with terror and trauma.

And there will be a session open to the public from 9 a.m. to 12 p.m. today at Heron Bay Community Center in Parkland.

The psychologists are from Israel, where citizens have experienced decades of war and face constant threats of physical injuries and emotional scars. The Israeli people have developed another side of this reality: resilience, strength and preparedness, qualities the Israel

Trauma Coalition representatives are teaching in Parkland.

Alan Cohen and Yotam Dagan have seen about 450 people at their Parkland seminars since they arrived on Sunday, said Lisa Rahman, chief executive officer of Goodman Jewish Family Services of Broward County, one of their sponsors.

"They are talking about what to expect in the coming months," said Rahman, especially the importance of early intervention and the signs of anxiety and depression. "Years from now, we could be seeing PTSD (post-traumatic stress disorder). We are getting a different level of training because of what we went through in

See **TRAUMA, 6B**

## Bill Murray savors memory of S. Florida circa 1980

### Actor performs tonight at Festival of the Arts Boca

**By BEN CRANDELL**  
Staff writer

Versatile actor Bill Murray, the star of "Caddyshack" and "Meatballs," "Lost in Translation" and "The Life Aquatic With Steve Zissou," is on the phone from midtown Manhattan, behind the wheel of a small

hybrid automobile packed like a clown car.

Venezuelan-American pianist Vanessa Perez is in the back seat next to violinist Mira Wang, who has a suitcase on her lap and cello poking into her armpit. Next to Murray, in the passenger seat, is world-renowned cellist Jan Vogler. They are driving to rehearsal for "New Worlds," a provocative work that they will perform today at Mizner Park Amphitheater as part of Festival of the Arts Boca.

Learning his caller is from Florida, Murray mentions that he is passing a giant Times Square billboard for Calvin Klein underwear. He allows his mind to wander back to another time, and another car, one with more elbow room, the one he drove around South Florida while shooting the 1980 classic "Caddyshack."

"I had a beautiful rent-a-car, a money-green Lincoln," Murray says, wistfully.

Murray was not part of the original "Caddyshack" cast, but

agreed when director Harold Ramis asked him to fly down from New York to shoot a single scene at Davie's Rolling Hills Country Club (now Grande Oaks), which kept Murray and his Lincoln together for about 10 days. The filmmakers asked Murray to fly down to shoot scenes two more times.

"Somehow, my green-money Lincoln was still there," he says. "It wasn't as crowded

See **MURRAY, 5B**

# Two walk away with barely a scratch after plane crash

BY LINDA TRISCHITTA  
Staff writer

The troublesome engine of a Piper PA-32 airplane would not slow down. Instead of a smooth landing, the plane sped toward earth at 120 mph. It took off again and as it turned, it crashed into a fence at Pompano Airpark.

The two men inside walked away from their destroyed aircraft Thursday, one with only a scratch.

"It was a miracle that these two did not sustain injuries," Pompano Beach Fire Rescue spokeswoman Sandra King said. "One had flip-flops on and he only needed a Band-Aid after treatment by paramedics. They were both happy to be

**The plane lost its wings, and its nose appeared to be cracked away from the fuselage.**

alive and felt grateful."

The pilot shared the details of the harrowing flight, King said. The plane lost its wings, and its nose appeared to be cracked away from the fuselage, photographs showed.

"The six-passenger plane is a total loss," King said.

Pompano Beach Fire Rescue was called to the air-

port at 1001 NE 10th St. at around 10 a.m.

The 50-year-old male pilot and his passenger, a 61-year-old man who is also a pilot, are from Boca Raton. Their names were not immediately available, King said.

The registered owner is the Pompano Senior Squadron Flying Club Inc. in Boca Raton, according to the Federal Aviation Administration, which is investigating.

It was the second time a small plane had trouble at the airport in less than 24 hours. On Wednesday, a single-engine plane skidded off a runway after the apparent collapse of a piece of its landing gear. No one was hurt in that crash either, King said.

## BLAZE

Continued from Page 1B

barely had enough time to throw on some clothes and grab her wallet and keys before running to safety.

"When I got outside I saw the next door apartment covered in red," she said. "Like straight fire and then it spread. ... It was

scary."

Except for the pet cats that lived with Counts, no one was hurt.

And though Counts told investigators he "felt suicidal" because of the custody dispute he "ran out of the condo, locking the door behind him," after starting the fire, the arrest report said.

He is being held on bonds totaling \$2,175,000.

The Broward Property Appraiser's Office estimated that damage from the fire — excluding contents inside the units — was \$1.4 million.

The president of the condominium's homeowners association estimated the damage cost to be about \$3.5 to \$4 million, the arrest report said.

## MURRAY

Continued from Page 1B

down there then. You could drive with your feet all the way from Davie to Miami and back without having to put your shirt on or anything. It was a nice time to be down there.

"They called me about two or three months [after the shoot] and said, 'Whatever happened to that car?' And I said, 'I left it under the tree.' [Laughs] Like that would be a safe place that someone would find it, under the tree," Murray says. "And when they found it, it was just covered in acorns and dust and debris. I think birds had nested in it. But it was a beautiful car."

South Florida may not have grown in sophistication, but Murray surely has.

"New Worlds" offers an evening of song, poetry and prose, with Murray's voice weaving memorable literary passages with classical and contemporary symphonic music arranged by Vogler. It is an eclectic collection: Ravel's Sonata in G Major for Violin and Piano is combined with James Thurber's satirical "If Grant Had Been Drinking at Appomattox"; James Fenimore Cooper's "The

Deerslayer" is read over Schubert's Piano Trio No. 1 In B Flat; a section of Mark Twain's "Adventures of Huckleberry Finn" is set upon Henry Mancini's drifting "Moon River."

There are also moments when Murray uses his not unpleasant singing voice, as on Van Morrison's "When Will I Ever Learn To Live in God."

The "New Worlds" project, captured on an album of the same name released on Decca Gold in September, began with the friendship that formed several years ago on a transatlantic flight from Germany with Vogler seated between his cello and Murray, an arrangement the actor could not let pass without comment.

In New York, Murray invited Vogler to the annual Poetry Walk Across the Brooklyn Bridge, where Murray was among those who read poems at different spots on the bridge to a gathering of several hundred people. More reading followed at a dinner, where everyone got a bag of po-

etry to take home, Murray says.

Vogler was responsible for choosing the music and poetry on "New Worlds," but he believes that Murray had a vision for the project long before it took shape.

"I think he had something in mind in getting me to that poetry walk," Vogler says. The Berlin-born cellist says he began to see the contours of the mission later at a dinner, where they listened to CDs of pop and classics as Murray whistled and sang along.

"Bill has such a repertoire, and he can sing everything with the correct text. It's quite fascinating," Vogler says.

Both men sound surprised at what happened when these layers of great literature and great music found each other.

"New Worlds," featuring Bill Murray, Jan Vogler, Mira Wang and Vanessa Perez, will be performed 7:30 p.m. today at Mizner Park Amphitheater, 90 Plaza Real, in Boca Raton. Tickets start at \$75. Visit Festival-OfTheArtsBoca.org.

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