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NEWS CHIEF

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Utah Gov. Spencer Cox, with FBI Director Kash Patel, speaks at a news conference Sept. 12, announcing details on the suspect in the shooting of conservative activist Charlie Kirk two days prior. CHENEY ORR/REUTERS

Governor: Suspect in Kirk’s death taken into custody

Family friend says man confessed ‘or implied’ to killing

Joey Garrison, Davis Winkie and Christopher Cann
USA TODAY NETWORK

“Ladies and gentlemen, we got him,” Utah Gov. Spencer Cox said at a news conference the morning of Sept. 12. By “him,” he meant the person suspected of killing conservative activist

Charlie Kirk at a college speaking event on Sept. 10. The suspect was identified as Tyler Robinson, Cox said. A family member contacted a family friend, who told authorities Robinson “confessed to them or implied that he committed the incident.” The suspect was taken into custody at 10 p.m. local time Sept. 11, FBI Director Kash Patel said. President Donald Trump said earlier Sept. 12 on “Fox and Friends” that the family friend was “a person of faith, a minister.” Kirk, 31, was killed while speaking in

front of some 3,000 people at Utah Valley University in Orem, Utah. Authorities tied Robinson to the crime through online messages, surveillance video and interviews with his family and friends. Ammunition and shell casings recovered from the shooting scene included anti-fascist and taunting messages, Cox said. One casing read: “Hey fascist! Catch!” Another quoted “Bella Ciao,” an Italian song dedicated to resistance fighters against Nazi occupiers; it is a rallying cry for anti-fascists.

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Ryan Routh’s statement to jury cut short

Presentation called a ‘mockery’ by judge

Hannah Phillips
Palm Beach Post
USA TODAY NETWORK

FORT PIERCE – Seconds into Ryan Routh’s opening statement, prosecutors lodged their first objection. The typewritten statement, more a rhapsody than a presentation of evidence, was impermissible, they said.

Routh didn’t react or object as Shipley walked jurors through the alleged steps he took to carry out his plan.

U.S. District Judge Aileen Cannon let him carry on, anyway. It was a win for Routh, representing himself in court against charges of plotting to assassinate Donald Trump, but a short-lived one. Three minutes in — after he’d invoked Adolf Hitler, mused tearfully over peaceful meetings between humans 1.5 million years ago, and asked jurors “Why are we here?” — prosecutors objected again for the same reason. This time, Cannon agreed. She said she had limited patience and wouldn’t tolerate Routh “making a mockery of this court’s dignity.” She gave him one more chance. “This case means absolutely nothing,” Routh told the jury of 12, whose verdict will decide whether he faces life in federal prison. “A life has already been lived.” Prosecutors objected for the third and final time at the same moment that Cannon interrupted Routh herself. His statement was over, she said.

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Teachers commenting on social media about Kirk face discipline

Tayebe Hussein
Fort Myers News-Press
USA TODAY NETWORK – FLORIDA

The Florida Department of Education is investigating educators accused of posting “despicable” comments on social media about the death of political commentator Charlie Kirk. The School District of Lee County said its Human Resources Department is conducting a review and will coordinate with the state agency. “Thank you for bringing employee social media posts to our attention,” the district said on social media. “Our Human Resources Department is conducting a review and we will coordinate with

the Florida Department of Education. “... Appropriate measures have been established to protect the focus of teaching and learning in our classrooms.” Conservative influencer Charlie Kirk was shot and killed Sept. 10 while speaking at an event at a university in Utah. A polarizing figure, social media is inundated with strong opinions, threats and half-truths concerning Kirk and his death. The state Commissioner of Education Anastasios Kamoutsas said he “will be conducting an investigation of every educator who engages in this vile,

See TEACHERS, Page 2A



Anastasios Kamoutsas, commissioner of the Florida Department of Education, shown in a file photo, wrote that educators who engage in “vile, sanctionable behavior” related to social media post regarding the Sept. 10 death of far right commentator will face an investigation.
TYLER ORSBURN/NEWS HERALD

