

14-year-old boy kills his parents in Collier County, FL

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Friends and relatives are stunned.

"It's like a daydream right now. You guys have got to be talking about someone else," said family friend Ray Tyler, 50.

Tyler said he has known the family for years and was helping with work around their house.

Alexander, the youngest of the couple's three children, "seemed like one of those little teenage kids that you want to keep an eye on," Tyler said.

He said that Thomas Craig told him that Alexander has "some problems, but all kids have problems."

Alexander's half brother, Nicholas Straight, 22, of Naples, was too upset to comment. "I don't want to talk, not today," he said.

Alexander's other half brother, Jonathan, 19, just graduated from Army basic training at Fort Jackson, Columbia, S.C."

All three boys "were sweethearts," said neighbor Kimberly West.

While she and others were dealing with the shock of the slayings, crime scene investigators and detectives worked late into the night Thursday gathering evidence, trying to find clues to give them more information about the murders.

"We believe we've recovered the weapon," Roberts said. He refused to say what kind of gun it is, or how many times the parents were shot.

The bodies were removed from the house by medical examiners after 7 p.m. An autopsy will be conducted to officially determine the cause and manner of the parents' deaths, Roberts said.

There was nothing on record with the sheriff's office to indicate there were problems at the Crain household, Roberts said.

He said deputies had never been called to the house before Thursday morning and Alexander did not have a local juvenile criminal record.

From appearances, the parents were an average, middle-class couple. Thomas Crain owned a screening and aluminum business where his wife worked as the secretary.

Perhaps evidence found at the scene, and interviews with friends and relatives, will help detectives figure out if the killings were planned or spontaneous, Roberts said.

"I've heard kids kill their parents if they're usually gang-related, drug-related, or money-related," Steyffeyles said.

What makes this case so unusual is that both parents were killed, Streyffeler said.

A child may kill one parent who is abusive toward the other as an act of protection, Streyffeler said.

Or a child may kill a parent as an act of self defense, she said.

_A kid killing a parent is sos in Collier County, FL

happened to her 14-year-old son, whom Alex tutored occasionally.

_I don_t understand why this happened,_ she said. _We were very close with the family. We_re all very

_Since then, I didn_t want my son around him,_ she said.

The family lived on a dead-end street of modest homes bordered by a canal on one side. Police tape still hung outside the house later in the day, and crime scene vans were outside. Records show the home where the shooting occurred was purchased in 2002.

Collier County Sheriff_s Office Criminal Investigation Division Capt. Chris Roberts couldn_t answer many