

GIFT BAGS

Piedmont groups collect sacks of toys for kids. 8A.

END PLANNING
Readers say what they'd do if they knew they had 1 week to live. 1B.

The Anniston Star

Saturday, December 15, 2012

A home-owned newspaper

75 cents

Police: Tractor tip leads to illegal weapons in Glencoe

BY TIM LOCKETTE

tlockette@annistonstar.com

A tip about a stolen tractor Thursday led Glencoe police to a cache of military equipment allegedly stolen from Anniston Army Depot.

Ryan Mayo, 31, and his girlfriend Denise Gilley, 39, are being held on charges of receiving stolen property after police found various items of military equipment, explosives and illegal firearms at their home on Edgar Road in Glencoe, not far from the Silver

Lakes area, Glencoe police Chief Jonathon Horton said.

Horton said police got a tip Thursday that a Kubota L3130 tractor at Mayo's residence might be stolen. When police went to investigate, they found that the tractor's serial number had been

filed off, Horton said. Police later traced the tractor back to Anniston, where a tractor theft had been reported earlier this year.

"We noticed there were trailers at the residence with lots of equipment — Weedeaters and lawnmowers," Horton said.

A neighbor of the tractor's owner later contacted Glencoe police to ask if they'd found a generator that went missing from his property, Horton said. The Calhoun County resident still had the

Please see EQUIPMENT | Page 7A

Graduates leave JSU with new goals

BY PAIGE RENTZ

prentz@annistonstar.com

JACKSONVILLE — As more than 630 graduates prepared to cross the stage Friday night to receive Jacksonville State University degrees, many were leaving the institution of learning on a much different path than when they began.

"I just realized that who I was four years ago is very different from the man I am today," said Zachary Nichols, a 23-year-old from Atlanta who received a bachelor's degree in criminal justice during the first of two commencement ceremonies at Pete Mathews Coliseum on Friday. But now that he's a college graduate, Nichols is already looking to his next degree—a master's in international relations. He hopes to study abroad, perhaps in Spain to improve his foreign language skills, or maybe England or Germany to pick up a third language.

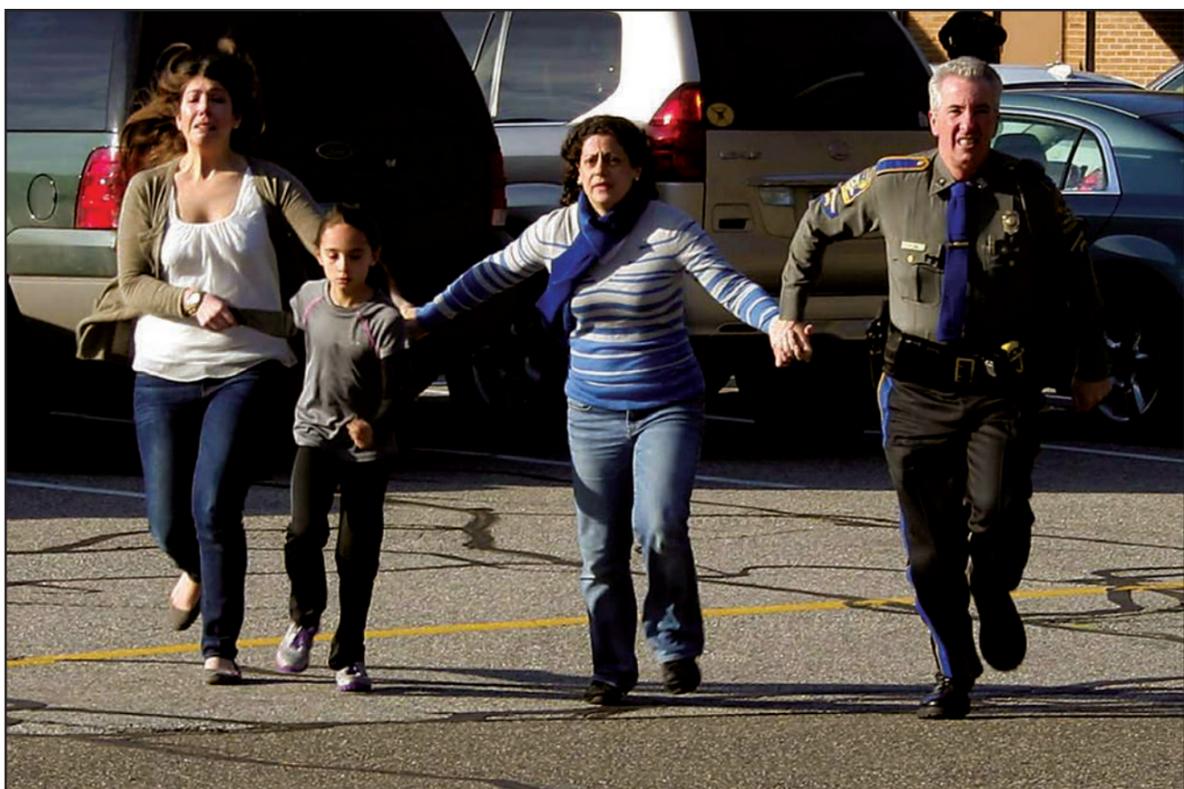
Eventually, he said, he would love to do ambassadorial or humanitarian work.

He said his huge shift in focus has been the result of JSU's International House program.

"I've met people from all over the world. I've traveled the world," he said, "... and those experiences made me want to change my career and perhaps be more of a global member of the world."

Please see GRADS | Page 7A

SENSELESS



Shannon Hicks/Newtown (Conn.) Bee

A police officer leads two women and a child from Sandy Hook Elementary School in Newtown, Conn., where a gunman killed 26 people Friday, including 20 children. BELOW: A woman hugs her daughter after being reunited following the massacre.

20 children among dead at Conn. school shooting

BY JOHN CHRISTOFFERSEN

Associated Press

NEWTOWN, Conn. — A man killed his mother at their home and then opened fire Friday inside the elementary school where she taught, massacring 26 people, including 20 children, as youngsters covered in fear to the sound of gunshots reverberating through the building and screams echoing over the intercom.

The 20-year-old killer, carrying at least two handguns, committed suicide at the school, bringing the death toll to 28, authorities said.

The rampage, coming less than two weeks before Christmas, was the nation's second-deadliest school shooting, exceeded only by the Virginia Tech massacre that left 33 peo-

ple dead in 2007.

"Our hearts are broken today," a tearful President Barack Obama, struggling to maintain his composure, said at the White House. He called for "meaningful action" to prevent such shootings. "As a country, we have been through this too many times," he said.

Police shed no light on the motive for the attack. The gunman, Adam Lanza, was believed to suffer from a personality disorder and lived with his mother, said a law enforcement official who was briefed on the investigation but was not authorized to discuss it.

Panicked parents looking for their children raced to Sandy Hook Elementary School in Newtown, a

Please see SHOOTING | Page 3A



Frank Becerra Jr./Associated Press

'We're not very different from any other town'



Charles Krupa/Associated Press

Mourners embrace Friday night outside St. Rose of Lima Roman Catholic Church in Newtown, Conn.

Heartache unites shaken Conn. community

BY CHRISTOPHER SULLIVAN

Associated Press

NEWTOWN, Conn. — At the crossroads that marks the center of this three-century-old New England postcard town stands a flagpole that's a kind of barometer. Every day, says Susan Osborne White, who has lived here all her life, "it tells me which way the wind is blowing" — and she calls the local newspaper whenever the flag is lowered to half-staff, to ask why.

No one is asking that now as the flag forlonly hangs over a heartbroken, uncomprehending town.

Along streets where every window twinkles with holiday candles, police sirens wailed Friday. Over horse pastures in what was until fairly recently

a rural town, helicopters' rotors thudded. In shops, televisions set to news stations blared.

Gesturing at a TV image of the shooting scene behind him at Newtown Hardware, Kyle Watts gave a pained cry, "I know that place," and shook his head. He's 18 and had gone to Sandy Hook Elementary School, and yet he and others working at the store felt they hardly knew where they were.

"A week or two ago," he said in disbelief, "we had the Christmas tree lighting. There was singing."

In normal times, this is a place that marks the year with a community tree lighting, an endless Labor Day parade

Please see NEWTOWN | Page 3A

Coming Monday at AnnistonStar.com

PATH FORWARD

McClellan's next big road project is already under way and may be the path to more jobs.



WEATHER, 4A



RAIN CHANCE
HIGH: 64 LOW: 54

Reyna Esteban
C. E. Hanna Elementary

INDEX

Classifieds 2D
Comics 4B
Community 1D
Editorial 6A
Lottery 2A

OBITUARIES, 5B

Brittney "Tha Boss" Bonner, Oxford
LTC Donald E. Cunningham, U.S. Army (ret.), Jacksonville
Carla Michele Cook Fuqua, Piedmont
Hilda Winette Gravette Haynes, Oxford
John Harlin Yates, Woodland

Vol. 132, No. 350
(USPS 026-440)



6 66000 11111 7