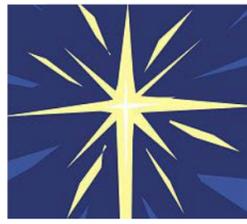




SPORTS IC
ALL-STAR PREVIEW
Clash could be a defensive one



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SCHOOL SHOOTING

HORRIFYING



Connecticut State Police lead a line of children from the Sandy Hook Elementary School in Newtown, Conn., on Friday. A gunman killed 26 in the school. SHANNON HICKS/AP/NEWTOWN BEE

Reassuring children now is critical

By Teri Greene
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Parents living far from Newtown, Conn., the site of Friday's school shooting, still have a difficult task in reassuring their children in the era of constant news coverage.

One thing they can do immediately is limit a child's exposure to the event, said Suzanne Satcher, lower school counselor at Trinity Presbyterian School in Montgomery.

"We give our children a lot more information than they need to know or are even developmentally able to handle," said Satcher, who works with very young children and has a 10-year old son. "Definitely keep the news off, un-

See COPING » 2A



A woman waits to hear about her sister, a teacher, after Friday's shooting in Newtown, Conn. JESSICA HILL/AP

PAGES 2A & 9A
Full coverage of tragedy, including President Obama's reaction

Man kills 26 in school, including 20 children

By John Christoffersen
Associated Press

NEWTOWN, Conn. — A man opened fire Friday inside two classrooms at the Connecticut elementary school where his mother was a teacher, killing 26 people, including 20 children.

The 20-year-old killer, carrying two handguns, committed suicide at the school, and another person was found dead at a second scene, bringing the toll to 28, authorities said.

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

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 people dead in 2007.

Panicked parents looking for their children raced to Sandy Hook Elementary School in Newtown, a prosperous community of about 27,000 people 60 miles northeast of New York City.

Youngsters at the kindergarten-through-fourth-grade school were told to close their eyes by police as they were led from the building.

Schoolchildren — some crying, others looking frightened — were escorted through a parking lot in a line, hands on

See SHOOTING » 2A

WEATHER 10A

Sun, then clouds;
mild tonight.
High 69; Low 58



Bridge	9C
Classified	8C
Horoscopes	9C
Lotteries	3B
Nation/World	3A
Obituaries	2C
Puzzles	9C
Sudoku	3D

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ALABAMA STATE UNIVERSITY

Gov. Bentley announces forensic audit

Birmingham firm's examination 'will help provide transparency'

By Brian Lyman
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Gov. Robert Bentley has engaged a Birmingham auditor to conduct a forensic audit of Alabama State University, rattled

in recent weeks by shifts in leadership and allegations of improper contracts.

The ASU board of trustees, of which Bentley is a member, had already requested the Montgomery firm of Warren Averett LLC to conduct an audit. In a release from his office Friday afternoon, Bentley said while he supported the continuation of that audit, he believed having Forensic Strategic Solutions also do a forensic audit was in "the best interest of Ala-

bama State and all of us who love this university."

"Recently, many people have expressed concerns about contracts and other matters surrounding the university," Bentley said in the statement. "The students, faculty, staff and alumni of ASU, and all the people of this state, deserve transparency."

A forensic audit is an audit that can describe an individual

See ASU » 3A

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