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Conn. town in shock after school shooting

WAITING: A woman waits to hear about her sister, a teacher, following a shooting Friday at the Sandy Hook Elementary School in Newtown, Conn., where authorities say a gunman opened fire, leaving 26 people dead, including 20 children.



The Associated Press

Shooter kills mother, then 26 at school, including 20 children

JOHN CHRISTOFFERSEN
The Associated Press

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

The 20-year-old killer, carrying 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 people 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 on two classrooms. The gunman was believed to suffer from a personality disorder and lived with his mother, said a law enforcement official who was briefed

SHOOTING, PAGE 6A



The Associated Press

TRIAGE: This aerial photo shows a triage area set up at the Sandy Hook fire station in Newtown, Conn., near where authorities say a gunman opened fire inside Sandy Hook Elementary School in a shooting on Friday.



The Associated Press

SAFETY: In this photo provided by the Newtown Bee, Connecticut State Police lead children from the Sandy Hook Elementary School in Newtown, Conn., following a shooting there on Friday.

Man shot in head during home invasion robbery

STEVEN MROSS
The Sentinel-Record

Hot Springs police are still investigating a reported home invasion that occurred late Thursday in which one man was shot in the head, but is expected to recover.

Officers responded to 209 Ridge One Circle near Belvedere Country Club shortly before 10:30 p.m. in reference to a shooting that had just occurred and spoke to the grandson, Allen Howard, of the homeowner, who told them his grandfather, Robert Gossage, 72, had been shot, HSPD Cpl. McCrary

Means said Friday.

Howard stated he was visiting his grandparents when someone rang the door bell. When his grandmother answered the door, two unknown suspects, both dressed all in black and wearing ski masks, forced their way and made Howard and his grandmother lay on the floor.

One of the suspects went into the bedroom where Gossage was in the bed and Howard states he heard a single gunshot and "rambling" from in the room. After the suspects fled the residence, he went into the

INVASION, PAGE 3A

OPEN HOUSE



The Sentinel-Record/Mara Kuhn

Arkansas School for Mathematics, Sciences, and the Arts' choir and choir director, Deleen Davidson, perform during the school's open house event on Thursday. ASMSA officials and students shared their experiences and information about the residential high school. Thursday's open house was the culmination of the school's roadshow campaign to provide more information about ASMSA throughout Arkansas and the Hot Springs community.

Districts ask high court to eye new information

SARAH D. WIRE
Arkansas Democrat-Gazette

LITTLE ROCK — Arguing that the state didn't accurately define the amount of money needed to provide an adequate education, two school districts that recently won a funding case asked the Arkansas Supreme Court to consider new information Friday.

On Nov. 29, the Court ruled in a 4-3, decision that the state cannot force wealthier school districts to surrender property-tax revenue to subsidize poorer districts.

The attorney general's office has said it will file a brief Monday asking the court to reconsider or clarify its decision.

The school district's motion, submitted to the court clerks late Friday afternoon, asks the court to take Judicial Notice of Adjudicative Facts. These are facts which are facts from reliable sources that are not in dispute. Arkansas Rules of Evidence states "judicial notice may be taken at any stage of the proceeding."

DISTRICTS, PAGE 9A

Judge rules no encroachment on NPS property

JIM NEWSOM
The Sentinel-Record

U.S. District Judge Robert T. Dawson ruled Friday that a .04-acre sliver

of land at 130 Forest Hills Trail on which James and Juliann Williams built a potting shed does not encroach on Hot Springs National Park.

According to federal court documents, the Williamses filed the suit to prevent the land, which is valued at about \$1,000, from becoming part

of the national park.

The National Park Service contended that the Williamses en-

RULING, PAGE 3A



The Sentinel-Record/Richard Rasmussen

DISCUSSING CONCERNS: Arkansas State Highway and Transportation Department representative Don Nichols, left, listens as Bob Cash, who owns property in the Park Avenue area, voices his concerns Thursday about potential highway work on Park Avenue.

Residents give ideas for Park Avenue project

DON THOMASON
The Sentinel-Record

Roundabouts, extension of the King Expressway, and better access to Hot Springs seemed to dominate the needs for Park Avenue from Central Avenue to Highway 5 during a public input session with highway officials Tuesday evening.

Hosted by the Arkansas State Highway and Transportation Department at the Tower of Strength Ministries on Park Avenue, the meeting was the first in a project to study the area's needs.

Paul Simms, with the AHTD

Planning and Research Division, said the department does not have any definite plans for the project right now.

"This is the first public meeting for the study and during the course of this meeting we hope to hear from residents regarding what they want, what they are interested in, what some of the problems are, that sort of thing," he said.

Julie Hart, also with the Planning and Research Division, said the study should be completed in June.

"This is very early in the process," Simms said. "Once planning gets done,

the environmental work has to be done, then design, right of way acquisition, that sort of thing."

Simms said all options, including widening the highway, "are on the table at this point."

"But we want to hear what the local residents want to see," he said.

"If local citizens have any idea about how they would like to see the road built, this is what this (meeting) is for, to collect those ideas, or if there are any problems we need to be made aware of that we can find out about on the front end," said Tim Baber, resident engineer.

"But we're asking for the citizens' input before we really get heavy into design," Baber said.

"My idea of what they can do is repave it, but there's a funnel here and if they make it wider, they can't do anything about that little throat," said state Sen. Bill Sample, R-District 19, who lives on Highway 7 north of the area under consideration.

"To me the best way to spend the money is to build the bypass out," he said.

Plans to extend the King Ex-

PROJECT, PAGE 3A



CLOUDY WITH A CHANCE OF SHOWERS. HIGHS IN THE 60S. LOWS IN THE MID 40S.
SUNRISE: 7:12 A.M.
SUNSET: 5:03 P.M.



SUNDAY:
HIGH 66° LOW 39°
MONDAY:
HIGH 58° LOW 38°

Arts, etc. 5B
Classified 1-6C
Sports 1-4B
Features, etc. 7C
FYI 2A

Index
Lifestyles 5A
Obituaries 9A
Stocks 9B
Viewpoints 8A
Religion 6-8B

Subscriber of the Day

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