



# NOWHERE IS SAFE

## Gunman kills 26 — mostly children — at Connecticut school

Police: No motive yet for man who killed self after rampage

By John Christoffersen  
ASSOCIATED PRESS

NEWTOWN, Conn. — A man killed his mother at their home and then opened fire Friday inside an elementary school, massacring 26 people, including 20 children, as youngsters cowered 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 claimed 33 lives in 2007.

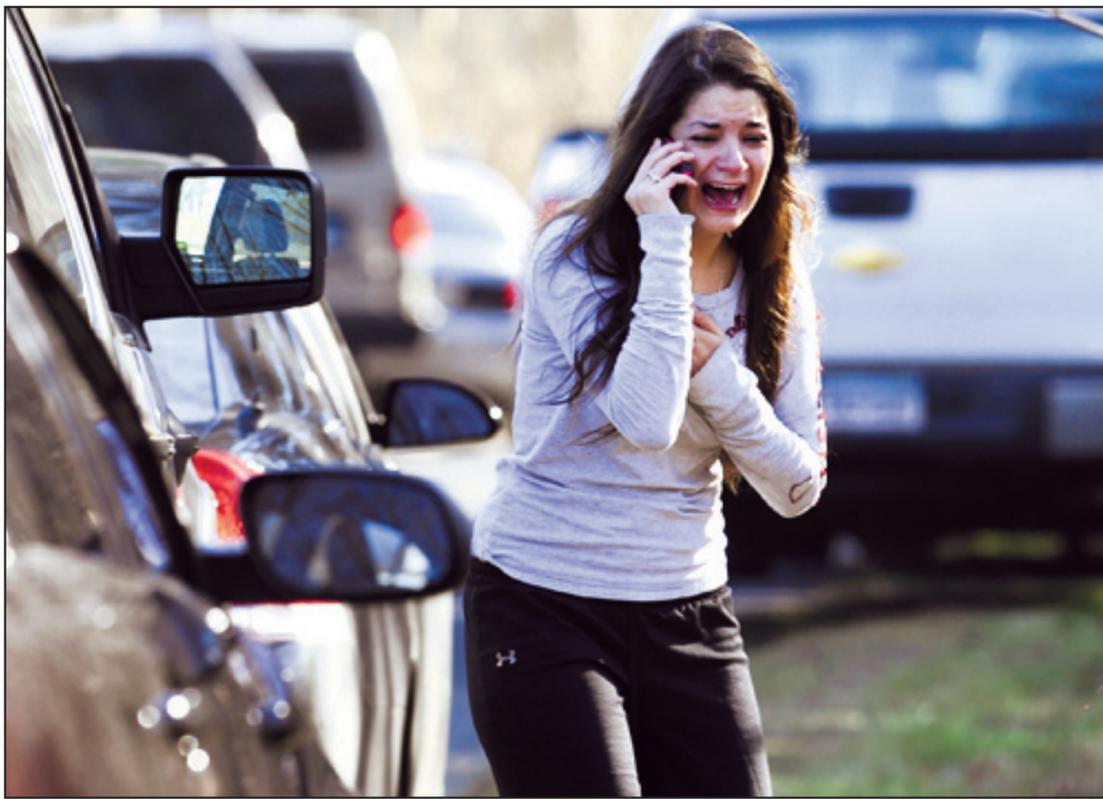
"Our hearts are broken today," a tearful President Barack Obama, struggling to maintain his composure, said at the White House. He called for "meaningful action" to prevent such shootings, saying, "As a country, we have been through this too many times."

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 in Newtown, a prosperous New England community of about 27,000 people 60 miles northeast of New York City. Police told youngsters at the kindergarten-through-fourth-grade school to close their eyes as they were led from the building so that they wouldn't see the blood and broken glass.

Schoolchildren — some crying, others looking frightened — were escorted through a parking lot in a line, hands on each other's shoulders.

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

ASSOCIATED PRESS PHOTOGRAPHS

Lodi, Galt schools weighing response after massacre

By Sara Jane Pohlman  
NEWS-SENTINEL STAFF WRITER

Local school districts are still deciding the best way to address the news of the shooting deaths at a Newtown, Conn., school on Friday morning and what impact it may have on Lodi and Galt schools.

Galt Joint Union Elementary School District Superintendent Karen Schauer sent out a telephone message to her students and their families.

Schauer assured families that events like Friday's shooting are isolated, and students should feel safe at school.

"I want to assure you that we proactively cooperate with the Galt Police (Department) to ensure safe schools. Given this terrible event, we will revisit safety and security procedures with the Galt police. The Galt police will provide added police presence around our schools next week, as well," said Schauer in the message.

Additionally, trained staff will be available on Monday to counsel students who might be troubled by this event.

In Lodi, school board president Ralph Womack said he has been in communication with Superintendent Cathy Nichols-Washer, planning a course of action to support students next week.

"We've been thinking about the impact on Lodi students all day, and still deciding what the best way is to deal with the news for Lodi schools, just like every other district in the nation right now," said Womack.

Contact reporter Sara Jane Pohlman at sarap@lodi-news.com.

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President Obama: 'Our hearts are broken today.'



Above: Connecticut State Police lead a line of children from the Sandy Hook Elementary School in Newtown, Conn. on Friday after a mass shooting at the school. Right: A young girl cries following the shooting in Newtown, Conn., about 60 miles northeast of New York City. A gunman killed 26 people, including 20 children, in the shooting before killing himself.

NEWTOWN BEE/SHANNON HICKS, ASSOCIATED PRESS



### AN ACCIDENTAL CONNECTION

## Erroneous email links Acampo school to girl with brain tumor

Ripon girl receiving treatment in S.F. to get gifts from class

By Jennifer Bonnett  
NEWS-SENTINEL STAFF WRITER

Have you ever received an email in error that wasn't addressed to you?

Little did teacher and long-time Lodi resident David Phelps know after he read the message in his inbox that it would change the lives of his students and a girl they've never met.

Riley Simmons had a large brain tumor — between her cerebellum and brain stem — removed this week. She just turned 9 and lives in Ripon, although she's currently housed in the Pediatric Intensive Care Unit at UCSF Children's Hospital in San Francisco.

Phelps didn't know her or

#### LETTER AT A GLANCE

Dear Simmons family,

My name is David Phelps, and I am a fifth-grade teacher at Oak View School in Acampo. I received your forwarded emails about Riley by accident, as I think they were to go to a different "Phelps" listed on the San Joaquin County Office of Education email phonebook.

I went ahead and read about Riley, and then I told my class about her and her situation. They decided, virtually unanimously, to cancel the Christmas gift exchange that we usually do in my class and take whatever monies they would have spent to give some kind of gift to Riley.

My question to you is: Do you have a suggestion for a gift that we can get for Riley? We, obviously, don't know Riley or what kinds of things that she likes or is interested in, but we would like to get her something that she would enjoy. Or, per-

haps, is there something that she really needs?

If you could give me some ideas, I would appreciate it. Also, if you would be able to get back to me as soon as possible, that would be very helpful, as I would like to get a letter out to my parents ASAP to explain to them what the class has decided to do.

Our last day of school before Christmas break is Wednesday, Dec. 19, so we would need to collect the money from the students before then.

I hope this is something that we can do for Riley, as I think that it is good for the students to think of others instead of themselves, as they have decided to do, and it would be nice to let Riley know that there is an entire class of fifth-graders who don't even know her who are pulling for her. Thanks for your help!

Sincerely,  
Dave Phelps, fifth-grade teacher

her family until he received the incorrectly addressed email.

Still, the misdirected email has resulted in an outpouring of selflessness by his fifth-

grade class at Oak View Elementary School in Acampo. The students decided to scrap their annual gift exchange and use the money to buy something special for Riley.

"I thought, 'Oh, here's another one for Dana Phelps,' but I happened to look at it. It was an update on what was

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### SHOULD LODI HAVE COUNCIL DISTRICTS?

## Community activist wants change on ballot

By Maggie Creamer  
NEWS-SENTINEL STAFF WRITER

For many years, community activist Jane Lea said she has felt that some Lodi City Council members have ignored the Eastside, not been responsive to concerns in the aging neighborhoods and often avoided that section of town.



LEA

"I find that disturbing that as a council member you do not drive around the town that you represent," she said.

At the Lodi City Council swearing-in ceremony on Dec. 5, Lea stood before the council

and requested the city consider electing council members by district.

"The police department divides the city up into quadrants. Our Congress, Assembly and Senate representatives are divided up by districts. Why is it so crazy to do that in the city of Lodi?" she said.

Currently, people can live anywhere in Lodi and run for council. Lea said her plan would lead to greater representation for low-income residents, more diversity and might decrease the cost of elections.

She suggests the city be divided by population and socioeconomic status, so districts have both rich and poor residents in them.

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