



AXEL KOESTER

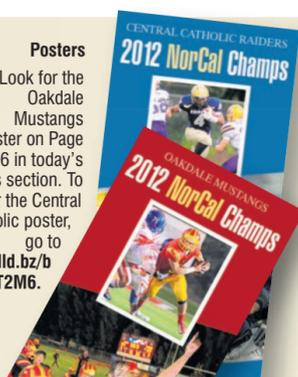
Central Catholic's Ray Lomas, left, was the first to touch the title trophy.

Central Wins Title

INSIDE TODAY: STATE CHAMPS

There was no question who the best Division 4 team in the state was Friday night. Central Catholic defeated Santa Fe Christian 66-7 for the CIF State Championship, becoming the first school in the Modesto city limit to win a high school state football title. For more on the story, see Page C-1.

Posters
Look for the Oakdale Mustangs poster on Page C-6 in today's Sports section. To order the Central Catholic poster, go to <http://dld.bz/bT2M6>.



Today
Division 2: Oakdale (14-1) vs. Serra of Gardena (13-2), 4 p.m.
Online
Get updated scores by following Brian VanderBeek on Twitter @modestobeeek. For photos and more after the game, go to www.modbee.com/hsfootball.

The Modesto Bee

modbee.com

SATURDAY, DECEMBER 15, 2012

PRICE 75¢

'As a country, we have been through this too many times' — President Barack Obama

School massacre kills 26

20 elementary students among shooter's victims

BY JOHNN CHRISTOFFERSEN
The 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 covered in fear to the sound of gunshots reverberating through the building and screams echoing over the intercom.

The 20-year-old killer, carried 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, which 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



SHANNON HICKS/NEWTOWN BEE

SEE BACK PAGE, SHOOTING State police lead children from Sandy Hook Elementary School in Newtown, Conn., on Friday. A gunman shot up the school, then killed himself.



JESSICA HILL/THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

A woman waits to hear about her sister, a teacher at the school.

Accused is recalled as 'socially awkward'

BY DAVID M. HALBFINGER
The New York Times

He carried a black briefcase to his 10th-grade honors English class and sat near the door so he could slip in and out. When called upon, he was intelligent but nervous and fidgety, spitting his words out, as if having to speak up were painful.

Pale, tall and scrawny, Adam Lanza walked through high school in Newtown, Conn., with his hands glued to his sides, the pens in the pocket of his short-sleeved, button-down shirts among the few things his classmates recalled about him. He did all he could to avoid attention, it



THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

seemed. Until Friday. Authorities say Lanza, 20, wearing combat gear, carried out one of the deadliest school shootings in the nation's history, killing 20 children and six adults at an elementary school. He then apparently turned his gun on himself. Earlier in the day, police said, he also killed his mother.

Lanza left few footprints, electronic or otherwise. He apparently had no Facebook page, unlike his older brother, Ryan, a Hoboken, N.J., resident who for several

■ Massacre revives debate over gun control and the role of firearms in American society. **Page A-6**

■ Tips for talking to children about the tragedy. **Page A-6**

➔ For more on the shooting, go to www.modbee.com.

SEE BACK PAGE, PROFILE

Homeless to get cell phones under program expansion

BY CYNTHIA HUBERT
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California's homeless soon will have easier access to one of society's modern conveniences: the cell phone.

The federal Lifeline program, which provides affordable land-line and cell phone service to the poor, has expanded its service to include the homeless.

The expansion, approved last week by the California Public Utilities Commis-

sion, undoubtedly will be controversial, officials acknowledged. But backers said they believe it will improve the quality of life for millions of Californians.

"In this day and age, having access to communications is not a luxury," said Jayne Wallace, whose company, Assurance Wireless, will organize phone distribution in the state. "Having a cell phone can make a huge difference in the lives of many people."

Assurance Wireless is an arm of the telephone company Sprint.

The logistics of how and when cell

phones will be distributed have not been worked out, but the program could be in place as early as the first of the year.

That was good news Friday for the homeless men and women eating lunch at The Salvation Army's Modesto Citadel Corps. They could use the cell phones to stay in touch with family, access services, find work and stay safe.

"If you can't buddy up, people see you as a single woman on the street, you're a victim," said Lisa Pajarillo, 43, as she finished her lunch of pizza, green beans, chili and cling peaches.

Ken Hopper, 45, said he would feel safer if he had a cell phone.

"I sleep out on the streets," he said. "If I had a phone, then I could access help. That's one of the main reasons to have a phone."

Both said a cell phone would make it easier to stay in touch with family.

"When you're out here," Pajarillo said, "... you lose contact."

Pajarillo and Hopper said they now use the phones at hospitals, social service agen-

SEE BACK PAGE, PHONES

Weather



Chance of rain
50 / 38
Complete forecast, Page B-6

Thanks for reading The Bee!

To report a late or missing paper, call 1-800-776-4233

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E1 WEEKEND

There still are a few Christmas shows and events around the region that will take us right up to the big day.

Inside Saturday

B1 LOCAL

Community members come together after a senior center's holiday decorations are stolen in the night.

A10 WORK & MONEY

Gas prices may soon drop to their lowest of the year. By Monday, the national average should fall below \$3.28 a gallon.



A3 CALIFORNIA

Responding to harsh criticism, UC stops using its controversial new logo, at left.

dealsaver™ TODAY'S DEAL

Billiards, air hockey and other games are family fun. Get this deal today at dealsaver.com/modesto. See ad on Page A-3.

B1 LOCAL

The annual almond board conference has left Modesto, but the crop is still huge in Stanislaus County.

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