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TRIBUNE



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MOTHER KILLED
Gunman shot parent at home before attack on school

SOCIAL DISORDER
Brother described the shooter as 'somewhat autistic'

SECOND-DEADLIEST
Attack is the worst at a school since the 2007 Virginia Tech shootings

NATION GRIEVES
'Our hearts are broken today,' president says in address

ONLINE
For continuing coverage of the school shooting, go to our website.

'SHEER TERROR'



Shannon Hicks Newtown (Conn.) Bee

A Connecticut State Police officer leads children through a parking lot at Sandy Hook Elementary School in Newtown, Conn., after a mass shooting took place there Friday morning.

28 die — including 20 children — as gunman opens fire at elementary school after killing his mother at their home

By Juliette Funes and Maritza Velazquez, Staff Writers

Local school district officials and parents said Friday they were devastated by a mass shooting at a Connecticut elementary school that left 20 children and six adults dead.

And while officials say they will do everything they can to prepare for emergencies — including conducting active-shooter training and lockdown drills — it's almost impossible to stop a tragedy like the one that took place in Connecticut.

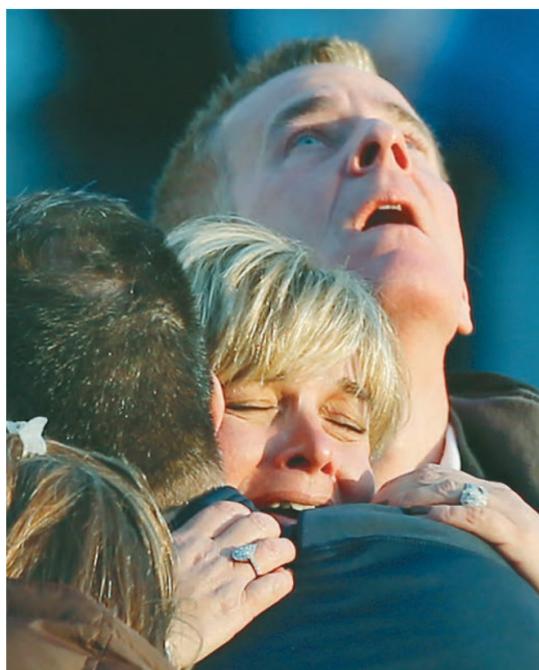
"I don't think you can look at this kind of event and not feel

for this community and what they're going through," West Covina Unified School District Superintendent Debbie Kaplan said.

"In our schools, we practice emergency drills. We practice lockdowns. You practice all of these things in the event of something like this if it happens, but I don't think you're ever prepared or ready to cope with something like this."

The Associated Press and local media reported that the 20-year-old male lone gunman opened fire inside Sandy Hook Elementary School in Newtown, Conn.

SCHOOLS A4



Adrees Latif Reuters

Families of victims grieve near the elementary school after learning of their children's fate.

MASSACRE: Attacker hits two classrooms, then kills himself.

From Wire Services

NEWTOWN, Conn. — Twenty schoolchildren were slaughtered by a heavily armed gunman who opened fire at a suburban elementary school in Connecticut on Friday morning, killing at least 27 people including himself in the one of the worst mass shootings in U.S. history.

The 20-year-old gunman, who law enforcement sources identified as Adam Lanza, fired what witnesses described as dozens of shots at Sandy Hook Elementary School in Newtown, Conn., which serves children from ages 5 to 10.

Authorities found 18 children and seven adults, including the gunman, dead at the school, and two children were pronounced dead later after being taken to a hospital.

The shooter's mother was found dead at her home, as well.

The rampage, coming less

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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.

SHOOTING A4

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