

THE TRIBUNE

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SAN LUIS OBISPO COUNTY, CALIFORNIA

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'There's no words. It's sheer terror, a sense of imminent danger, to get to your child and be there to protect him.'

— Richard Wilford, whose 7-year-old son survived the mass shooting

26 DEAD AT CONN. SCHOOL

THE GUNMAN: Honors student, 20, apparently suffered from a personality disorder

THE RESPONSE: Obama calls for 'meaningful action' to prevent future shootings

THE VICTIMS: Most of those killed were children between the ages of 5 and 10



ASSOCIATED PRESS PHOTOS

Connecticut State Police lead children from the Sandy Hook Elementary School in Newtown, Conn., on Friday after a shooting at the school.

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. "As a country, we have been through this too many times," he said.

Police shed no light on the motive for the attack.

Please see SHOOTING, A9

'I can't imagine who would do this to our poor little babies'

Parents and the community of Newtown are stunned by horrific slaughter at school

By PETER APPLEBOME AND MICHAEL WILSON
The New York Times

NEWTOWN, Conn. — Gradually, the group of anxious parents shrank and was gently ushered to wait in a back room in the old brick firehouse around the corner from Sandy Hook Elementary School.

The sounds of cartoons playing for other people's children came from another room, but this room was hushed. A police officer entered the room and put the parents' worst fears into words: Their children were gone. The wails that followed could be heard from outside.

The wails sounded the end of a horrifying shooting that took the lives of 20 children and six adults in the school.

It was about 9:30 a.m.,

when the school locks its doors to the outside world, demanding identification from visitors. What happened next sounded different depending on where you were in the school when a normal school day exploded.

Pops. Bangs. Thundering, pounding booms that echoed, and kept coming and coming. Screams and the cries of children ebbed, until there was only the gunfire.

Countless safety drills learned over generations kicked in. Teachers sprang to their doors and turned the locks tight. Children and adults huddled in closets, crawled under desks and crouched in classroom corners.

Laura Feinstein, a reading support teacher, reached for her telephone. "I called the



SOURCE: ESRI AP

office and said, 'Barb, is everything OK?' and she said, 'There is a shooter in the building.'

"I heard gunshots going on and on and on," Feinstein said.

Even in the gym, the loudest room in any school on a given day, something sounded very wrong.

"Really loud bangs," said Brendan Murray, 9, who was there with his fourth-grade

Please see SCENE, A9



Parents walk with their children past police and firefighters away from Sandy Hook Elementary School.

MORE COVERAGE INSIDE

Shooter: Gunman, 20, described as intelligent but fidgety. **Page A3**
Firearms: Tragedy puts gun control back in the spotlight. **Page A4**
Opinion: The country would be safer with fewer guns. **Page B4**

LOCAL REACTION

Teachers reassure county kids

By CYNTHIA LAMBERT AND BOB CUDDY
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As his students completed their final exam in AP European history Friday morning, one Arroyo Grande High School history teacher tried to come to grips with the shocking news of a mass shooting at an elementary school on the other side of the country.

The students, having just started their test when the news broke, hadn't heard yet of the killings. But Jim Gregory, a longtime teacher with the Lucia Mar school district, wanted to break the news as gently as possible.

Gregory put together a slide, which he showed

Please see REACTION, A9

Plea deal in the works for Paso man in DUI fatal

Eric Luth, 21, is charged in case that left a passenger, 19, dead on New Year's Day

By PATRICK S. PEMBERTON
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Attorneys will discuss a possible plea next month in the case of a Paso Robles man charged in a New Year's Day crash that killed a 19-year-old passenger.

Eric Luth, 21, was supposed to appear in court for

a preliminary hearing Thursday. But he waived his right to the hearing, and a pre-plea report was ordered in the case. Such reports, which summarize cases, are used to negotiate a possible plea.

Police said Luth was driving under the influence

about 3 a.m. on Jan. 1 when he attempted to pass another vehicle on Linne Road in Paso Robles. As he was trying to pass the slower vehicle, he crashed into an oak tree. One of his passengers, Lester Lara, 19, a Cuesta College student from Paso Robles, was thrown from

the vehicle, which then landed on him. Lara was not wearing a seat belt.

Luth, who was hospitalized in critical condition after the accident, appeared to be in good health Thursday during his court appearance.

Please see DUI, A9

THE TWO-MINUTE TRIB: RETAIL TURNS SLUGGISH AFTER BLACK FRIDAY

TOP STORIES, Page B5

U.S. TROOPS ORDERED TO SYRIA-TURKEY BORDER

A Syrian woman, right, chants slogans against President Bashar Assad on Friday. The U.S. has ordered 400 personnel to the region. **Page A10**



POT USERS LOW ON FEDERAL PRIORITY LIST

President Barack Obama gives mixed signals about how the federal government will handle legalized marijuana. **Page A5**

EARLY HOLIDAY GIFT: PRICE OF GAS IS DOWN

Gasoline prices are down to \$3.75 in SLO County and could hit their lowest level of the year nationally next week. **Page B5**

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WEATHER AND TODAY'S INDEX



Partly to mostly cloudy today; a chance of showers Sunday. **More on S8**

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