

# The Gazette

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CONNECTICUT SHOOTINGS

## 26 die in rampage at grade school



THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Connecticut State Police lead a line of children from the Sandy Hook Elementary School in Newtown, Conn., on Friday after a shooting at the school. The deadliest rampage at a school in the U.S. was in 2007, when 33 were killed at Virginia Tech.

## 20 kids shot dead; Obama wants 'meaningful action'

BY JOHN CHRISTOFFERSEN  
The Associated Press

**NEWTOWN, CONN.** • A man killed his mother at their home and then opened fire Friday inside an elementary school, killing 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

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TRAUMA



THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Hundreds stand outside St. Rose of Lima Roman Catholic Church during a Friday service held for victims of the shooting at Sandy Hook Elementary School in Newtown, Conn.

## Affects of tragedy ripple across country

Counselors say it's OK to talk about, not dwell on, shooting

BY KRISTINA IODICE  
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Even when tragedy strikes on the other side of the country, ripples are felt in Colorado.

Distant tragedy, trauma and death can trigger the same reactions as if they were personal experiences, said Kate Holbrook, Colorado College chaplain. The deadly school shooting Friday in Connecticut can remind people of traumas in their

TIPS FROM COUNSELORS

- Find out what kids know.
- Address all questions.
- Put tragedy into perspective.
- Don't dwell on news reports.

own life, she said, renewing grief and other emotions.

It also triggers questions, and can make people feel as if their life is

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PROSECUTION

## Mixed views on Obama's pot stance

Authorities are subdued, while advocates rejoice

Gazette and News Services

Local authorities and marijuana advocates greeted President Barack Obama's apparent hands-off stance on marijuana prosecution in states where it has been approved for recreational use with mixed reviews.

"Awesome," said an employee at one of Colorado Springs' medical marijuana dispensaries.

The Colorado Springs Police Department and El Paso County Sheriff's Office were a little more subdued.

"Now that possession of less than an ounce is legal, as well as growing six plants, if we run across those, we will not pursue charges because it's legal and we will respect the wishes of the citizens and the constitution of Colorado," said Sgt. Joe Roybal, spokesman for the El Paso County Sheriff's Office.

In a department statement, Colorado Springs Police Chief Peter Carey takes a similar stance.

But the statement also notes that people still are not allowed to use marijuana in public or "in a way that endangers others." A summons could be issued for such violations, but it would be done under municipal regulations on possession of cannabis.

Obama said Friday that he is willing to consider relaxing federal enforcement of laws against marijuana for those who possess small amounts of the drug. He was reacting to new voter-approved laws in Colorado and Washington that permit recreational users to have an ounce of marijuana at home.

In Colorado, the change was given the green light by Gov. John Hickenlooper on Monday.

With officials and pot advocates looking for any sign of whether the Obama administration will sue to block legal pot laws in Washington state and Colorado or stand idly by as they are implemented, the statement left things a bit hazy.

While advocates welcomed Obama's comments that catching pot users was a low priority for his administration, they said it didn't answer a bigger question: Will federal prosecutors and drug agents also look the other way?

Luke Bonow, owner of Altitude Organic Medicine, a medical marijuana dispensary in Colorado Springs, said he is cautiously opti-

SEE POT • PAGE 6

INSIDE

The three-century-old New England town of Newtown was shattered Friday with the tragic shooting at the town's Sandy Hook Elementary. Residents are shocked and heartbroken by the loss, but are trying to pull together. **Page 3**

The principal of the Sandy Hook Elementary Dawn L. Hochsprung, 47, was fondly re-

membered after she was killed trying to protect the children she loved so much. **Page 3.**

Columbine High School principal Frank DeAngelis, who had to deal with tragedy at his school in 1999, offered his condolences to the families of the victims killed in the school shooting in Connecticut. **Page 3**

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WEATHER MORE ON A14



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