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MANATEE COUNTY'S NEWSPAPER SINCE 1922

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SCHOOL MASSACRE IN NEWTOWN, CONNECTICUT

'OUR HEARTS ARE BROKEN'

- 28 dead, including 20 children
- Flags ordered to half-staff by President Obama
- Shooter Adam Lanza, 20, also killed his mother, a teacher
- Names not yet released



State police personnel lead children from the Sandy Hook Elementary School on Friday in this handout picture from the Newtown Bee, in Newtown, Conn. All public schools in Newtown were placed in lockdown on Friday following a shooting at the school which left 6 adults and 20 children dead. SHANNON HICKS/Newtown Bee/MCT

Survivors walked past scene with eyes closed

By MATTHEW KAUFFMAN
The Hartford Courant

NEWTOWN, Conn.—A lone gunman with a mind for destruction turned the idyllic Sandy Hook Elementary School in Newtown into a scene of horrific chaos and carnage Friday morning, killing 20 children and six adults, including the school's principal, in the worst shooting at a primary school in U.S. history.

The shooter also killed himself inside the school, authorities said, and his mother was later found dead at her home two miles away.

The shootings took place in two first-grade classrooms around 9:30 a.m., sources said, and one witness said

she believed as many as 100 rounds had been fired. All of the adults and 18 of the children were pronounced dead at the school. Two more students died at a hospital. A single victim was injured but not killed.

State police sources identified the shooter as 20-year-old Adam Lanza. When he was found — dead in a hallway of a self-inflicted gunshot wound — he was carrying his brother Ryan Lanza's identification, which initially led to confusion about his identity, police said.

Adam Lanza was dressed in black fatigues and had brought three weapons to the school, police sources



President Barack Obama wipes his eye as he speaks Friday about the elementary school shooting in Newtown, Conn., in the briefing room of the White House in Washington. CHARLES DHARAPAK/Associated Press



A woman comforts a young girl during a vigil service Friday for victims of the Sandy Hook Elementary shooting at St. Rose of Lima Roman Catholic Church in Newtown, Conn. ANDREW GOMBERT/Associated Press

Manatee schools review security following shooting

By ELIZABETH JOHNSON
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MANATEE — Hours after the elementary school slayings in Connecticut, Manatee County School officials met Friday afternoon to assess the possibility of local threats and review plans in place if a similar tragedy were to happen here.

"We did some things just to remind principals and assistant principals to review security and safety plans and be vigilant," said interim Superintendent David Gayler. "We have no reason to believe there is anything pointed at Manatee County. Other school districts across the United States are doing the same thing we're doing — just figuring out the 'whys' to determine if there is rea-

son to believe they should do something."

Police responded to the shootings at about 9:40 a.m. Friday at Sandy Hook Elementary in Newtown, Conn. Schools throughout the district and neighboring towns were locked down immediately for hours.

The incident, which claimed 27 lives, including 20 children, is the nation's second-deadliest school shooting after the Virginia Tech rampage that left 33 dead in 2007.

"What a horrible day. I'm in shock," said Margi Nanney, Manatee school district spokeswoman. "We have a lot of wonderful safety nets in place, but you can never be cautious enough. We do prepare for things like this."

MANATEE TO 8A

Stay in the know

Find multiple galleries from the shootings at Sandy Hook Elementary, more stories and watch for breaking news throughout the weekend at Bradenton.com.

5A | Manatee experts say parents should provide perspective

More coverage on the following inside pages:

7A | Scenes from throughout Friday's events in Newtown, Conn.

8A | The gunman: Adam Lanza, 20. Son of a teacher, honors student, killer?

9A | Newtown: A special town shattered by unspeakable tragedy

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