



Charlotte Sun



FPL SETTLEMENT UNDER FIRE

Public Counsel says the agreement is a bad deal for most. THE WIRE PAGE 3

SHOPPERS MAY SEE DISCOUNTS

If the holiday lull continues, expanded sales can be expected. THE WIRE PAGE 1

AN EDITION OF THE SUN
VOL. 120 NO. 350

AMERICA'S BEST COMMUNITY DAILY

SATURDAY DECEMBER 15, 2012

www.sunnewspapers.net \$1.00

Tragedy in Connecticut

More than 25, mostly children, killed in elementary school massacre

By **JOHN CHRISTOFFERSEN**
ASSOCIATED PRESS WRITER

NEWTOWN, Conn. — A man killed his mother at home and then opened fire Friday inside the elementary school where she taught, 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, carrying 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 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.

Police shed no light on the motive for the attack on two classrooms. The gunman, identified as 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

INSIDE

- The suspect is Adam Lanza, 20, the son of a teacher at the school where the shootings occurred, a law enforcement official said Friday.
- Connecticut school shooting revives gun debate.

• See THE WIRE

TRAGEDY | 12



AP PHOTOS

Above: In this photo provided by the Newtown Bee, Connecticut State Police lead children from Sandy Hook Elementary School in Newtown.

Left: A woman waits to hear about her sister, a teacher, following a shooting Friday at Sandy Hook Elementary School in Newtown, Conn., about 60 miles northeast of New York City.

Bush to accept plea deal in DUI hit and run

By **DREW WINCHESTER**
STAFF WRITER

Former Tampa Bay Rays minor league pitcher Matt Bush is expected to take a plea deal Tuesday in connection with the March DUI hit and run that caused severe injuries to motorcyclist Anthony Tufano.

Bush's attorney, Russell Kirshy, declined to comment on the details of the plea deal, but said Friday that after receiving all the discovery in the case, they felt like taking a deal was in Bush's best interest.

Bush, 26, has been held at the Charlotte County Jail — on a current bond of \$440,000 — since striking Tufano, now 73, on U.S. 41 in late March near the Port Charlotte Town Center mall. Bush allegedly ran over Tufano's head before fleeing the scene.

Bush was captured in North Port after an alleged daylong drinking binge that included him striking vehicles and knocking over a light pole in Venice, getting kicked out of the Emerald City Gentlemen's Club for jumping onstage and grabbing the

PLEA | 9



BUSH

Isles Yacht Club holds its annual boat-lighting

By **BRENDA BARBOSA**
STAFF WRITER

PUNTA GORDA ISLES — In 2005, Virginia natives Rob and Mary Frances Adair attended a few functions at the Isles Yacht Club, and soon were invited to become members.

"I didn't want to join because I thought people would be pretentious. I thought, 'Oh, I don't think this is for us. We're not yacht club people,'" Mary Frances recalled saying to her husband. "But that was short-lived, because people here are so gracious and warm and inviting. It turned out to be the best thing we did."

"We didn't even have a boat at the time," Rob remembered. "But that didn't matter. It's like belonging to an extended family."

The Adairs joined the well-established social club, and seven years later, not only are they



SUN PHOTO BY BRENDA BARBOSA

More than 200 people turned out to the Isles Yacht Club in Punta Gorda Thursday night to watch as some 45 boats simultaneously "flipped the switch" to reveal beautiful Christmas displays. Partygoers enjoyed the holiday spirit as a crisp, cool winter breeze graced Southwest Florida.

members, but they also own a boat — "it's really small," Rob said with a chuckle — that they enter

each year in the club's holiday boat-lighting celebration, a tradition that has spanned more than a

quarter of a century. Since 1987, the yacht

LIGHTING | 9



High 80 Low 60

Mostly sunny, 5 percent chance of rain.

Look inside for valuable coupons
This year's savings to date...
SUN COUPON VALUE METER
\$165,552

CALL US AT 941-206-1000



CHARLIE SAYS ...
Some days there are no words.