



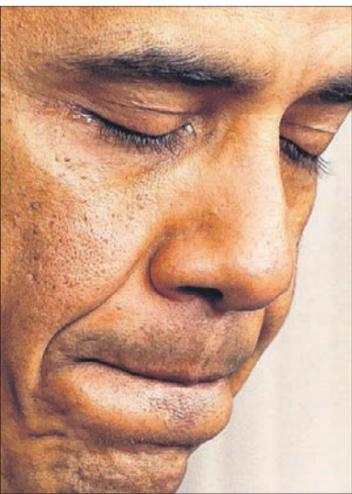
# 'SHEER TERROR'

**Gunman kills 27, including 20 elementary school students, before killing himself**  
**20-year-old kills schoolteacher mom at home; police shed no light on motive**



ASSOCIATED PRESS PHOTOS

In this photo provided by the Newtown Bee, Connecticut State Police lead a line of children from the Sandy Hook Elementary School in Newtown, Conn., on Friday after shootings at the school.



### The 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 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 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."

“They had their entire lives ahead of them; birthdays, graduations, weddings, kids of their own. Among the fallen were also teachers, men and women who devoted their lives to helping our children.”

President Barack Obama



**Above:** A woman waits to hear about her sister, a teacher, on Friday after the shootings.  
**Below:** Parents leave a staging area Friday after being reunited with their children.



### MORE INSIDE

School shooting revives gun debate; town shattered, **4A**  
Treasure Coast religious leaders to talk about shooting; shooter may have had mental disorder, **6A**

## Area educators assess their safety procedures

By Colleen Wixon  
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As news of the Newtown, Conn., school shooting spread across the country, Treasure Coast educators assessed their own procedures designed to keep children safe while in school.

Two parents called the Indian River County Schools Superintendent's

office asking whether schools were in lockdown, said Denise Roberts, director of risk management for the district. Neither Indian River, nor any other Treasure Coast district, went into lockdown.

St. Lucie County Schools Superintendent Michael Lannon sent a recorded message to all parents Friday night asking them to

See SAFETY, 5A

### Talking To Kids About Shootings

- Reassure children of their safety at school. Do not say a similar shooting will never happen here. Instead point out there are teachers and school staff who will help keep them safe.
- Encourage children to ask questions. You want the child to ask questions and not fill-in the blanks themselves.
- Be open and honest. If your child asks a question you don't know the answer to say, "I don't know."
- Families with children of different ages should make your answers age appropriate for each child. Remember children asks questions to help them understand death.
- If using religion to explain death, be clear and not use religious phrases such as, "God needed a little angel," because it may confuse children.
- Monitor how much TV your child and yourself watch about the shooting.

Source: Treasure Coast Hospice Director of Counseling and Social Services Jacki Nardone

## Online auction of former Digital Domain property pulls in \$400K

By Paul Ivce  
Special to Treasure Coast Newspapers

**PORT ST. LUCIE** — The online auction phase of Tradition Studios took longer than expected, but collected at least \$400,000.

"The turnout has been tremendous and the sales totals are right where we wanted them to be, so we consider it a very successful auction," said Nick Dove, director of sales for San Diego-based Heritage Global Partners,

Dove said there were 575 registered bidders in the 750-lot online phase, which started Thursday and concluded Friday. Auctions for individual lots began closing at 9 a.m., but the soft-close format automatically extended an auction five minutes after a bid, so some lots did not close until midafternoon.

He estimated that \$800,000 was spent in the first phase of the auction, which drew 350 registered bidders to Tradition

Studios and another 950 who registered and were watching on webcast.

The strong turnout helped push bid prices higher, Dove said.

A third auction, also entirely online, will begin Thursday and conclude Friday, though a complete list of items to be sold in that auction is not yet available. No sales are final until the auctions are approved by the U.S. Bankruptcy Court in Delaware.

People and businesses that bought items in the auctions were reluctant to discuss their purchases, but one of the biggest spenders was ITS Telecom, the fast-growing Indiantown-based data center and Internet service provider.

CEO Jeff Leslie said his team of bidders bought 20 to 30 lots that encompassed several thousand items.

He said the auction was serendipitous for ITS because

Digital Domain "used the same equipment as we do at our Tier 3 data center in Indiantown, so it worked very nicely for us."

Leslie said some items will be put into use immediately, but more of what ITS bought will be put away for future expansion.

While ITS did not spend close to \$1 million in the auction, Lesley said the value of the company's auction purchase could prove to be more than \$1 million.

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### WEATHER

77°/62°  
Rain: 20%  
8C

### COUNTING GOES ON IN ELECTION

First, there was the count upon count of votes in the District 18 U.S. House election on Nov. 6. Now, we count the costs of all that retabulating.

COMING SUNDAY

### NEARING THE FISCAL EDGE

What might happen if Congress, Obama don't reach a deal by January?

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