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# TALLAHASSEE DEMOCRAT

SATURDAY, DECEMBER 15, 2012

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| SCHOOL SHOOTING IN NEWTOWN, CONN. |

# HORRIFYING



Parents leave a staging area after being reunited with their children after a shooting at Sandy Hook Elementary School in Newtown, Conn., about 60 miles northeast of New York City, on Friday. JESSICA HILL/AP

## Shooter kills 26 at elementary school, 20 of them children, takes his own life

By John Christoffersen  
Associated Press

NEWTOWN, Conn. — A man opened fire Friday inside two classrooms at the Connecticut elementary school where his mother was a teacher, killing 26 people, including 20 children.

The 20-year-old killer, carrying two handguns, committed suicide at the school, and another person was found dead at a second scene, bringing the toll to 28, authorities said.

Police shed no light on the motive for the attack. The gunman was believed to suffer from a personality disorder and lived with his mother in Connecticut, said a law enforcement official who was briefed on the investigation but was not authorized to publicly discuss it.

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.

Panicked parents looking for their children raced to Sandy Hook Elementary School in Newtown, a

See SHOOTING » 2A



A young girl cries after the shooting at Sandy Hook Elementary. A gunman killed 20 children at the school. MELANIE STENGEL, THE NEW HAVEN REGISTER/AP

*“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, father of a 7-year-old student at Sandy Hook Elementary School

## Locals mourn in wake of tragedy

By Travis Pillow  
Florida Capital Bureau

In Tallahassee, and in towns across the country, thousands of parents hurried home Friday to hold their children a little closer.

They listened to the usual voices of reassurance — news anchors, the president of the United States — who choked on their words and wept.

More than a thousand miles away, 27 people were dead after a shooting at an elementary school in Newtown, Conn., most of them children younger than 10.

John Hunkiar, who oversees security operations in Leon County Schools, said he fielded phone calls throughout the afternoon.

He cataloged a long list of security measures — school resource officers, mandatory background checks for adults working on campus, required check-ins for visitors, safety drills, lock-down procedures

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### WEATHER

Today: 72  
Tonight: 55  
Rain: 10%

Full forecast » 6C



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