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## 20 children among 26 slain at Connecticut school MASSACRE OF INNOCENTS



By John Christoffersen  
 Associated Press

NEWTOWN, Conn. — A man killed his mother at their home and then opened fire Friday inside the elementary school where she taught, massacring 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. "As a country, we have been through this too many times," he said.

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 the kindergarten-through-fourth-grade school to close their eyes as they were led from the building so that they wouldn't see the blood and broken glass.

Schoolchildren — some crying, others looking frightened — were escorted through a parking lot in a line, hands on each other's shoulders.

Law enforcement officials speaking on condition of anonymity said that Lanza killed his mother, Nancy Lanza, and then

Jessica Hill/AP

A woman waits to hear about her sister, a teacher, following a shooting rampage at a school in Newtown, Conn., on Friday. • Suspect was honors student, A3.

See 20 CHILDREN on A4

## Governor offers reward in Athens murder

By Joe Johnson

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Gov. Nathan Deal this week authorized a \$1,000 reward for information that leads to the arrest and conviction of those responsible for the murder of an Athens man during a burglary of his Jefferson River Road residence.

Edward Davidson, 76, was shot and

### MAN KILLED DURING BURGLARY OF HIS HOME LAST MONTH

killed shortly before midnight on Nov. 26 by one of at least two intruders who kicked in his front door, Athens-Clarke police said.

The governor's reward adds to the local Crime Stoppers reward of up to \$1,000. Additionally, the Georgia Bureau

of Investigation recently announced it would contribute to the reward, but the amount would depend on the quality of information provided.

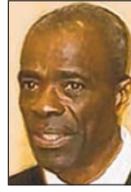
Troy Davidson said the \$500 that so far has been donated to the Edward Davidson Account — set up at a local

bank after his father was killed — would be given by his family to police to further increase the reward.

"We know there were at least two people involved in my dad's death, and we also know that people talk," Troy Davidson said.

"I feel that someone in the community

See GOVERNOR on A2



Edward Davidson was shot and killed in his home shortly before midnight on Nov. 26.

## HOLIDAY GIVING Fund aids woman who fell behind

Staff Reports

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Carol lost her job as a private caretaker for the elderly, which caused her to get behind on her bills. Although she's visually impaired, Carol has always been self-sufficient and has never taken government assistance or any other sort of financial aid.

After a local agency stepped in on her behalf, the Empty Stocking Fund was able to contribute more than \$250 toward Carol's mortgage.



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## PRIDE, JOY REIGN AT FALL COMMENCEMENT



Richard Hamm/Staff

Morgan Robinson, center, smiles as she flips her tassel during the University of Georgia's fall semester commencement ceremony Friday at Stegeman Coliseum.

By Lee Shearer

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Cameras flashed by the thousands Friday in the University of Georgia's Stegeman Coliseum, where more than 1,000 new UGA alumni covered the coliseum's floor in a sea of flowing black robes while about 9,000 friends and family watched.

Atlanta Falcons owner Arthur Blank, the graduation speaker, offered five pieces of advice to the graduates — more than half of the 1,800 eligible to participate in UGA's fall semester commencement.

"Be bold, even when circumstances fill you with self-doubt," said Blank, who bought the Atlanta football team in 2002 after retiring from the company he co-founded, Home Depot.

Blank said he and Home Depot co-founder Bernie Marcus decided to start their

See FALCONS on A3