



BUFORD WINS STATE

Wolves beat St. Pius for Class AAA title

1B

CONN. SCHOOL SHOOTING

Nation mourns after rampage

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

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A victim's family leave a firehouse staging area following a shooting at the Sandy Hook Elementary School in Newtown, Conn., on Friday.



Staff Photo: John Bohn

Former Atlanta Braves pitcher Tom Glavine signs autographs on a baseball and a cap for William Escalante, 5, as William's mother, Leigh Escalante, watches during the ninth annual Carter Martin Classic held at Providence Christian Academy on Friday. The event raises money to fund an experimental cancer treatment in honor of former Providence Christian Academy student Carter Martin. The Escalante family resides in Tucker.

Cops: Firefighter gets DUI with children in car

By TYLER ESTEP
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LAWRENCEVILLE — A Gwinnett County firefighter was arrested this week for allegedly driving under the influence with two young children in the car.

Alfonso Ulises Mendoza, 46, was arrested Wednesday morning and charged with DUI, two counts of DUI-child endangerment and speeding.

Jail records show he was released on about \$5,000 bond roughly five hours after being detained.

Gwinnett County fire department officials confirmed that Mendoza is a firefighter.

According to an incident report from the Duluth Police Department, Mendoza's 2006 Honda Accord was pulled over

at about 10:20 p.m. Wednesday at Pleasant Hill Road near May Road. The reporting officer allegedly clocked the vehicle at 62 miles per hour in a 45 miles per hour speed zone.

"I immediately observed the Mr. Mendoza's eyes were bloodshot and watery," the officer wrote, "that there was a very strong odor of alcoholic beverage coming from the interior of the vehicle and that Mr. Mendoza's speech was slurred. When I walked up to the window Mr. Mendoza had his wallet open with a Gwinnett County government employee ID card showing."

Mendoza reportedly told the police officer that he was coming from his brother's wedding and had consumed "maybe two glasses of wine." He was asked to perform several field sobriety tests.

The arresting officer reported, among other violations, a "visible front to rear sway" in Mendoza's gait.

"I asked Mr. Mendoza if he would be willing to provide a sample of his breath for my portable breath test," the officer wrote, "and he turned around, placed his hands behind his back and stated, 'Just go ahead and arrest me.'"

The car driven by the firefighter also contained his two daughters, ages 5 and 10, and an unidentified sober individual, who reportedly drove the vehicle home.

Fire department officials released a statement to the Daily Post.

"The department was made aware (Thursday) morning of the charges brought against Firefighter Alfonso Mendoza," the unsigned statement said. "We are currently investigating the situation and will take appropriate action."



Alfonso Mendoza

Carter's cause

Final event raises \$155K for cancer research

By KEITH FARNER
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LILBURN — The man who received the loudest ovation in the gym at Providence Christian Academy held a microphone and wore a tie with images of children's handprints.

Dr. Howard Katzenstein gave the audience an update on the fight against childhood cancer. The PCA community, and the Carter Martin Classic, which held its ninth annual and final event on Friday night, have given a significant

lift to cancer-fighting efforts at the Aflac Cancer Center and the Children's Healthcare of Atlanta.

In this year's event, the community raised \$155,946, which took the overall total to \$865,946 for the duration of the event, with \$3,000 to \$4,000 more expected from concession proceeds.

"There is a special part of Carter in my heart," said Katzenstein, who was a doctor for the event's namesake, who battled Ewing's sarcoma. "And there is a special

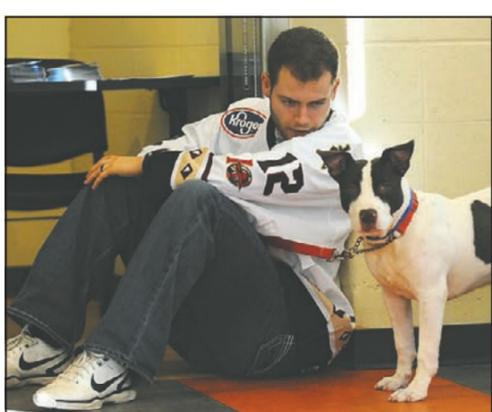
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Staff Photo: John Bohn

Connie Schneider, 13, right, an 8th-grade student at Providence Christian Academy, slams a whipped cream pie into the face of Scott Piehler, the high school drama director at Providence during the ninth annual Carter Martin Classic.

Rylan Galiardi, a hockey player for the Gwinnett Gladiators, sits with a dog named Rick during a press conference on Friday, to announce a partnership increase pet adoptions from the Gwinnett County Animal Shelter.



Staff Photo: John Bohn

New program aims to increase pet adoptions

By CAMIE YOUNG
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LAWRENCEVILLE — The Gwinnett Gladiators want to introduce you to Rick, an adorable brown and white dog.

He needs a home.

The hockey team is among the first in Gwinnett to sign up for a new program intended to help dogs and cats at the Gwinnett County Animal

Shelter to find a home.

The partnership with the Homeless Pets Foundation allows organizations — from Girl Scout troops and classes to law firms and Sunday School classes — to sponsor animals and use their networking to find homes. Email blasts, Facebook posts and even word of mouth can help spread the word about a dog or cat ready to make a great pet.

"It's fun, effective and free," said veterinarian Michael Good, the

foundation's founder, who has partnered with shelters across metro Atlanta. "Not everyone can adopt, but everyone can tell a story. The idea is to keep passing this on until someone walks in the door."

Good said the program has transformed the Cherokee shelter, where it began, to a place where animals are rarely euthanized.

"I'm so happy that Gwinnett County has embraced this concept

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