

TIMES-NEWS

'OUR HEARTS ARE BROKEN TODAY'

— President Barack Obama



Connecticut State Police lead a line of children from the Sandy Hook Elementary School in Newtown, Conn., on Friday after a shooting at the school.

SHANNON HICKS • NEWTOWN BEE • ASSOCIATED PRESS

Routine Morning, Then Shots and Unthinkable Terror

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.

JOCELYN NOVECK AND JOHN CHRISTOFFERSEN
Associated Press

NEWTOWN, Conn. • First, he killed his mother.

Nancy Lanza's body was found later at their home on Yoganda Street in Newtown — after the carnage at Sandy Hook Elementary School; after a quiet New England town was scarred forever by unthinkable tragedy; after a nation seemingly inured to violence found itself

stunned by the slaughter of innocents.

Nobody knows why 20-year-old Adam Lanza killed his mother, why he then took her guns to the school and murdered 20 children and six adults.

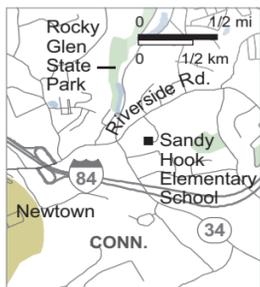
But on Friday he drove his mother's car through this 300-year-old town with its fine old churches and towering trees, and arrived at a school full of the season's joy. Somehow, he got past a security door to a place where

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A woman waits to hear about her sister, a teacher, following a shooting at the Sandy Hook Elementary School in Newtown, Conn.

JESSICA HILL • ASSOCIATED PRESS



Local School Officials Revisit Safety Policies

BY JULIE WOOTTON
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TWIN FALLS • Around south-central Idaho, some school officials are revisiting safety policies in response to a Friday shooting at a Connecticut elementary school.

Buhl

Buhl Superintendent Byron Stutzman said the shooting was "absolutely horrible" and tragic.

"It's really frightening when something like that happens," he said.

In Buhl, school officials just reviewed the district's emergency contingency plan.

More Online

To read full statements from the Twin Falls and Blaine County school district superintendents, visit www.magicvalley.com.

Twin Falls

Wiley Dobbs, superintendent of the Twin Falls School District, wrote in a statement that the Connecticut school shooting was "an act of unexplainable violence."

"Our thoughts and prayers go out to the community of Newtown, the Newtown Public School District, and the many students and families whose lives will be forever impacted by this tragedy," he wrote.

Dobbs told the *Times-News* that
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• Newtown: A Special Town Shattered by Tragedy

How to Help Kids Cope with News of Conn. Shootings

BY TRACY GRANT
The Washington Post

What should parents do to help their children cope with the Connecticut school shootings?

"Turn off the television," said David Finkelhor, director of the Crimes Against Children Research Center at the University of New Hampshire. If weekend plans include decorating a Christmas tree, having a play date or attending a holiday concert, those things should go on.

Finkelhor and Wendy Mogel, a clinical psychologist and the author of two books on parenting, warned against parents transferring their anxiety about the shootings to their children. "Don't feel the need to overshare," she advised.

"The reality is, this kind of thing is very, very rare. Schools

are the safest place kids can be, much safer than being at home," Finkelhor said. In 2010, the last year for which there are statistics, 17 children were killed in schools in the United States, he said. That accounted for less than 2 percent of all child-related homicides that year, he said.

So what should parents do? Have a discussion (and this is the important part) if you think your children need it. "Answer their questions, but don't dwell on it," Finkelhor said. Part of any discussion must include telling children "that schools are very, very safe places. Kids need to know that" to calm their concerns, he said.

Don't be afraid not to have a conversation. "I wouldn't go out of my way to talk about this if you don't think your child has heard about and seen something about" it, Finkel-



School children wait for their parents at the Sandy Hook firehouse following a mass shooting at the Sandy Hook Elementary School in Newtown, Conn.

ASSOCIATED PRESS

hor added. Or, as Mogel put it, parents don't need to "make sure our kids find out the worst about human nature and our society" at an extremely young age.

Do what you would normally do. "Routines are extremely important to kids, especially when there has been any kind of trauma," Mogel said. And don't let them see you upset. Mogel echoes the

"turn off the TV" advice, adding: "Don't let kids hear you talking about it all the time." That will only add to their anxiety.

Don't expect children to have a bad reaction. "You don't want to cross-examine your child about how he is feeling about this news," Mogel said. "Have the conversation and then just observe them for any signs of distress."