

- 20 children, six adults killed at Connecticut elementary school
- Suspected gunman commits suicide after shooting
- Conn. Gov. Dannel Malloy: "Evil visited this community today."
- More coverage on pages 8A and 9A and at Kansas.com



President Obama wipes his eye as he talks about the Connecticut school shooting Friday in the White House briefing room in Washington.
Carolyn Kaster/Associated Press

'OUR HEARTS ARE BROKEN'

BY JAMES BARROW
New York Times News Service

NEWTON, Conn. — A 20-year-old man wearing combat gear and armed with pistols and a semi-automatic rifle killed 26 people — 20 of them children — in an attack Friday in an elementary school in Connecticut.

Witnesses and officials described a horrific scene as the gunman, with brutal efficiency, chose his victims in two specific classrooms while other students dove under desks and hid in closets.

Hundreds of terrified parents, fearing the worst, descended on the school in Newtown — about 65 miles north of New York City — after news of the shootings spread. Many arrived as their sobbing children were led out, each with a hand on the shoulder of the child in front.

But by that time, all the victims were shot and most were dead, as was the gunman, identified as Adam Lanza, who committed suicide. The children who were killed were said to be from 5 to 10 years old.

A 28th person was found dead in a house in the town and was also thought to have been shot by Lanza. That victim, one law enforcement official said, was Lanza's mother, Nancy Lanza, an employee at the school, Sandy Hook Elementary School. She apparently owned the guns he used.

The school principal had buzzed Lanza in through the school's locked front door because she recognized him as the son of a colleague. Moments later, she was shot dead when she went to investigate the sound of gunshots. The school psychologist was also among those who died.

Law enforcement officials said Lanza had grown up in Newtown, and he was remembered by high school classmates as smart,

"Many of us today and in the coming days will rely on what we have been taught and what we believe, that there is faith for a reason."

Conn. Gov. Dannel Malloy

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Charles Krupa/Associated Press



ABOVE: As hundreds stand outside St. Rose of Lima Roman Catholic Church, a couple embrace during a healing service for victims of an elementary school shooting Friday in Newtown, Conn.

LEFT: Connecticut State Police lead children from the Sandy Hook Elementary School in Newtown, Conn., following a reported shooting there Friday.

Shannon Hicks/Newtown Bee

Wichita schools have taken steps to protect kids

BY SUZANNE PEREZ TOBIAS
The Wichita Eagle

Wichita school safety officials said they have numerous measures in place to protect children, but Friday's mass shooting in Connecticut is "a horrible tragedy ... many of us fear constantly."

"Too often we hear schools, buildings, districts ... say, 'It won't happen here,'" said Debbie McKenna, executive director of safety services for Wichita public schools.

"I think this is another sign, another indicator, that it can happen anywhere. We are all vulnerable in some way."

Friday evening, the district sent a robo-call and e-mail to parents expressing sadness about the shooting and reassuring parents that student safety is the top priority. The call said the district's crisis team would be prepared to support students on Monday, and that parents could send any questions to info@usd259.net.

Wichita Superintendent John Allison sent an e-mail to district employees Friday afternoon, urging them to stay focused on the day's lessons and to "remain vigilant about our school and building safety procedures."

McKenna said procedures such as limiting access to school buildings and requiring guests to sign in at the office and wear guest passes

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Suspect left few footprints in his life

BY DAVID M. HALBFINGER
New York Times

He carried a black briefcase to his 10th-grade honors English class and sat near the door, so he could readily slip in and out. When called upon, he was intelligent, but nervous and fidgety, spitting his words out, as if having to speak up were painful.

Pale, tall and scrawny, Adam Lanza walked through high school in Newtown, Conn., with his hands glued to his sides, the pens in the pocket of his short-sleeve, button-down shirts among the few things that his classmates recalled about him.

He did all he could to avoid attention, it seemed.

Until Friday. The authorities said Lanza, 20, wearing combat gear, carried out one of the deadliest mass slayings in the nation's history. In addition to killing his mother — a kindergarten teacher — he gunned down 20 children at the elementary school where she worked. He is believed to be responsible for a death discovered at another site, and he killed six other adults at the school, before apparently turning his gun on himself.

In his brief adulthood, Lanza had left few footprints, electronic or otherwise. He apparently had no Facebook page, unlike his

older brother, Ryan, a Hoboken, N.J., resident who for several hours on Friday was misidentified in news reports as the perpetrator of the massacre.

Adam Lanza did not even appear in his high school yearbook, that of the class of 2010. His spot on the page said "camera shy." Others who graduated that year said they did not believe he had finished school.

Matt Baier, now a junior at the University of Connecticut, and other high school classmates, recalled how deeply uncomfortable Lanza was in social situations.

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SHARE YOUR THOUGHTS

This tragedy has renewed the debate over why mass shootings happen and what, if anything, can be done to protect our communities. Please share your thoughts and questions with us at www.kansas.com/publicinsight. Click on the "Is there a way to make our communities safer?" box.



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