

# THE KENTUCKY ENQUIRER



**SCHOOL MASSACRE** SORROW, ANGER, FEAR ...

# AGONY

‘It’s sheer terror, a sense of imminent danger, to get to your child and be there to protect him.’

Grieving people embrace in the aftermath of a school shooting Friday at a Connecticut elementary school that left at least 27 dead, including many children. AFP/GETTY IMAGES/DON EMMERT

## Gunman kills 26, including 20 children, at elementary

By John Christoffersen  
Associated Press

NEWTOWN, Conn. — A man killed his mother at their home and then opened fire Friday inside an elementary school, 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, saying, “As a country, we have been through this too many times.”

Police shed no light on the motive for

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A young girl is comforted by her family following the shooting at the Sandy Hook Elementary School in Newtown, Conn. NEW HAVEN REGISTER/MELANIE STENGEL

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### AT CINCINNATI.COM

- » Scenes of the tragedy, and its aftermath.
- » Live video from the scene, starting at 8 a.m. today.
- » The Newtown shootings: What kind of “action” should we take? Give us your opinion at Politics Extra.

## Informants increasingly key to federal crime-fighting

NKY’s district leads nation; 1 in 2.6 offenders gets a deal to snitch; southern Ohio is No. 5

USA Today and The Enquirer

Over the past five years, nearly 50,000 federal convicts — one of every eight — have won shorter sentences in exchange for providing “substantial assistance” to law enforcement, a USA Today review of sentencing records shows.

Greater Cincinnati convicts

have been getting an even better deal, according to the data:

» The Eastern District of Kentucky, which includes the federal court in Covington, led the nation with 1 of every 2.6 offenders getting deals.

» The Southern District of Ohio, which includes the federal courts in Cincinnati and Dayton, was close behind, ranking

fifth nationally with 1 of every 3.4 offenders getting deals.

Prosecutors offered deals to nearly 2,000 defendants from 2006 to 2011. A deal can chop a decade or more off a convict’s sentence and are frequently used in drug cases.

Fully a quarter of the nation’s convicted drug traffickers cooperate with investiga-

tors. Locally, drug cases also topped the list of offenses where convicts won shorter prison for cooperation.

The USA Today investigation also found that some informants may be buying their way to freedom by paying to acquire information they give to the government. If the govern-

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## Access to records is before court

The Kentucky Supreme Court is expected to rule in the next 60 days on whether or not the public will have access to police investigative files after a case is closed. The issue stems from an Enquirer lawsuit that was filed following a 2009 guilty verdict. Several media outlets have expressed concern about the court’s decision that could protect the commonwealth’s open records law. **NKY Life, C1**



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### WEATHER

High 53°  
Low 48°

Afternoon rain



Complete forecast: **A2**



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