



Boys hoops: Leavitt edges Gardiner with last-second putback, 55-53. **C1**

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WEATHER

31°



Sunny; A8

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SATURDAY, DECEMBER 15, 2012

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'Evil visited this community today'

Gunman kills 26 at Conn. school, mother, himself

BY JOHN CHRISTOFFERSEN
Associated Press

NEWTOWN, Conn. — A man killed his mother at home and then opened fire Friday inside the elementary school where she taught, massacring 26 people, including 20 children, as youngsters covered in fear to the sound of gunshots reverberating through the building and screams echoing over the intercom.

The 20-year-old killer, carrying 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 left 33 people dead 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 on two classrooms. The gunman, identified as 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

OBAMA CANCELS TRIP



AP photo

EMOTIONAL MOMENT: President Barack Obama talks about the Connecticut elementary school shooting in the White House briefing room in Washington. Officials cited the tragedy in canceling a planned trip to Portland next week. Story, **A4**

their children raced to Sandy Hook Elementary School 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.

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 drove to the school in her car with three guns, including a high-powered rifle that he apparently left in the back.



AP Photo/Newtown Bee, Shannon Hicks

FLIGHT AND TERROR: Connecticut State Police lead children Friday from the Sandy Hook Elementary School in Newtown, Conn., following a shooting there that left 26 dead, including 20 children. Also dead Friday were the gunman, who killed himself, and his mother.

Authorities said he shot up two classrooms, but they otherwise gave no details on how the attack unfolded.

A custodian ran through the halls, warning of a gunman on the loose, and someone switched on the intercom, alerting people in the building to the attack — and perhaps saving many lives — by letting them hear the hysteria apparently going on in the school office, a teacher said.

Teachers locked their doors and ordered children to huddle in a corner or hide in closets as shots echoed through the building.

State police Lt. Paul Vance said

PLEASE SEE **EVIL** A4



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

AP photo

RIGHT: A mother hugs her daughter following a shooting at the Sandy Hook Elementary School in Newtown, Conn., on Friday.

The New Haven Register



Area educators react by checking security, teaching the moment

BY MICHAEL SHEPHERD
Staff Writer

AUGUSTA — Word of the Friday morning massacre at a Connecticut elementary school didn't immediately reach pupils at Marcia Buker Elementary School in Richmond, where students were distracted by winter events, including a scheduled holiday concert.

"Most kiddos and staff were distracted with positivity, and that's probably a good thing," said Virgel Hammonds, superintendent of schools in Hallowell, Farmingdale, Richmond, Dresden and Monmouth, who said he spent all day

there. With laptops making news of the shooting easy to find, however, teachers had to field questions from middle and high school students, he said.

According to news reports by early Friday evening, at least 26 people — mostly children ages 5 to 10 — had been killed at Sandy Hook Elementary School in Newtown, Conn.

Hammonds said there were moments of silence for the victims in some district schools. He said some teachers led discussions on the topic.

He said the questions posed were mainly reflexive: "What could have possessed someone do this?" "What's

MAINE REACTIONS

After Friday's shooting, President Barack Obama ordered American flags lowered to half-staff at public buildings and grounds until Tuesday at sunset. Gov. Paul LePage asked the same for Maine flags until then. "It is difficult to comprehend the loss of

so many innocent lives," LePage said in a statement.

"It is tremendously sad news," said Stephen Bowen, Maine's education commissioner, in a statement. "Our hearts go out to the families and the community."

become of our world?" and "What can we do to prevent this from happening?"

Maine State Police spokesman Stephen McCausland said all police officers in Maine are trained for active-

shooter situations, and while many schools fall under municipal departments' watch, state troopers with schools on their beats pay close attention to them.

"We're always there as a resource, and it is often not unusual for a trooper to have a presence there," he said, which gives administrators and children familiarity with law enforcement. "It also gives them an opportunity for them to familiarize themselves with the layouts of the school."

Cornelia Brown, superintendent of Augusta schools, said over the past few years her schools have implemented security systems that require buzzing in at a front door, and administrators ensure perimeter doors are locked.

Tragedies give school officials

PLEASE SEE **REACT** A4

Father's family talking with police about Ayla

Police: Evidence may not be blood

BY BEN MCCANNA
Staff Writer

WATERVILLE — The paternal family of missing toddler Ayla Reynolds has reopened communication with investigators — a step that police are calling positive. Meanwhile, the family's attorney said the DNA evidence found in the toddler's home might not be blood.

Police spoke in November with Ayla's father, Justin DiPietro; aunt Elisha DiPietro; and grandmother Phoebe DiPietro, Department of Public Safety spokesman Steve McCausland said during a Friday news conference.

"I'm not going to disclose



Staff photo by Michael G. Seamans

NO ARRESTS: Department of Public Safety spokesman Steve McCausland answers questions Friday from media about the ongoing investigation in to the search for missing toddler Ayla Reynolds during a news conference at the Forum in downtown Waterville.

what was discussed, but it was a frank conversation," he said. "So there has been some renewed communication."

When asked whether the conversation had changed the course of the investigation, McCausland said no.

"We wanted to give them an update, and we were very frank in the information we shared

with them," he said. "I viewed the meeting with the DiPietros as positive."

This is a change from McCausland's announcement in March that communication between police and Justin DiPietro had "basically stopped."

PLEASE SEE **AYLA** A4

INSIDE

NATION
Less doubt on climate change

A poll indicates even skeptics are coming to accept global warming. **A3**

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Judge turns down bid by Carole Swan to suppress statements

Former Chelsea selectwoman facing fraud trial

BY BETTY ADAMS
Staff Writer

A federal judge has rejected former Chelsea Selectwoman Carole Swan's efforts to keep statements she made to police out of her upcoming fraud trial.

U.S. Magistrate Judge Margaret Kravchuk's recommended decision was issued in U.S. District Court in Bangor and was made public Friday.

Swan is accused of extorting money from a town contractor while she was a Chelsea selectwoman and of fraudulently inflating the cost of road project

awarded to her husband, Marshall Swan, as well as fraud charges relating to income tax returns and federal worker compensation benefits.

The recommended decision and any objections filed by attorneys go to U.S. District Court Judge John A. Woodcock Jr. for review.

Carole Swan, 54, of Chelsea, testified under oath during a Dec. 5 motion-to-suppress hearing in Bangor that she could neither read nor write. That unexpected claim, which is expected to be a key component of her defense at trial, appears to be at odds with the recollections of officials who served with her and available documentation. She had a 19-year tenure as selectwoman in Chelsea, and for some of those years as chairwoman of the three-member board.

In her rejection of Swan's request, Kravchuk commented twice in footnotes about Swan's credibility in connection with

PLEASE SEE **SWAN** A4