



# WEST CENTRAL TRIBUNE

## Weekend

### Saturday forecast

Rain early, then rain and snow likely. / A2

High 35° Low 21°

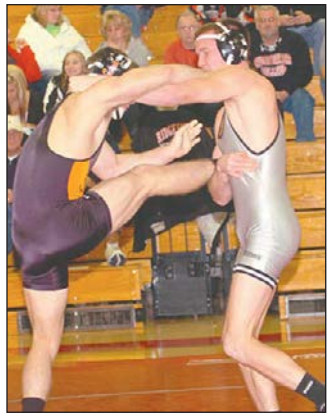
\$1.75

Saturday, December 15, 2012

Sunday, December 16, 2012

Willmar, Minn.

### INSIDE TODAY



### SPORTS / B1

Ridgewater 2-2 at own invitational



### EXTRA / C1

Volunteer instructor teaches karate, discipline at ALC

### COMMUNITY / C3

### FARM / C5

### OUTDOORS / C6-8



### OUTDOORS / C8

Calendar showcases Chippewa River area



### FARM / C5

Wheat genome work aids food security

### ON MONDAY

Kennedy Elementary pleased with recent Family Night event

### Inside

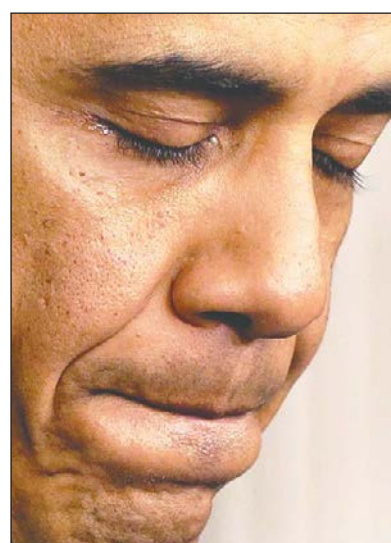
Classified .....	<b>B5</b>
Comics/Advice .....	<b>B11</b>
Markets .....	<b>B10</b>
Opinion .....	<b>A4</b>
Records .....	<b>A8</b>
Sports .....	<b>B1</b>
Weather .....	<b>A2</b>

# Rampage horrifies nation



AP Photo/Newtown Bee, Shannon Hicks

In this photo provided by the Newtown Bee, Connecticut State Police lead children Friday from the Sandy Hook Elementary School in Newtown, Conn., following a mass shooting there.



AP Photo/Charles Dharapak

## Obama: 'Our hearts are broken today'

## Gunman kills 26, including 20 children, at grade school

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 the attack. The gunman, 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.



AP Photo/Newtown Bee, Shannon Hicks

A police officer leads two women and a child Friday from Sandy Hook Elementary School in Newtown, Conn.

Panicked parents looking for their children raced to Sandy Hook Elementary 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 so that they wouldn't see the blood and broken glass.

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, then drove to the school in her car with at least three guns, including a high-powered rifle that he apparently left in the back of the vehicle, and shot up two classrooms around 9:30 a.m.

Shooting/ Page A8

## Minn. officials say there is always more preparation to be done

By Don Davis  
Forum Communications

ST. PAUL — Minnesota officials say they have tried to prepare for school shootings like one Friday in Connecticut, but there always is more they can do.

"We need to collaboratively do a better job of securing those kids," said state Sen. Bill Ingebrigtsen, R-Alexandria, a law enforcement officer for 34 years, 16 of them as Douglas County sheriff.

Training how to react to a shooting is one thing, but "it is very difficult" to prevent shootings, said Superintendent Wade Setter of the state Bureau of Criminal Apprehension.

Minnesota law requires each school to have plans to deal with "potential violent crisis situations" from natural disasters to shootings.

Minnesota Education Commissioner Brenda Cassellius and Education Minnesota President Tom Doohoer encouraged schools to take a new look at their safety plans.

"It is important that everyone feels comfortable and safe and ready to handle any potential crisis," Cassellius wrote to school superintendents and principals.

Prepare/ Page A2

## Willmar council to consider rezoning hearing for school to become a church

By David Little  
dlittle@wctrib.com

WILLMAR — The Willmar City Council will consider setting a date for a hearing to rezone the Lincoln School building for use as a church. The council will meet at 7 p.m. Monday in the chambers at the Municipal Utilities Building, 700 Litchfield Ave. S.W.

The school at 511 Julii St. S.E. was closed by the Willmar School Board, had been on the market for two years and was purchased in

November by Casa de Misericordia (House of Mercy) Church of Willmar.

Casa de Misericordia requested the Planning Commission rezone the property from G/I (government/institution) to R-2 (one- and two-bedroom family residential). The commission approved the request and forwarded it to the council for consideration.

During a hearing Dec. 12, the commission talked about R-2 being the main zoning district in which churches are located in the

community. Properties surrounding the school are zoned R-2 and P (park district).

Four people spoke in favor of the rezoning request and no one spoke against.

Commission staff said the applicant wishes to operate a church in the school. The operation is permitted in the R-2 district with a conditional use permit. Staff said use conditions can be added when the permit is requested, including fire sprinkling system and parking.

City staff recommends an ordinance to change the zoning be introduced for a public hearing at the Jan. 7 council meeting.

In other business to be considered Monday, the council will receive a recommendation from the Finance Committee to amend the 2012 budget to reflect additional costs associated with approval of the two-year labor agreement with Willmar police officers and sergeants.

Willmar council/ Page A2