

NEWS & RECORD

Greensboro, North Carolina

HEARTBROKEN



JESSICA HILL/The Associated Press

A woman waits to hear about her sister, a teacher, after the shootings Friday morning at Sandy Hook Elementary School in Newtown, Conn. A gunman killed 20 young students and several adults.

SHOOTING VICTIMS MOURNED AT VIGIL

A prayer to 'heal this madness'

By JOE GAMM
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GREENSBORO — The massacre miles away brought Joe Wood to tears. "God heal this madness," he prayed aloud Friday night at a vigil with about a dozen others. They met at the Congregational United Church of Christ in Greensboro to remember the victims of the mass school shooting earlier that day hundreds of miles away in Connecticut.

Following the Internet reports of Friday's events prompted him to attend the church for the first time in years, Wood said.

"I've always been against guns, don't believe in them," Wood said. "This afternoon, I guess I sat at the

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H. SCOTT HOFFMANN/News Record

The Rev. Julie Peoples (back to camera) hugs Ann Buffington and Fran Ditto after a vigil at Congregational United Church in Greensboro on Friday.

A tragedy shatters small country town

MORE INSIDE

- People around the nation speak out on social media and at News-Record.com. **A4**
- History is marked by a number of school shootings around the country. **A4**
- Guilford County Schools releases a statement. **A5**

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■ Newtown, Conn., is the kind of place where everyone knows each other, residents say.

The Associated Press

NEWTOWN, CONN. — At the crossroads that marks the center of this three-century-old New England postcard town stands a flagpole that's a kind of barometer. Every day, says Susan Osborne White, who has lived here all her life, "it tells me which way the wind is blowing" — and she calls the local newspaper whenever the flag is lowered to half-staff, to ask why.

No one is asking that now as the flag forlornly hangs over a heartbroken, uncomprehending town.



McClatchy Tribune

Along streets where every window twinkles with holiday candles, police sirens wailed Friday. Over horse pastures in what was until fairly recently a rural

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City enters tree-cutting ruckus

■ Given people's anger, Greensboro asks Duke Energy to stop for a bit.

By MIKE KERNELS
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GREENSBORO — Residents of the Westerwood neighborhood upset over the loss of trees from Duke

Energy's maintenance work got a needed boost Friday.

The city sent a letter to the utility company asking it to suspend tree-cutting for at least three months "based on the level of anger and disappointment expressed by Greensboro residents."

The letter names the Westerwood, Sunset Hills

and Ole Asheboro neighborhoods.

The suspension, according to the letter, also would give the community time to "regroup."

The one-page letter was signed by Mayor Robbie Perkins and City Council members T. Dianne Bellamy-Small, Nancy Hoff-

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Future uncertain for sweepstakes outlets

■ N.C. justices rule the Internet games illegal.

By TAFT WIREBACK
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GREENSBORO — Area law enforcement officials are weighing their next moves after the N.C. Supreme Court ruled on Friday that Internet sweepstakes games are illegal.

But key agencies said it likely will be next week, at least, before they know if and when those moves might include padlocking the many Internet sweepstakes halls across the region.

"Attorneys with our office are reviewing the decision and will be determining how to advise law enforcement," said Noelle Talley of the N.C. Department of Justice.

The Greensboro Police Department and Guilford County Sheriff's Office said they are holding back to plan their response.

Employees at several sweepstakes cafes said they're likely to remain open until someone in authority orders otherwise. "I don't know what

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60 FORECAST 45
Partly cloudy and warm. Full report, A3
HIGH LOW
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