

# RECORD & LANDMARK

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## Sure-Handed

Panthers' Steve Smith still racking up the numbers at age 33 1B

15 nabbed on drug charges 3A

## US Budget

Fiscal cliff cuts have members of military worried over benefits 8A

### Mass Shooting

# Tragedy at Connecticut school

Answers sought after gunman kills 26, including 20 children

The Associated Press

NEWTOWN, Conn. — A man killed his mother at their home and then opened fire Friday inside the elementary school where she taught, 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

#### INSIDE

» Newtown: A special town shattered by school shooting. 5A

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 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.

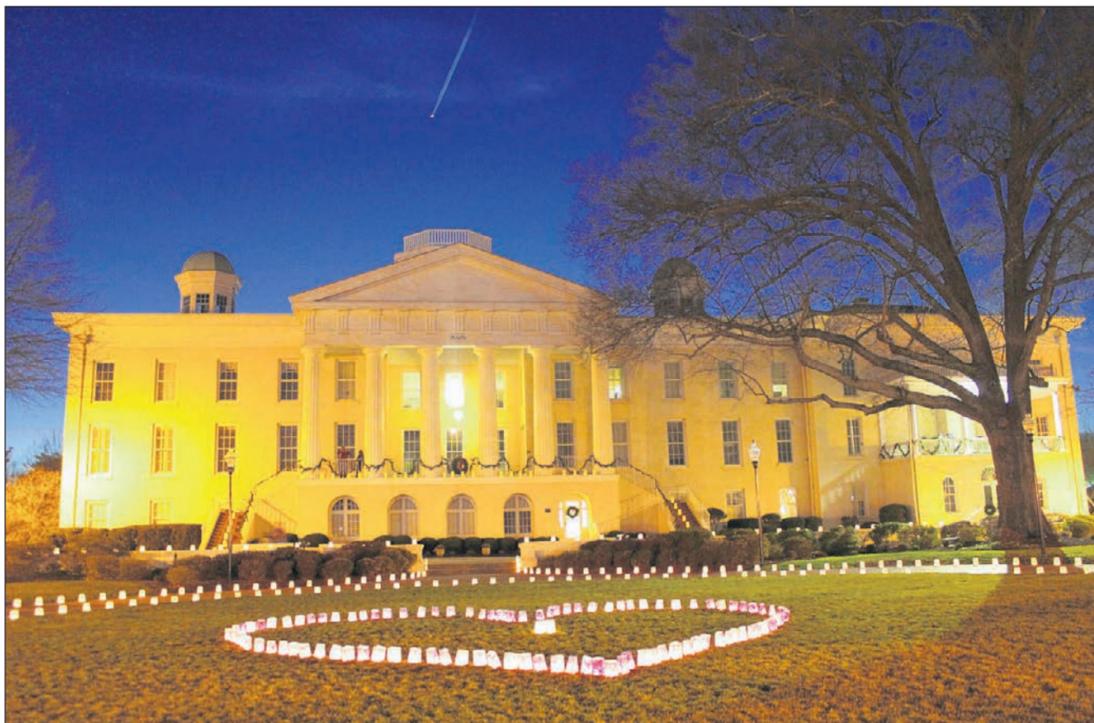
See **TRAGEDY**, Page 10A



A police officer leads two women and a child from Sandy Hook Elementary School in Newtown, Conn., where a gunman opened fire, killing 26 people, including 20 children, Friday.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS/NEWTOWN BEE

## STUDENT GOVERNMENT ASSOCIATION



PRESTON SPENCER/STATESVILLE RECORD & LANDMARK

The Student Government Association at Mitchell Community College lit more than 1,000 luminaries Friday evening, raising more than \$1,200 for Purple Heart Homes in the process.

# Glow in the night

MCC luminaries raise money for Purple Heart Homes

BY PRESTON SPENCER  
pspencer@statesville.com

The front lawn of Mitchell Community College glowed Friday evening from the collective blaze of more than 1,000 luminaries.

In an effort to raise money for an organization that assists wounded veterans, the MCC Student Government Association (SGA) sold \$1 luminaries that honored family, friends and military personnel. The end result was a sight that cars slowed for and pedestrians strayed off their planned

route to view. And more than \$1,200 was raised for Purple Heart Homes, money that will go toward improving the quality of life for those hurt while serving in the country's armed forces. "It's incredible, a lot of people's hard work," said Anita McGill, the club's faculty adviser.

The all-volunteer SGA is the official liaison between the students and staff at the college. The club's members spent several hours in the afternoon arranging the display, and many stuck around to sell popcorn and chat with interested passers-by.

See **GLOW**, Page 10A



## Troutman

# Aldermen deny code changes

BY JIM MCNALLY  
jmcnally@statesville.com

The Troutman Board of Aldermen meeting Thursday night had a little bit of everything and a whole lot of people.

Along with honoring those who serve on the town's many boards and committees — a matter that accounted for a standing room only crowd — aldermen saw two zoning amendment requests in a row when a motion made for approval failed to get seconded.

Known as "dying for lack of a second," the situation is so rare that years could go by without it happening at a governing body meeting. And, indeed, it has not happened at a Troutman Board of Aldermen meeting in at least two years.

But developers involved with two large residential projects in Troutman and its extraterritorial jurisdiction (EJT) were pushing for changes in the town's Unified Development Ordinance that would allow for higher density levels.

The first of these matters was a request for the town to create what is known as a Planned Unit Development, similar to what Statesville did to facilitate plans by developers of a planned community called Larkin, which has been stalled for the past several years by the flailing economic conditions.

*"If this goes through, the people there will never be able to sell their homes. They'll be under water on their mortgages. And there are already enough people under water."*

Jack Rosette,  
Falls Cove resident

See **CHANGES**, Page 10A

**ONLINE**  
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### Markets

**-35.71**  
Dow Jones  
13,135.01

### Obituaries

WALTER MORPHIS  
EULA MAYFIELD  
NEWELL STEWART  
EVELYN DAVIDSON  
JANIE BUMGARNER

LARRY WATERS  
NORMA SHERRILL  
WILMA LAIL  
RANDY CARVER

PAGE 4A



**TODAY'S WEATHER**  
HIGH 57,  
LOW 45

### Inside

BUSINESS, 8A  
CLASSIFIEDS, 7B  
NATION, 5A  
OBITUARIES, 4A  
OPINION, 9A  
SPORTS, 1B  
TELEVISION, 3B  
WORLD, 8A



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