



The Bismarck Tribune

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75 cents

Classic Christmas

Traditional music to ring through halls of Messiah

Life, 1C



Moving on

Bison back in national championship game

Sports, 1D



Shooting reported at Sandy Hook Elementary School

Connecticut State Police lead a line of children from the Sandy Hook Elementary School in Newtown, Conn., on Friday after a shooting at the school that killed 26 people, including 20 children. (Associated Press)

'Our hearts are broken'

Gunman kills 26 at Conn. elementary school

By JOHN CHRISTOFFERSEN
Associated Press

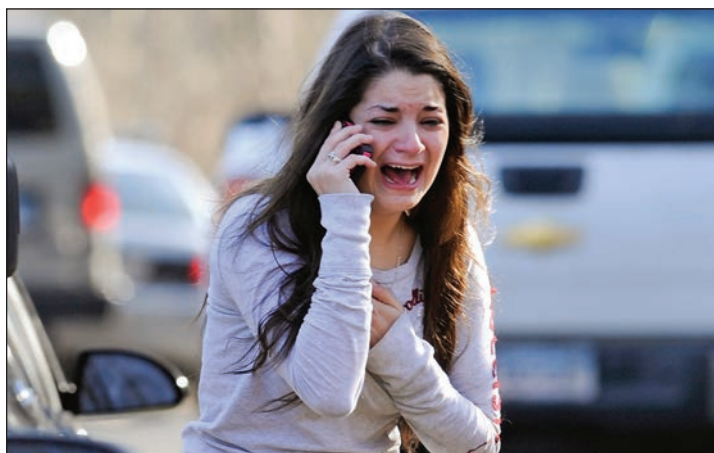
NEWTOWN, Conn. — A man killed his mother at their home and then opened fire Friday inside an elementary school, massacring 26 people, including 20 children, as youngsters covered in fear to the sound of gunshots reverberating through the building and screams echoing over the intercom.

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 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



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

RIGHT: Brenda Hernandez of Enfield Conn., comforts her daughter, Crystal, at a makeshift shrine after a candlelight vigil in Enfield, Conn., on Friday evening.



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 their children raced to Sandy Hook Elementary in Newtown, a prosper-

ous 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.

The children — 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.

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 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.

Authorities gave no details on exactly how the attack unfolded, but police radio traffic indicated the shooting lasted only a few minutes. State police Lt. Paul Vance said officers arrived instantaneously, immediately entered the school, searched it completely and found Lanza dead.

In addition to the 20 children, six adults were killed at the school; the principal was believed to be among the dead. A woman who

Continued on 9A

TEARFUL OBAMA CALLS FOR ACTION AFTER CONN. SHOOTING

WASHINGTON (AP) — President Barack Obama said Friday he grieved first as a father about the massacre at a Connecticut elementary school, declaring, "Our hearts are broken today." He called for "meaningful action" to prevent such shootings but did not say what it should be.

"The majority of those who died were children — beautiful, little kids between the ages of 5 and 10 years old," Obama said.

At that point he had to pause for several seconds to keep his composure, and he wiped his eyes.

The scene in the White House briefing room was one of the most emotional moments of Obama's presidency. Near him, two senior aides cried and held hands as they listened to the president.

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Shooting suspect was honors student

By PETE YOST
and JASON KEYSER
Associated Press

WASHINGTON — He was an honors student who lived in a prosperous neighborhood with his mother, a well-liked woman who enjoyed hosting dice games and decorating the house for the holidays.

Now Adam Lanza is suspected of killing his mother

and then gunning down more than two dozen people, 20 of them children, at a Connecticut grade school before taking his own life.

The 20-year-old may have suffered from a personality disorder, law enforcement officials said.

Investigators were trying to learn as much as possible about Lanza and questioned his older brother, who is not believed to have any involve-

ment in the rampage.

Lanza killed his mother at their home before driving her car to Sandy Hook Elementary School and carried out the massacre, officials said.

So far, authorities have not spoken publicly of any possible motive. Witnesses said the shooter didn't utter a word.

Catherine Urso, who was attending a vigil Friday evening in Newtown, Conn.,

said her college-age son knew the killer and remembered him for his alternative style.

"He just said he was very thin, very remote and was one of the goths," she said.

Lanza and his mother, Nancy, lived in a well-to-do part of Newtown.

A grandmother of the suspect — who is also the mother of Nancy Lanza — was too

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Stolen kitten returned to pet store

By JENNY MICHAEL
Bismarck Tribune

Bismarck police haven't cracked the case of who broke into a Bismarck pet store earlier this week. But the orange kitten stolen during the caper has been returned to Animal Kingdom.

Baeylie Goetz, 9, of Sterling, transported the kitten in her light blue winter coat to the pet store at 1525 E. Broadway Ave. on Friday afternoon.

Her grandfather, Blaine Goetz, had taken in the kitten on Wednesday after learning it was running through a Bismarck grocery store. Kathy Goetz, Blaine's wife, brought Baeylie and her cousin, Travis Goetz, 9, to Bismarck to return the kitten.

An employee at Animal Kingdom reported at 7:40 a.m. Tuesday that someone had smashed a glass door worth \$300, and entered the business sometime after 6 p.m. Monday. Items had been thrown around and

desk drawers were opened. As officers began investigating, employees realized a male orange tabby kitten in a cage in the back room had been stolen, along with some change from the till.

The kitten had been at the store for a while and purred as soon as anyone touched him, manager Kim Leingang said. She said he had been sick and was being kept in the back room of the store.

Continued on 9A



An orange tabby cat stolen from Animal Kingdom in Bismarck earlier this week was returned by Kathy Goetz of Sterling and her grandchildren Baeylie and Travis, both 9 years old. (MIKE MCCLEARY/Tribune)

Final days?

Syria's Assad may be heading for a last stand against rebels — 2A

Wild well

Oil well is brought under control after messy blowout — 1B



Sunday

Lots of unknowns in Corral Creek oil well development unit

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