



Cardinal Mooney	40	Canfield	52	Campbell	53	Hubbard	52
Y'town Christian	24	Struthers	34	Lakeview	47	Austintown Fitch	44
Liberty	57	Mineral Ridge	62	Brookfield	59	Lordstown	54
Champion	33	South Range	53	Niles McKinley	58	Mathews	36
Lowellville	70	McDonald	91	Springfield	58	Lisbon	62
Sebring	26	Western Reserve	47	United	34	Jackson-Milton	35

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SPORTS, B1

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# The Vindicator

SATURDAY  
DECEMBER 15, 2012  
50¢

■ A three-century-old New England postcard town is shattered by tragedy. A2

■ A look at some of the world's worst mass shootings dating back to 1966. A6

■ Three Ohio middle school girls are accused of compiling a 'hit list.' A7

# WHY?

## CONNECTICUT, COUNTRY SEEK ANSWERS TO KILLINGS

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 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 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. 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.

See SHOOTING, A6



In this photo provided by the Newtown Bee, 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 20-year-old killer, carrying two handguns, committed suicide at the school, and another person was found dead at a second scene, bringing the toll to 28, authorities said.

ASSOCIATED PRESS

## Valley educators admit vulnerability

Staff report

Mahoning Valley educators say you can plan for — but never be 100 percent prepared for — mass tragedy in a school building.

"How do you defend against a dad who comes in or something like that? You can't know everything that's going to happen. You can just be careful like we do," said Austintown schools Superintendent Vince Colaluca.

Local schools officials explained their security precautions in the aftermath Friday of the shootings of staff members and elementary

students at Sandy Hook Elementary School in Newtown, Conn., where several people are dead, including many children. State police said the shooter committed suicide in the school.

Mathews schools in Vienna Township do not have metal detectors or police on the premises that might help prevent a tragedy. "But the bottom line is, if you have someone really intent, there is not much you can do about it. The killings in Connecticut are sick and

See SCHOOLS, A6

“HOW DO YOU DEFEND AGAINST A DAD WHO COMES IN OR SOMETHING LIKE THAT? YOU CAN'T KNOW EVERYTHING THAT'S GOING TO HAPPEN. YOU CAN JUST BE CAREFUL LIKE WE DO.”



VINCE COLALUCA, superintendent, Austintown school district



ASSOCIATED PRESS

President Barack Obama wipes his eye as he speaks about the school shooting in Newtown, Conn., at the White House in Washington on Friday.

**The Vindicator**

INDEX  
Business ..... B7  
Classifieds .... C3-7  
Comics ..... C8  
Courts, Police ... A7  
Crossword ..... C4  
Editorial ..... A10  
Legal ads. .... A7  
Lotteries ..... A2  
Sports ..... B1-5  
Tributes ..... A9  
TV Week ..... D1-12  
Valley Life ..... C1  
Weather ..... B8

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inside today

**TRIBUTE TO VETERANS**  
Boardman High School junior Max Morrow leads effort to place wreaths on veterans' graves.

LOCAL, A3

**CHRISTMAS COUNTDOWN**  
Shopping days left: **10**

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## Christmas spirit lights up during North Side bus tour

By SEAN BARRON  
news@vindy.com

YOUNGSTOWN

As a Western Reserve Transit Authority bus leisurely rolled through the North Side, 7-year-old Zach Holm changed his mind several times about his favorite set of Christmas lights and decorations he saw.

His final decision? An eye-catching potpourri of holiday cheer at a three-story brick home on Elm Street across from Wick Park that, among other things, displayed a lighted bright-purple flamingo, a pig and an assortment of candy canes, along with a gingerbread

man and a sleigh with eight brightly lighted reindeer. "I liked that there were a bunch of decorations, a lot of decorations," the Youngstown boy said.

In addition to the Elm Street residence, Zach was referring to many homes he and about 30 other children and adults saw while participating in Friday's fourth annual Neighborhood Festival of Lights and Decoration Tour.

The 90-minute family friendly and festive trip, which began at Heart Reach Ministries, 211

See LIGHTS, A5



WILLIAM D. LEWIS | THE VINDICATOR

This home on Saranac Avenue was one of the sights featured on Friday's Christmas lights tour on the North Side.

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