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SCHOOL HORROR

20 children among 27 killed in Conn. shooting

By John Christoffersen
Associated Press

NEWTOWN, Conn. — A man killed his mother at home and then opened fire Friday inside the elementary school where she taught, massacring 27 people, including 20 children, as youngsters covered in fear to the sound of gunshots echoing through the building and screams coming over the intercom.

The 20-year-old killer, carrying 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

Please see **SCHOOL** on A3



Above, A woman waits to hear about her sister, a teacher, following the shooting at the Sandy Hook Elementary School in Newtown, Conn. At left, In this photo provided by the Newtown Bee, Connecticut State Police lead children from the school following the shooting.

Inside
President Obama calls for 'meaningful action' to prevent shootings /A4
Suspect was son of teacher /A5



Parents leave a staging area after being reunited with their children following the shooting at the school.



AP Photos

Fire quickly contained at Boyertown Inn

By Frank Otto
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BOYERTOWN — A fire that broke out in the upper levels of the Boyertown Inn was quickly contained Thursday night.

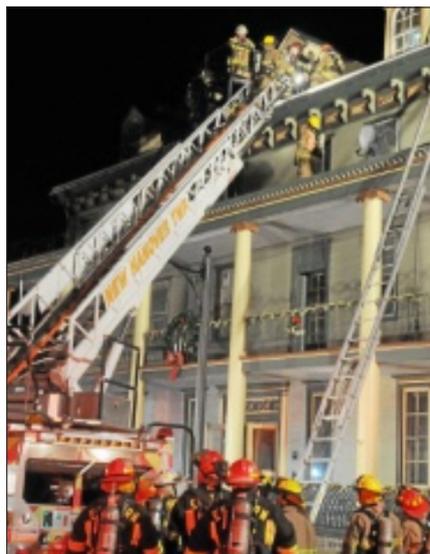
At 10:47 p.m., fire crews were dispatched to the building at 1 S. Reading Ave. for a structure fire.

"(We) probably had it knocked down within half an hour," said Rick Smith, Boyertown's fire marshal. "It was under control in probably an hour and a half."

Smith said there were "lots of hidden voids" that firefighters had to check through to make sure the fire hadn't spread and was smoldering.

The fire began on the building's fourth floor. Damage was kept to the fourth floor fire exit and a roof line between the third

Please see **FIRE** on A7



Boyertown area firefighters were called to the Boyertown Inn for a fire at the building located at the intersection of East Philadelphia and Reading avenues in the borough late Thursday night.

John Strickler/
The Mercury

Family facing eviction looks to get 'back online'

By Mercury Staff

Mike moved from the area many years ago, settling in Georgia where he found his wife, Deanna, and had their three children.

But when Mike and Deanna learned family back home was struggling, they couldn't resist helping out.

"I found out my dad and



Please see **FAMILY** on A7

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