



Wyomissing's big game

COMMUNITY HAS TITLE FEVER AND IT FEELS FINE **Berks & Beyond, B1** SPARTANS' SUCCESS COMES AS LITTLE SURPRISE **Sports, C1**

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SO MANY, SO YOUNG

Horror sends shudders here

BY LIAM MIGDAIL-SMITH
READING EAGLE

For those responsible for an entire district of students and employees, school safety is always on their minds, Berks County educators said.

But, they said, national tragedies, like the school shooting in Connecticut that left 27 dead Friday, bring those thoughts to the forefront and lead them to think of how their own districts would respond.

"I think that sort of hits home that no matter where you are, no matter what state or what town, it can happen there," said Dr. Theresa D. Haught, Muhlenberg superintendent.

Administrators said that after the shock of trying to wrap their minds around such a tragedy, the next step is to review what safeguards their own schools have in place.

"We have a district here and we have to make sure we're safe as possible and we're constantly re-evaluating what safety means," said Dr. Edward J. Albert Jr., Tulpehocken superintendent.

But, he added, districts always need to be prepared for emergencies.

"I always find schools are always trying to be the best, the best, the best in whatever we do. But unfortunately, there's always a little loophole," he said.

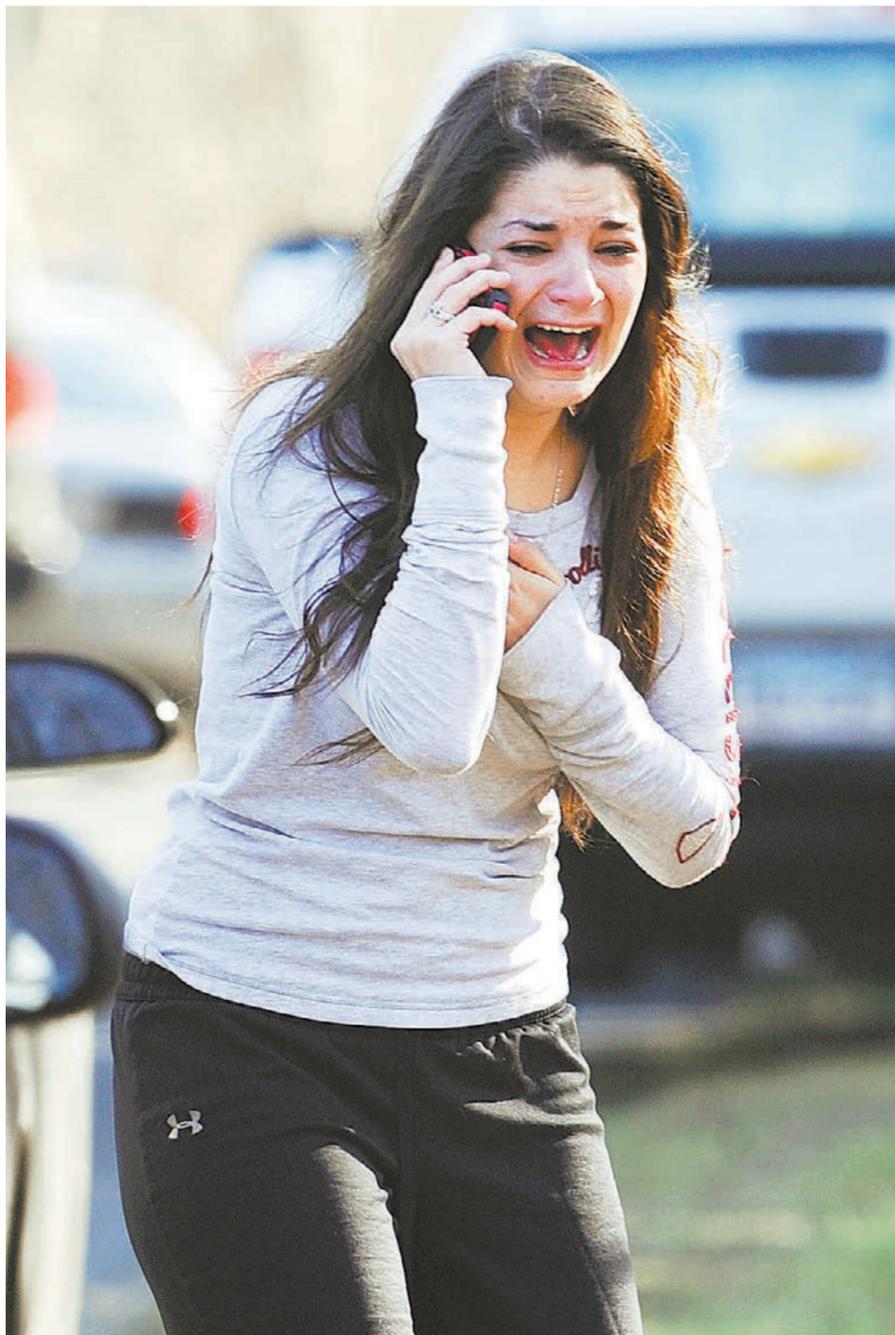
School districts and emergency responders in Berks have been making a renewed effort to tighten safety through a Berks County Intermediate Unit-led effort to have a countywide plan for responding to emergencies.

"I think that's going to help law enforcement throughout the county to be able to address issues in a more systematic way," said Dr. Beverly A. Martin, Exeter superintendent. "Hopefully we never have to."

The idea is that all school districts and law enforcement agencies would be using the same set of terms and procedures in emergencies so there wouldn't be any confusion, said Dr. Jill M. Hackman, BCIU assistant executive director.

"When you're in that response mode, you want to make sure you're strengthening communication and information," she said.

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A woman tries to get word of her sister, a teacher, following Friday morning's massacre at the Sandy Hook Elementary School in Newtown, Conn. A gunman killed 20 students and six adults before committing suicide, according to police, who later learned he had also killed his mother at their home.

Lone gunman attacks school, kills 26, self

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

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

The 20-year-old killer then committed suicide, bringing the death toll to 28, authorities said.

The rampage, less than two weeks before Christmas, was the nation's second-deadliest school shooting after the Virginia Tech massacre that left 33 people dead in 2007.

"Our hearts are broken today," a tearful President Barack Obama said at the White House.

He also called for meaningful 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, but a source said the gunman lived with his mother and was believed to suffer from a personality disorder.

Panicked parents looking for their children raced to Sandy Hook Elementary School in Newtown, a prosperous community of about 27,000 people 60 miles northeast of New York City. Police told youngsters at the K-4 school to close their eyes as they were led from the building.

Schoolchildren — 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 20-year-old Adam Lanza killed his mother, Nancy Lanza, and then drove to the [See Survivors >>> A3]

Possible personality disorder: Officials investigate the gunman. **A4**

Stained postcard: Old, quaint New England town faces tragedy. **A5**

Packed vigil: Hundreds spill from prayer service. **A5**

Today

Berks & Beyond SUSPECT CHARGED IN CITY SHOOTING

The Reading man set up a hold-up that left a pizza deliveryman critically injured, police say. **B1**



Life AREA PASTORS REFLECT ON ADVENT'S MEANING

The beginning of the new church year is a time when thoughts turn to Christian hope and God's light. **D1**

Money REAL ESTATE FIRM TAKES A BOLD NEW APPROACH

Trent Stauffer marries a realty company to a cafe in the heart of West Reading's busy business district. **A10**

Coming Sunday

LET US PRAY

Prayer at public meetings has been declining nationwide, but four public bodies in Berks County still open meetings with a request for blessings and guidance.



Weather report
Clouds and sun.
Winds: 6-12 mph. **A14**

28° 48°

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GAME TONIGHT!

SATURDAY, DEC. 15 7:05 PM ROYALS vs. ORLANDO

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