

# WILLIAMSPORT SUN-GAZETTE

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## School shooting kills 20 kids

NEWTOWN, Conn. (AP) — 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 cowered 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 "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

(See SCHOOL, Page A-6)



Mourners gather for a vigil service Friday for victims of the Sandy Hook Elementary School shooting, at the St. Rose of Lima Roman Catholic Church in Newtown, Conn.

ASSOCIATED PRESS

## Hope 4 Lyme

Area high school student helps spread awareness of Lyme Disease

By CHERYL R. CLARKE  
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MILLERTON — A 16-year-old Williamson High School junior, Makayla Mosher, has done more than required for her graduation project in helping spread awareness of the hard-to-diagnose tick-borne Lyme disease.

According to the organization's founder, herself a Lyme Disease patient, Linda Wales, 52, of Jackson Township in Tioga County, the teen has been so helpful with her organization "A Hope 4 Lyme Inc." that the organization wanted to honor her by publicizing her story.

A Hope 4 Lyme is a non-profit organization created to help those suffering from and distressed by the effects of Lyme and other tick-borne diseases that promotes community awareness throughout the Twin Tiers of New York and Pennsylvania, including Tioga and Lycoming counties.

"We depend upon volunteers to achieve our mission and would like to recognize Makayla for her many hours of service," Wales said.

To accomplish her 40-hour minimum for the project, she acted as webmaster for the website, www.ahope4lyme.org.

Mosher also attended A Hope 4 Lyme business meetings, sometimes filling in for the secretary and sharing ideas from a



A Hope 4 Lyme founder and President Linda Wales, right, and Williamson High School junior Makayla Mosher, 16, both of Millerton, wear their organization's T-shirts.

PHOTO PROVIDED

young persons' perspective, Wales said.

"She also burned DVDs about an awareness event for distribution, worked the concession stand at our Lyme Walk in Pine City, N.Y., assisted at a Hills Creek State Park informational program and a set up at Ives Run Tioga Youth Day," she said.

This year's awareness walk was held on May 12 at Chapel Park, Pine City, N.Y., and net proceeds

were \$4,935 with more than 110 people in attendance.

Though 40 hours was all Mosher needed to fulfill her requirement; "she has given us so much more," Wales said.

"The directors of A Hope 4 Lyme are very proud of this young lady. We appreciate all she has done and is doing for this organization and the community," she added.

Mosher said she really was excited about serving

with A Hope 4 Lyme, because it is a small, local group.

"I felt like I could make a bigger difference in a smaller organization," she said.

According to the rules set by the Northern Tioga School District for senior projects, Mosher had to tell a board of teachers where you will be serving and what you will do, and then when it is finished,

(See HIGH, Page A-6)

VISITOR FROM D.C.

## Senator touts efforts to give vets clothing

By MATT HUTCHINSON  
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U.S. Sen. Pat Toomey, R-Zionsville, made a brief stop in the city Friday touting legislation passed by the Senate Tuesday that aims to help clothe veterans.

Toomey introduced a version of the Clothe a Homeless Hero Act on Nov. 28 and was a sponsor of final legislation that passed the Senate.

The bipartisan bill requires the Transportation Security Administration to distribute unclaimed clothing left at airport security checkpoints to local veterans organizations.

According to the Department of Veterans Affairs, about 75,000 vets are homeless on any given night, and about 20,000 Iraq and Afghanistan vets have been homeless within the last five years.

"It's a small step; it's a modest step, but I think it will help," Toomey said to a room full of local veterans who gathered in the Lycoming County commissioners' meeting room at Executive Plaza, 330 Pine

(See SENATOR, Page A-6)

## Toomey: No answers in sight for 'fiscal cliff'

By MATT HUTCHINSON  
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U.S. Sen. Pat Toomey, R-Zionsville, said the stalemate between Congress and President Barack Obama to avoid the so-called "fiscal cliff" won't put the county in a state of catastrophe, but he's still not optimistic a deal will be reached any time soon that will prevent automatic tax increases and deep cuts to national defense and Medicare.

Toomey made his remarks Friday after a brief announcement in the city about legislation he sponsored to help clothe veterans.

He said there are dozens of factors involved in the "fiscal cliff," and how they are dealt with by lawmakers will determine what happens to the average citizen.

Toomey said there is no easy answer.

"Unfortunately, it depends on what happens," he said.

The senator said the president's plan to raise taxes on upper-income wage earners won't solve the problem. Toomey said the essence of the problem boils down to lack of spending control.

"I frankly don't think the president is interested in cutting spending at all," he said. "That being said, I don't think any of us want to see taxes go up on average Americans. I would prefer no tax increases on anyone."

(See TOOMEY, Page A-6)

## Council does not endorse capital projects budget

By MARK MARONEY  
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While it has no impact to the general fund budget, City Council won't endorse the financial aspects of Destination 2014 and is adverse to the city "being on the hook" for a dime of project cost overages and unforeseen construction expenses.

Earlier in the week, developer Dan Klingerman, of The Liberty Group, 1500 Sycamore Road in Loyalsock Township, said he was purchasing the YMCA building, although he declined to reveal what the purchase price was, and that he would add to the area by creating a modern Williamsport

Civic Arena.

That would happen with the transformation of the Pickelner Arena by adding seating, tearing down a portion of the YMCA housing a pool and gymnasium and on the other side of the lot creating executive-style apartments out of the old YMCA building on West Fourth Street and a

conference/meeting center in a building to the east of that. The project also includes creation of a 1-acre Williamsport Green, a town square with an entrance at West Fourth and Hepburn streets and a parking deck.

On Thursday, Councilman N.

(See COUNCIL, Page A-6)

## County Prison Board works on 'housing' crunch

By JOSH BROKAW  
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The status of the inmate housing crunch, and proposed solutions to the problem, dominated discussion at the

Lycoming County Prison Board meeting Friday.

The county has spent more than \$300,000 this year housing inmates in other counties, said Prison Warden Kevin DeParlos.

The 2012 budget allo-

cated \$12,500 for inmate housing. This November alone, the county paid Centre and Clinton counties \$46,718 to take on extra prisoners.

Between the prison and the Pre-Release

Center, the inmate population total averaged 406 in November, DeParlos said. That number includes those transferred to other counties to alleviate overcrowding.

The county has a

capacity for 392 inmates, with 255 beds at the prison and 137 beds at the Pre-Release Center.

"All through this week the sheriff's department

(See PRISON, Page A-6)



Dec. 15  
10 shopping days to Christmas

### "Lycoming Crossing" Shopping Center

- Target
- Michael's
- Bed Bath & Beyond
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- Famous Footwear
- Five Below
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- Burger King
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- Cracker Barrel
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Located at I-180 & Lycoming Mall Road - Across from the Lycoming Mall in Muncy

Good morning, Rudy Kafer. Thank you for subscribing to the Sun-Gazette!

