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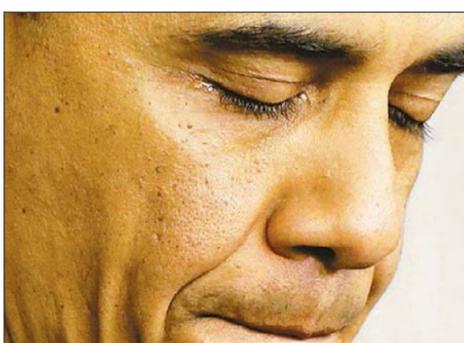
## THE TRAGEDY



ANDREW SULLIVAN / THE NEW YORK TIMES

People react with shock and anguish Friday after 20 children and six adults were killed in a Connecticut school.

## THE REACTION



CHARLES DHARAPAK / THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

"Our hearts are broken," an emotional President Obama said. "We have been through this too many times."

## THE AFTERMATH



ANDREW GOMBERT / GETTY IMAGES

Hundreds of mourners gather for a candlelight vigil Friday evening at a Catholic Church in Newtown, Conn.

# UNTHINKABLE LOSS



SHANNON HICKS / NEWTOWN BEE

Connecticut State Police lead frightened children out of Sandy Hook Elementary School in Newtown, Conn., after a gunman killed 26 people there on Friday.

## Gunman kills 20 'beautiful little kids,' 6 adults in elementary-school rampage



BY JAMES BARRON  
The New York Times

A 20-year-old man wearing combat gear and armed with pistols killed 26 people — 20 of them children — in an attack Friday in an elementary school in Connecticut. Witnesses described a horrific scene as the gunman, with brutal efficiency, chose his victims in two specific classrooms while other students dived under desks and hid in closets.

Hundreds of terrified parents gathered at Sandy Hook Elementary School in Newtown, about 65 miles north of New York City, after news of the shootings spread. Many arrived as their sobbing children were led out, each with a hand

on the shoulder of the child in front. But by that time, all the victims were shot and most were dead, as was the gunman, identified as Adam Lanza, who committed suicide. The slain children were said to be from 5 to 10 years old.

A 28th person, found dead in a house in the town, was also believed to have been shot by Lanza. That victim, one law-enforcement official said, was Lanza's mother, Nancy Lanza, 52, who worked at the school. She apparently owned the guns he used; she legally owned five weapons.

The school principal had buzzed Adam Lanza in because she recognized him as the son

See > SHOOTINGS, A5

### Connecticut shooting



SHOOTING SITE:  
Sandy Hook Elementary School



Sources: ESRI, TeleAtlas  
MARK NOWLIN / THE SEATTLE TIMES

## Helping a child or teen deal with fearful news

BY LINDA SHAW  
Seattle Times education reporter

Children need reassurance after hearing about any traumatic event, from earthquakes to terrorist attacks. The school shootings in Connecticut on Friday, however, will require even closer attention by parents because children will naturally think this type of tragedy is even more likely to happen to them.

How can parents help children and teenagers cope with the news?

Here are some tips from a number of experts, including James Mazza, director of school psychology at the University of Washington; Dr. Bob Hilt, a child and adoles-

cent psychiatrist at Seattle Children's hospital; and Tom Delaney, a retired trainer and crisis intervention and prevention specialist in the Lake Washington School District.

- Take care of yourself first. Children soak up their parents' emotions, so while it's fine to express sadness, parents should avoid modeling panicky, stressful behaviors.

See > KIDS, A4

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