



**Graduation**  
WVU-P students receive diplomas at ceremony  
**Region, 1C**

**SATURDAY**

**PLUS:**

Luncheon honors grantees / 1C  
Hotel tax collections up / 2C  
Wrapping paper inside / 1E

**Basketball**

Parkersburg South thumps John Marshall  
**Sports, 1B**



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50 CENTS

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SATURDAY, DEC. 15, 2012



**Locals react to Conn. shooting**

By SHARON BOPP  
Special to The News and Sentinel

MARIETTA — Heartbroken. Shocked. Sad.

These words expressed some of the emotions felt by parents and teachers around Washington County and beyond, as word spread about Friday's school shooting at Sandy Hook Elementary School in Newtown, Conn.

"I think it's heartbreaking and sickening at the same time," said Parkersburg resident Barbara Shrewsbury while visiting City Park on Friday afternoon. "It's hard for me to understand something like this. It is heartbreaking and sickening."

Parents were faced Friday with the dilemma of whether or not to talk to their children about this dark, cruel side of human nature. As another school day approaches Monday, teachers and parents must figure out how to handle that first day back — and the realization that this could happen here.

"I was horrified," said Michelle Secret, of Marietta, who has a daughter in fourth grade at Marietta's Phillips Elementary School and a son who is a high school freshman.

"It was so sad for all the families, for the young kids... for the ones who were killed. For the ones who weren't, they'll just be traumatized," she said.

On Friday evening, Kathryn Hartline, of Marietta, was waiting for her husband to come home before saying a word to their daughter, a third-grader at Putnam Elementary School in Devola. Because his class had discussed the Connecticut school shooting, Hartline had already talked to her son, a sixth grade student at Marietta Middle School.

"I explained what happened, that an individual came into the classroom and some children lost their lives," she said. "I said it was a tragedy, and we need to pray for the families."

The conversation Hartline and her husband planned to have with their third-grader was going to call for some joint parenting.

■ SEE REACTION, PAGE 8A

Connecticut State Police lead a line of children from the Sandy Hook Elementary School in Newtown, Conn., on Friday after a shooting at the school that left 26 people dead, including 20 children.

AP Photos

**20 Children Dead**

*Gunman kills mother, then 26 at Conn. grade school*

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, saying, "As a country, we have been through this too many times."

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



President Barack Obama wipes his eye as he talks about the Connecticut elementary shooting.

**INSIDE**

■ Obama calls for action after shooting / 3A

not authorized to discuss it.

Panicked parents looking for their children raced to Sandy Hook Elementary in Newtown, a prosperous New England community of about 27,000 people 60 miles northeast of New York City. Police told youngsters at the kindergarten-through-fourth-grade school to close their eyes as they were led from the building so that they wouldn't see the blood.

■ SEE SHOOTING, PAGE 8A



Parents walk away from Sandy Hook Elementary School in Newtown, Conn. 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.

**"As a country, we have been through this too many times. We're going to have to come together and take meaningful action to prevent more tragedies like this, regardless of the politics."**

President Barack Obama

**Artsbridge names executive director**



Mark Lanyon, right, was announced Friday as the new executive director for Artsbridge by Lee Rector, left, president of the Artsbridge Board of Directors.

By WAYNE TOWNER  
wtowner@newsandsentinel.com

PARKERSBURG — Parkersburg native Mark Lanyon was announced Friday as the new executive director for Artsbridge, effective Jan. 3.

Lee Rector, president of the Artsbridge Board of Directors, made the announcement Friday afternoon at the Blennerhassett Hotel in Parkersburg.

Rector said a large number of people applied for the position following this summer's retirement of former director John Hoffman. A search committee narrowed the field to 12 people and then further nar-

**MARK LANYON**

■ Local native Mark Lanyon, 44, is the new executive director for Artsbridge.

■ Artsbridge works to support arts-related programs in Wood and Washington counties that range from educational and school-based programs and re-granting money to other arts organizations in the Mid-Ohio Valley.

■ Lanyon is a 1986 graduate of Parkersburg High School.

was chosen by the board at a meeting on Thursday.

"We were really amazed and blessed with how many great, qualified applicants that we had. Mark really fit the bill with all of his experience, his being local from the area and understanding what Artsbridge is and what our mission statement is, to support all of the arts in the Mid-Ohio Valley," Rector said.

"I think he has everything to offer and that's why we selected him to be the executive director," Rector said. "His resume and his past, I feel that Mark will be able to take all

rowed it to four and then to three possibilities. Lanyon ■ SEE ARTS, PAGE 8A



Dec. 15  
10 shopping days to Christmas

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**MORNING NEWS BRIEFING**

**Time for Plan B on fiscal cliff?**

With talks between President Barack Obama and House Speaker John Boehner apparently stalled, it's beginning to look like it's time for Plan B on the "fiscal cliff."

Details, Page 5A

**Shoppers may see discounts**

If shoppers don't show up in stores soon, more "70 percent off" sale signs will. After a promising start to the holiday shopping season, sales have slowed.

Details, Page 1D

**INDEX**

5 SECTIONS	36 PAGES
VOLUME 4, ISSUE 246	
<b>Classified</b> 4C	<b>Living</b> 2D
<b>Comics</b> 5B	<b>Lottery</b> 8A
<b>Deaths</b> 2A	<b>Puzzles</b> 3D
<b>Editorial</b> 4A	<b>Records</b> 3A
<b>Entertainment</b> 3D	<b>Region</b> 1C
<b>Horoscope</b> 2D	<b>Sports</b> 1B