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In this photo provided by the Newtown Bee, 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.

## MAN KILLS MOTHER, THEN 26 AT SCHOOL

By JOHN CHRISTOFFERSEN  
The Associated Press

NEWTOWN, Conn. — A man killed his mother at their home and then opened fire Friday inside the elementary school where she taught, 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 left 33 people dead in 2007.

"Our hearts are broken today," a tearful President Barack Obama, 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 and lived with his mother, said a law enforcement official who was briefed on the investigation but was not authorized to discuss it.

Panicked parents looking for their children raced to Sandy Hook Elementary School in Newtown, a prosperous

### FOR MORE SEE A5

- School shooting one of the worst
- Slayings revive gun discussion
- Obama shares grief over killings

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 and broken glass.

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 that Lanza killed his mother, Nancy Lanza, and then drove to the school in her car with three guns, including a high-powered rifle that he apparently left in the back of the vehicle. Authorities said he shot up two classrooms, but they otherwise gave no details on how the attack unfolded.

A custodian ran through the halls, warning of a gunman on the loose, and someone switched on the intercom, alerting people in the building to the attack — and perhaps saving many lives — by letting them hear the hysteria going on in the school office, a teacher said.

Please see **SHOOTING**, A2

## School district is poised to react when needed

### Lockdown drills, training prep for incidents

By LEAH TODD  
Star-Tribune staff writer

Natrona County schools are well-rehearsed in safety protocols that would govern their responses in a situation like Friday's elementary school shooting in Connecticut, school district officials said Friday.

Schools across the county practice monthly emergency drills and maintain school-specific crisis management plans, assistant superintendent Mark Mathern said.

"The second [that law enforcement] indicates that there is a dangerous situation in the area, we lock down the schools. We don't question," said Dean Braughton, director of student support services.

Braughton said school employees are instructed to alert a principal if a threat is spotted; the principal would in turn activate an immediate lockdown.

District-wide protocols provide guidance for a variety of lockdown situations, said Mathern. There are

### UNRELATED LOCKDOWNS

Oregon Trail, Paradise Valley, and Alcova elementary schools were locked down Friday as a precautionary measure in response to a situation at a private residence in the Riverwest Addition, according to Natrona County School District officials.

The lockdown was lifted shortly before 1 p.m.

Casper Police Sgt. Deahn Amend said there was an initial report of a hostage situation. Police and the Natrona County Sheriff's Office are investigating.

specific lockdown procedures to keep students exactly where they are, to move students to a specified safe spot, or to move students away from an identified danger zone, Mathern said.

Please see **DISTRICT**, A2

## Officials conduct interviews in food poisoning probe

By KYLE ROERINK  
Star-Tribune staff writer

The Wyoming Department of Health has interviewed 50 people as part of an investigation into the source of a foodborne virus outbreak in Casper this week.

As of Friday evening, the Casper-Natrona County Health Department had received 292 reports of foodborne illness related to the Golden Corral restaurant in east Casper, according to department Director Bob Harrington. Harrington cautioned that not all re-

ports are likely to be related to the restaurant.

Some people may have contracted the disease somewhere else, he said. And given the litigious nature of society, some people may be trying to make a quick buck off of insurance claims, Harrington added.

The Wyoming Health Department's interview process consists of a four-page list of questions that help the agency determine whether the restaurant is to blame, according to agency spokeswoman Kim Deti.

Deti said the interview helps determine the time of the onset of illness, the date of

the restaurant visit and the symptoms people experienced. Most of the 50 people who have been interviewed fit the case definition and went to Golden Corral, she said.

The case definition being used at this point by health officials includes diarrhea and/or vomiting lasting at least 12 hours, with a focus on the period following Dec. 1, Deti said.

"If you don't fit the case definition, then you don't fit the mix," Harrington said. "For example, if you have stomach cramps but no diarrhea, then you don't meet the case definition."

State health officials don't intend to interview every person who called to report an illness. Officials are focusing on employees and patrons who went to the emergency room.

Officials suspect the norovirus. The Wyoming Department of Health collected stool samples and reviewed emergency room reports. Lab test results aren't expected until next week.

The restaurant reopened at 5 p.m. Friday after a voluntary 24-hour closure to clean and disinfect the facility.

### Index

#### Weather

High: 38  
Low: 26



- Advisers ..... D5
- Casper ..... A3
- Classifieds... C4-C12
- Comics ..... D3-D4
- Letters ..... A10
- Markets ..... D1
- Movies ..... D5
- NASCAR ..... C1
- Obituaries ..... A7
- Opinion ..... A9
- Public record ..... A8
- Puzzles ..... C8
- Sports ..... B1
- Weather ..... B10
- Wyoming ..... A3

#### The Grouch

Even my heart goes out to the families in Connecticut.

