

**Newtown Buries More Children, Teachers**

NEWTOWN, Conn. (AP) — For a third straight day Wednesday, funeral processions rolled through a grieving Connecticut town trying to make sense of the massacre of 20 first-graders and six adults in an elementary school less than two weeks before Christmas.

A 7-year-old boy who had dreamed of being a firefighter and a heroic first-grade teacher who died while trying to shield students from the carnage were among the victims laid to rest in what has become an unrelenting cycle of sorrow and loss.

"The first few days, all you heard was helicopters. Now at my office all I hear is the rumble of motorcycle escorts and funeral processions going back and forth throughout the day," said Dr. Joseph Young, an optometrist who said he had already been to one funeral and would be going to several more.

Students in Newtown returned to school Tuesday, except those from Sandy Hook Elementary, where a gunman armed with a military-style assault rifle slaughtered the children and six teachers and administrators last Friday. He also killed his mother at her home.

Students at Sandy Hook, which serves kindergarten through fourth grade, will resume classes in a formerly shuttered school in a neighboring community in January.

**U.S. Army To Seek Death Penalty In Massacre**

SEATTLE (AP) — The U.S. Army said Wednesday it will seek the death penalty against the soldier accused of killing 16 Afghan villagers in a pre-dawn rampage in March, a decision his lawyer called "totally irresponsible."

The announcement followed a pretrial hearing last month for Staff Sgt. Robert Bales, 39, who faces premeditated murder and other charges in the attack on two villages in southern Afghanistan.

The slayings drew such angry protests that the U.S. temporarily halted combat operations in Afghanistan, and it was three weeks before American investigators could reach the crime scenes.

Prosecutors said Bales left his remote southern Afghanistan base early on March 11, attacked one village and returned to the base, then slipped away again to attack another nearby compound. Of the 16 people killed, nine were children.

No date has been set for Bales' court martial, which will be held at Joint Base Lewis-McChord south of Seattle.

**Gun Sales Spike In Wake Of Conn. Shooting**

SALT LAKE CITY (AP) — The reaction to the Connecticut school shooting can be seen in gun stores and self-defense retailers across the nation: Anxious parents are fueling sales of armored backpacks for children while firearms enthusiasts are stocking up on assault rifles in anticipation of tighter gun control measures.

A spike in gun sales is common after a mass shooting, but the Connecticut tragedy has generated record sales in many states. Colorado set a single-day record for gun background check requests the day after the Connecticut mass shootings, and some online retailers are removing assault rifles from websites in part because of diminishing supplies.

Nevada saw more requests for background checks in the days after the shooting than any other weekend this year. Some gun shop owners are even holding back on sales, anticipating only more interest and value after President Barack Obama on Wednesday tasked his administration with creating concrete proposals to reduce gun violence.

Robert Akers, a Rapid City, S.D., gun seller specializing in assault-style rifles, said he has about 50 of the weapons in stock but he's not actively trying to sell them and has even turned off his phone.

"It's a madhouse," said Akers, owner of Rapid Fire Firearms. "Any time they have one of these shootings or an election, it gets that way. I don't even want to sell them right now because I won't be able to replace them for probably six months. ... The price is only going to go up higher."

**State Dept. Officials Resign After Benghazi**

WASHINGTON (AP) — Three State Department officials resigned under pressure Wednesday, less than a day after a damning report blamed management failures for a lack of security at the U.S. diplomatic mission in Benghazi, Libya, where militants killed the U.S. ambassador and three other Americans on Sept. 11.

The resignations came as lawmakers expressed anger and frustration over the findings of an independent review panel, and the State Department struggled to find a balance between protecting its diplomats while allowing them to do their jobs connecting with people in high-risk posts.

Obama administration officials said those who had stepped down were Eric Boswell, the assistant secretary of state for diplomatic security, Charlene Lamb, the deputy assistant secretary responsible for embassy security, and Raymond Maxwell, the deputy assistant secretary of state who oversees the Maghreb nations of Libya, Algeria, Tunisia and Morocco. The officials spoke on condition of anonymity because they weren't authorized to discuss personnel matters publicly.

Some of the three may have the option of being reassigned to other duties, the officials said.

**Obama, Boehner Clash As Cliff Edge Approaches**

BY DAVID ESPO AND BEN FELLER  
Associated Press

WASHINGTON — Fiscal cliff talks at a partisan standoff, President Barack Obama and House Speaker John Boehner swapped barbed political charges on Wednesday yet carefully left room for further negotiations on an elusive deal to head off year-end tax increases and spending cuts that threaten the national economy.

Republicans should "peel off the war paint" and take the deal he's offering, Obama said sharply at the White House. He buttressed his case by noting he had won re-election with a call for higher taxes on the wealthy, then added pointedly that the nation aches for conciliation, not a contest of ideologies, after last week's mass murder at a Connecticut elementary school.

But he drew a quick retort from Boehner when the White House threatened to veto a fall-back bill drafted by House Republicans that would prevent tax increases for all but million-dollar earners. The president will bear responsibility for "the largest tax increase in history" if he makes good on that threat, the Ohio Republican declared.

In fact, it's unlikely the legislation will get that far as divided government careers into the final few days of a struggle that affects the pocketbooks of millions and blends lasting policy differences with deep political mistrust.

Boehner expressed confidence the Republicans' narrow so-called Plan B bill would clear the House on Thursday despite opposition from some conservative, anti-tax dissidents, but a cold reception awaits in the Democratic-controlled Senate.

As for a broader agreement, officials said there had been little if any progress toward closing the gap between the two sides in the past two days, even though aides to the president and Boehner have remained in contact.

On paper, the two sides are relatively close to an agreement on major issues, each having offered concessions in an intensive round of talks that began late last week.

But political considerations are substantial, particularly for Republicans.

After two decades of resolutely opposing any tax increases, Boehner is seeking votes from fellow Republicans for legislation that tacitly lets rates rise on million-dollar income tax filers. The measure would raise revenue by slightly more than \$300 billion over a decade

than if all of the Bush-era tax cuts remained in effect.

But Boehner's office trumpeted another figure — an estimate that claimed it would amount to a tax cut of nearly \$4 trillion compared with what would happen if all those tax cuts were to expire as scheduled with the turn of the year.

Similarly, despite vehement protests that the looming across-the-board spending cuts would seriously affect the Pentagon, the leadership's fallback bill does nothing to blunt or eliminate the reductions scheduled to begin on Jan. 1.

Boehner won a letter of cramped support from anti-tax activist Grover Norquist during the day. Norquist's organization, Americans For Tax Reform, issued a statement saying it will not consider a vote for the bill a violation of a no-tax-increase pledge that many Republicans have signed.

But another conservative group came to an opposing conclusion. "Allowing a tax increase to hit a certain segment of Americans and small businesses is not a solution; it is a political ploy," said the Heritage Foundation said in a statement.

As for the scheduled defense cuts, Rep. C.W. (Bill) Young of Florida, who heads the House panel with jurisdiction over the Pentagon's budget, said he is undecided how to vote on the legislation.

"This is not a game. This is real because so much of the sequester (spending cuts) would be defense — half of it," he said. "I just don't think it's workable."

Rep. Tom Rooney of Florida, a member of the Armed Services Committee, said he will vote for the legislation even if it leaves the defense cuts in place. He said if he didn't vote for a bill that prevents a tax increase for 99 percent of people "I'm not doing my job."

That appeared to be the hope of Boehner and the rest of the leadership, that by showing his rank and file is united behind the fallback bill, the speaker would be in a strong position to demand concessions from the White House in the broader endgame.

Democrats had their own issues, but so far, they have remained largely submerged as Republicans struggle.

Reps. Peter DeFazio of Oregon and Jim McDermott of Washington, both veteran liberals, announced their opposition to a provision that Obama is backing to slow the growth of cost-of-living benefits for Social Security and other benefit programs.

At the White House, Obama repeated that he

is ready to agree to spending cuts that may cause distress among some fellow Democrats, but he saved his sharpest words for Republicans.

"Goodness, if this past week has done anything, it should just give us some perspective," he said in a reference to the shootings of school children in Connecticut.

Yet even as he implored Republicans to "take the deal," he made it clear he's open to more bargaining.

Asked whether he might be flexible on the level at which tax rates should rise, he said he wasn't going to bargain in public. He also addressed the issue of politics.

Speaking of Republicans, he said, "It is very hard for them to say yes to me. But at some point, they've got to take me out of it."

He added, "I'm often reminded when I speak to the Republican leadership that the majority of their caucus' membership come from districts that I lost. And so sometimes they may not see an incentive in cooperating with me, in part because they're more concerned about challenges from a tea party candidate, or challenges from the right, and cooperating with me may make them vulnerable."

Nor did Boehner slam the door on further compromises in his brief appearance before reporters. "Republicans continue to work toward avoiding the fiscal cliff," he said.

In the talks to date, Obama is now seeking \$1.2 trillion in higher tax revenue, down from the \$1.6 trillion he initially sought. He also has softened his demand for higher tax rates on household incomes so they would apply to incomes over \$400,000 instead of the \$250,000 he cited during his successful campaign for a new term.

He also has offered more than \$800 billion in spending cuts over a decade, half of it from Medicare and Medicaid, \$200 million from other benefit programs, \$100 billion from defense and \$100 billion from a broad swath of government accounts ranging from parks to transportation and education.

In a key concession to Republicans, the president also has agreed to slow the rise in cost-of-living-increases in Social Security and other benefit programs, at a savings estimated at about \$130 billion over a decade.

By contrast, Boehner's most recent offer allowed for \$1 trillion in higher taxes over a decade, with higher rates for annual incomes over \$1 million. He's also seeking about \$1 trillion in spending cuts.

**Obama To Send Congress Gun Proposals In January**

BY JULIE PACE  
Associated Press

WASHINGTON — Declaring the time for action overdue, President Barack Obama promised on Wednesday to send Congress broad proposals in January for tightening gun laws and curbing violence after last week's school-house massacre in Connecticut.

Even before those proposals are drafted, Obama pressed lawmakers to reinstate a ban on military-style assault weapons, close loopholes that allow gun buyers to skirt background checks and restrict high-capacity ammunition clips.

"The fact that this problem is complex can no longer be an excuse for doing nothing," Obama said in his most detailed comments on guns since Friday's killing of 20 schoolchildren and six adults in Newtown, Conn. "The fact that we can't prevent every act of violence doesn't mean we can't

steadily reduce the violence."

Gun control measures have faced fierce resistance in Congress for years but that may be changing now because of last week's violence. Since then, Obama has signaled for the first time in his presidency that he's willing to spend political capital on the issue and some prominent gun-rights advocates on Capitol Hill — Democrats and Republicans alike — have expressed willingness to consider new measures.

Still, given the long history of opposition to tighter gun laws, there is no certainty the legislation Obama backed Wednesday or the proposals he will send to Congress next month will become law.

Obama tasked Vice President Joe Biden, a longtime gun control advocate, with overseeing the administration-wide process to create those proposals. Beyond firearms' restrictions, officials will also look for ways to increase mental health resources and consider

steps to keep society from glamorizing guns and violence.

Obama's January deadline underscores the desire among White House officials to respond swiftly to the Newtown shooting. Obama aides worry that as the shock of the shooting fades, so, too, will the prospects that pro-gun lawmakers will work with the White House to tighten restrictions.

"I would hope that our memories aren't so short that what we saw in Newtown isn't lingering with us, that we don't remain passionate about it only a month later," said Obama. He pledged to talk about gun violence in his State of the Union address.

Emphasizing the need to take action, Obama said eight people

have been killed by guns across the U.S. since the Newtown shooting. Among them were a 4-year-old boy and three law enforcement officers.

The president has called for a national dialogue on gun violence before, after other mass shootings during his presidency. But his rhetoric has not been backed up with concrete action. And some of the gun measures Obama has signed lessened restrictions on guns, allowing people to carry concealed weapons in national parks and in checked bags on Amtrak trains.

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**OBITUARIES**

**Susan Riherd**

Susan Linda Riherd, 62, of Sioux City formerly of Sloan, passed away unexpectedly on Saturday December 15, 2012 at a Sioux City hospital.

Funeral services will be held on Thursday December 20, 2012 at 10:30 a.m. from St. Joseph Catholic Church in Salix with Father Patrick O'Kane officiating. Interment will follow in St. Joseph cemetery.

Visitation will be held on Wednesday from 5-8 p.m. at Waterbury Funeral Service in Sergeant Bluff. Online condolences for the family may be made at [www.waterburyfuneralserviceinc.com](http://www.waterburyfuneralserviceinc.com).

Susan was born on September 12, 1950 at Pickstown, South Dakota the daughter of Gideon and



Riherd

Betty(Cole) Permann. She was united in marriage with Rick Riherd in 1970 and the couple later divorced. She moved to the Sloan area in 1987 from Spearville, Kentucky.

Susan was a member of St. Joseph Catholic Church. She enjoyed crafts, sewing, gardening and collecting antiques.

She is survived by her son Jeffrey and his wife Sara of Farmington, Arkansas, her daughter Jennifer Rand of Sloan, her brother Robert two sisters Sandy McCabe and husband Babe of Lake Andes, S.D. and Sheila Hisek of Tyndall, S.D. She is also survived by six grandchildren and her ex-husband Rick of Sloan.

Yankton Press & Dakotan  
December 20, 2012

**Trapper Magee**

We are sad to tell you that our son, Trapper Douglas Magee (1

pound, 3 ounces and 12 inches long), was born and died Oct. 31, 2012, at 12:34 a.m.

Trapper is survived by his parents, Doug and Lisa (Ellis) Magee; his sister, Isabella and twin sister, Katlyn Magee, all of Springfield; grandparents: Leonard and Dorothy Magee of Springfield and Rose LaRoche of Springfield; great grandparents: Lorraine Kappenman of Montrose; Glayds Ost of Seaward, NE; as well as aunts, uncles and cousins.

Services will be 2 p.m. Saturday, Dec. 22, 2012, at the Crosby-Jaeger Funeral Home, Springfield.

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**HOLIDAY GARBAGE & RECYCLING COLLECTION SCHEDULE**

**Tuesday, December 25<sup>th</sup>**  
**NO COLLECTION**  
Tuesday & Wednesday routes will be picked up on Wednesday, December 26<sup>th</sup>. All other routes as scheduled.

**Tuesday, December 25<sup>th</sup>**  
**TRANSFER STATION CLOSED**

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Fill the puzzle so that every row, every column, and every section contain the numbers 1-9 without repeating a number.

		1	6		3	5
					6	
		3	9	2		
		4	8			
		1	2	5		8
					4	1
			6	8	9	
		6				
5	2			1	7	

Challenging CH BOOK 41 #1

**Yesterday's Solution**

2	5	4	6	8	3	1	7	9
8	7	9	2	5	1	6	3	4
6	3	1	7	4	9	2	8	5
4	1	8	3	7	2	9	5	6
7	2	6	8	9	5	3	4	1
3	9	5	1	6	4	7	2	8
9	8	2	4	1	7	5	6	3
1	6	7	5	3	8	4	9	2
5	4	3	9	2	6	8	1	7

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**su|do|ku**

Check tomorrow's paper for the solution to today's puzzle.

INT BOOK 41 #1

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