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5 dead in Alumni Road massacre

Gunman kills four lottery officials, then commits suicide

The “small, sleepy town” of Newington was shoved violently into the national spotlight Friday morning when a disgruntled employee went on a deadly shooting rampage at the state lottery headquarters on Alumni Road — practically Newington High School’s backyard.

Matthew Beck, 35, of Cromwell, shot and killed four top lottery officials at around 8:45 AM on Friday before turning the gun on himself.

One of Beck’s victims was Otho Brown, 54, the president and CEO of Connecticut Lottery. Brown was fatally shot in the parking lot of the Newington High School football field, which is a short distance away from the lottery headquarters.

Also killed were former New Britain mayor Linda Blogoslawski Mly-

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Above: A policeman watches over the sheet-covered body of Otho Brown, who was the last of four victims to be murdered in Friday’s deadly shooting rampage. Brown was shot dead in the parking lot of the NHS football field, where his body remained for several hours, as seen in this picture.

NHS IN THE FINAL FOUR

Hockey team reaches semifinals

Bolstered by fans’ shouts of “We’re going to New Haven,” the sixth-seeded Newington ice hockey team breezed past #14 Housatonic Regional 4-1 on Saturday and advanced to Thursday’s semifinal game vs. #2 Glastonbury at New Haven Coliseum.

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UMass,
Syracuse
reach Parks
& Rec final,
page 2

Times “moneyless” NCAA pools begin

With “Selection Sunday” behind us and the brackets for the men’s and women’s NCAA basketball tournaments known, the *Living Room Times* today begins collecting entries for its third annual “moneyless” NCAA pool.

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#1 and #2 to clash in Parks & Rec final

UMass defeats UConn in semis, 35-33; Syracuse wins by forfeit

Jeff “The Admiral” Brunetti scored a team-high ten points and Jeff Cultrera hit two three-pointers, one in the closing minutes of the game, to lead UMass to a hard-fought 35-33 win over UConn in Saturday’s semifinal action in the Newington Parks & Recreation basketball tournament.

The game was tight throughout, although UMass held a slight edge during most of the contest. The score at halftime was tied, 18-18.

With just a few minutes to go in the second half, UMass led by only 32-30 and seemed to be losing momentum. But Cultrera changed that, nailing his second three-pointer of the game and pinning his team to a five-point lead at 35-30.

A two-point field goal and a free throw brought UConn back within 35-33 with 2:06 to go. Then for the next minute, the teams alternated possessions and traded missed shots. With just over a minute to go, UConn, still down by two, missed three shots in a row. UMass’s Brian “Old Bold” Newbold pulled down the crucial rebound with 57 seconds left, and it appeared that the Minutemen—with the lead and the ball—might have the game wrapped up.

But against the advice of his teammates, who were shouting “hold it,” UMass’s Matt Feschler attempted a jumpshot a mere twelve seconds later, with 0:45 on the clock. The shot was off the mark, and in the frantic scramble which ensued, UConn got the rebound.

The Huskies, with a new lease on life, had two clear shots to tie it up, but both layup attempts fell shot. A fadeaway jumper with 0:10 also failed to find the net for UConn. UMass rebounded that miss, and the Huskies quickly fouled the Minutemen.

Once again, the game seemed to be well in hand for UMass. But on the inbounds pass, the Minutemen lazily threw the ball into no man’s land. A UConn player scrambled for the easy steal and called timeout with four seconds left.

However, the Huskies were unable to get a shot off in those final seconds, and UMass escaped with the 35-33 win.

UMass, the top seed in the Parks & Rec playoffs by virtue of their 9-1 regular season record, will play #2-seed Syracuse in the championship game next Saturday at 9:30 AM at the Community Center. Syracuse won its semifinal game Saturday by forfeit when only four players showed up for the scheduled opponent, #6-seed St. John’s.

“How could they forfeit a semifinal game?” asked UMass’s Brunetti as gametime approached with only four St. John’s players in sight.

About ten minutes after the scheduled 10:00 AM start time, the decision was made to call the game, and Syracuse automatically advanced into the final.

1. UMass (9-1)			
8. Kansas (1-9)	UMass		
4. UConn (5-5)	UConn		
5. Duke (4-6)		UMass	Sat. March 14 9:30 AM
2. Syracuse (8-2)		Syracuse	
7. Boston College (3-7)	Syracuse		
3. Georgetown (6-4)	St. John’s		
6. St. John’s (4-6)			

Times begins third annual NCAA pool

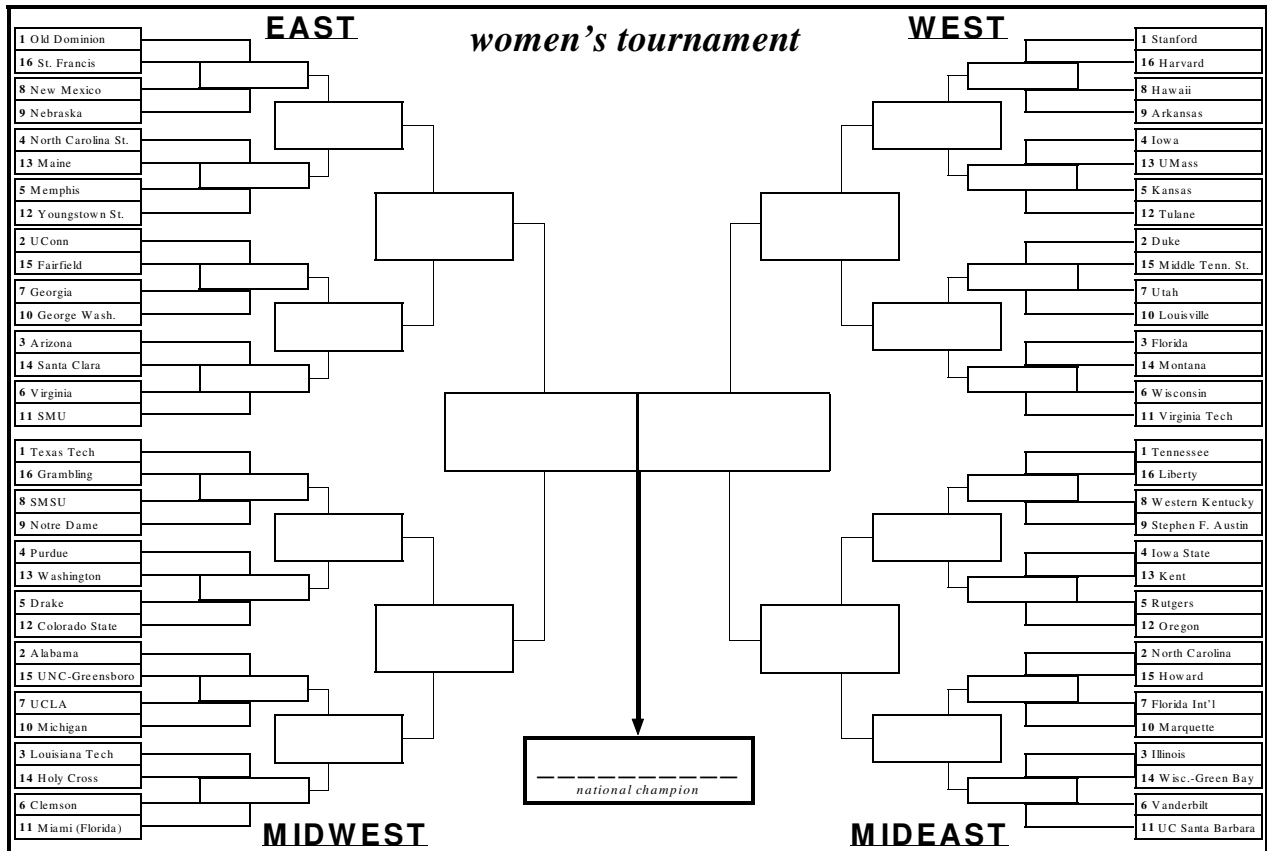
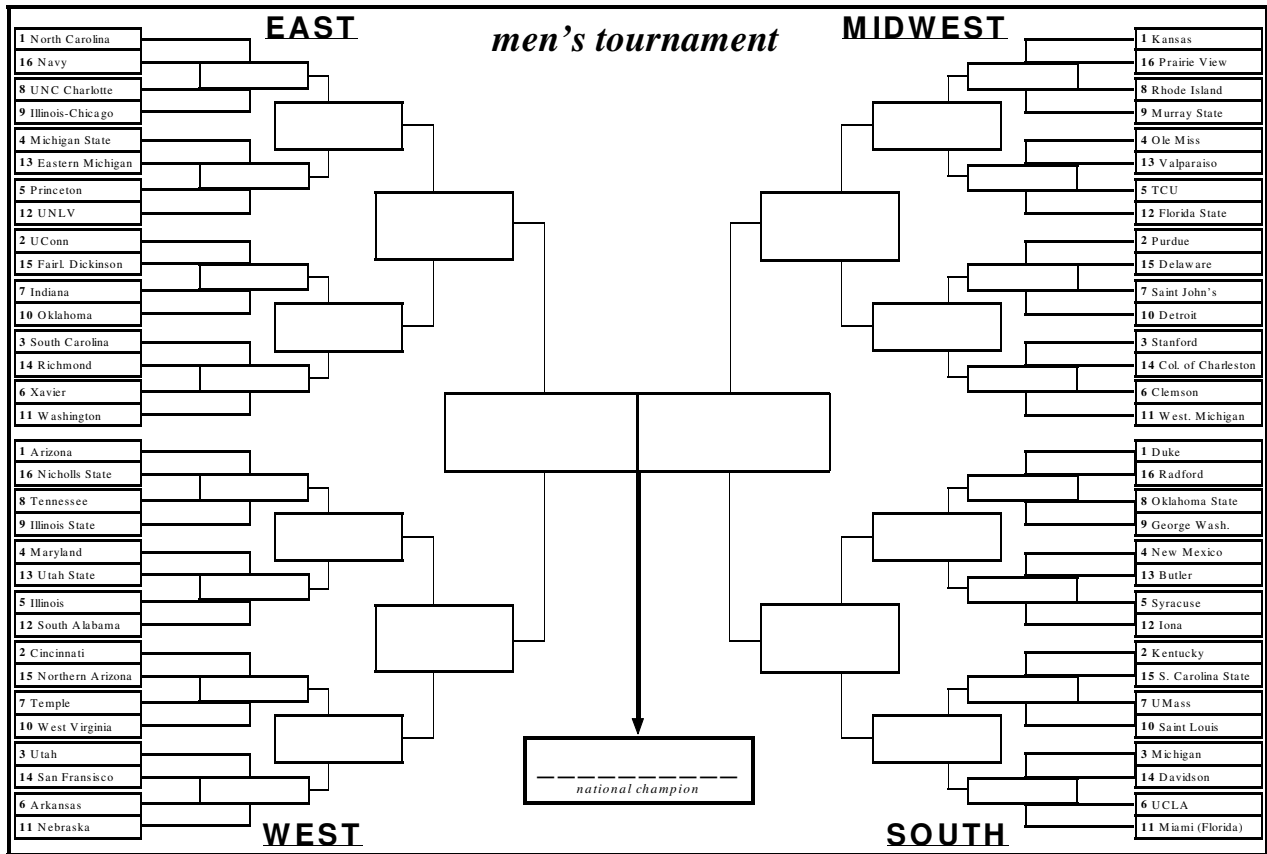
LRT runs moneyless contests for men’s, women’s tourneys

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This year, like last year, there will actually be two pools—one for the men’s tournament and one for the women’s. Entries for the the men’s pool will be due Thursday afternoon when the first game begins, while entries for the women’s pool will be due Friday afternoon when the first game in that tournament begins.

Results of the pools will be available on the *LRT Online* website (www.biogate.com/LRT), which will be updated as often as possible throughout the tournament. To enter the pool, contact Brendan Loy and he will give you a bracket to fill out. No money is involved in the *Times* pool.

Men’s and women’s NCAA tournament brackets, page 3



Disgruntled employee kills four officials, then himself

Tragedy at state lottery headquarters on Alumni Road thrusts Newington into national spotlight

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narczyk, 38, CT Lotto's chief financial officer; Frederick Rubelmann, 40, of Southington, vice president of operations and administration at CT Lotto; and Michael Logan, 33, of Colchester, manager of information systems. All four victims were married, and all but Mlynarczyk had children.

Beck killed Logan, Mlynarczyk, and Rubelmann inside the lottery building. At the sound of gunfire, the more than 100 employees inside ran for their lives.

Brown hollared at his employees to seek shelter in the woods behind the building. He, meanwhile, ran into the NHS football field parking lot, which is adjacent to the lottery headquarters parking lot.

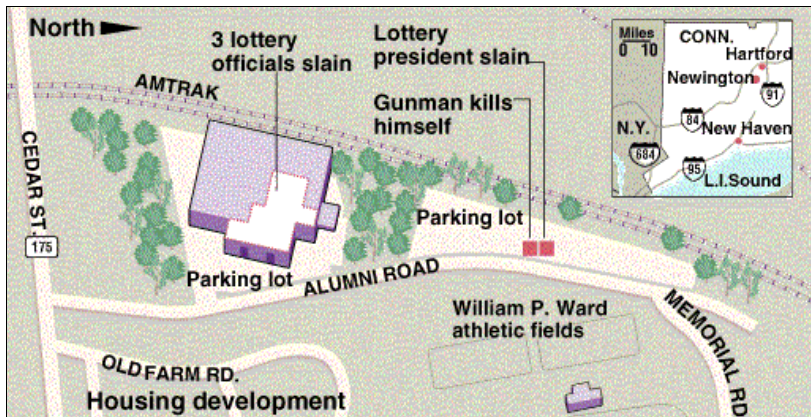
Brown was heard pleading with Beck not to pull the trigger as he ran from the pursuing gunman. But Brown tripped and fell, allowing Beck to catch up. By some accounts, Beck responded to Brown's pleas by stating simply, "Aw, shut up" before shooting the lottery president three times, killing him instantly.

By apparently leading Beck away from fleeing employees by running to the open parking lot rather than into the woods, Brown may have sealed his own demise but saved other employees' lives in the process. "I think Mr. Brown knew what was going on," said lottery employee Shannon O'Neill. "I think he's a hero."

Moments later, as police arrived to apprehend Beck—now a quadruple-murderer—the gunman put the trigger to his own head and shot himself twice. Beck was taken by Life Star to Hartford Hospital, where he was pronounced dead shortly after arrival.

The lottery massacre is believed to be the deadliest act of workplace violence in Connecticut history, according to *The Hartford Courant*.

"This is the kind of place where things just don't happen like this, in the small, sleepy town of Newington, Connecticut," stated WTNH, Channel 8's Christina Hager, who was one of scores of reporters from across the state and the nation reporting from the scene of the



Above: A map of the crime scene, an all-too-familiar location for Newington High School students, from The New York Times website. The page 1 photo is also from the NY Times.

slaughter.

Hager's WTNH colleague, Jane Saffert, agreed. "This is really an unbelievable thing to happen in a small town like Newington," she said. "The shock is really still setting in."

As the shock set in, the media moved in. Within hours after Newington police received word of the shooting at 8:46 AM, news helicopters were whirring overhead and reporters from around the state and the country were talking on cellular phones and looking for the latest scoop. Among those represented in town were CNN, ABC, Boston's WVCB-TV, Telemundo, and the syndicated tabloid show *Inside Edition*, just to name a few. Newspapers such as *The New York Times*, *The Washington Post*, and *USA Today* sent reporters to the scene, as did the Associated Press. Also in town was Governor John Rowland, who arrived at Town Hall for a midday press conference along with several other top state officials, including Congresswoman Barbara Kennelly, his opponent in the upcoming November election for governor.

"Most of us have picked up newspapers in the morning and read about these unnecessary tragedies occurring, but it always seems to occur somewhere else, presumably a faraway place," Governor Rowland said. "This morning, we learned that these unnecessary tragedies can even occur in our own communities and in our

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5 killed in massacre on Alumni Road

Lottery headquarters is scene of deadly shooting rampage

(Continued from page 4)
state.”

Beck, the gunman, had been a lottery employee for eight years, according to the Associated Press. He had just returned to work on February 25 after a four-month medical leave made necessary by job stress.

Employed as an accountant, Beck had filed a grievance in August claiming that he was performing duties outside his job description, computer-related duties for which he should be paid more—perhaps an extra \$2 per hour.

It appeared that Beck would win his grievance and would receive some back pay, according to his union steward, Joseph Mudry of the A & R Employees Union. “He was unsure when he was going to get his money,” Mudry said.

Mudry, who talked to Beck on the phone



Above: Several flower bouquets were left Saturday near the entrance of the lottery building. All photos on this page from The Hartford Courant website unless noted.



Above: Two traumatized lottery employees embrace. Photo from CT Central website.

Thursday, said Friday, “There was no indication of him doing anything like this....It’s just tragic.”

The Hartford Courant Saturday published an extensive interview with the gunman’s father, Donald Beck. The elder Beck expressed regret for saving his son’s life when Matthew attempted suicide last year. “Maybe that was a mistake,” Donald Beck said. “Maybe that was a mistake.”

“This is something we never, never, never expected him to do — hurt other people. Never in a million years did we expect that.”

“What our son, Matt, did was wrong, terribly wrong. Noth-

ing anyone can say can justify or condone his actions,” wrote Beck’s parents in a statement released Saturday.



Above: Survivors watch as an ambulance leaves the scene.

Matt succumbed to “a path of hopelessness,” and “unfortunately and tragically he decided to take others with him,” his parents stated.

“His murderous act was monstrous, but he was not a monster, as his friends and family can attest,” Beck’s parents continued. “At this time of grief for

many, we offer our sincerest sympathy to all the families and apologize for Matt. I cannot ask you to forgive him, for we gave not yet forgiven him for what he did.”



Above: The body of one of the victims is removed from the scene of the shooting Friday afternoon.

Hockey team reaches Final Four

Newington to play at New Haven Coliseum Thursday

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Evan Griffith had two goals and an assist for the Indians. His first goal, with 1:16 left in the first period, finally got things going for Newington after a sluggish start.

Having taken a 1-0 lead, the Indians scored two more in the third period to build a commanding 3-0 edge over the Mountaineers. Billy McCarthy and Travis Behan scored Newington's second and third goals.

Then in the third period, Griffith scored again, putting the Indians up 4-0. Housatonic's Nate Sheldon ruined Newington goalie Myke Cocco's shutout with a meaningless goal with 1:14 left in the game, inspiring the Newington fans to chant, "Scoreboard! Scoreboard!"

The Indians fans were quite creative in their chants

and cheers Saturday. They made fun of the word written Housatonic's uniform—Housy—and chanted Housy goalie Eric Ives's first name over and over whenever Newington scored. After the Indians' second goal, the fans jeered, "It's all your fault! It's all your fault!"

While Newington fans didn't bring any meat to wave at the teams for this game, one fan did question the masculinity of one of Housy's players by shouting, "Hey, Paul Wylie! Nice triple-axel!"

Some of the fans' antics were in questionable taste, such as the spectator who was seen waving a piece of yellow crime scene tape, an apparent reference to Friday's mass murder on Alumni Road.

But there was one sign whose validity could not be questioned: "Pack the buses for New Haven!"

