

Download 8 songs in 21 seconds  ONLY \$19<sup>99</sup>/mo for 12 mos  [LEARN MORE](#)

Contact us | Customer Service | Subscribe | iTribune | Place an ad | Today's ads | iPhone App |

SIGN IN | BECOME A MEMBER



SEARCH

News  Archives  Web Search powered by **YAHOO!** SEARCH

HOME NEWS CRIME OPINION SPORTS ENTERTAINMENT SLO GUIDE OBITS CARS JOBS REAL ESTATE Find n Save

BREAKING LOCAL STATE BUSINESS NATION/WORLD WEIRD NEWS CRIME VIDEOS SPECIAL PROJECTS CAMBRIAN

You are here: News - Local - Breaking News 

Published: 11:17 pm Sunday, Jan. 29, 2012

## Family names Calif. officer shot by fellow police

[Share](#)

[Tweet](#) 2

[Like](#)

  Text size

By The Associated Press

Family members on Sunday identified an officer killed by fellow police on California's central coast, and questioned why the attempted arrest that led to his death had to take place while he was on duty in the streets.

The officer killed was 29-year-old Albert Covarrubias Jr., a four-year veteran of the Santa Maria Police Department, his father and sister told KCOY-TV.

### SIMILAR STORIES:

- Family names Calif. officer shot by fellow police
- Honduras becomes murder capital of the world
- Man arrested in slayings of SC officer, Ga. woman
- Probe of NYPD boss' son puts DA in spotlight, too
- LA detective in Simpson-Goldman murders dies at 70

<http://bit.ly/zdVTV3>

Police, who have not released the officer's name, said he had to be arrested immediately on suspicion of illegal sex with a teenage minor early Saturday because of the seriousness of the evidence and allegations against him.

The officer physically resisted the arrest and fired his gun before another officer fatally shot him at a DUI checkpoint where he'd been working, police said. No one else was injured.

"My son was a beautiful person. My son was respected to everybody. My son was a hard worker," the officer's father, Albert

Covarrubias Sr., told the station. "I love all my children with all my heart and a piece of my heart has been ripped out of me now."

Sister Andrianna Covarrubias told the TV station, "I'm hurt. I don't know how to take it."

The officer's relatives questioned the need for the public confrontation.

"They said they had all this information to arrest him," Covarrubias said. "Why on the streets? Why there? Was it to ridicule him?"

Police declined to offer any new information or comment on the case Sunday.

But at a Saturday news conference, Chief Danny Macagni said evidence obtained by detectives minutes before the attempted arrest and subsequent shooting was "not only compelling, it was egregious, and needed to be dealt with immediately."

Detectives had been investigating an alleged relationship between Covarrubias and a 17-year-old girl starting Thursday night.

Family names Calif. officer shot by fellow police

City of Bell in L.A. County is learning the SLO way of governing

Paso Robles officials won't comment on allegations against police chief

Santa Maria men hurt in Nipomo, San Luis Obispo car crashes

Santa Maria police officer shot, killed by fellow cop

Santa Maria police officer shot, killed by fellow cop

127 comments · 35 minutes ago

Family names Calif. officer shot by fellow police

21 comments · 1 minute ago

Letters to the Editor 1/30

10 comments · 22 minutes ago

Hanging by a strand

59 comments · 9 hours ago

Letters to the Editor 12/28

4 comments · 12 minutes ago

### Get the Deal!

Get \$40 towards an online purchase of nationally-delivered fresh flowers, plants or gift baskets for \$20 from The Enchanted Florist.



\$20.00

Buy Now!

Value: \$40  
Discount: 50%  
You Save: \$20  
dealsaver.com

Macagni declined to give details about the evidence, but said it included witness intimidation.

SHARE THIS STORY:



**Sign up for the daily deal email**

Enter Email


**About comments**

Reader comments on SanLuisObispo.com are the opinions of the writer, not The Tribune. If you see an objectionable comment, click the "report abuse" button below it. We will delete comments containing inappropriate links, obscenities, hate speech, and personal attacks. Flagrant or repeat violators will be banned. See more about comments here.

Like

**Add New Comment**


Login

 Please wait...

Real-time updating is **enabled**. (Pause)

Showing 1-10 of 21 comments

Sort by newest first

 **David Silva**

He was confronted by Officer Judge, Officer Jury, and Sargeant Executioner.

13 minutes ago 1 Like Report Abuse


Like Reply

 **topper**

...He chose his own fate! Suicide by cop!

1 minute ago in reply to David Silva 1 Like Report Abuse

Like Reply

 **FrankLeeSpeaking**

I thought ridiculously high salaries are supposed to attract the best and brightest, it just seems to attract the dregs.

22 minutes ago 1 Like Report Abuse

Like Reply

 **kim North**

They hire first generation Latinos so they can better relate to the high number of illegal population. Many times this backfires because they grew up and or have family in organized crime.

4 minutes ago in reply to FrankLeeSpeaking 1 Like Report Abuse

Like Reply

 **kim North**

I should add that MOST are stand up Cops.

14 seconds ago in reply to kim North Report Abuse

Like Reply

 **danika62**

The previous article indicated they knew about the officer's alleged sexual misconduct on the Thursday before this tragic incident. This article seems to indicate he had sexual relations with the minor on "early Saturday." So, they knew he was having sex with a minor and didn't stop him from doing so on Saturday? I hope I read this wrong.






36 minutes ago Report Abuse

Like Reply

 **DavidHolmes**

**SanLuisObispo.com**  
 THE TRIBUNE  
**OUR NEWS, YOUR WAY**

Be the first to know what's going on in San Luis Obispo County. Just tell us how you want to find out — we'll take care of the rest.

 [mail >](#)  [Twitter >](#)  [Facebook >](#)  [iTribune >](#)  [Subscribe >](#)  [RSS >](#)

**GET BREAKING NEWS ON YOUR CELL PHONE**  
 Sign up for breaking news alerts from SanLuisObispo.com and get the latest news sent to your cell phone via text message.

Type in your cell phone number  
 ( ) -

I accept the terms and conditions (click to view)

**Keep your phone handy!**  
 Upon hitting the Sign up! button, you will receive a message with a four-digit code at the end. Enter this number on the next screen and press the Confirm button.

**careerbuilder.com™**  
 Quick Job Search

Enter Keyword(s):  Enter a City:

Select a State:  California Select a Category:  - All Job Categories



Do we have any reasonable basis for believing that the suspect would have been any less likely to violently resist arrest if the attempt had been made, say, at his house on a Sunday afternoon?

37 minutes ago Report Abuse

Like Reply



### godislanguage

This officer was unstable....and SMPD had to act since there was a real probability that the situation could have escalated to a standoff. Men and women in blue are people too, and do you think they want to put their lives along with the lives of public at an even greater risk? Sorry family, the appeal to sympathy doesn't work for me. The risk was mitigated by the fact it was done at 2 am at a checkpoint....how many people were at the checkpoint at the time? I'll wait for a first hand account from a citizen at the scene during the incident to reply, else....GOOD JOB SMPD! My heart goes out to the officer that took him out, it must be a terrible feeling taking out a life, let alone a co-worker.

48 minutes ago 5 Likes Report Abuse

Like Reply



### keith\_stone

I've known the officer who fired the fatal shot and his family for many years. His father is a close friend and I watched Matt grow up. I spoke with his father last night and they are indeed struggling with what has occurred. Matt's actions may have very likely prevented a tragic situation from becoming even worse.

29 minutes ago in reply to godislanguage 4 Likes Report Abuse

Like Reply



### CommonSenseOccupation

Come on people. The guy was boinking a 17 year old and was involved in witness intimidation. HE fights and pulls and fires his gun and people are saying HE is a victim? Good grief! Sorry for your loss family but your son caused his own death.

Today 07:10 AM 8 Likes Report Abuse

Like Reply

Subscribe by email RSS

1 2 3 Next →

**Family Coats of Arms**  
Your Family Crest / Coat of Arms. We can quickly Email your Crest.  
www.4crests.com

**Find a Marriage License**  
Search marriage records by name. The US marriage records directory.  
marriage

**Marriage License In**  
Looking For Marriage License In? Find It Nearby With Local.com!  
Local.com

Ads by Yahoo!



#### SITE MAP

- |  |   |  |  |   |   |  |
|--|---|--|--|---|---|--|
| <b>News</b>  | <b>Opinion</b>  | <b>Sports</b>  | <b>Entertainment</b>   | <b>Living</b>   | <b>Classifieds</b>  | <b>Resources</b>   |
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>■ Obituaries</li> <li>■ Breaking News</li> <li>■ Local</li> </ul> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>■ Letters to the Editor</li> <li>■ Columns</li> <li>■ Blogs</li> </ul> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>■ Local</li> <li>■ Prep Sports Stats</li> <li>■ Outdoors</li> </ul> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>■ Ticket</li> <li>■ Event Calendar</li> <li>■ Dining</li> </ul> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>■ Health</li> <li>■ Fitness</li> <li>■ Travel</li> </ul> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>■ Jobs</li> <li>■ Cars</li> <li>■ Homes</li> </ul> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>■ Visitor Guide</li> <li>■ My SLO County</li> <li>■ Contact Us</li> </ul> |

- Business
- Tech
- State
- Nation/World
- Politics
- Environment
- Weird News
- Photos
- Video
- Special Projects
- Gas Prices
- Crime
- Traffic Report
- Caption Contest
- College
- Baseball
- Football
- Basketball
- Hockey
- Motorsports
- Golf
- Tennis
- Olympics
- Wine
- Celebrities
- Movies
- Music
- TV
- Horoscopes
- Comics
- Sudoku
- Relationships
- Wedding
- Pets
- Place an Ad
- Local Coupons
- National Coupons
- Display Ads
- Yellow Pages
- Special Sections
- Subscriber Services
- News in Education
- RSS Feeds
- E-Newsletters
- Archives
- Photo Reprints
- Yellow Pages

[Terms of Service](#) [Privacy Policy](#) [About our ads](#) [Copyright](#)