

DONOHUE SAYS FAREWELL

Salinas mayor looks back on six years

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STRONG AT HOME

Monterey tops Alisal in boys basketball

Story on page B1

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Newtown: 20 children among 28 dead; stories emerge of gunfire, response

Connecticut school shooting stuns nation

By STEPHANIE AKIN
The Record (Hackensack, N.J.)

NEWTOWN, Conn. — It was a primal wail, born of the unimaginable suffering of parents who just learned that their children were killed — ripped from this world at the beginning of their lives when possibilities seem endless, dreams still include Santa Claus and bullets are the kind of things that exist only in cartoons.

“You hear it when people die,” said John Woodall, a psychiatrist who lives in Newtown, Conn., who was one of the many crisis counselors who offered their services to the families that gathered Friday. “People were hoping against hope that their child was alive, that their neighbor’s child or their grandchild was alive.”

Instead, hours after the first reports of shots fired at Sandy Hook Elementary School at 9:30 a.m., the announcement came that 18 children and six adults were dead at the school. Two more children died at a hospital in neighboring Danbury, Conn. Authorities later said a female teacher who was shot in the foot was the only surviving victim.

The news was the latest in a series of unthinkable revelations on what began as a typical mid-December day. By sundown, all of the children who would be reunited with their parents were accounted for. The list of the dead was completed. And the town, described by residents as a storybook New England community, was reeling.

The death toll at the school — 26, plus gunman Adam Lanza — makes it the second-deadliest school shooting in the nation’s history, exceeded only by the 2007 shootings at Virginia Tech, which left 32 people plus the gunman dead.

Lanza, who was described as having a personality disorder, also shot and killed his



MELANIE STENGEL/Associated Press

A girl cries after the shooting at Sandy Hook Elementary School in Newtown, Conn., on Friday.

Connecticut gun laws among tightest

LIMITS CAN BE USED TO BOLSTER BOTH SIDES OF GUN CONTROL DEBATE

HERALD QUESTION OF THE DAY

After a tragedy, when is the best time to have a discussion on gun control?

- Immediately
- After a few days
- Never

Go to: montereyherald.com to place your vote

Herald surveys are unscientific

By RYAN TEAGUE BECKWITH
Digital First Media

Supporters and opponents alike of gun control will point to this fact in the coming days: Connecticut already has some of the toughest restrictions on gun laws in the United States.

For gun control supporters, the shooting at a

Newtown elementary school will be one more piece of evidence that even stronger laws are needed, including at the national level.

“We have some of the strongest gun laws in the United States, but if you don’t have strong federal gun laws, that makes it that much more difficult,” said Ron Pinciario, executive director of Connecticut Against Gun

Violence.

But advocates for gun owners and sportsmen say that shows the law can only do so much.

“In general, the laws here are pretty strict, and they’re working,” said Bob Crook, executive director of the Coalition of Connecticut Sportsmen. “But I don’t know of any law that would prevent someone like at Columbine

or at Aurora or here in Connecticut from committing these offenses which are clearly psychologically based.”

Connecticut’s laws are strict by comparison to many other states, but they still fall short of what many gun control advocates want.

In 2011, Connecticut was

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Marina Coast Water District must pay \$1.3 million

Judge rules for Ag Land Trust

By JIM JOHNSON
Herald Staff Writer

A judge ordered the Marina Coast Water District to pay the Ag Land Trust nearly \$1.3 million in attorneys fees in connection with a lawsuit challenging the failed regional desalination project’s environmental review.

On Friday, Superior Court Judge Lydia Villarreal ruled that Marina Coast would be required to cover the Ag Land Trust’s legal bills starting in late 2009, which amount to about \$915,000,

said the organization’s attorney Michael Stamp.

Villarreal awarded the Ag Land Trust an additional sum, or “multiplier,” because of the difficulty of the case, Stamp said.

Ag Land Trust vice-chairman Marc Del Piero said the additional award recognized the efforts of a private, non-profit organization in expending its own resources in pursuit of a matter of “significant public interest.”

Del Piero noted he alerted the county Board of Supervisors and the state Public

Utilities Commission that there were no available groundwater rights in the Salinas Valley basin for the regional project as far back as 2006, with no response.

Marina Coast is pursuing an appeal of Villarreal’s decision, filed earlier this year, that found the regional desal project EIR should have been conducted by the project partners — Marina Coast, California American Water and the county Water Resources Agency — instead of the state Public Utilities Commission. Villarreal ruled the project’s EIR failed to address a number

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