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NEWS FROM THE NORTHWEST

Officer dies, suspect's charges postponed

■ **POLICE:** Suspect in a drug-bust death won't be charged until he has recovered

TACOMA (AP) — Charges in the death of a popular Pierce County sheriff's deputy likely will not be filed until his suspected assailant has completed hospital treatment for his wounds, prosecutors say.

Brian Eggleston, 25, was shot 10 times in the shootout that erupted during a Monday drug raid at his parents' east Tacoma home. Authorities said a total of 27 shots were fired in the shootout.

Deputy John Bananola, 36, shot in the head and torso, was pronounced dead at Madigan Army Medical Center, where Eggleston was in stable condition Tuesday.

A decision on charges will not be made until Eggleston has been released from the hospital and has been in the Pierce County Jail for at least a day, said Deputy Prosecutor Gerry Horne, noting that the courts often will extend that time frame to 72 hours.

The shooting is being investigated by the sheriff's office, Tacoma police and the county medical examiner's office.

A law-enforcement informer had bought marijuana from Eggleston "a number of times" and authorities were serving a search warrant when the shootings occurred, said sheriff's department spokesman Curt Benson.

Because the informer had said there were weapons in the house, authorities planned a surprise raid. Bananola, who was wearing a bulletproof vest, was the first

officer through the door after members of a six-man team knocked at the door and identified themselves as police officers.

"We do a number of these raids every year," he said. "There was nothing different about this one except it ended in a tragic loss for our department and the community."

Bananola, an Air Force veteran and former county corrections officer, became a deputy in 1991 and was well-liked.

"Even the suspects respected him," Benson said.

As a corrections officer, Bananola received an award in 1987 for saving an inmate's life. A native of Hawaii, he was engaged to be married and is survived by a 14-year-old daughter from a previous marriage.

Eggleston's mother and her ex-husband, both living at the home, were questioned and released. The Egglestons had lived in the modest neighborhood for years and were "good neighbors," said Cappy McIntyre, who has lived across the street since 1962.

Eggleston, employed at a Tacoma bar, "would go out of his way to help you," said a friend of 12 years who would identify herself only as "Jenni."

"He's the last person in the world I would think this would happen to."

In the late 1980s, Eggleston was charged in Cowlitz County with second-degree theft and forgery, and served 29 months in jail. He pleaded guilty in Pierce County in 1990 to possession of stolen property, a car, and served an 11-day sentence on that charge at the same time as the Cowlitz County penalty.

Child to undergo evaluation before continuing testimony

WENATCHEE, Wash. (AP) — One of the key child witnesses who has testified in six child sex ring trials is undergoing an evaluation to see whether she is emotionally strong enough to continue testifying, attorneys said.

The evaluation caused the delay of a pre-trial hearing Monday for Susan Everett, 34, who has been accused of multiple counts of child rape and abuse based in part on statements she made to Wenatchee sex crimes Detective Bob Perez, the girl's foster father.

The 11-year-old girl had been subpoenaed to testify, but her legal guardian, attorney Neil Fuller, tried to quash the subpoena, saying the girl was unavailable.

The hearing was postponed indefinitely. Everett is scheduled to go on trial Nov. 14.

Twenty-eight adults have been charged since last fall with participating in what authorities describe as two loosely organized sex rings in operation since 1988.

Four of the cases have resulted in convictions and 10 defendants have pleaded guilty. One person was acquitted and charges against two others were dismissed. One person pleaded guilty to misdemeanor charges.

Ten cases are pending.

If the girl can't continue to testify, it could affect at least two pending child rape cases: Everett's and that of her cousin, Karen Lopez, 30, of Grandview, Chelan County Prosecutor Gary Riesen said.

Authorities decided to have the child evaluated after the third incident where she lost control at her home: screaming, running away and, at one time, causing enough damage to her bedroom to warrant a malicious mischief citation.

The girl had a history of volatility that was reported at other foster homes and her own home before she was placed with Perez and his wife, Luci.

But prosecutors say they're concerned because the incidents seem to occur around the same time the girl is scheduled to testify in a trial. The girl insists she still wants to testify, but the concern is that she's being pushed too far, said Deputy Prosecutor Roy Fore.

Critics of the case are concerned that the girl has been coerced or intimidated by Perez into lying about the abuse.

It was not known when the girl's evaluation would be completed.

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