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Marchers Demand Justice

(AP) — Organizers of a march held along on June 10, 2005. with a regional meeting of the NAACP called for a new trial for a man convicted of manslaughter in the death of a University of Oregon student last year.

More than 100 people marched through downtown Salem on Saturday to protest against the conviction of Darrell Sky Walker, son of crowd she was not giving up her pursuit of former NBA guard Darrell Walker.

In July, a judge denied a request for a new trial. Lawyers for Walker argued that a new jury should hear additional testimony suggesting that another man punched Phillip Gillins, 22, as he was walking home with two friends

Gillins fell, struck his head and died two days later of a brain injury.

Organizers said they hoped to raise awareness of the case of Walker, who was sentenced to more than six years in prison.

Walker's mother, Alesia Williams, told the justice.

"I'm for justice," she said. "I'm for the safety of the public and think when people do a crime, they should be put in jail. But you shouldn't be in jail for something you didn't do. That's not fair. I want some justice and I want it now."



Neighbors gather near an Amish schoolhouse where police say a gunman shot several children in Nickel Mines, Penn., after taking about a dozen girls hostage. (AP photo)



(AP) - A milk-truck driver carrying three guns and a grudge stormed a one-room Amish schoolhouse in Nickel Mines, Pa. Monday, sent the boys and adults outside, barricaded the doors with twoby-fours, and then opened fire on a dozen girls, killing five of them before committing suicide.

It was the nation's third deadly school shooting in less than a week, and it sent shock waves through Lancaster County's bucolic Amish country, a picturesque landscape of horse-drawn buggies, green pastures and neat-as-a-pin farms, where violent crime is virtually nonexistent.

Four other victims were critically wounded, state police said. Most of the victims had been shot, execution-style, at point-blank range, after being lined up along the chalkboard, their feet bound with wire



Charles Roberts

and plastic ties, authorities said. "This is a horrendous, horrific

incident for the Amish community. They're solid citizens in the community. They're good people. They don't deserve ... no one deserves this," State Police Commissioner Jeffrey B. Miller said.

deadly school shooting last week in Bailey, Colo., and authorities there raised the possibility that the Pennsylvania attack was a copycat crime.

The gunman, Charles Carl Roberts IV, a 31-year-old truck driver from the nearby town of Bart, was bent on killing young girls as a way of "acting out in revenge for something that happened 20 years ago," Miller said.

The gunman told his wife by cell phone shortly before opening fire that he had molested two young relatives decades ago and was tormented by "dreams of molesting again," authorities said Tuesday.

Roberts was not Amish and appeared to have nothing against the Amish community, Miller said. Instead, Miller said, he apparently picked the school because it was close by, there were girls there, and

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The attack bore similarities to a it had little or no security.

Vancouver Police Defend Shooting

Man killed pointing toy gun

(AP) — A police officer fatally shot a transient who was camping behind a Wal-Mart store because a toy gun the man pointed at him and thorities said.

shootings by law enforcement who said he had been camping with officers - but apparently was Damon behind the store for about justified in the shooting, acting a week. Dickens said he was in Police Chief Mitchell K. Barker another store at the time of the said Monday.

He said Damon, sitting in the grass with his back to Raquer, dis- health problems hampered efforts refused to drop looked real, au- regarded several demands to show to move him into stable housing,

- a standard procedure in cording to Chalin Lee Dickens, 31, shooting.

Damon's alcoholism and other his hands and then pointed a "rep- said Katherine Garrett, the pro-Douglas Damon, 64, known on lica" gun at the detective. Fearing gram director of Share Outreach, the streets as "Grandpa," was shot for his safety, Raquer fired a shot a program for visiting the hometo death at midday Sunday after that hit Damon in the head, the less with food and information on services. She said Damon picked Raquer had every reason to be- up Social Security checks at Share



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residents near the store complained acting chief said. to police about homeless people in the area.

nine-year veteran who fired the an option, Barker said. fatal shot while working overtime

lieve the gun Damon held was real, House and often ate there. Detective Greg Raquer, 42, a and less-than-lethal force was not

on patrol, remained on paid leave some trees behind the store, ac- him grandpa."

"He was one of my little favorites," Garrett said. "He was just a Damon found the toy gun near sweet little guy. Everybody called

Jury Looks at Police Custody Death

A Multnomah County Grand in police custody. Jury began meeting Tuesday to

On Sept. 17, James Chasse died consider possible criminal in a police car that was taking concluded that Chasse died of charges against the Portland him to a hospital. Police say he blunt force trauma to the chest, police officers involved in the had been in a fight with officers but also ruled the death to be death of a man who died while in downtown Portland prior to an accident.

his death.

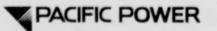
A state medical examiner

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Food Stamp Benefits Increase

Food-stamp households will receive small increases this month in the amount of their benefit and in how much they can earn to qualify.

The federal government which finances the food-stamp program revises payments annually to reflect changes in food, housing and other costs.

Households with incomes below 185 percent of the federal poverty level (\$3,084 a month for a family of four) may qualify for benefits, which are based on household income, size and expenses.

For a family of four receiving the maximum benefit, the food-stamp benefit increases by \$12 from \$506 a month to \$518. Gross monthly family income to qualify for food stamps rises from \$2,097 or less to \$2,167.

For an individual receiving the maximum benefit, the monthly food stamp benefit will increase by \$3, from \$152 to \$155. The individual also can earn up to \$1,062 in monthly gross income, compared with \$1,037 before Oct. 1.