

Marchers Demand Justice

(AP) — Organizers of a march held along 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 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

on June 10, 2005.

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 crowd she was not giving up her pursuit of 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)

Amish School Shooting Shocks

(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 two-by-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.

The attack bore similarities to a

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 it had little or no security.



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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 refused to drop looked real, authorities said.

Douglas Damon, 64, known on the streets as "Grandpa," was shot to death at midday Sunday after residents near the store complained to police about homeless people in the area.

Detective Greg Raquer, 42, a nine-year veteran who fired the fatal shot while working overtime on patrol, remained on paid leave

— a standard procedure in shootings by law enforcement officers — but apparently was justified in the shooting, acting Police Chief Mitchell K. Barker said Monday.

He said Damon, sitting in the grass with his back to Raquer, disregarded several demands to show his hands and then pointed a "replica" gun at the detective. Fearing for his safety, Raquer fired a shot that hit Damon in the head, the acting chief said.

Raquer had every reason to believe the gun Damon held was real, and less-than-lethal force was not an option, Barker said.

Damon found the toy gun near some trees behind the store, ac-

ording to Chalin Lee Dickens, 31, who said he had been camping with Damon behind the store for about a week. Dickens said he was in another store at the time of the shooting.

Damon's alcoholism and other health problems hampered efforts to move him into stable housing, said Katherine Garrett, the program director of Share Outreach, a program for visiting the homeless with food and information on services. She said Damon picked up Social Security checks at Share House and often ate there.

"He was one of my little favorites," Garrett said. "He was just a sweet little guy. Everybody called him grandpa."

Jury Looks at Police Custody Death

A Multnomah County Grand Jury began meeting Tuesday to consider possible criminal charges against the Portland police officers involved in the death of a man who died while

in police custody.

On Sept. 17, James Chasse died in a police car that was taking him to a hospital. Police say he had been in a fight with officers in downtown Portland prior to

his death.

A state medical examiner concluded that Chasse died of blunt force trauma to the chest, but also ruled the death to be an accident.

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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.