

NATIONAL NEWS

Grievers seek answers for teacher shooting

BY MARK LONG
ASSOCIATED PRESS

WEST PALM BEACH, Fla. — Scores of grieving children, parents and colleagues brought flowers and notes Saturday to the middle school where a popular English teacher was fatally shot on the last day of classes.

In a courtroom across town, a judge ordered that 13-year-old Nathaniel Brazill remain in custody while a grand jury considers what charges should be brought against him in Barry Grunow's death.

State Attorney Barry Krischer, known to back zero tolerance attitudes in dealing with juvenile crime, said he decided to charge the teen-ager as an adult, the Miami Herald reported in its Sunday editions.

"It shouldn't be so easy for juveniles to get a gun," Krischer told the newspaper, "just because they have no impulse control."

The seventh-grader had been sent home by an assistant principal Friday around 1 p.m. for throwing water bal-

loons in class. According to police, he rode his bicycle back to school about two hours later with a semi-automatic pistol in his pocket.

The pistol — a compact, 5-inch model called a Raven — was loaded with four bullets he had stolen from his grandfather's dresser drawer a week before, Police Chief William Smith said.

Brazill was trying to talk to two girls in Grunow's class. When the teacher told him to leave, police say, he pulled out the gun and shot Grunow in the head. Grunow, 35, was the father of two and had worked at the school for seven years.

Police say the boy rode away on his bicycle, but flagged down a police officer about a quarter of a mile from the school and surrendered. He told investigators he liked Grunow.

"Everybody's talking about the gun, but we need to try to figure out what made him do that," said Corey Jackson, a pastor and neighbor of Brazill's.

Early Saturday, Brazill, wearing a two-piece khaki jail uniform, his wrists shackled, appeared before Palm Beach

County Circuit Court Judge Jorge LaBarga and a courtroom packed with cameras and reporters.

His parents were distraught, but the boy's expression was obstructed from view. He was flanked by two public defenders, who said they are still working on how to best represent their client.

"It is too premature, we need to spend more time with our client," said lawyer Damon Amedeo.

Brazill is being held at the Palm Beach Regional Juvenile Detention Center in West Palm Beach. The grand jury has to review the case by June 17.

Curtains were drawn Saturday at the home of Brazill's parents.

An elderly man answered the door and said the family was not yet ready to comment.

"As far as I know, he was real good," said Jackson, Brazill's neighbor. "They were supposed to go to church with us last night. We're still in shock."

Outside Lake Worth Middle School, a memorial of flowers and posters covered a 40-foot section of the school's

fence. Parents and children hugged, cried and tried to console one another.

Many of the messages were addressed to "Shaggy," a nickname given to Grunow because of his hair.

Students, parents and school officials said he was well-liked and known for unconventional methods, like reading J.R.R. Tolkien's "The Hobbit" aloud in class with different voices for the characters. Students said he regularly joined them in pickup basketball games after school.

At least 200 people stopped at the school Saturday to speak with grief counselors, who also planned to be there Sunday.

"I know how my children are taking this, and I just don't have the answers," Beverly Hart said.

Her 12-year-old daughter Amber should have been in Grunow's class, but her mother asked her to stay home. It's a practice Hart has followed the past few years with all her children on the last day of classes out of concern that kids are likely to bring weapons or fight, she said.

STATE BRIEFS

■ Spence recovering quickly from transplant

(AP) — Rep. Floyd Spence, R-S.C., was released from a Baltimore hospital Tuesday, four days after he underwent a kidney transplant.

Spence planned to stay in a local hotel before heading back to South Carolina later this week, spokesman Craig Metz said.

The 72-year-old congressman, who underwent a rare double lung transplant 12 years ago, received the new kidney Friday from his 46-year-old son, David, of Columbia.

■ Misspelled racial vandalism being investigated

YORK (AP) — Investigators are trying to determine who spray painted a misspelled racial slur on a black family's home here.

Collie Douglas said he had just bought the home and hadn't yet moved in when he discovered the words Sunday. Douglas said someone had spray painted the words 'niger niger' on his home.

Douglas and some family members worked on Monday to remove some trees that partially blocked a view of his home, hoping that a clear sight line would deter future vandalism.

■ Celebrity reads to Columbia children

(AP) — Supermodel Kathy Ireland Tuesday told a group of Camden Primary School students that they could explore the world by reading books.

Ireland and children's author Rosemary Wells read to the children at the Governor's Mansion

GARBAGE

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She even spotted a car bumper — in a dorm hallway.

Her current posting at a private school in Denver is more sedate. The 1,400 students in campus housing are more apt to abandon clothing or small electronics, she says. But not much gets left. Resident assistants visit every student to nudge the cleanup. Leaving anything behind draws a \$25 penalty.

Spring exodus turns many campuses into giant grab-bags.

Lily Piper, the housing coordinator

at Furman University in Greenville, S.C., knows a good deal.

She spotted a student throwing out a bookshelf. "What's wrong with this?" Piper asked. The student lamented: No room in her car.

The shelf joined Piper's growing pile: carpeting, a wheeled cart, a slab of corkboard — all so her husband can spruce up his fourth-grade classroom.

With 2,300 students in 14 dorms, Furman posted two 20-foot trash receptacles on campus. One sits behind Piper's office. "We keep an eye out," she says.

With bins in each dorm, Furman also collects for charity, as do many schools. San Jose State University, largely a commuter school where many students travel on two wheels, has an auc-

tion every summer of bicycles abandoned in spring.

Besides charity, recycling is a popular cure for an often costly headache.

A decade ago, the University of Michigan paid some \$26,000 to dump student leftovers in landfill. Now, with 9,400 students in dorms, the school pushes recycling with a convert's zeal. This year, the landfill fee was \$16,000.

Before school ended in late April, bins popped up in dorms across the Ann Arbor campus. Some 225 campus staff relayed the castoffs to a food bank, a women's shelter and Purple Heart, an agency aiding military veterans. Lumber from dismantled loft beds attracted builders and do-it-yourselfers in the community — and students hankering to

make their own beds.

Total donated: 5,500 pounds of clothes; 1,417 pounds of shoes; 956 pounds of food; 262 pounds of pillows, rugs and towels; 120 pounds of toiletries. Plus 32 pounds of metal hangers to be sold for scrap.

Matt Epstein packed one last time at Bates College as his May 29 graduation approached. The 22-year-old planned to leave nothing but the campus, and Maine, behind.

His sister, a sophomore up the road at Colby College, inherits a small refrigerator. His parents will cart the skis and bicycle. Everything else — books, clothes, stereo, computer — gets crammed into his Jetta.

Including that green oval rleft three years ago by a roommate.

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