

LAW & JUSTICE

Career Criminal Gets 15 Years For Alberta Park shootings

Rahsann Latif Sloan was sentenced to prison for 15 years Friday by U.S. District Court Judge Anna J. Brown following his earlier plea of guilty to being an Armed Career Criminal.

In drive-by shootings on July 17 and 18, Sloan fired shots toward a group of individuals in Alberta Park. Although no one was injured in the shootings, during the first episode, one stray bullet hit a passing mini-van occupied by three people. During the second incident, a stray bullet went through the window of a nearby residence. A total of 16 shell casings were found at the scene by the officers.

A mandatory minimum of 15 years was imposed under the Armed Career Criminal Act based upon Sloan's previous robbery conviction and two separate convictions for Delivery of a Controlled Substance.

"Prosecuting armed career criminals is a top priority for this office," stated U.S. Attorney Karin J. Immergut. "Gang-related violent offenders who threaten our safety must be removed from our communities. Oregon residents should not be afraid to leave their homes and should be able to walk freely in the streets without worrying about becoming a victim of gun violence."

Equality Stalled for Many in Oregon

Progress Board report card

Even though most racially and ethnically diverse groups in Oregon are more educated and arrest-free than in 1990, progress has slowed or reversed since 2000 for eighth grade reading, prenatal care, poverty, arrests and home ownership.

The findings are from a new report called Oregon Benchmarks: A Report on the Progress of Oregon's Racially and Ethnically Diverse Populations.

"This important study from the Oregon Progress Board again demonstrates the need for more targeted attention by public policy makers," said Sen. Avel



Sen. Avel Gordly

Gordly, a local African American leader who represents northeast and southeast Portland in the State Legislature.

"Let us all remember that Oregon's racial and ethnic communities include taxpayers who have not benefited equitably from public policy making in education, health care, housing and employment practices," Gordly said.

The report compares benchmark trends on education, health and safety, and financial status for Oregon's racial and ethnic populations: Whites, African Americans, American Indians, Asians/Pacific Islanders and Hispanics.

Oregon Benchmarks are 90 quality-of-life indicators tracked and reported on biennially by the Oregon Progress Board.

The state's largest and fastest-growing diverse population, Hispanics, fared worse than non-

Hispanics in all of the Oregon Benchmarks examined. Hispanics were in poverty at a greater rate 2004 than in 2000. Hispanics and American Indians in particular have lower high school and college completion rates and are in poverty at a higher rate in Oregon than their counterparts nationwide.

Asians/Pacific Islanders surpassed whites in education while Oregon's other diverse populations remained behind.

Oregon's racially and ethnically diverse population grew from seven percent in 1990 to 13 percent in 2004. Hispanics made up most of Oregon's diverse population that year, having grown to 10 percent of the population, up from 4 percent in 1990.

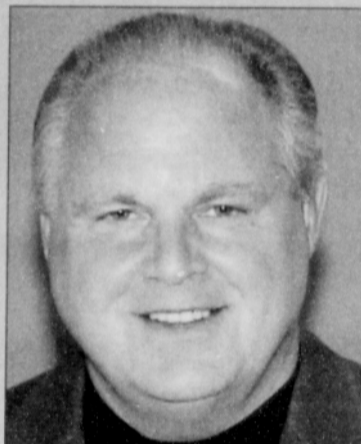
Plea Deal on Drug Charge

Limbaugh submits to random testing

(AP)—Conservative talk show host Rush Limbaugh must submit to random drug tests under an agreement filed Monday that will dismiss a prescription fraud charge against him after 18 months if he complies with the terms.

He also must continue treatment for his acknowledged addiction to painkillers and he cannot own a gun.

The agreement did not call for Limbaugh to admit guilt to the charge that he sought a prescription from a physician in 2003 without revealing that he had received medications from another practitioner within 30 days.



Rush Limbaugh

Prosecutors launched their investigation after Limbaugh's housekeeper alleged he abused OxyContin and other painkillers. He entered a five-week rehabilitation program that year and blamed his addiction on severe back pain.

The Palm Beach County State

Attorney's Office may revoke or modify the deal if Limbaugh violates the terms, according to the agreement.

Prosecutors accused him of illegally deceiving multiple doctors to receive overlapping prescriptions, a practice known as doctor shopping. After seizing his medical records, authorities learned Limbaugh received up to 2,000 painkillers, prescribed by four doctors in six months.

However, the single charge only alleges that Limbaugh illegally obtained about 40 pills, said Mike Edmondson, a state attorney's spokesman. He would not elaborate or explain why prosecutors scaled back the case.

Kendall Coffey, a former U.S. attorney and Miami defense lawyer, said the agreement is a standard deal for first-time, nonviolent drug offenders.

Alabama May Pardon Rosa Parks

And hundreds of others from segregation era

(AP)—Alabama Gov. Bob Riley has signed legislation that sets up a process to pardon civil rights icon Rosa Parks and hundreds of others arrested for violating segregation-era laws.

Riley signed the bill April 21, without making an official announcement. Jeff Emerson, the governor's communications director, said Thursday.

Those arrested or family members of those deceased would have to request the pardons under the bill, which passed April 17.



Rosa Parks

The bill names the new law "The Rosa Parks Act." It could lead to pardons for Parks, civil rights leader Dr. Martin Luther King and hun-

dreds of others convicted of violating laws aimed at keeping the races separate.

"This bill is a step in the right direction in reconciling the plight of so many Alabamians whose rights and freedoms were compromised over the last century," said Democratic Rep. Thad McClammy, sponsor of the legislation in the House.

The bill was amended to allow museums, such as The Rosa Parks Library and Museum in Montgomery, to continue to display records of the arrests.

Parks was arrested 50 years ago for refusing to give up her seat to a white man on a Montgomery city bus, an event that sparked the historic Montgomery bus boycott.

Newsroom Minority Hiring Falls Short

No parity for journalists of color

Journalists of color represent only about 13.8 percent of the staff in America's daily newsrooms, according to the latest census from American Society of Newspaper Editors.

The percentage represented a nearly invisible increase from last year's census, which identified 13.4

percent of daily journalists as belonging to racial and ethnic minority groups.

About one-quarter of U.S. daily newspapers do not employ a single minority journalist, meaning that 377 newspapers reported no minority newsroom employees.

The results show daily news-

papers are lagging badly in the goal adopted by the editor's group of achieving a parity by 2025 between the percentage of minority journalists working in daily newsrooms, and the percentage of people of color in the U.S. general population. About one-third of the U.S. population is comprised of people from racial or ethnic minority groups.

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