

Police Custody Death Investigated

Family can't find justification for force used

(AP) — Mayor Tom Potter called for and Police Chief Rosie Sizer promised a speedy investigation into the death of James Chasse Jr., a mentally ill man who died in police custody last week.

At a news conference Monday, Sizer said investigators would soon release a timeline and statements from officers and witnesses. Sizer said she expects the Multnomah County district attorney to send the investigation

to a grand jury. Potter, who is out of town visiting family, issued a statement calling for an investigation that is fast and transparent.

Also this week, Tom Steenson, an attorney for the Chasse family, said the family's independent investigation has yet to find any justification for the amount of force that police used on Chasse.

Officers spotted Chasse on a Pearl District street on Sept. 17. The 42-



Chief Rosie Sizer

year-old man appeared to be on drugs or have a mental disorder, and one officer thought Chasse may have been urinating in the street, police said.

Chasse ran when the police arrived and a chase ensued. Witnesses said officers knocked Chasse to the pavement. They said officers then landed on top of him,

kicked him and placed a Taser gun to his torso.

After arresting him, officers called for paramedics because Chasse was having trouble breathing. Police said the paramedics cleared him to go to jail, so they took him to be booked on accusations of resisting arrest and assaulting a police officer. Nurses at the jail said Chasse needed medical care, and police were called to take him to the hospital. Chasse died in a patrol car.

State medical examiner Dr. Karen Gunson said Friday that Chasse died of blunt force trauma to the chest and called the manner of death accidental.

Steenson said Chasse's death was no accident. He said police had no

reason to knock Chasse to the pavement, kick him, hogtie him and then use a Taser.

Chasse's father, James Chasse Sr., said his son was diagnosed as schizophrenic and anyone who spoke to him would have realized he was severely mentally ill.

In her news conference Monday, Chief Sizer described the county's mental health system as being in a state of breakdown.

Potter also raised the issue. "This is not an issue just for Portland police, but rather one that calls for a solution that includes our correctional system, medical and mental health providers," he said in his statement.

Women's Rights Leader Killed

(AP) — Two gunmen on a motorbike killed the southern provincial head of Afghanistan's Ministry of Women's Affairs outside her home Monday in apparent retribution for her efforts to help educate women, officials said.

Safia Ama Jan was slain outside the front gate of her Kandahar home

as she was walking to her office, said Tawfiqul-Ul Hakim Parant, senior adviser to the women's ministry in Kabul.

Ama Jan was known for being an active proponent of women's rights and education in this former Taliban stronghold, a region where insurgents have turned increasingly vio-

lent in the last several months.

Mullah Sadullah, a regional Taliban commander, claimed responsibility for the attack in a telephone call to The Associated Press.

President Hamid Karzai said he was deeply saddened by her death.

Top Republican Hit with Racism Allegations

From college football days

Sen. George Allen, R-Va., widely seen as a candidate for president in 2008, has been accused by his former college football teammates of using a racial slur to refer to blacks in the early 1970s and stuffing a deer's head into the mailbox of a black family.

Dr. Ken Shelton, now a radiologist in Hendersonville, N.C., made the allegations in an interview. Another classmate, Larry J. Sabato, one of Virginia's most quoted political science professors and a classmate of Allen's, also said Allen used the n-word.

Questions about racial insensitivity have dogged the Republican throughout his re-election



Sen. George Allen

bid against Democrat Jim Webb. His use of the word "macaca" in referring to a Webb campaign volunteer of Indian descent in August prompted an outcry. The word denotes a genus of monkeys and, in some cultures, is considered an ethnic slur.

Allen said the latest story and assertions were completely

false. "I don't remember ever using that word and it is absolutely false that that was ever part of my vocabulary," he told AP reporters and editors.

Shelton, a tight end and wide receiver for the Cavaliers in the early 1970s, said Allen used the n-word only around white teammates.

During a deer hunt with Allen in the early 1970s, Shelton said, Allen asked whether black families lived in the area before stuffing a female deer's head into the mail box of a black household.

"George insisted on taking the severed head, and I was a little shocked by that," Shelton said.

"This was just after the movie 'The Godfather' came out with the severed horse's head in the bed," Shelton told the AP.

Clinton Cites Fox 'Hit Job'

During TV interview

(AP) -- In a combative interview on "Fox News Sunday," former President Clinton defended his handling of the threat posed by Osama bin Laden, saying he tried to have bin Laden killed and was attacked for his efforts by the same people who now criticize him for not doing enough.

"That's the difference in me and some, including all of the right-wingers who are attacking me now," Clinton said in the interview. "They ridiculed me for



President Clinton defends his attempts to kill Osama bin Laden to Fox News Sunday host Chris Wallace. (AP photo)

trying. They had eight months to try, they did not try."

Clinton accused host Chris

Wallace of a "conservative hit job" and asked: "I want to know how many people in the Bush administration you asked, 'Why didn't you do anything about the Cole?' I want to know how many people you asked, 'Why did you fire Dick Clarke?'"

He was referring to the USS Cole, attacked by terrorists in Yemen in 2000, and former White House anti-terrorism chief Richard A. Clarke.


Wallace said Sunday he was surprised by Clinton's "conspiratorial view" of "a very non-confrontational question, 'Did you do enough to connect the dots and go after Al Qaida?'"


"All I did was ask him a question, and I think it was a legitimate news question. I was surprised that he would conjure up that this was a hit job," Wallace said in a telephone interview.

Clinton said he "worked hard" to try to kill bin Laden.

"We contracted with people to kill him. I got closer to killing him than anybody's gotten since," he said.


He told Wallace, "And you got that little smirk on your face and you think you're so clever, but I had responsibility for trying to protect this country. I tried and I failed to get bin Laden. I regret it, but I did try and I did everything I thought I responsibly could."

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