



'GUILTY!'

JURY TAKES THREE HOURS-PLUS TO CONVICT ERSLAND IN HIGH-PROFILE PHARMACY CASE!



With the Queen

President Barack Obama and his wife, Michelle Robinson Obama, with Queen Elisabeth II and Prince Phillip in London on Wednesday. The president is on an European trip, and, while in London, declared in an address to Parliament that Britain and the United States remain "indispensable" partners.

Linder Can't Serve, Council Says With Vote Felony Conviction, No Pardon Cited

By W. ORLANDO PIERCE
Special to the Chronicle

PAWNEE—The City Council's small Oklahoma town voted 5-0 Monday night to declare that the man who won a mayoral election cannot serve since he has an out-of-state felony record.

The council also voted unanimously to vacate the office of mayor and then named City Councilman Brad Sewell as acting mayor.

Mayor Christopher S. Linder, 33, a café owner here, had been sworn-in a few days ago, but before that, his chances for actually serving in the position were dashed when it became clear Arizona officials would not grant him a pardon for his conviction committed a little more than a decade ago.

Before the Monday council votes, Pawnee County Associate District Judge Matthew Henry denied a temporary restraining order sought by Mr. Linder.

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Suspect in Restaurant Robbery an Employee Two Men Take Bank Deposits from An Off-Duty Sheriff's Deputy and Shoot Him

By THOMAS E. SEWARD
Special to the Chronicle

Police have arrested two suspects in the robbery and shooting of an off-duty sheriff's officer serving as a security guard at a famed Stockyards City restaurant.

One of them is a former dishwasher at Cattlemen's Steakhouse.

Keonta Stephan Terrell Prince, 18, who worked at the restaurant for three months before quitting, has admitted his involvement in the robbery and shooting, court records said.

According to court records, Mr. Prince identified his accomplice in the crimes, and he, too, has been arrested and is in custody.

Christopher Travis Baker, 28, the man who, police said, Mr. Prince identified as his accomplice, is now behind bars.

The two men were arrested on complaints of shooting with intent to kill and robbery with a firearm in the shooting early Saturday of Maj. John Waldenville.

Maj. Waldenville was taking a deposit from the restaurant to a nearby bank about midnight when two men shot and robbed him, restaurant owner Dick Stubbs said.

Mr. Prince quit his job about a month ago, the owner said, noting that he didn't know much about the former dishwasher or why he quit.

The arrest warrant for Mr. Prince



Prince



Baker

says two Black men were seen on surveillance tape loitering in the parking lot south of the restaurant for about half an hour before the shooting.

A witness told law officers he knew Mr. Prince from a prior working relationship at the restaurant. The witness (who did not know Mr. Prince by

name) was able to recognize him in a photograph, according to the warrant.

The witness said the two men ran north from the parking lot up the sidewalk toward Maj. Waldenville as he was carrying two bank bags to the night deposit at the bank on the corner.

One of the men fired a handgun at the off-duty sheriff's deputy serving as a security guard for Cattlemen's Steakhouse, a search warrant said.

The search warrant was for Mr. Baker's apartment.

A .380-cal. shell was found at the scene.

Court papers do not indicate

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12 Say He Committed First-Degree Murder!

Panel Says To Sentence Him To Life Term!

By W. ORLANDO PIERCE
Special to the Chronicle

The pharmacist on trial for first-degree murder for "going too far" after felling one of two teenage robbers in 2009 with a shot to the head and then returning to shoot him an additional five times was found guilty today.

The jury in the high-profile so-called pharmacist case began deliberating at about noon today on whether Jerome Jay Ersland, 59, is guilty.

The eight-woman and four-man jury deliberated for a little over three hours before returning their verdict this afternoon.

The pharmacist was given by the jury a sentence of life in prison. He could've been sentenced to or life in prison without the possibility of parole.

Formal sentencing has been set for July 11.

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Jerome J. Ersland (left) meeting some months ago with his attorney, Irven Box.

Final Arguments

Ersland Called 'Executioner,' As Well as Hero at His Trial

By JOHN W. SIMMS
Special to the Chronicle

Prosecutors called an Oklahoma City pharmacist an "executioner" during closing arguments of his first-degree murder trial in the shooting death of a teenager during an attempted robbery.

However, defense attorneys said pharmacist Jerome Jay Ersland, 59, is a hero and acted in self-defense to protect himself and two employees when he shot and killed 16-year-old Antwun "Speedy" Parker during the May 2009 robbery attempt at Reliable Discount Pharmacy.

Closing arguments were given this morning in Mr. Ersland's trial with jury deliberations starting about noon.

"This defendant made himself judge, jury, executioner," Oklahoma County Assistant District Attorney Jennifer Chance told the jury.

"[Antwun Parker] was no longer a threat," she said. "This defendant was

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Oklahoma County District Attorney David Prater in his offices in a photo taken several months ago.

