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High, 47. Low, 33.
> B14

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HUNT TURNS TO FAMILY, FRIENDS OF SUSPECT

After massive search, Clemmons is killed by lone patrolman

He went free as state pleaded for warrant from Arkansas



ELLEN M. BANNER / THE SEATTLE TIMES

Kelly Richards, widow of slain Lakewood police Officer Gregory Richards, center, and their daughter Jami-Mae, center right, are comforted at a court hearing for three people accused of helping Maurice Clemmons. Behind Kelly is her brother-in-law, Tacoma Police Officer Steve Thornton.

E-MAIL: 'HOPEFULLY (HE) WILL NOT GET OUT ON BAIL'

BY JONATHAN MARTIN,
JIM BRUNNER AND
KEN ARMSTRONG
Seattle Times staff reporters

When Maurice Clemmons, the man suspected of killing four Lakewood police officers, walked free from a Pierce County jail last week, it wasn't for lack of effort on the part of Washington officials to keep him behind bars.

Documents released Tuesday show that a wide variety of state and local officials — everyone from prosecutors to sheriff's deputies to corrections officers — viewed Clemmons as a dangerous man, and wanted desperately to keep him in custody.

But Washington officials encountered resistance from an un-

likely source — their correctional colleagues in Arkansas. The acrimony has since become so intense, according to Pierce County sheriff's spokesman Ed Troyer, that if the two states were adjacent a "border war" would break out.

The dispute now centers on whether a warrant issued by Arkansas in October would have allowed Washington authorities to prevent Clemmons' release from the Pierce County Jail six days before the shootings occurred. Arkansas says yes. Washington says no.

Clemmons, 37, was accused of killing the four police officers Sunday. On Tuesday, a Seattle police officer encountered and killed

See > E-MAILS, A6



CLIFF DESPEAUX / THE SEATTLE TIMES

Officers investigate near the stolen car (with hood raised) at the scene of the shooting in the 4400 block of South Kenyon Street in Seattle.

Officer finds car — then Clemmons

BY STEVE MILETICH
AND JACK BROOM
Seattle Times staff reporters

What began as a routine check of a stolen car early Tuesday morning became, in a matter of minutes, a momentous piece of police work.

When it was over, Maurice Clemmons, the 37-year-old suspect in the slaying of four Lakewood police officers, was dead, shot by a Seattle police officer who had been doing paperwork on the stolen car when he suddenly encountered Clemmons.

The officer, identified by a law-enforcement source as Benjamin L. Kelly, a South Precinct patrolman who joined the department less than five years ago, emerged unin-

jured — and fortunate to be alive, according to police officials.

Clemmons, an ex-convict facing a potential prison term on child-rap and assault charges, was armed with a handgun taken from one of the Lakewood officers, police said.

The confrontation between Clemmons and Kelly, which occurred about 2:45 a.m. in the 4400 block of South Kenyon Street in South Seattle, broke the quiet of a residential neighborhood and ended a two-day manhunt for Clemmons.

During that time, SWAT teams had gone from house to house looking for Clemmons, but in the

See > CAR, A5

Loyal network bandaged, hid, drove suspect

BY MAUREEN O'HAGAN, SUSAN KELLEHER
AND CHRISTINE CLARRIDGE
Seattle Times staff reporters

He spent time in prison for robbery, burglary and firearms possession. He claimed to be the Messiah, threatened violence and, as his family cried, demanded they all strip. He was facing charges of rape.

And yet even as Maurice Clemmons announced he had gunned down police officers in a Pierce County coffeehouse Sunday, a network of friends and family stood by him, helping him hide from a massive manhunt that had hundreds of officers scouring two counties, according to charging documents.

Tuesday, two men were charged with rendering criminal assistance for allegedly help-

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The blame game is useless > B1

Obama outlines escalation and exit

AFGHANISTAN WAR

President to add 30,000 troops but begin pullout in 2011

BY SHERYL GAY STOLBERG
AND HELENE COOPER
The New York Times

WEST POINT, N.Y. — President Obama announced Tuesday that he would speed 30,000 additional troops to Afghanistan, but he vowed to start bringing U.S. forces home in the middle of 2011.

Saying he could "bring this war to a successful conclusion," Obama set out a strategy that would seek to reverse Taliban gains, protect the Afghan people from attacks, provide time for Afghanistan to build its military capacity and a more effective government and increase pressure on al-Qaida in Pakistan.

"I see firsthand the terrible ravages of war," Obama told 4,000 cadets, in a somber speech at the U.S. Military Academy.

"If I did not think that the security of the United States and the safety of the American people were at stake in Afghanistan, I would gladly order every single one of our troops home tomorrow."

The speech, the culmination of a three-month review, could well prove the most consequential of Obama's presidency. He sought to convince an increasingly skeptical nation that the Taliban's resurgence in Afghanistan and the continued existence of al-Qaida in Pakistan were direct threats to U.S. security, and that he could achieve seemingly contradictory goals of scaling up U.S. involvement in the war even as he seeks to bring it responsibly to a close.

Obama called on foreign allies to step up their commitment, declaring, "This is not just America's war."

He also delivered a point-See > **AFGHANISTAN, A3**

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4 FALLEN OFFICERS



PHOTOS BY ELLEN M. BANNER / THE SEATTLE TIMES



Procession honors officers

A procession of cars Tuesday morning heads south down Pacific Avenue in Tacoma toward Lakewood, led by ambulances containing the bodies of the four slain police officers. The four were transported from the Pierce County Medical Examiner’s Office to the Mountain View Funeral Home. Lakewood police, Fire Honor Guard and medic units and the Metro City Honor Guard accompanied the slain officers.

AT LEFT: Tacoma police officers salute as the procession passes down Pacific Avenue.

Uncle: ‘He was all about money ... suddenly, he was all about God’

CLEMMONS’ MENTAL STATE

Recent jailing, perceived curse sent suspect into tailspin, close relative says

BY MIKE CARTER
Seattle Times staff reporter

MARIANNA, Ark. — An uncle of Maurice Clemmons says his nephew had been in a mental tailspin since spring and was withdrawn and “talking crazy about God” when they last saw each other in Washington state.

Ray Clemmons, 39, a lieutenant in the Arkansas Department of Corrections and shift commander in a maximum-security unit, said his nephew was reclusive and withdrawn.

That was a far cry from the hustler who wanted what he had been denied during years of prison and an impoverished childhood in rural Arkansas and the crime-ridden projects of Little Rock.

“Maurice was all about getting, all about having. He was all about money,” Clemmons said. “Then, suddenly, he was all about God.”

Maurice Clemmons, 37, was shot to death by police early Tuesday in South Seattle, ending an intense, two-day manhunt after four Lakewood police officers were shot to death at a coffee shop Sunday.

Ray Clemmons said his nephew “was fine” when he visited his uncle and grandmother in Marianna last spring.

But when Ray Clemmons and his family later visited his nephew and his wife in their Tacoma home — apparently just before Maurice Clemmons was to be jailed — the man he’d grown up with was hardly recognizable.

“He stayed off to himself. He was talking about religion and God,” Ray Clemmons said.

Ray Clemmons expressed remorse for the families of the slain officers.

“This is a bitter pill to swallow,” he said. “I’m in law enforcement myself. Maurice took away a lot. These families lost everything.

“My family has to live with this, and now some of them are being



STATON BREIDENTHAL / ARKANSAS DEMOCRAT-GAZETTE

Ray Clemmons, a corrections official, shown in his Marianna, Ark., home, was close to his nephew Maurice Clemmons. “This is a bitter pill to swallow. ... Maurice took away a lot. These families lost everything.”

rounded up. There are a lot of consequences.”

He said he believes two things contributed to his nephew’s killing spree.

One involves a bizarre report from Seattle family members that Maurice Clemmons may have believed he’d been cursed by a “devil worshipper.” Clemmons supposedly let that man live on a mobile home on his Tacoma property.

Ray Clemmons said his nephew had gone to the mobile home after reports of a ruckus.

“What I heard was this guy was tearing up the place. There was a fight, and his guy is supposedly

chanting things and saying these things to Maurice.”

“It did something to him,” Ray Clemmons said. “After that, he was a terror.”

The other contributing factor, Ray Clemmons said, was his nephew’s jailing this summer.

Maurice Clemmons was arrested in May on seven counts of assault and malicious mischief after a disturbance during which he allegedly punched a Pierce County sheriff’s deputy.

Two days later, he allegedly gathered his wife and younger relatives and forced them to undress, while preaching that he was Jesus and

“He was bitter. He felt like he’d been mistreated. He did not like police. And he wasn’t going to go back to prison.”

RAY CLEMMONS
On his nephew Maurice Clemmons

that the world was going to end.

An investigation into that incident led to a second-degree felony charge of child rape in July. Clemmons was in and out of jail through the summer and fall, before his Nov. 23 release after posting bond.

“He was bitter,” Ray Clemmons said. “He felt like he’d been mistreated. He did not like police. And

he wasn’t going to go back to prison.”

The men were close in age and grew up together in Marianna, 85 miles east of Little Rock near the Mississippi border. The tiny town is dilapidated; most buildings on the block-long Main Street have peeling paint and boarded windows.

Maurice Clemmons lived in a mobile home with his mother and a number of half-siblings. Many aunts, uncles and cousins lived in tar-paper shacks and tiny clapboard houses. The porch door of his grandmother’s house — screen ripped and hanging crooked — is tied shut with a shoestring.

“We were poor, but back then, there wasn’t the crime,” Ray Clemmons said. “We spent our days running through the woods, swinging on vines. Doing what kids do.”

In the mid-1980s, with work hard to find, Ray and Maurice Clemmons moved with their families to the East End Housing Project in Little Rock — just as the first waves of the crack-cocaine epidemic washed over the city.

“That was when all the friends started killing each other over money,” Ray Clemmons said.

He said he went to school, the recreational center and home every night. In 1986, he and his family moved back to Marianna. “It was just too dangerous,” he said.

Maurice Clemmons stayed in Little Rock. His father, who worked for Chrysler, died in 1987. After that, Maurice Clemmons “got into trouble,” his uncle said.

Maurice Clemmons was convicted of burglary, robbery and other charges in 1989 and 1990, receiving sentences of more than 100 years. Then-Gov. Mike Huckabee commuted the sentence in 2000, after 11 years in prison. In 2001, Clemmons was returned to prison in Arkansas for nearly three years.

“I think all of this just piled up,” Ray Clemmons said. “The rape charge was going to cost him his wife. He was looking at going to prison again, maybe for life. He got taken to the brink, and he snapped.”

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State law spells out when police can use deadly force

BY MIKE LINDBLOM
Seattle Times staff reporter

The Seattle police officer who fatally shot murder suspect Maurice Clemmons was justified in using deadly force during the confrontation, according to state law. State law authorizes police to use deadly force against a suspected felon who has caused or is likely to cause “serious physical harm” to the officer or other people.

Clemmons is suspected of killing four Lakewood police officers at a coffee shop Sunday morning. Seattle police say one of the slain officers’ guns was found on Clemmons.

“In a generic sense, if a police officer confronts a murder suspect and doesn’t know definitively whether the suspect is armed, if the officer orders the suspect to stop and the suspect does not, the officer is justified in using deadly force to prevent the escape of the suspect, and prevent continuing risk to the community,” said attorney Ted Buck, who represents Seattle police officers on use-of-force issues. He is also the lawyer for Officer Benjamin L. Kelly, who shot Clemmons.

For most of the 20th century, police officers in several states were allowed to shoot any fleeing felony suspect to prevent escape. That changed after a 1985 U.S. Supreme Court case, *Tennessee v. Garner*, in which the court ruled that police violated constitutional rights when they killed an unarmed burglary suspect as he fled by climbing a fence.

Deadly force is permitted only when a fleeing suspect poses a significant threat of death or serious physical injury to the officer or others, the justices said.

That standard has been written into Washington state law, RCW 9A.16.040.

Clemmons’ violent background was well publicized during the two-day manhunt.



CLIFF DESPEAUX / THE SEATTLE TIMES

Officers set up survey tripods at the 4400 block of South Kenyon Street in South Seattle, where Maurice Clemmons was killed early Tuesday.

< Car

FROM A1

OFFICER IMMEDIATELY RECOGNIZED SUSPECT

Man ‘reached into his waist area and moved’

end, it came down to the actions of a single officer.

Police officials said Clemmons was shot at least twice after the officer recognized him and Clemmons refused commands to stop.

Clemmons also had an older wound to his abdomen, believed to be the result of a gunshot fired by one of the Lakewood officers who were killed Sunday.

Ed Troyer, spokesman for the Pierce County Sheriff’s Office, the agency investigating the slayings of the Lakewood officers, said he was surprised Clemmons survived that wound.

Seattle police, in a written statement that didn’t identify Kelly by name, said the officer joined the department just over 4½ years ago. The statement said the officer has prior law-enforcement experience and is a military veteran.

Kelly grew up in New Jersey, said Rachel Laffend of New Jersey, whose brother is married to Kelly’s sister.

Contacted by telephone, she immediately knew the reason, saying, “I know. I know. We’ve been watching.”

Laffend said Kelly had asked family members not to talk to the news media “because he is sort of a

private guy and he doesn’t want to say anything.”

But Laffend said Kelly is a “really awesome person and a nice guy.”

Kelly has said he wants the focus to remain on the slain Lakewood officers, a source said.

A confrontation

Kelly was on patrol when he saw a silver 1990 Acura Integra with its hood up, the engine running and nobody inside.

Seattle Assistant Chief Jim Pugel, without identifying Kelly, said the officer ran the license plate and determined the car was stolen.

It had been reported stolen from the 4800 block of South Chicago Street, only a few blocks away, about two hours earlier.

As the officer sat in his patrol car writing a report on the stolen car, he noticed a man approaching the driver’s side of the patrol car from behind, the department said.

The officer got out of his car and immediately recognized Clemmons, police said.

“He ordered the person to stop. He ordered the person to show his hands. That person would not show his hands, and also began to run away counterclockwise around the vehicle,” Pugel said.

The officer again told Clemmons to stop, and he didn’t comply, Pugel said.

As the officer drew his gun, Clemmons “reached into his waist area and moved,” the department said in a written statement.

The officer then fired several shots at Clemmons, striking him at least twice, the statement said. Clemmons collapsed near some

bushes on the north side of the street, the statement said. He was pronounced dead at the scene.

The man was identified as Clemmons based on his description and other information, Pugel said.

A handgun was found in a front pocket of a sweat shirt Clemmons was wearing, police said. A check of the serial number showed the gun belonged to one of the Lakewood police officers, Pugel said.

Troyer, the Pierce County sheriff’s spokesman, did not identify whose gun was taken.

Clemmons, who allegedly was helped by relatives and friends while eluding police, apparently had no tie to residents on the block where he was killed, Pugel said.

A balky vehicle

Lakewood Police Chief Bret Farrar arrived at the scene a few hours after Tuesday’s shooting, to express relief and appreciation.

“I just want to thank all my brothers and sisters in law enforcement,” he said. “I just can’t say enough about what they’ve done in the last few days.

“What went through my mind mostly was ... we can close the page on this and we can get our people together and start the healing process,” Farrar said.

Harvey Lagon reported the car theft about 12:45 a.m. Tuesday from his residence about five blocks from the shooting scene. Lagon was watching television when he heard a car start up and heard someone revving the engine.

“I looked out the window and it was my car,” he said. “I’m the one who called the

Where the suspect was killed

The suspect in the Lakewood police slayings, Maurice Clemmons, was killed by a Seattle police officer early Tuesday morning.



1. A 1990 Acura Integra is stolen. The owner reports it to police.

2. An officer sees the car and determines it was stolen. Clemmons approaches the officer, tries to run and is shot.

Sources: ESRI, TeleAtlas
MARK NOWLIN / THE SEATTLE TIMES

cops,” he said. “I was going to go after him. It’s a good thing I didn’t.”

The Integra is owned by his father, Rodolfo Lagon.

In the end, the car’s problems — Harvey Lagon noted that it sometimes dies — helped police.

“It’s not a very reliable car,” he said. “We only use it for short trips.”

Seattle Times reporters Jennifer Sullivan, Mark Rahner, Sara Jean Green, Mike Carter and Mike Lindblom and news researchers Miyoko Wolf and Gene Balk contributed to this story.
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< Network

FROM A1

CLEMMONS WAS SHELTERED, TREATED FOR GUNSHOT WOUND

More arrests likely

ing Clemmons evade capture during the nearly two days he was on the run.

Another person, who was arrested, allegedly drove the getaway car from the shootings; yet another bandaged the gunshot wound Clemmons sustained when one of the officers in the coffee-house returned fire, the charges allege.

Three others have been arrested, one man and two women, and authorities say they’re likely to file additional charges against those who aided Clemmons in his flight from the worst single act of violence against police in Washington state history.

Clemmons himself didn’t live to face charges after he was fatally shot by a Seattle police officer early Tuesday.

To some who knew Clemmons, 37, offering assistance seemed to be almost automatic — a way of protecting a man who, despite a troubled, violent past, had given them help.

“The man was charismatic,” said Tim Bean, a Lakewood counselor whom Clemmons consulted last spring. “He had a whole community of family and friends. They loved him.”

To outsiders, it makes no sense.

It may have been just a part of a “thug mentality and thug culture,” said Pierce County sheriff’s spokesman Ed Troyer. “To us, it’s not going to make sense.”

Troyer said some 50 detectives are working furiously to figure out who, exactly, helped Clemmons evade capture, and to untangle the re-

lationships among them.

Clemmons was 17 when he was convicted of punching a woman and stealing her purse, burglarizing the home of a state trooper and carrying a gun at his high school in Little Rock, Ark.

A judge sentenced him to more than 100 years for the crimes, a term Clemmons and his family believed was excessive and would never have been given to a white suspect found guilty of the same crimes, said Bean, whom Clemmons called his “psychological and spiritual adviser.”

“His family was well aware of the injustice that had been done to him,” Bean said. “It doesn’t make the family and friends any friendlier to the system.”

His sentence was commuted, and he came to Washington in 2004 with a wife, Nicole Smith.

The Washington Department of Corrections agreed to supervise him, and he did well enough that he was required only to check in once a year.

He started a business and developed a network of friends and family.

“He’d repair their cars, give them cars and help them,” Bean said of Clemmons. “He was such a giving, loving man that it was too much sometimes. They’d call him first because he’d always help them out.”

But last spring, he began acting bizarrely, family members told police.

In May, he allegedly threw started throwing rocks at cars and through the windows of his Tacoma home, then assaulted a Pierce County sheriff’s deputy who came to stop him.

Out on bail the next day, Clemmons awoke family members in the middle of the night and demanded they all strip, yelling, calling himself the Messiah, and saying



ELLEN M. BANNER / THE SEATTLE TIMES

Douglas Davis enters Pierce County Superior Court for his arraignment Tuesday afternoon.

“trust me,” according to charging documents. A 12-year-old relative told investigators and Smith, Clemmons’ wife, that he had sexually assaulted her.

That day, Smith told investigators she was scared.

Yet when Clemmons was charged, she refused to cooperate, saying it was all “a lie,” charging documents state.

Over the summer and fall, Clemmons spent some time in jail for violating the terms of his Arkansas parole — in part because of the back-to-back incidents in May.

On Nov. 23, he got out on bail.

Five days later, according to charging papers, he showed guns to three men in Auburn: Rickey Hinton, 47; Douglas Davis, 22; and Eddie Davis, 20, a co-defendant in the earlier rock-throwing altercation.

Clemmons asked Hinton, described as his half-brother, for keys to his white pickup, and told the men they should

keep their eyes on the TV because he planned to kill police, according to charging documents and Troyer.

The next morning — Sunday — four Lakewood police officers were killed in a coffee shop in Parkland. Witnesses said they saw the gunman hop in a white pickup that sped off. Another man was at the wheel.

Details in charging documents get a little murky after that. Several unnamed people are alleged to have offered rides and other assistance to Clemmons over the next 40 hours or so.

But the documents are clear on one point: When Clemmons returned to the home Hinton and Davis share after Sunday’s shootings, they allegedly didn’t hesitate to help him — even after Clemmons told the men he had been shot by police, charging papers allege. Hinton told the Davises, who are brothers, to get Clemmons out of the area, and gave



Eddie Davis



Rickey Hinton

them the keys to a white Pontiac, according to the documents.

Clemmons allegedly told the Davises he had killed police. They kept driving.

They made their way to the Algona/Pacific-area home of one of Clemmons’ relatives, according to the charges. There, an unnamed female relative and the Davises helped Clemmons treat his gunshot wound, the charges allege.

Afterward, the relative drove Clemmons to the Auburn SuperMall and then to an apartment complex, where Clemmons got in a car driven by another unnamed woman, according to the charges.

At some point, the papers say, a female friend took Clemmons to her house in Seattle and he admitted he had shot police. She “bought medical supplies, helped treat a gunshot wound to his torso; he changed his clothes, washed and dried a load of [HIS] laundry,” according to charging documents. She later dropped him off in Seattle’s Leschi neighborhood.

By then, Clemmons was one of the most wanted fugitives in state history.

At least one relative wanted no part in the getaway. Clemmons allegedly phoned an aunt in Leschi, saying he had been shot and needed a place to hide. She thought better of it, drove to the police station before his arrival and filed a report.

The Davis brothers pleaded not guilty Tuesday to the

WEB EXTRA

Read the charging documents for some of those who allegedly aided Clemmons.
seattletimes.com

charges of rendering criminal assistance. Bail for Eddie Davis is \$700,000; Douglas Davis’ bail is \$500,000.

The court hearing was attended by relatives of Gregory Richards, one of the four slain officers, including his widow and one of his daughters. Many struggled in vain to hold back their tears.

Afterward, Richards’ sister-in-law, Melanie Burwell, said of the defendants, “They’re not human to me.”

Hinton was ordered to jail on a 72-hour hold while prosecutors prepare to file charges against him. His bail was set at \$2 million, and Troyer said authorities believe he may have played “a larger role” in the crime.

Arrested Tuesday but not yet charged was a man The Associated Press identified as a convicted murderer who served prison time with Clemmons in Arkansas. He is being held for investigation of four counts of rendering criminal assistance.

Troyer said police have yet another man in custody who is believed to have driven the getaway car after the slayings. If police determine this man knew what was going to happen, he could be charged with murder, Troyer said.

Two women were also arrested Tuesday, both for investigation of multiple accounts of rendering criminal assistance. One, in her 50s, was taken into custody in Pacific. The other was arrested in Des Moines.

“We want to hold everybody involved accountable,” Troyer said.

Seattle Times staff reporters Mike Carter and Sara Jean Green contributed to this report.
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4 FALLEN OFFICERS



MIKE SIEGEL / THE SEATTLE TIMES

A Lakewood police officer pauses Tuesday morning in front of a memorial set up outside the Lakewood Police Department to honor the four officers who were killed on Sunday. Another public memorial, with piles of bouquets, formed near the coffee shop where they were shot.

Quietly, public shares grief

BY LYNN THOMPSON
Seattle Times staff reporter

Police Monday night opened the street outside the Parkland coffee shop where four police officers were shot dead Sunday morning. By noon on Tuesday, the grassy corner was lined with bouquets of flowers, their cellophane wrappers rattling in the cold wind.

A steady stream of people came to pay their respects to the fallen officers — parents with infants and old people with canes, men in business suits and a couple in biker leathers, teenagers in sweat pants and in skinny jeans. And standing guard, in the empty parking lot outside Forza Coffee, dozens of police officers from a half-dozen nearby towns — Milton, Sumner, Puyallup, Des Moines, University Place and Graham.

One mourner, Joe Smith of Spanaway, wore a blue bandanna on his head and with an eagle feather waved smoke from a smudge pot over the length of the growing memorial. A member of the Oklahoma Peoria tribe, Smith said he had heard the devastating news Sunday morning at a local gas station and wanted to offer a Native American prayer.

He chanted and swept the smoke that burned from a coil of twisted tobacco leaves, grandfather sage,

Memorial service set for Tuesday

A service for the four Lakewood officers will take place at 1 p.m. Tuesday at the Tacoma Dome. More than 20,000 law-enforcement officers are expected to attend. The event is open to the public. Anyone interested in volunteering can e-mail lakewoodmemorialservice@gmail.com.

Prayer service, candlelight walk tonight

A prayer service and candlelight walk will be at 7 tonight at the Lakewood YMCA, 9715 Lakewood Dr. S.W., Tacoma. The service is sponsored by Life Center church in partnership with the Lakewood YMCA, Tillicum Youth for Christ and other area churches.

lavender and cedar bark. After he had crouched and chanted over each memory book with a slain officer's name inscribed on the cover, he translated his prayer.

"They came in a good way," he said, meaning that the officers' lives were dedicated to public service. He repeated each officer's name: Mark Renninger, Tina Griswold, Ronald Owens and Gregory Richards. "Take them home in a good way," he continued. "Help the community to heal."

Barbara Gilreath, a Sea-Tac Fire Department chaplain, had set out the memory books that morning so visitors could write words of condolence to the surviving family members. In all, the officers left nine children behind.

"People want to come where it

happened," Gilreath said. "They can write what's on their hearts and it will be very healing for the families."

Debbie Piper, of Tacoma, carefully placed a single white rose and then a single red one on the growing display of flowers. She spoke of the officers' being killed as they were doing paperwork before their Sunday shifts. "They were not prepared," she said.

Several miles away, at the Lakewood Police Department, another memorial spread up the hillside outside the brick station. There were large funeral wreaths from local businesses, teddy bears and stuffed ducks that will ultimately be delivered to the officers' children, flickering votive candles and other candles that had burned down,

How you can help

Donations for the officers' families can be mailed to the Lakewood Police Independent Guild, P.O. Box 99579, Lakewood, WA 98499. Donations can also be made online at www.lpig.us.

spilling their melted wax onto the sidewalk.

Police funneled traffic to a single lane outside the station, and dozens of people stood quietly in the street.

Wendy Galan, who lives and works in Lakewood, knew Officer Griswold. Coincidentally, she said, they were both 4 feet 11 inches tall. Griswold, she said, was strong and feisty.

"I was hoping it wasn't her. When I saw her picture, I felt like someone had punched me in the stomach," Galan said.

Lakewood police officers came out from the station and took pictures of the memorial. They hugged each other and hugged the officers from neighboring towns who were directing traffic and standing guard.

An officer from Des Moines put his arms around two from Lakewood. "You guys be safe out there," he said.

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< E-mails
FROM A1

STATES WRESTLED
OVER WARRANTS

Clemmons' freedom
a 'major malfunction'

Clemmons.

The tension between the two states started in July and is captured in a round of e-mail exchanges that show just how frustrated Washington officials became with their Arkansas counterparts.

Clemmons was arrested in Washington on July 1. The following day he was formally charged with second-degree rape of a child — the eighth felony charge filed against him in Washington this year alone. All eight of those charges traced to a spree of violence in May and were still pending against Clemmons while the two states tangled over how to deal with him.

Arkansas had an interest in Clemmons because he remained on parole in that state. Convicted of at least five felony charges, Clemmons served more than 10 years in Arkansas' prison system before being released in 2004 and moving to Washington.

When Clemmons landed in trouble in May 2009, Arkansas issued a warrant for violating the conditions of his parole. This warrant, if enforced, would have allowed Washington to keep Clemmons in jail without chance of posting bond.

But on July 16, an Arkan-

sas official notified the Washington State Department of Corrections (DOC) that Arkansas was rescinding its warrant.

Marjorie Owens, a Washington DOC administrator, wrote a blistering response on July 23, saying Arkansas' decision appeared to violate the Interstate Compact for Adult Offender Supervision (ICAOS), an agreement governing how states treat one another's offenders who are on supervision.

"I'm concerned that you have no problem releasing your offender into our community, based on his behavior," she wrote. "I thought ICAOS was all about community safety."

Owens also wrote: "Hopefully the offender will not get out on bail."

On Aug. 5, an Arkansas parole official named Linda Strong sent a terse reply: "The warrant was rescinded. When the pending charges are adjudicated we will reconsider the case."

A document released by Arkansas Tuesday says the warrant "was recalled at the request of [Arkansas Department of Community Correction] director G. David Guntharp after conversations he had with the offender's wife and mother." But Guntharp, in an interview, said he does not recall discussing the matter with Clemmons' family. Clemmons' mother died years ago.

Rhonda Sharp, a spokeswoman for Guntharp, said Arkansas retracted the warrant because the warrant labeled Clemmons an "ab-

sconder" — meaning he had fled or was avoiding supervision. But Arkansas received a letter from Clemmons' defense attorney contradicting that and claiming the Pierce County charges "may be dropped."

Arkansas' decision baffled Washington officials. Seeking help, they consulted the Washington State Attorney General's Office and the national office that oversees the interstate compact. The latter office said Arkansas "should not have quashed their warrant," an internal e-mail between Washington DOC employees says. One administrator for the Washington DOC called the case a "major malfunction" and suggested ways "to work 'around' Arkansas on this one."

Washington's alarm could be traced, in part, to concerns about the danger Clemmons posed. A Pierce County prosecutor worried Clemmons "might continue to make contact" with children he was accused of molesting.

A Pierce County sheriff's detective told a corrections officer "it would not be easy" if DOC officers or sheriff's deputies had to arrest Clemmons again. "She said Mr. Clemmons did not like them," an e-mail says.

The records released Tuesday show that from July until November, Clemmons was in and out of jail. At one point, a DOC employee wrote an e-mail saying: "I was going to serve Offender today only to find out he bailed out!"

On Tuesday, Washing-

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Read e-mails
between officials in Arkansas
and Washington
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ton's top prison official blasted Arkansas.

When the Washington DOC initially asked for — and got — a nationwide fugitive warrant from Arkansas in May, the Washington DOC closed the case, ending its oversight of Clemmons. The DOC believed Clemmons would now be Arkansas' responsibility.

"At that point, he's a problem for the state of Arkansas," Washington DOC Secretary Eldon Vail said. "If he's picked up, he's going back."

But when Arkansas rescinded its warrant, that left DOC temporarily without supervision on a man it considered dangerous. Vail said if the Washington and Arkansas positions were reversed, Washington would have taken Clemmons back. Last year, Washington retook 986 felons from other states, Vail said.

"We do this every day," he said.

Vail said the Clemmons case was his worst experience with another state in his 33 years with the Washington DOC: "[Gov. Chris Gregoire's] question to me about this case is a good one: 'Why would we ever take anyone from Arkansas in the future?' I haven't gotten back to her."

On Oct. 2, after Washington DOC officials pleaded anew with Arkansas, Arkan-

sas issued a second warrant. But the two states differ on whether the warrant could be enforced in Washington state. Arkansas says the second warrant was just as good as the first.

"It is a valid warrant," Sharp said. "It is a warrant that differs little, if at all, from the first."

But Scott Blonien, an in-house attorney for Washington DOC, said two elements show Arkansas did not intend to enforce the Oct. 2 warrant. A cover sheet attached to it left unchecked a box that reads: "Warrant issued. Keep us apprised of offender's availability for re-taking," a term that means sending an offender home. The May 28 warrant had that box checked.

And, unlike the May 28 warrant, the second warrant was not entered into the National Crime Information Center (NCIC), a law-enforcement database. Interstate compact guidelines appear to require that the state issuing a warrant — Arkansas, in this case — must enter the warrant into NCIC in order to make it enforceable.

Pierce County employees checked the NCIC twice and found no warrants for Clemmons, a county official said.

Clemmons posted \$190,000 bail on Nov. 23 and walked out of the Pierce County Jail.

Staff writers Christine Clarridge, Susan Kelleher and Maureen O'Hagan contributed to this report.

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ANSWERS
MORE THAN
SKIN DEEP



Jerry Large
Seattle Times
staff columnist

When my son, who is linked to the Web 24/7, told me the shootings had happened, my first thought was how horrible it was that four people had been killed that way. My second thought was I hoped whoever did it wasn't black.

That was not out of concern for the shooter.

Before writing a word, I'd already gotten an e-mail from a man gleefully pointing out the race of the shooting suspect.

The e-mail's subject line was "Blacks make the papers" and it included photos of Maurice Clemmons, who is believed to have shot and killed the Lakewood police officers, and Christopher Monfort, who is accused of killing Seattle police Officer Timothy Brenton on Oct. 31.

Most folks aren't like the reader who e-mailed me, but the race of the two accused killers will be in the back of a lot of minds, quietly reinforcing ideas already present.

Monday my editor asked whether I might want to write about that in light of the two attacks. I said I'd see what I could come up with, but was reluctant. Why drag race into it when the shootings weren't about that? Except, of course, race is part of the background noise.

Still, it felt too soon, so I put it off for a day.

Monday I was thinking of nine children who had a parent snatched from them by a gunman. I'm a parent. I share that with the four slain officers. I don't share anything more important than that with Clemmons.

It seems he intended to shoot police officers, but the gunman killed four people who were also parents, siblings, children, spouses, friends. He caused grief, sadness, pain and anger.

I read the messages people were posting in response to stories in The Times about the killings, though I know they aren't always the most accurate reflection of public sentiment.

Anger dominated, and it was flung in many directions. Sometimes at Clemmons, who was called a freak and human garbage.

But often people turned their anger into a stick with which to beat conservatives or liberals, anyone they already disliked.

Some of the online postings made race an issue, but they don't concern me so much.

I worry more that police, who have good reason to be wary and upset, will be affected, at least for a time, by that one thing the men had in common.

The two suspects are as different from each other as they are from me.

Whatever they did, they did as individuals.

Clemmons had a long record of trouble, while Monfort worked hard and went to college to improve his situation.

One is tall and thin, the other short and stout. Do looks explain their actions?

Monfort said he was troubled by unfairness in the justice system, but he was troubled by far more than that.

He was violent and angry, and so was Clemmons. That's the group to which they belong. The violent and angry.

Their brotherhood includes Isaac Zamora, who killed six people, including a sheriff's deputy, in Skagit County; the Green River Killer; and a long list of others.

I feel sadness, frustration and even anger about all the deaths.

Those feelings arise from a place much deeper than my skin. And whatever drove the killers was more deeply rooted too.

Jerry Large's column appears Monday and Thursday. Reach him at 206-464-3346 or jlarge@seattletimes.com.