

Ruskell out as Hawks GM?

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HOLIDAYS CLOSE TO HOME

An A-list of local events and seasonal fun

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Locker's dilemma: Go pro or stay put?

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LOCAL FOG, MOSTLY SUNNY
High, 45. Low, 31. > B14

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THURSDAY, DECEMBER 3, 2009

The Seattle Times



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FOUR FALLEN OFFICERS

'I didn't want him to hurt any more people'

HER NEPHEW IS DEAD. HER HOME IS A MESS. BUT CHRISCEDA CLEMMONS KNOWS SHE DID THE RIGHT THING IN GOING TO POLICE



ALAN BERNER / THE SEATTLE TIMES

Chrisceda Clemmons got four phone calls Sunday evening from Maurice Clemmons, her nephew, saying he had killed four police officers and wanted to take refuge at her home. "He trusted me," Chrisceda Clemmons said. "He trusted that I wouldn't turn him in."

BY NICOLE BRODEUR
Seattle Times staff columnist

"I am coming to your house," he said. "I have killed four policemen and I need a place to rest and hide."

We know now who that was: Maurice Clemmons, the man who ambushed four Lakewood police officers Sunday morning, killing them all.

But to Chrisceda Clemmons, 45, the voice on the phone Sunday night belonged to her nephew Maurice. Her sister Dorothy Mae's son. The kid she used to baby-sit back home in Arkansas. The man who seemed determined to succeed, but who had also started to lose his mind last May.

He was in a car, on his way to his aunt's Leschi home, where she lives with her husband, Michael Shantz, 58; their two children, Atticus, 13, and Juno, 7, and a friend's daughter, Alanna, 15. Shantz's two older sons, Ab, 25, and Teo, 21, who rent a house nearby, were also there.

They knew almost nothing about the events of the day: the shootings in the Lakewood coffee shop or the massive manhunt for Clemmons, who had been shot by one of the officers before the officer died.

Chrisceda Clemmons and Shantz had spent the day in Lynnwood, where their band, Bakra Bata, had played at the opening of a transit station. Shantz had glanced at The New York Times online that morning and saw something about four officers in Tacoma, but forgot about it.

Their performance ended at 4 p.m., but they See > AUNT, A4

Neighbors reach out to officer's family



ERIKA SCHULTZ / THE SEATTLE TIMES

In the small town of Graham, residents are doing what they can to comfort the family of slain officer Gregory Richards. Volunteer firefighters decorated the family home with Christmas lights. > A5

ARKANSAS pulled away "safety net" that prosecutors trusted would keep Clemmons behind bars > A4

MAN'S NAME used as alias by suspected accomplice > A5

PHOTO of Clemmons' body circulating on Internet > B1



Darcus D. Allen said he drove Clemmons to carwash.

Clemmons' driver could face murder charges in killings

BY STEVE MILETICH, CHRISTINE CLARRIDGE AND MIKE CARTER
Seattle Times staff reporters

A man with a double-murder conviction in Arkansas drove Maurice Clemmons to the area where four Lakewood police officers were shot to death Sunday, but it is unclear whether he knew Clemmons

planned to kill the officers, according to court documents filed Wednesday.

Darcus D. Allen, 38, who is wanted in Arkansas on a robbery warrant, was booked into the Pierce County Jail on Tuesday and is under investigation for helping Clemmons after the officers were slain in a

Parkland coffee shop. Clemmons, 37, was shot and killed by a Seattle police officer Tuesday.

In probable-cause documents, Allen is quoted as telling detectives he drove Clemmons in a pickup to a carwash two blocks from the coffee shop. But he claims he stayed be-

See > ALLEN, A5

Domestic partner measure kicks in

SOME RIGHTS AMBIGUOUS

Overlapping state and federal laws create some confusion over what is required

BY LORNET TURNBULL
Seattle Times staff reporter

The final piece of the state's domestic-partnership law, approved by voters a month ago after a failed attempt by opponents to get it repealed, goes into effect today. The so-called "clean-up" measure confers on registered same-sex partners and some senior couples an assortment of marriage-like benefits not already provided in the partnership law, and adds partners to every section of state law that previously referred only to spouses.

But even as state agencies move to implement the expanded law, there is broad ambiguity over what it does and doesn't provide — particularly in areas such as health-

See > DOMESTIC, A15

What the new state law covers, does not cover

Among the benefits covered:

Health-care plans offered to employees of state and local governments

Health-care plans regulated by the state and offered through private-sector employers

Bereavement leave for an employee when a partner dies

The ability of one partner to make medical decisions on behalf of the other

Inheritance rights in the absence of a will

The law does not extend or cover:

Employment-related benefits for the partners of federal employees

Taxes: The right to file joint tax returns

Immigration: The right to help a foreign-born partner gain legal status in the U.S.

Survivor benefits: The right of one partner to claim the other's Social Security or military benefits

COBRA: The law does not require employers to extend COBRA health-care benefits to a former employee's partner

New embryonic stem-cell lines get green light

BUSH ADMINISTRATION'S RESTRICTIONS REVERSED

NIH OKs research with potential to cure disease

BY ROB STEIN
The Washington Post

WASHINGTON — The Obama administration on Wednesday approved the first human embryonic stem cells for experiments by federally funded scientists under a new policy designed to expand government support for one of the most promising — and contentious — fields of biomedical research.

The National Institutes of Health (NIH) authorized 11 lines of cells produced by scientists at Children's Hospital in Boston and two lines created by researchers at Rockefeller University in New York. All were obtained from embryos left by couples seeking treatment for infertility.

"This is a real change in the landscape,"

See > STEM CELLS, A15

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FOUR FALLEN OFFICERS

VIGIL DEDICATED TO LAKEWOOD OFFICERS



CLIFF DESPEAUX / THE SEATTLE TIMES

Mourners hold their candles high at the Lakewood YMCA on Wednesday night at a vigil for the four Lakewood police officers who were shot and killed on Sunday. The crowd was estimated at more than 2,000. Read more about the vigil and see more photos at seattletimes.com.

< Aunt

FROM A1

A CHOICE TO DO THE RIGHT THING

‘I didn’t want him to hurt any more people’

didn’t get home until 6. It was almost 7 when the phone rang.

“Maurice sounded pretty normal, just a little hyped,” Chrisceda Clemmons remembered Wednesday. “He didn’t sound weak from his gunshot.”

He would call a total of four times, talking for a bit, then hanging up — but always getting closer. He said he was trying to get as far away from Tacoma as he could. He felt safe in her neighborhood, he said, and thought she and her husband might help him by renting a car and driving him to Arkansas — the place he always considered home.

“He trusted me,” Chrisceda Clemmons said. “He trusted that I wouldn’t turn him in.”

But she did. And she was the only one. Other friends and family are accused of helping Clemmons escape the shooting scene, tending to his gunshot wound, washing his bloody clothes and keeping him out of law enforcement’s reach.

But Chrisceda Clemmons couldn’t do that. She had to think of her family. And she knew her nephew was not well. There was the time last May at his house in Tacoma when “he got angry at something” and started throwing rocks at his neighbors’ houses and cars. One hit an elderly man. Later Clemmons assaulted two sheriff’s deputies.

And there were allegations of child rape and “religious delusions,” Shantz said, that included Clemmons’ belief that he was God, and that swine flu was the apocalypse.

Now this. Four cops dead, and he was headed their way.

“I was in shock,” Chrisceda Clemmons said. “That’s when we gathered the kids up and sent them away. I believed Maurice when he said he had killed people. I knew he was very angry and frustrated. He was paranoid, and he was very frustrated and sick of the police.”

“Tired of these bitches,” is how he put it. He told her he had shot the officers intentionally, and believed that they were trying to charge him with rape, which would have given him “three strikes” and sent him back to prison for life.

She asked Maurice if he was armed. Yes, he said.



ALAN BERNER / THE SEATTLE TIMES

Tear-gas casings lie in a pile outside the Leschi home of Chrisceda Clemmons after a long police siege.

Shantz told him: “You cannot come to the house. Period.”

He asked Maurice if he was willing to get rid of the gun. No.

“Probably an hour passed, and I was getting more panicked,” Chrisceda Clemmons said. “Then I just got into the car with Michael and said, ‘Let’s go.’”

It was about 8 p.m. when they drove to the Seattle Police Department’s East Precinct. Shantz went in and left his wife in the car. They knew that it was going to be a long night and hoped that at least one of them would be able to get to their kids, who were staying with Shantz’s sons.

“I’m here to talk to someone about Maurice Clem-

A wounded man who was her nephew. Who trusted her.

“Do I feel badly?” she asked. “Yes, I feel bad, but it was the right thing to do because I didn’t want him to hurt any more people.”

Pierce County sheriff’s spokesman Ed Troyer agrees.

“Absolutely, she did the right thing,” he said. But her nephew is dead, shot by a Seattle police officer early Tuesday morning.

“I was actually relieved,” she said. “That he died was the best thing for him. He would rather die than go back to prison.”

Still, “I felt it was a terrible tragedy that he had to lose his life because of his mental disability,” she said.

“That he died was the best thing for him. He would rather die than go back to prison.”

CHRISCEDA CLEMMONS
Aunt of Maurice Clemmons

mons,” Shantz told the officer at the desk. “I have factual information about his whereabouts.”

The officer, who was on the phone, told him to take a seat.

Fifteen minutes later, Shantz told his story, Chrisceda Clemmons was brought in and before long, an army of police officers descended on their neighborhood. There were snipers on roofs, police everywhere. Neighbors couldn’t get to their homes. The siege went on all night.

Still, “we don’t know if Maurice was ever in the house,” Shantz said. “The sergeant on the scene called and told me he saw ‘him’ get out of a car and go up on the porch, but then we got cut off.”

Dawn arrived. Maurice Clemmons was nowhere to be found.

His aunt doesn’t understand how he could have gotten away.

“They have all this manpower, snipers on all these roofs and they let this wounded man escape,” she said.

And she feels awful about the Lakewood officers. Their families. Their children. “It’s a terrible tragedy for anyone to lose their lives this way, and I’m sorry.”

Now the cleanup begins.

Chrisceda Clemmons is looking for a lawyer to volunteer to help her family through their legal morass.

And the house where she and Shantz have lived for 21 years is trashed from the long police siege. The couple will have to clear a judicial review, they said, before they can receive restitution for the damage that was done.

There is a lot of it: Every window broken, furniture and musical instruments tossed all around. There are tear-gas casings piled by the front door, which has a hole punched in it.

Shantz has been researching how to clean up the tear-gas residue that covers almost everything, and purchased jumpsuits and gas masks for the task.

Stand inside too long and your eyes begin to water.

Nicole Brodeur: 206-464-2334 or nbrodeur@seattletimes.com

‘Safety net’ dissolved, so Clemmons got out

ARKANSAS RESCINDED FUGITIVE WARRANT

Washington law required bail to be set

BY KEN ARMSTRONG, JIM BRUNNER AND MAUREEN O’HAGAN
Seattle Times staff reporters

When a Pierce County prosecutor appeared in court on July 2 and requested that Maurice Clemmons be held on \$300,000 bail, the prosecutor knew he had a safety net that could keep Clemmons in custody no matter what — a fugitive warrant out of Arkansas.

But over the next three weeks that warrant wound up being rescinded through an unusual sequence of events captured in hearing transcripts, correspondence and e-mails.

In Pierce County, the courts ultimately set bail for Clemmons at \$190,000 — a figure closer to that sought by prosecutors than by Clemmons’ defense attorney.

Arkansas, meanwhile, took steps that stripped Washington’s safety net — leaving authorities here both angry and confused.

A central figure in that effort is a former traffic judge once accused of threatening to kill a process server and filing a false insurance claim.

Clemmons, 37, wound up posting bond on Nov. 23, securing his release from jail. Six days later he allegedly killed four Lakewood police officers.

The controversy surrounding Clemmons has become so intense that Gov. Chris Gregoire issued an order Wednesday barring Washington from accepting any new parolees from Arkansas pending further investigation. “If Arkansas doesn’t like it,” she said, “sue me.”

First ruling: No bail

Clemmons appeared before Pierce County Superior Court Judge John McCarthy on July 2 to be arraigned on eight felony charges, including allegations that he had punched a sheriff’s deputy and raped a 12-year-old girl.

John Cummings, a deputy prosecutor, represented the state. A Federal Way lawyer, Daniel Murphy Jr., appeared for Clemmons.

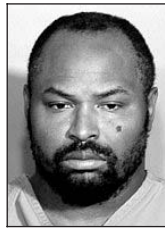
Clemmons pleaded not guilty. Then the subject moved to Clemmons’ potential release before trial.

“I would request bail, as it is presumed,” Murphy told the judge.

In Washington, bail is indeed presumed: The state’s constitution says “all persons charged with crime shall be bailable,” with the exception of capital cases. None of Clemmons’ charges qualified as a capital offense.

Cummings asked for \$300,000 bail — \$200,000 for the child-rape charge, and \$100,000 for the seven other counts. The prosecutor cited Clemmons’ lengthy criminal record in Arkansas and said Clemmons might be looking at a third strike, increasing the risk he would flee.

Murphy proposed the total bail be \$40,000. He argued Clemmons wasn’t a flight



Bail was set at \$190,000 for Maurice Clemmons.

risk, saying he had shown up in court just the day before.

Murphy also challenged the prosecution’s evidence: “On the rape charges, there may

be a recantation anyway.”

McCarthy wondered why Clemmons had failed to appear in court two months earlier.

Murphy said Clemmons “did not have notice” of that hearing. “He also has a medical condition that was occurring right at that time,” Murphy said, adding that Clemmons had “been on good behavior for five years.”

McCarthy set bail for the Washington charges at \$190,000 — \$150,000 for the rape charge, and \$40,000 for the others.

In an interview Wednesday, McCarthy called the \$190,000 a “high bail.” Some people charged with similar crimes even get released on their own recognizance, he said.

The bail amount, Cummings hoped, wouldn’t come into play anyway. That’s because Clemmons’ recent run-ins in Washington allegedly violated his parole in Arkansas. He was charged with being a fugitive from justice, and could be held without bail.

At the prosecutor’s request, McCarthy ordered just that: Even if Clemmons could come up with the \$190,000 bail for the Washington charges, there was no bail on the fugitive warrant.

But Murphy said he hoped to clear up the fugitive matter.

“I’ve contacted his former

attorney down in Arkansas who is working on this,” Murphy told the judge.

No more safety net

Six days later, on July 8, North Little Rock attorney Stephen E. Morley wrote Linda Strong, an Arkansas parole administrator.

Morley had talked with Murphy and been briefed on Clemmons’ situation.

Morley’s letter to Strong said: “It is my belief there is some confusion concerning Mr. Clemmons’ status.”

Arkansas had apparently accused Clemmons of being an “absconder,” Morley said, and issued the warrant allowing him to be held without bail.

But the absconder label didn’t apply to Clemmons, wrote Morley, who asked Strong to rescind the state’s warrant so Clemmons could post bond in Tacoma.

Morley acknowledged that Clemmons faced new charges in Washington. But, Morley wrote, it was his understanding those charges “may be dismissed in the near future.”

Morley’s letter also related a conversation Murphy had with a Washington Department of Corrections (DOC) employee on May 6. The DOC employee, Morley wrote, said that as long as Clemmons stayed out of trouble, the DOC would leave him “unsupervised.”

Morley’s letter could have left the impression Clemmons was on good terms with the Washington DOC. But that wasn’t the case.

In the two months between that May 6 conversation and Morley’s July 8 letter, Clemmons had been charged with rape and assault, and failed to appear in court. DOC officials were desperate to keep him in custody.

A week after Morley’s letter, Arkansas withdrew its warrant. Clemmons could then walk out of jail if he posted the \$190,000 bail.

Morley is a former traffic-court judge who resigned in 1997 while facing a judicial-ethics complaint. Among the charges: He threatened to kill a process server, assaulted two wives, used and sold cocaine and marijuana, filed a false insurance claim, and lied to police investigating a hit-and-run accident.

Morley denied the allegations but resigned before the commission could rule. The state’s lawyer disciplinary panel suspended his law license for 60 days and fined

See > BAIL, A5

FOUR FALLEN OFFICERS

A neighborhood holds family tight

**CONDOLENCES,
CHRISTMAS DECORATIONS
FOR OFFICER'S FAMILY****Special firetruck ride**

BY LYNDA V. MAPES
Seattle Times staff reporter

GRAHAM, Pierce County — It's the little things that matter most right now, small kindnesses to help fill a void.

In the days since Gregory Richards, 42, was gunned down in a local coffee shop, officers from the Kent Police Department, where Richards began his law-enforcement career, have been outside his Graham house in a patrol car.

They work six-hour shifts on their own time, so that his widow and three kids won't feel alone.

"It is a constant vigil," said Melanie Burwell, Richards' sister-in-law.

"It's that sense of support, a salute to Greg. It lifts her that tiny bit," she said of Kelly, Richards' widow.

Volunteers from the Fire Department in Graham turned out Tuesday, some 15 firefighters and their spouses decorating the Richards' home for Christmas. They were up on the roof, putting up lights. Tying velvet bows on the garage, and on the front porch. Raising a Christmas tree on the lawn.

A firefighter brought a second tree for the house, poking fresh and green out of his red pickup.

Neighbors arrived up the front walk, filling a basket with cards.

A steadily growing collection of flower arrangements, with pictures of Richards tucked amid the blooms, was taking shape as a memorial display on the front lawn.

A neighborhood restaurant sent enough food for a banquet.

As night fell and the moon sailed full and bright in the sky, the Christmas lights glowed — and the guys from Graham Fire and Rescue arrived in the ladder truck, just for the Richards kids, to give them a spin around the neighborhood to lift their spirits. The truck, all lights



ERIKA SCHULTZ / THE SEATTLE TIMES

From right, on roof, Graham firefighters Kipp Krattli, Brandon Wetmore, Chris English and Luke Wahl help string Christmas lights with Jeff Davison, on ladder, and others Tuesday at the Richards family home.

and siren and shining red paint, brightened what might otherwise have been a too-quiet night.

A sign by the side of the road reminds the family every time they come and go: "As a Community Neighbors and Friends," it reads. "Our Hearts and Prayers are With You."

The U.S. flag at the entrance to the development flies at half-staff; Dwayne Good, head of the neighborhood association, saw to that as soon as he heard the news Sunday.

Like others here, Good felt not only grief and shock, but a sense of

being robbed.

The Richards family had moved here recently, just over a year ago. But they had become part of the community.

This neighborhood is cul-de-sac America, with perfect lawns and people who take pride in taking care of them — and each other.

"He was someone you could count on to help with anything," Good said, remembering Greg and Kelly Richards arriving to help shovel yard after yard of beauty bark to neaten the development's common grounds.

Next-door neighbor John Brewer enjoyed sending his kids over to wear themselves out on the Richards' trampoline.

"He was someone people would go to for advice; he has three kids, he's a police officer, he had seen a lot of life. I thought, 'When my kids are in junior high, I'll be talking to him and my dad,'" Brewer said.

"You realize just how much was taken from the family, the friends, the community. It's one more voice we won't have to turn to."

Neighbor Stu Wheeler was putting Christmas lights on his house

Sunday when he heard the news. By Tuesday, he said, he still couldn't bring himself to light them. "It just didn't feel right."

Long after next Tuesday's memorial service for the slain officers, the people here will still be there for the family, said neighbor Cary Bertram. "This neighborhood has turned out," Bertram said.

"And as long as they are living here, our eyes will be on that home."

Lynda V. Mapes: 206-464-2736 or lmapes@seattletimes.com

< Bail

FROM A4

**'SAFETY NET'
DISSOLVED****Attorney sought
to lower bail**

him \$1,000 for making false statements in the hit-and-run accident.

Morley did not return phone calls Wednesday seeking comment. Murphy could not be reached, either.

With the no-bail hold lifted, Murphy moved to reduce Clemmons' bail in the child-rape case. He appeared July 24 before Pierce County Superior Court Judge Thomas Felnagle.

Murphy wanted Clemmons' \$150,000 bond dropped to "the neighborhood of \$50,000." Clemmons wasn't a threat to the community, Murphy said. He was his family's sole income earner. He had also been seeing a counselor.

But deputy prosecutor Angelica McGaha said Clemmons was a flight risk and wouldn't stay away from the child he was accused of molesting.

"I believe that he is a threat to the community," she said.

Felnagle refused to reduce the bond, citing Clemmons' "significant criminal history" and how he'd been "acting crazy."

"The warning signs are all over the place," Felnagle said.

Times news researcher Miyoko Wolf contributed to this report. Jim Brunner: 206-515-5628 or jbrunner@seattletimes.com; Maureen O'Hagan: 206-464-2605 or mohagan@seattletimes.com.

< Allen

FROM A1

**DRIVER DENIES
KNOWLEDGE OF PLOT****Ex-con could face
murder charges**

hind and smoked a cigar at the carwash and didn't know what happened when Clemmons walked away for a while.

Clemmons returned to the carwash complaining he had been shot. Allen told detectives the pair drove a short distance before he decided he wanted "no part of this" and got out of the truck, the documents allege.

If police determine Allen knew of Clemmons' plans, he could be charged with the murders of the four officers, according to the Pierce County Sheriff's Office. He is being held on fugitive and probation-violation warrants out of Arkansas as Pierce County detectives try to build a murder case against him.

During his court appearance Wednesday, Allen told a judge he was "blind" about the allegations against him. As the shackled Allen was led out of the courtroom, he turned toward members of the media and said, "Help me."

Allen is one of six people accused of helping Clemmons while he eluded police after the four officers were shot.

On Wednesday, Letrecia Nelson, 52, and Quiana Maylea Williams, 26, appeared in court and were each ordered held on \$500,000 bail on allegations that they, along with Allen, provided help to Clemmons.

Williams, a friend of Clem-

mons, bought peroxide, gauze and bandage material to treat a gunshot wound Clemmons suffered when one of the Lakewood officers returned fire in the coffee shop, according to probable-cause documents. She also drove Clemmons to Seattle, the documents say.

Nelson, Clemmons' aunt, directed another relative to turn car keys and money over to Clemmons shortly after the Lakewood officers were killed, the documents allege.

When the relative said it "ain't right" not to call police, Nelson responded, "It ain't right, but family's more important," according to the documents.

The newly filed court documents also allege Clemmons told people, including Allen, on Thanksgiving Day that he planned to kill cops, children at a school and as many people as he could at an intersection.

Allen and Clemmons served prison time together in Arkansas in the 1990s and early 2000s.

Clemmons spent two stints for robbery, burglary and theft. Allen, convicted of murder in the 1990 killings of two people at a liquor store, served 14 years of a 25-year sentence before being paroled in December 2005.

A fugitive warrant naming Allen for his alleged role in the March 22 robbery of a Bank of America branch in Arkansas was issued earlier this year.

In June, he was stopped by a Pierce County sheriff's deputy and cited for driving without a valid license and making false statements. The deputy didn't find any information on the warrant because it had not been entered in the National Crime



GREG GILBERT / THE SEATTLE TIMES

Darcus D. Allen appears in Pierce County Superior Court. He is under investigation for assisting Maurice Clemmons after Clemmons killed four Lakewood police officers in a coffee shop Sunday morning.

Information Center (NCIC) computer, Pierce County sheriff's spokesman Ed Troyer said Wednesday.

The warrant would have allowed the deputy to take Allen into custody and hold him for Arkansas authorities.

It is not clear if the robbery warrant was issued before the June traffic stop, but Little Rock police never entered the warrant into the NCIC system because investigators had no reason to believe Allen had left the state, said Lt. Terry Hastings, the department's spokesman.

Allen's name was put in Arkansas' crime-information computer system, Hastings said.

It wasn't entered into the national system until Wednesday morning, after it became known Allen was in Washington, Hastings said.

Troyer faulted Little Rock police for not entering the NCIC information until 9:20 a.m. Wednesday, the latest criticism of Arkansas authorities who have faced questions since Sunday over not taking adequate steps to keep Clemmons locked up.

"They did it now because the pressure is on them," Troyer said. "That's par for the course with what's been going on."

Allen is believed to be one of two men who entered a Little Rock branch of Bank of America with handguns and ordered customers to the floor. One of the men jumped over the counter and took money while the other, armed with a silver handgun, threatened clerks and customers, according to court documents.

Allen's murder convictions

stem from the slayings of two people in a liquor-store slaying in Pulaski County, Ark., in 1990, according to a story at the time in the Arkansas Democrat-Gazette newspaper.

Killed were store owner Thomas Findley, 61, and clerk Charlotte Fowler, 41, the newspaper reported.

Allen, then 19, pleaded guilty to a reduced charge of first-degree murder in January 1991 and was sentenced to 25 years in prison, the newspaper reported. He originally had been charged with two counts of capital murder, aggravated robbery and theft.

The reduced charge and sentence allowed Allen, with good behavior, to qualify for parole in fewer than seven years, the newspaper reported.

According to statements at that time by the five defendants to police, two men entered the store while Allen and two others waited outside in a stolen car, the newspaper reported.

The state's case against Allen was considered the weakest of the five, but was bolstered by the guilty plea of a co-defendant who agreed to testify for the prosecution, according to the newspaper.

Allen told Circuit Judge John Langston in Arkansas he was aware a robbery was planned and that he shared in the proceeds of the crime, the newspaper reported. He said he had been drinking all day, but knew the two men who entered the store had guns and that he was sober enough to make a decision to end his participation.

Seattle Times reporter Mike Carter reported from Little Rock, Ark. Times news researchers Miyoko Wolf and David Turim contributed to this story. Steve Miletich: 206-464-3302 or smiletich@seattletimes.com



GREG GILBERT / THE SEATTLE TIMES

Randy Huey was upset to learn that his name had been used as an alias by an alleged accomplice in the shootings.

Alleged accomplice used an alias

BY CHRISTINE CLARRIDGE
Seattle Times staff reporter

PARKLAND, Pierce County — Randy Huey — the real one — was "sickened and shocked" when he turned on the news Tuesday night and learned he was being called an accomplice to alleged cop-killer Maurice Clemmons.

"I heard the reporter saying my name and it was a sickening feeling. I am not that guy and I would never do anything like that," said Huey, 43, of Parkland.

Huey's name was used as an alias by Darcus D. Allen, the man police and prosecutors describe as the getaway driver for Clemmons, who allegedly killed four Lakewood police officers Sunday morning. Huey's name was contained in court documents and released by police, and picked up by KIRO-TV and seattlepi.com.

Huey knew both Clemmons and Allen.

Huey met Clemmons, who lived around the corner from him, about a year and a half

ago. The two became friendly and Huey hired Clemmons and his landscaping team to do some yard work.

Allen was one of the men employed by Clemmons. Huey knew him casually. Huey has since learned that Allen appropriated his name some time ago.

When Allen was taken into custody by police this week, he told them his name was Huey, police said.

Huey said detectives came to his home, showed one of his sons a photo of Allen and

asked, "Is this your dad?"

Chris Grygiel, a news gatherer for seattlepi.com, said the Web site got Huey's name from police.

Detective Ed Troyer of the Pierce County Sheriff's Office said Huey has no connection to the officers' slayings.

"It's very upsetting and hurtful that he used my name," Huey said of Allen. "I'm known in this community and I don't believe in violence or guns."

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