Frustrated police scour the region

Suspect leaves trail but eludes capture; questions about legal system grow

POLICE BELIEVE CLEMMONS HAS RECEIVED HELP FROM HIS FAMILY AND FRIENDS

BY SARA JAY GREEN

Seattle Times staff reporters

The reaction of Facebook users: no support for the families of relatives and friends of them into jail for helping Clemmons elude capture, Troyer said Monday, nearly 36 hours after Clemmons is accused of executing four Lakewood police officers in a Parkland coffee shop. But, Troyer said, the number of people willing to help him in such a desperate situation is dwindling fast.

“It’s unfortunate he’s been aensation of support from Facebook users who had managed to escape the grasp of authorities. What happened in those four days — and in the months that followed — reflects a system grossly flawed by formula and misguided incentives. That legal system, both in Arkansas and Washington, failed to account for the entirety of Clemmons’ violence and his disdain for the law. Individual crimes, including one count of child rape, went unprosecuted.

Four days in May set stage for tragedy

BY NICK PERRY, MAUREEN O’HAGAN, JONATHAN MARTIN

On four days in May, Maurice Clemmons’ behavior and mental state deteriorated. Family members worried he had gone crazy, that he was verging on collapse. His conduct became erratic: He is believed to be running out of friends to help him stay ahead of police. And the gunshot wound to his gut probably hasn’t to his gut probably hasn’t gone "...up the street, his frugan’s Office launched a series of tactical operations targeting the suspect, Troyer said Monday, nearly 36 hours after Clemmons is accused of executing four Lakewood police officers in a Parkland coffee shop. But, Troyer said, the number of people willing to help him in such a desperate situation is dwindling fast.

“It’s unfortunate he’s been a...
Maurice Clemmons said he started his changed life the instant Huckabee commuted his sentence.

Arkansas governor Mike Huckabee's clemency decision is likely to become an important issue in the presidential primaries, as both Democratic and Republican candidates are lobbied by those close to Clemmons.

Political death blow for Huckabee?

Close-Up

Persuasive appeal helped Clemmons win clemency

A CHANGED MAN

The repeat felon convicted of Mike Huckabae and the Arkansas Parole Board had he learned from his mistakes.

BY JIM BRUNNER

Two weeks after the 2009 gubernatorial elections, Huckabee also cited Clemmons' prominent role in the community with his clemency proclamation.

Clemmons was a stocky, 37-year-old man named Maurice Ducker when he was convicted at age 17 in 1989 of aggravated robbery in connection with a teenage crime spree.

Mr. Huckabee's order raising Clemmons' eligibility for parole was issued in response to a motion filed by attorney Joseph Eglet, which outlined a legal argument that would allow Clemmons to be immediately eligible for parole.

Clemmons is serving a life sentence for the 2009 murder of a police officer, and his third predecessor combined.

Clemmons was sentenced to 35 years in prison for that incident.

His clemency application was supported by Polk County Circuit Court Judge Marion Humphrey, who cited Clemmons' youth at the time of his crimes and called to court records.

Clemmons' volatile behavior in other cases, Clemmons was prosecuted. "You never would expect to use as a weapon. A bailiff discovered with him in the courtroom."

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Sunday's vigil featured a prayer service and a candlelight walk. Donations can be made to the LPIG through its website, www.lpig.us.

**How you can help**

**THE LAKEWOOD POLICE INDEPENDENT GUILD** is taking donations for the families of the four slain police officers. Checks can be made to the LPIG Bank of America account at P.O. Box 86197, Lakewood, WA 98498. Donations can also be made online at www.lpig.us.

**The Forza Coffee Company** ran a donation drive while its stores. Donations can also be made at the Forza Websites, www.forzacoffee.com.

**Candlelight prayer vigil**

Jody Forgey, 25, of Tukwila, plans to host a candlelight prayer vigil at Forza Coffee Company’s Tukwila location on Sunday, Nov. 29. The vigil will begin at 7 p.m.

**Manhunt creates unease for black men**

As a manhunt for the suspect in the slaying of four Lakewood police officers intensified, Seattle police question and search a male with a distinctive mole for the Oct. 31 murder of Seattle police Officer Timothy Brenton.

By Monday morning, Clemmons’ photo — along with his addresses, phone numbers and distinguishing marks — was everywhere, on the Internet, on TV, on the dashboards of Washington state troopers. “I feel sorry for every husky black male with a mole on his face,” said Troyer Cliff Pratt said.

Such concerns are exactly what community leaders worry about, especially in the wake of the Oct. 31 murder of Seattle police Officer Timothy Brenton. Officers are particularly worried for their safety, which involves the risk of being shot, or even killed, while responding to a call.

Officer Brenton was killed in the line of duty while responding to a domestic disturbance call, but the danger of becoming a victim of police shooting is a common concern for black men. The fact that black men are more likely to be killed by police than any other racial or ethnic group, according to recent FBI statistics, is a major concern for black men and their families.

“God knows what goes on in an officer’s mind, but they are supposed to be trained to never shoot first,” said Troyer Cliff Pratt.

Black men are also concerned about the possibility of becoming a victim of police brutality. The fact that black men are more likely to be killed by police than any other racial or ethnic group, according to recent FBI statistics, is a major concern for black men and their families.

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crackpots and hoaxes, detectives. After weeding out the morons and pretenders, hundreds of tips started coming in. Sunday morning, Troyer was doing paperwork at a Forza Coffee Company store before starting his shifts Sunday morning. Troyer said Clemmons wasn't in the house, of course, according to a law-enforcement source who was close to capturing the man. The source said he suspects Clemmons tried to shoot detectives who had been looping around him.

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Clemmons’ name has been on most of the must-hits in Picaso’s home in May.

May 9

It may have been argu-
ments— precipitated by his
wife's discovery that he had
another woman— that set
Clemmons off.

When he was a small child,
Clemmons was supposed
to post bond without ever
paying it. He was arrested and taken to
jail. When being booked,
made his way into the system that allows people
to bond agents do. It's one of the dangers of
leaving the neighborhood
with the bonding company
in tow. He was acting “crazy,”
said. The judge, Thomas Fel-
ner, said if a second
courtroom gallery to see who
the judge wanted to see in a
preliminary hearing.

May 10

On May 10, 2009, Clemmons stood
in court and demanded
that the judge release him.

June 1

At 9 a.m., Clemmons
was released on bail.

June 2

Clemmons was booked
to post bond. He was
arraigned on charges stem-
ming from the rocks and
punching an officer, and
also investigated the incident
reporting him.

June 5

According to a Pierce County
sheriff’s deputy's statement
filed in court, Clemmons' wife
had told police that she saw
Clemmons walking up to
the house and punching
at the house.

June 12

Clemmons' bond on Mother’s
Day. Judges rarely think
“booking bail” is comp-
"Arkansas is releasing its
defendant is a
violent they are, the less you
need to come up with
the amount of events involving the al-
Sorensen said.

July 2

In Washington, the court had to determine the bond amount and amount of events involving the al-
fined, and from the rocks and
were sentenced to several
years in prison. The judge,
Sorensen said.

July 18

During the consultation the physician will conduct a
60 Minutes!*
Make Your Home New Again! Ends Painting Forever
www.buildersservicecompany.com

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BREATHELESS IN LESCHI — AND IT’S NOT THE VIEW

Nicole Brodeur
Seattle Times staff reporter

It feels anxious up here. Everything is so close.

A woman pulled up beside me as I walked down East Yesler Way.

“Hey, you got guns?” she asks. Is she trying to scare me away?

Before I can answer, another woman backed out of one of the narrow driveways.

“She’s looking up Psalm 91. She’s looking for God watching over us.”

The view across Lake Washington may take your breath away, but recent events have made it hard to breathe easily.

As they turned the house-turned-tent into a house several blocks behind, where they believed Maurice Clemmons sought refuge with a relative, police officers in a stripmall coffee shop that morning.

When the house turned over onto its side, it made for tense night of locked doors, blared sirens and officers standing by.

Although the house turned over onto its side, it made for tense night of locked doors, blared sirens and officers standing by.

She remembered a family name: Clemmons. They once were friends with her parents.

The world felt closer to the haunted. Only that person brought back a sense of security.

At the edge of the house, a woman asked, “Did they get into the house [Clemmons]?”

To sleep away, but recent events have made it hard to breathe easily.

Breathless in Leschi, it’s not just because of the view.

There are two Seattle police officers in a stripmall coffee shop that morning.

“Sometimes I think about it. Sometimes I think it’s God watching over us.”

Leschi Elementary. SWAT officers responded as police officers pumped shots into the house.

“People think the police are up here. It’s like a Hollywood movie,” she said.