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# Families of slain plead for assistance - Relatives of 2 shot dead on Thanksgiving seek help with information, reward money

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*By Stacey Mulick December 6, 2002 Publication: The News Tribune Page: B01 Word Count: 511*

The families of two people killed in a Thanksgiving night shooting made an emotional plea Thursday for reward money and information in the case.

They want help finding the killer of a 5-year-old boy with a huge smile and a 19-year-old woman who loved hot rods and books. "There has got to be somebody out there who knows something," said Joe Britt, the grandfather of 5-year-old Jeremy Britt Bayinthavong. "You've got to have a conscience." Jeremy and Kimberly Carol Riley, who grew up in Hawaii and came to Seattle to study at the University of Washington two months ago, died Nov. 28 when a gunman walked up to Britt's South End Tacoma home and opened fire through a lower-level window. Jeff Spencer, 22, and his 20-year-old sister, Harmony Spencer, also were injured in the shooting. They all were at Britt's home enjoying a Thanksgiving gathering. Police investigators continue to receive tips on the case but no one item has pointed them in a specific direction, department spokesman Jim Mattheis said. Detectives continue to search for a dark-colored, older model, full-sized Ford pickup truck with a loud exhaust system. A neighbor spotted the truck speeding away from the 1000 block of South 75th Street moments after the 10 p.m. shooting. It had a light-colored canopy and FORD written in large letters across the tailgate.

Police encourage anyone with information about the truck or the shooting to call 911 or Tacoma-Pierce County Crime Stoppers at 253-591-5959. The families made the same plea. At a press conference Thursday, Britt was joined by his son, Eric Britt, who was Jeremy's father; Jeff Spencer, who was Riley's boyfriend; Jeff's father Leonard Spencer; and Mike Riley, Kimberly Riley's father. The men struggled with their composure throughout much of the press conference. Eric Britt clutched a photograph of his son, often breaking out in tears at the mention of Jeremy's death. "I promised (Jeremy) we'd find who did this," Joe Britt said. "Him and Kimberly will not die in vain." Mike Riley showed pictures of his smiling daughter with her family in Hawaii. He urged someone to come forward to protect the community. "They're monsters. They are not human," he said. "They are in your community. You have to live with these people." The families have established an account to raise money for a reward in the case. They will accept any size donation. "Five dollars, ten dollars - we don't care - a buck," Leonard Spencer said. The men said money is no object in solving this case. "The smallest bit could change the way this investigation goes, " Mike Riley said. - - - Stacey Mulick: 253-597-8268 stacey.mulick@mail.tribnet.com

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