

Orchards couple picked good time to switch rooms

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By Brad W. Gary of the Tribune

Truck trashed kitchen minutes after they left



The kitchen and dining room of a Lewiston Orchards home was destroyed when a truck drove through it ... Contributed photo

A Lewiston Orchards couple walked out of their kitchen minutes before a pickup truck came crashing through early Sunday.

"We just walked out of the kitchen and we were in the living room," Teresa Roesner-Weatherby said Monday. "Timing is everything."

Roesner-Weatherby said she and her husband, Bill Weatherby, are staying with family while an insurance adjuster and engineer survey damage left after a 2003 Dodge pickup crashed through one wall of their home at 1620 Ripon Ave., and out another side.

Neither Roesner-Weatherby, her husband nor a cat inside the home were injured in the crash.

The home's kitchen/dining room and laundry room were severely damaged when Jonathan J. Schlee, 30, reportedly drove his pickup through the house. The truck also reportedly collided with a neighbor's fence before coming to a stop in a nearby yard.

Schlee, of Lewiston, was arrested for DUI and booked into the Nez Perce County Jail, according to police. He was no longer in custody Monday.

He had been driving east on Ripon Avenue when Schlee reportedly told investigators he was distracted by a female passenger in the car who police said later allegedly admitted being engaged in some kind of sexual activity at the time of the crash. They were not injured in the accident.

A Lewiston Police accident report listed Schlee's blood-alcohol concentration at .201 and .184. The Dodge sustained substantial front-end damage in the crash, police said.

Roesner-Weatherby said the truck knocked out a corner beam to the residence. She and her husband, who moved into the home about a year ago, have been advised to stay out of the building while structural repairs are made.

Lewiston police listed a preliminary estimate of damage to the home at about \$50,000. Insurance inspectors surveyed the home Monday, Roesner-Weatherby said. An engineer is expected to look at the house today.

Because no one was injured, police said Schlee faces charges of misdemeanor DUI.

Roesner-Weatherby said she is thankful to representatives of Roughcut Construction who came to the house Sunday to evaluate damage and secure the building.

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