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Residents of quiet neighborhood recount violent night

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Eyewitnesses, including the victims of two home invasions, got more excitement than they bargained for Wednesday night.

For residents of Victorian Village, an upscale neighborhood on the south side of Idaho Falls, the events of Wednesday night might be hard to shake.

High-speed chases, home invasions and lethal force by police were the last things residents of Martinsburg Lane expected when they moved into their homes.

"If it could happen here, I guess it could happen anywhere," said Holly Gyles of 221 Martinsburg. "It probably will change the way we think about things."

For Kim Lewis, who lives at 270 Martinsburg, her brush with the criminal element was up close and personal.

Lewis said she was coming out of her bedroom at about 8:50 p.m. when she encountered 31-year-old Rayce Rindfleisch standing in the hallway. The man had entered through the garage and laundry room.

"I said, 'What are you doing here?' and he said, 'Just give me a minute.' I said, 'No, you've got to get out.' "

Lewis said Rindfleisch appeared to be unarmed. Her husband, Daren, was asleep, so she woke him up. Everyone remained calm, she said.

"He was begging for us to let him stay," Kim Lewis said.

When Daren Lewis talked him into leaving, Rindfleisch went out through the garage.

After the man left, Daren Lewis noticed his keys were missing. He went out to the driveway, where the man had gotten into his white pickup truck and was starting it. He told Rindfleisch to get out of his truck.

"He said the guy wouldn't even look at him," said Kim Lewis, who called 911 during the encounter.

Sarah Hepworth, at 224 Martinsburg, saw what followed from her upstairs window.

She and her mother, Ann Hepworth, were home shortly before 9 p.m. when they received an emergency "reverse 911" call from police dispatchers.

The message was for them to lock up their house because there was an emergency in the neighborhood.

"Mom told me, 'Sarah, go look out the window,' " she said. When she did, she saw flashing lights, then heard screeching tires.

"I saw this white pickup truck coming up the street like a bat out of hell," she said.

She estimated the truck, which Rindfleisch was driving, was going about 35 miles per hour and was headed straight for a Bonneville County sheriff's car blocking the street.

"He was gunning for it. You could tell he wasn't going to stop," she said.

Hepworth said she then heard gunshots, which caused the rear window of the pickup truck to explode, and the truck crashed into the sheriff's vehicle.

Her impression was that Rindfleisch clipped Ashlee Tinno, 29, with the pickup, that Tinno was in handcuffs and being put into an unmarked sheriff's SUV. Police said Tinno was thrown from the sheriff's car onto the pavement from the impact of the crash.

"It all happened so fast," Hepworth said.

Once the shots had been fired, she said, Rindfleisch was clutching his chest.

"He had been hit, you could tell that," she said.

Officers opened the truck door, and Rindfleisch either fell or was forced to the pavement.

Officers went to check on Tinno, and when they returned to Rindfleisch, he was dead, she said.

Because the incident was handled by more than one law enforcement agency, the Tri-County Sheriff's Association was called in to investigate. Rindfleisch's body lay in the street, first covered with a tarp and then under a tent, until about 3:30 a.m., according to witnesses.

Lewis said her two children remained asleep during the incident. Gyles said the shooting didn't register with her 6-year-old daughter, but her 8-year-old son, Matthew, was upset.

"He was pretty scared and got sick to his stomach," she said. "But we turned on cartoons and he was eventually able to go to sleep."

Matthew was able to go to school Thursday morning.

"I think he's thinking, 'The cops got the bad guy,' " his mother said.

Mike Olson, who came home at about 10:30 p.m., said he was puzzled by the police vehicles near his home at 249 Leesburg Lane and all the police two blocks away at Cumberland and Martinsburg.

All became clear, however, when he entered and his wife, Wendy, yelled out to him they had a fugitive in their home.

Olson said Darwin Crosland didn't appear to be armed, and that Crosland reassured them all he wanted to do was hide from police.

When Olson went outside to tell police, Crosland appeared ready to give himself up, he said.

On Thursday afternoon, Olson said his wife was "shaky" and that they would probably be more cautious in the future.

"You just don't answer the door like you did in the past," he said.

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