

Vancouver man survives being shot in head

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By JOHN BRANTON, Columbian staff writer

A 25-year-old man was shot in the head early Thursday morning as he confronted a strange woman who had walked into his family's apartment near Ellsworth Elementary School.

Jeremy H. Rausch, who lives at the Cascades apartment complex at 11304 S.E. 10th St., was listed in good condition later Thursday at Legacy Emanuel Hospital in Portland.

Detectives are looking for the unidentified gunman and woman, who fled the scene and escaped despite a police search. The intruders may have been planning a burglary, although the motive isn't known, said Vancouver police Lt. Marla Schuman

"It was just bizarre," said a neighbor, 28, who asked that her name not be published. "It was 6 o'clock in the morning. It was totally random. They didn't know the people."

When the incident began, Rausch, a chiropractic student, was outside the apartment just after 6 a.m., loading up the family car for a trip to California to a family reunion. His wife, Lysanne Rausch, 26, and their two children, ages 1 and 2, were inside, police and the neighbor said.

Lysanne Rausch walked from a bedroom into the living room, where she found an unidentified woman standing inside.

The neighbor said she was told the intruder ran into a bedroom, where she crouched in a closet with a knife in her hand. Jeremy Rausch reportedly grabbed the woman and was holding onto her when a man walked in with a small-caliber silver-colored handgun.

"He ordered Jeremy to let Heather go, that was the name he used," Schuman said.

The gunman then fired once, with the bullet striking Jeremy Rausch in the head. He fled with the woman. Jeremy Rausch was taken to the hospital.

On Thursday afternoon, eight detectives were working on the attempted murder, Schuman said.

The neighbor said that when she moved into the apartment, Jeremy Rausch helped her carry her belongings into her apartment.

"He just said, 'Hi, I'm your neighbor. Do you need some help?'" she recalled. "They're such friendly people. They shouldn't have had something like this happen to them."

Lysanne Rausch is a massage practitioner student, she said.

The gunman was described as white, between 35 and 40, about 5-feet-9 and 180 pounds. He was clean-shaven and had dark-brown hair. He wore blue jeans and a T-shirt with writing on the front.

Police described the woman as white, thin, petite, about 5-feet-4 and between 30 and 40. She had shoulder-length dark-brown hair that was pulled back and wore black leather pants. Her first name may be Heather.

Anyone with information about the pair is asked to call Detective Jane Easter at 360-735-8822 or Detective Stu Hemstock at 360-735-8832.