

Car smashes into supermarket

Written by Elizabeth Barrett
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Amazingly no one hurt in Sunday accident.

Checker Stormy Bonifas heard a loud crash and bolted down an aisle.

Another employee said it sounded like a bomb detonated at Peterson's Supermarket Sunday afternoon when a car struck the front of the store at about 12:15 p.m., shattering the front window and causing other damage.

"It was scary," said checker Sue Rossell.

Once the 1992 Nissan Sentra stopped, store co-owner Steve Peterson was notified and he called 911.

Harley Marpel, 73, of Gothenburg was in the car along with a small dog. Neither was injured, according to local police officer Jill McCandless.

McCandless said Marpel said he wasn't sure what happened.

Fortunately, no one was in the area of the accident but had small children been getting candy or stickers out of vending machines it could have been a different story, Peterson said.

In addition to shattering glass and brick, wood and stone at the base of the window, Peterson said the momentum of the vehicle also pushed a customer service counter a few inches.

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“It was fortunate no one was coming out that door,” McCandless said. “God was really looking out.”

McCandless added that the brick wall at the window base helped stop the vehicle.

A local carpenter boarded up the gaping hole Sunday.

Bonifas said checkers, who were near the front windows, could hear the car engine revving even after it stopped.

On Monday, McCandless didn't yet have building or car damage estimates.

The accident is the third one of its type Peterson remembers at the store.

Two other vehicles damaged the west side of the store, one causing damage to the deli and sandwich cooler.

After the accident, Peterson took Marpel and his dog home and a tow truck pulled the vehicle from the store.

Peterson said he got a call from his son, Michael Peterson in Chicago, about an hour after the mishap.

Michael had seen pictures of the accident posted on Facebook.

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