

## Driver injured when pickup hits house on N.C. 18 Monday



JULE HUBBARD/STAFF PHOTO TOYOTA PICKUP that was northbound on N.C. 18 North in North Wilkesboro slammed into a house after it was struck in the rear by another Toyota pickup Monday afternoon just north of Beulah Presbyterian Church. The driver of the pickup that hit the house, is being placed in a Wilkes Emergency Medical Service ambulance for transport to Wilkes Regional Medical Center. The ambulance is parked along Reynolds Avenue.

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There was significant damage when two northbound Toyota pickups collided and one of them struck a house at the intersection of N.C. 18 North and Reynolds Avenue in North Wilkesboro about 4:20 p.m. Monday.

Annie Harris was in her two-story brick home when one of the two pickups, a 1994 Toyota driven by Franklin Dean Bare, 62, of Hilltop Acres, North Wilkesboro, slammed into a ground-level window on the front right side of the house. Mrs. Harris said she was on the computer in a second floor room when it hit.

She said there was a loud crashing sound and that the house shook. The front of the pickup didn't actually enter the house, but it caused cracks in the ceiling and other damage. Mrs. Harris said someone else called 911.

Her husband, Douglas Harris, was at his business in a shop building on other side of N.C. 18 near the intersection with Reynolds Avenue and quickly came home.

Officer Rex Stanley of the North Wilkesboro Police Department reported that Bare was slowing to turn right from N.C. 18 onto Reynolds Avenue when the rear of his pickup was struck by a 1999 Toyota pickup driven by Baxter Joe McLean, 62, of Haymeadow Road, Hays.

Bare's pickup then went across Reynolds Avenue and through the front yard of the Harris home before hitting the home.

According to Stanley's report, McLean said another northbound vehicle between his pickup and Bare's pickup switched to the inside lane and went around Bare's pickup when Bare stopped to turn.

McLean said he didn't see a turn signal and hit his brakes, but couldn't avoid hitting the rear of Bare's pickup, the report stated. Stanley said another witness stated that the turn signal wasn't activated on Bare's pickup.

Stanley charged McLean with failure to reduce speed and the charged Bare with failure to wear a seatbelt.

Bare's pickup had about \$4,000 in damage and McLean's 1999 pickup had about \$3,000 in damage.

Bare was transported by Wilkes Emergency Medical Service to Wilkes Regional Medical Center with injuries that weren't life threatening, said emergency officials at the scene.

Wilkes EMS, North Wilkesboro Fire Department and first responders and Wilkes Rescue Squad were dispatched. The rescue squad was called back when it was determined that no one was trapped.