

# Washington State Patrol Media Release

**Chief John R. Batiste**



Captain Jeff DeVere  
Government and Media Relations  
(360) 753-5299 – office  
(360) 753-5469 – fax  
<http://www.wsp.wa.gov>

**\*\*\*For Immediate Release\*\*\***

**Date: June 18, 2008**  
**Contact: Trooper Brandy Kessler, Tacoma**  
**(253) 536-4386 – office**  
**(253) 606-1796 – cell/pager**

## **“Man Arrested After Crashing His Car and Running From a Trooper”**

A pursuit with a Washington State Patrol trooper on a motorcycle ended today after the suspect fled from the trooper, crashed the 2008 Ford Explorer he was in and ran into a hotel by the Emerald Queen Casino in Fife.

A Washington State Trooper, on his WSP motorcycle, was stopping a 2008 Ford Explorer for speed at approximately 9:15 this morning southbound I-5 just south of 516 (milepost 149), in King County. The driver, 23 year old Manuel Earl Stewart Jr. of Lakewood, started to pull to the right shoulder and then sped off into one of the left lanes of traffic. The trooper pulled up next to Stewart who was looking straight ahead pretending not to see the trooper. The trooper activated his siren and motioned Stewart to pull to the right. Stewart looked at the trooper and swerved the Explorer toward him, then sped off.

Stewart went across all lanes and onto the right shoulder. Driving on the shoulder, he took the 320<sup>th</sup> Street exit and went through a gas station. The trooper was able to catch up to Stewart and again Stewart sped toward the trooper with his Explorer. He went back onto I-5 heading southbound at a high rate of speed, driving on the shoulder.

Stewart attempted to exit at 54<sup>th</sup> Avenue (exit 137) almost hitting a Department of Transportation (DOT) worker who was using his DOT truck to push a disabled vehicle off the freeway. Stewart lost control of the Explorer due to his speed and clipped the side mirror of a pickup truck leaving the roadway on the right shoulder. He then crashed through a DOT sign and into a small ravine.



Stewart jumped out of the Explorer and ran toward the Emerald Queen Casino entering a vacant hotel nearby. The trooper caught up to Stewart, and as he was coming out of the hotel, placed him under arrest. No one was injured during the pursuit and Stewart was not injured in the crash.

During the investigation illegal drugs were found in the Explorer. Stewart was driving on a suspended license and had a misdemeanor warrant for Reckless Driving. Stewart will be booked into the King County jail on suspicion of 2<sup>nd</sup> Degree Assault, Eluding, and Possession of Misdemeanor Drugs. The roadway was open during the three hour investigation.

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