Office of the Chief
Chief John R. Batiste
www.wsp.wa.gov

February 07, 2018

Trooper Heather Axtman
Heather.Axtman@wsp.wa.gov
@wspd7pio

Suspect Arrested In Felony Hit & Run Collision

On the night of January 31, 2018, Washington State Patrol (WSP) troopers in Bellingham responded to a serious injury Hit and Run Collision involving in pedestrian. The pedestrian was walking in the lanes of the freeway when he was struck by a vehicle; that vehicle fled the scene. The pedestrian, Lucas Brazier, sustained critical injuries and was transported to Harborview Medical Center in Seattle. Based on evidence that was collected during the on-scene investigation, the fleeing vehicle was determined to be a green 1991-1996 Ford Escort or Mercury Tracer.

On February 1, 2018, the WSP sent out a media release seeking witnesses or anyone with information regarding this Hit and Run Collision. On February 2, 2018, WSP received a call from a witness who had read about the collision in the Bellingham Herald. The witness identified the driver of the fleeing vehicle to be Luis Gomez Gutierrez. WSP Detectives followed up on the lead and arrested Gutierrez in Sedro-Woolley on February 5, 2018. He was booked into the Whatcom County Jail for Hit and Run Injury Collision, which is a Class C Felony. Additional follow-up after the arrest lead detectives to the discovery of the involved vehicle, a green 1995 Ford Escort wagon, which was located in the Bow Hill area. On February 6, 2018, detectives served a search warrant and seized the vehicle; the damage to the vehicle was consistent with the evidence that was recovered during the on-scene investigation.

The WSP is working hard to solve all Hit and Run Collisions, regardless of the severity. We recognize that it takes a team effort; officers, public and the media in order to obtain this goal. If you've been involved in a Hit and Run Collision, or have witnessed a Hit and Run Collision it is vitally important to get the license plate number of the fleeing vehicle and call 9-1-1.

###