



For Immediate Release

Captain Monica Alexander
Government and Media Relations

March 30, 2018

Trooper Will Finn

Desk: 360-449-7960

Mobile: 360-827-2036

Twitter: @wspd5pio

**Man Arrested
After Firing Revolver At Motorist**

Cowlitz County, WA - On March 29, 2018, Darrin Odell of Snoqualmie was arrested after firing a revolver at another motorist on Interstate 5. Just before 5:00pm, WSP dispatchers received a call from the victim stating Odell had “fired a gun” at him while traveling south on Interstate 5 in Lewis County, just north of the Cowlitz County line. Odell’s arrest was a multi-agency effort as law enforcement officers from the Castle Rock Police Department, Cowlitz County Sheriff’s Office, and Washington State Patrol were involved. Odell’s vehicle was located on Burma Road, just west of Interstate 5 in Cowlitz County and he was taken into custody without incident. The alleged weapon involved was also located and taken into evidence as part of this investigation.

The victim in this incident was uninjured; however, a bullet hole in the rear passenger door of the pickup is a reminder of how Odell’s actions could have resulted in a tragedy. Odell told troopers he was upset because the pickup was “traveling in the left lane and would not get over.” When Odell passed the pickup, he pointed his Ruger 357 at the driver and fired, piercing a hole in the victim’s moving vehicle. Odell was booked into the Lewis County Jail for Assault with a Firearm in the 1st Degree, Malicious Mischief in the 2nd Degree, and DUI.

This is not the first time law enforcement agencies have responded to a weapon brandishing call on the interstate. In the past year, troopers have arrested two individuals for displaying a firearm to another motorist.

In June of 2017, Lewis County troopers arrested a man for pointing a gun at another motorist for “poor merging.”

In July of 2017, Cowlitz County troopers arrested a man for similar actions towards another motorist. That man was booked into the Cowlitz County Jail for Weapons Brandishing and Road Rage. He served one day in jail, four additional days were served on a work crew, he forfeited his weapon, and no longer possess a concealed carry permit.

Washington State Patrol Captain Jason Linn said, “This type of reckless behavior on our interstate is extremely dangerous and will not be tolerated.” Linn also said, “I am appreciative of the collaboration between our allied law enforcement agencies as we work together to enhance the safety of the communities we serve. The investigation and arrest of Odell’s was truly a team effort.”

If confronted by another motorist displaying a weapon, call 911 immediately and without putting yourself in harm’s way, provide a description of the suspect, vehicle, weapon, and last known location. Do not attempt to follow the vehicle and engage in further conflict. In Washington, it is a gross misdemeanor to display a weapon

with the intent to intimidate another person with bodily harm. Those found guilty of this action could face jail time and the loss of a concealed carry permit.

###