

# Washington State Patrol Media Release

*Chief John R. Batiste*

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

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## **Yelm Man Charged With Vehicular Assault After Serious Injury Collision**

**Thurston County-** 46 year-old James J. Stilton of Yelm was airlifted to Harborview medical Center with serious injuries after he was struck while riding a 1997 Harley-Davidson motorcycle on Vail Rd.

Stilton was riding northbound on Vail Rd. and began to slow in the roadway to make a left turn onto Hannus Rd. 26 year-old Steven P. Wetzel of Yelm was driving a 2001 Dodge Ram pick-up northbound behind Stilton. Wetzel failed to stop and struck Stilton from behind.

Troopers responded to the collision scene and after an investigation was completed Wetzel was placed under arrest for vehicular assault. A blood draw was administered and Wetzel was booked into Thurston County Jail.

Making the choice to drive impaired can change your life or the life of someone else in an instant. The Washington State Patrol works diligently to remove impaired driver's from the roadways of our State. Please don't drink and drive.

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