

Officer Shot as Suspect Captured

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Statesville: Reports from the scene of a search for a suspect who fled a Wilkes County traffic stop this morning indicate that the suspect has been captured--and that an officer was shot in the leg during that capture.

(Photo courtesy WSOC-TV)

The Highway Patrol said deputies in Wilkes County started chasing William Welton, Jr. off Highway 421 after he sped off from a check point, according to WSOC-TV. Deputies then called Highway Patrol troopers to take over. The troopers put out stop sticks near mile marker 54 on I-77 and the car stopped near the Broad Street exit at mile marker 50. Troopers said Welton got out of his car and fired several shots at officers, but no one was hit. Troopers said Welton took off into the woods. Welton is a convicted felon from Stella, N.C., which is near Morehead City. At about 5:20 a.m., shots were reported near Broad Street in Statesville, and just before 7, more shots were heard near Signal Hill Mall and reports indicated that the suspect was in custody. An officer was seen being loaded into an ambulance at the scene. School officials say Pressly School and Statesville Middle School will open at 10:15am after initially being closed due to the manhunt