

**JAMIE PERKINS**  
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STATE OF MISSOURI  
POLICE DEPARTMENT OF MOUNTAIN VIEW

MVPD 65548

07/30/2013

**SUBJECT:** Press Release

On 07-30-2013, at approximately 11:53 hours, Sgt. Stuart with the Mountain View Police Department stopped a white Nissan Altima from Arkansas for exceeding the posted speed limit.

Upon contact with the driver Sgt. Stuart noticed a strong odor of intoxicants coming from the vehicle. Sgt. Stuart noticed a male passenger later identified as Steven Ray Mitchell of Arkansas looking in the glove box and around the vehicle.

The driver was identified as Jessica Dawn Mitchell from Arkansas. Due to a strong odor of intoxicants coming from the vehicle Sgt. Stuart asked Jessica to exit her car and sit with him in his patrol unit.

Once seated in the patrol unit Jessica stated "I'm glad you stopped me, he escaped from jail and is on the run." Jessica told Sgt. Stuart that he escaped from Newport, Arkansas. Sgt. Stuart then requested Chief Perkins for back up. Jessica advised that there was a gun in the vehicle that he had stolen also.

Steven then got into the driver's seat of the vehicle and put it into gear. Sgt. Stuart exited his patrol unit in an attempt to take Steven into custody and Steven punched the gas and fled. Sgt. Stuart and Chief Perkins pursued Steven out Y Hwy to CR 3530. Due to the rain and mud Sgt. Stuart was not able to keep up with Steven on the muddy road.

Jessica was later picked up and taken into custody at the Mountain View Police Department.

At approximately 1430 hours the Mountain View Police Department received a call that the vehicle that had fled earlier in the day was on CR 3530 and almost to SR Y. Sgt. Stuart and Chief Perkins responded to the area of US 60 and SR Y where the vehicle was located at 14:34 hours heading West on 60 Hwy. Sgt. Stuart and Chief Perkins attempted to stop the vehicle again at 14:36 hours and once again the vehicle failed to yield.

Steven fled East on US 60 into Shannon County and attempted to turn onto SR T but missed the turn and went into the ditch on the east side of the intersection. He then corrected turned back east and

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pulled onto the highway and crossed it going into the ditch on the west side of the highway corrected again turned north and pulled onto a side road where officers identified the male driver as being the same from the previous pursuit.

The pursuit then continued West on T Hwy with speeds reaching at times over 80 mph's. As Steven approached a large hill with a curve on the other side, he lost control and slid off the road hitting a tree. Chief Perkins and Sgt. Stuart attempted to gain entry to the vehicle but the doors were all crushed shut due to the impact of the crash. Chief Perkins then broke out the windows in an attempt to take Steven into custody. At this point Chief Perkins believed Steven to be diseased due to observable injuries to his body. The vehicle caught fire in the front seat as officers were attempting to get Steven out. Chief Perkins states that Stevens' body was wedged in the car and they could not pull him out before the flames had the car fully engulfed. Chief Perkins states that they used three fire extinguishers but the flames would not go down. Acting Corner Deputy Green from the Shannon County Sheriff's Department arrived and took possession of Steven's body. Steven was taken to Duncan Funeral Home in Mountain View. The vehicle was later identified to have been stolen out of Bald Knob Arkansas.