



SHERIFF KOOTENAI COUNTY



SHERIFF **BEN WOLFINGER**

UNDERSHERIFF **DAN MATTOS**

**Media Release
January 02, 2017**

KCSO CATCHES TRAILHEAD CAR BURGLARS/CREDIT CARD FRAUD SUSPECTS

Kootenai County, ID – On December 31, 2016 at about 2:00 pm, Kootenai County Sheriff's Office Deputies responded to the area of the 4th of July Pass Recreation Area for a report of a car burglary. The victims reported multiple windows of their vehicle were broken while they were cross country skiing in the area. Several items were stolen from the vehicle including backpacks and credit cards. One victim also reported her credit card had been used in the Stateline, ID area since it had been stolen.

After taking the initial report, the deputy responded to Walmart and Cabela's in Post Falls, ID and was able to view video of the suspects using the stolen credit cards at both locations. The deputy was also able to get the suspect's vehicle description from store video. After conducting further investigation, Jacob M. Shields, 32 of Rathdrum was identified as a possible suspect. Deputies responded to his residence and found the stolen backpacks in Shields' truck. After interviewing Shields, a second suspect Justin L. Radford, 35 of Spokane Valley, WA, was identified. Shields was arrested for an outstanding theft warrant and was also charged with two counts of burglary, possession of stolen financial transaction cards, and criminal use of financial transaction cards. Burglary, malicious injury to property, grand theft, and criminal use of financial transaction cards charges have been requested for Radford.

While the Kootenai County Sheriff's Office will continue to pursue the apprehension of property crime offenders, we would like to take this opportunity to remind those who use recreational areas to secure personal property as best as possible while away from their vehicles. When possible, do not leave property where it can be easily seen and retain valuables such as identification and credit cards on your person.

Ben Wolfinger, Sheriff
By: Sergeant J. Brandel
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