



# SHERIFF KOOTENAI COUNTY



SHERIFF **BEN WOLFINGER**

UNDERSHERIFF **DAN MATTOS**

## MEDIA RELEASE UPDATE

On October 3<sup>rd</sup> at around 5:10 am the Kootenai County Sheriff's Office received a call from a fisherman about a drowning at the east end of Fernan Lake. It was reported two individuals were on a 10' aluminum boat and were transporting gear from the East Fernan Boat Launch to some state land on the south side of the lake. While travelling across the water, the boat capsized and both occupants ended up in the water.

One of the occupants was able to swim to shore however the other occupant had not made it to shore. The KCSO Dive Rescue Team and Kootenai County Fire and Rescue responded to the area and began searching for the missing boater. Spokane County Air 1 was also called to assist in the search.

At this time the second boater is still missing and an active search is underway.

This is still an active investigation and more information, to include the names of the victims will be released when available.

### UPDATE:

The Kootenai County Sheriff's Office has identified the two subjects that were on the vessel when it capsized. Jesse A. Bishop a 60 year old male from Airway Heights, Washington and Nathaniel C. Storch a 19 year old male from Spokane Valley, Washington were transporting camping gear from the East Fernan Boat Launch to the south side of the lake. The vessel capsized due to being overloaded and both occupants went into the water. Nathaniel was wearing a life jacket; however Jesse was not wearing a life jacket. Nathaniel was able to swim to shore, but Jesse was last seen in the water.

Currently the Kootenai County Sheriff's Office Sonar Team is conducting an underwater search of the area, however due to the weeds in the area, the search has been slow.

This is still an active investigation and more information will be released when available.

### SECOND UPDATE:

The Kootenai County Sheriff's Office has been searching daily for Jesse A. Bishop who went missing on Fernan Lake early Tuesday morning using the Dive Rescue Team, the Sonar Team and some Cadaver Search Dogs from the KCSO Volunteer Search and

Rescue Team. On 10-06-17 at about 4:15 PM the KCSO Sonar Team, with the assistance of the search dogs, located Jesse in about 5-7 feet of water. The Dive Rescue team responded to the location and recovered Jesse from the lake bottom. An autopsy will be conducted to determine the actual cause of death.

This is still an active investigation and more information will be released when available.

Sheriff Ben Wolfinger

By: Lt. Ryan Higgins