



SHERIFF KOOTENAI COUNTY



SHERIFF **BEN WOLFINGER**

UNDERSHERIFF **DAN MATTOS**

Media Release

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Contact: Capt. Kim Edmondson
208-446-1315 / Sopio@kcgov.us

Kootenai County Jail Population Hits Record High - AGAIN

The Kootenai County Jail inmate population hit a **new record high of 471 inmates** on Saturday, February 18, 2018. Of the 471 inmates, 94 were housed off-site at contract housing facilities to alleviate overcrowding. The Kootenai County Jail is currently certified to hold 327 inmates, leaving the facility 50 over its certified capacity, even with the 94 inmates housed off-site. The Jail's numbers have steadily climbed over the past several years. The average daily population for January 2018 was 418 inmates compared to 369 in January 2017 and 338 in January 2016.

The Jail Expansion, which is scheduled to be complete in Fall 2018 will increase the Jail's total capacity to 442 inmates, 29 fewer than Saturday's population. The expansion will have a shelled-in space with future housing capabilities of an additional 108 beds. Currently, the Board of Commissioners has no plans to complete the construction of these additional beds in the shelled-in space. If the expansion were open today, Kootenai County would still have to rely on off-site contract housing to comply with Idaho Jail Standards.

For Sheriff Ben Wolfinger
by Captain Kim Edmondson