



# SHERIFF KOOTENAI COUNTY



SHERIFF **BEN WOLFINGER**

UNDERSHERIFF **DAN MATTOS**

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## Media Release August 19, 2017

**Coeur d'Alene, Idaho** – Repeat offender arrested for felony DUI charge following a near head-on crash with Idaho State Police trooper.

Early Saturday morning at just after 2:00 am, Kootenai County Sheriff's deputies and Idaho State Police troopers were notified of a wrong way driver on Interstate 90, near milepost 10. An ISP trooper that had a prisoner in custody was traveling to the jail on I-90, reported that he was nearly struck head-on by a passenger car traveling westbound in the eastbound lanes of travel.

Deputies and troopers responding to the area began shutting down the eastbound on-ramps as the silver Mercedes coupe approached at freeway speeds. Deputies activated their emergency lights and were able to get the car to stop near milepost 7.

Upon contacting the driver, later identified as Shannon M. Defrance, 46 years old of Spokane, Washington, he immediately told the deputies that he was "too drunk" to be driving. Following field sobriety evaluations, Defrance was arrested for suspicion of DUI, with a blood alcohol content nearly two times the legal limit.

Due to Defrance's two prior convictions for driving under the influence, he was booked into the Kootenai County Jail for a felony charge of DUI. Additionally, he was booked on a misdemeanor charge of driving on an invalid driver's license.

Ben Wolfinger, Sheriff  
By: Lieutenant Stu Miller