

# Plea deal set for teacher

**By Dan Hammes**

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A tentative plea agreement has been reached with the Lakeside High School teacher charged with sexual battery of a minor.

Darin J. Debolt, 26, was arrested early Feb. 2 at the Plummer school and charged with sexual battery of a minor child age 16 or 17, a felony. Debolt appeared in magistrate's court in St. Maries Monday when Doug Payne, Benewah County prosecutor, told Judge Pat McFadden that a sentencing agreement had been reached in the case.

Under the agreement, Debolt would plead guilty and face a sentence of eight years (four years fixed, four years indeterminate) with the court retaining jurisdiction for 180 days. In addition, Debolt would be on probation for four years and pay a \$1,000 fine in addition to court costs.

The retained jurisdiction means the court could release Debolt after serving six months. The crime carries a maximum penalty of life in prison.

Debolt remains free after posting bail. He lives in Spokane and has taught at Lakeside since 2006. The crime for which he is charged did not involve a Lakeside student.