

**For Immediate Release**  
**March 14, 2011**  
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**To: Media**

**Chief Wayne M. Longo**

***Coeur d'Alene Police Department***  
*We serve with pride, dedication, and excellence*

On March 14<sup>th</sup> at 5:25 am Coeur d'Alene Police received the report of a stolen 2001 Chevy Cavalier taken from 3572 N. 15<sup>th</sup> St. The reporting party Shelly Childers was awakened by her 18-year old son Richie L. Childers who claimed two males had just kicked their front door open, destroyed contents in the kitchen, took her keys and stole her car. Shelley discovered glassware and other items had been thrown about the kitchen, and her vehicle was missing from the driveway. She immediately contacted the Police Department and filed a report.

Richie suggested to the police officers that the two males came to the home because they thought he had stolen an iPhone from them when they were all at a party together a week ago.

At 9:55am Kootenai County Sheriff's Deputies were notified of a submerged vehicle at Honeysuckle Beach. Deputies alerted City officers they had recovered the vehicle and no one was in it.

City patrol officers were suspicious of the story provided by Richie and his 17 year old male friend. After talking with them further officers were able to determine Richie and his friend took the vehicle out for a joy ride while his mother slept.

Richie told officers he thought the water near the boat ramp at Honeysuckle Beach was just a big puddle. Richie drove into the water and the vehicle quickly became submerged. The two males had difficulty getting out of the vehicle. Once they got out they walked to a friend's house and that friend drove them home.

Richie and his friend made up the story to tell his mom and then forcefully booted the front door open to the residence. Richie quickly destroyed glassware in the kitchen while yelling for his mom to call the police. By the time she came out of her room he was able to explain to her the suspects had already fled with her car.

Richie has been issued a citation for filing a false police report. Additional charges are pending for taking a vehicle without the owner's consent, malicious injury to property, and failure to purchase a drivers license. The 17-year old male (not named due to being a juvenile) is also facing charges of filing a false report.

Chief Longo praised the officers and deputies involved for their good detective work. He stated "They were able to quickly determine the truth which ultimately spared the community the anxiety, and fear over a reported home invasion robbery that did not actually occur".

**Sergeant Christie Wood**  
**Public Information Officer**  
**Coeur d'Alene Police Department**