



SHERIFF KOOTENAI COUNTY



SHERIFF, **BEN WOLFINGER**

UNDERSHERIFF, **TRAVIS CHANEY**

MEDIA RELEASE **October 22, 2013**

The Kootenai County Sheriff's Office recently located over 200 pieces of mail, belonging to over 70 different people, abandoned off Howard Rd, north of Highway 54, near the City of Athol. This mail is believed to have been stolen from resident's mailboxes between Spirit Lake and Bayview. It is unknown when the thefts occurred, but it is believed to be sometime between October 10th to the 13th. We are currently working at identifying and contacting the victims in these cases.

Based on similar crimes, bank statements, credit card statements, **pre-approved credit card offers**, and other similar financial documents were the likely targets. The Sheriff's Office strongly encourages the identified victims in these cases to contact any and all of your financial institutions and inform them of the theft to help facilitate monitoring your accounts for unusual or unauthorized activity. Credit card companies, banks (checking and savings), utilities (power, water, etc.), or any other entity from whom a bill or invoice is normally received should be contacted and advised of this incident. Additionally, if a bill should have been received and has not been, the billing entity should be contacted and advised of this incident and a new bill or invoice should be requested.

It is also highly recommended the credit bureaus be notified as well, to activate fraud monitoring and suspicious credit activity warnings by those pre-approved credit card offers. Those bureaus' contact information is listed below.

Because all of the mail is considered evidence, it cannot be released at this time. Once the mail can be released, you will be notified, and a property return will be coordinated with you.

If anyone has information in these cases please call the Sheriff's Office at 208-446-1300.

[Equifax \(www.equifax.com\)](http://www.equifax.com) P.O. Box 740241, Atlanta, GA 30374-0241, 1-800-685-1111
[Experian \(www.experian.com\)](http://www.experian.com) P.O. Box 2104, Allen, TX 75013-0949, 1-888-EXPERIAN (397-3742)
[Trans Union \(www.transunion.com\)](http://www.transunion.com) P.O. Box 1000, Chester, PA 19022, 1-800-916-8800

Ben Wolfinger, Sheriff
By: Lieutenant Stu Miller