**Media Release**

**July 5, 2016**

**Jail Breaks Record for Number of Defendants Seen at First Appearance** – The Kootenai County Public Safety Building (PSB) saw a record number of defendants remaining in custody to see a judge during first appearances following the busy holiday weekend. Jail staff will escort **62 inmates** to a court session which will take place using a video-arraignment system – the Judge remains at the Courthouse Complex while the inmates remain in custody at the PSB.

First appearances are generally held each Monday, following a normal weekend. During the appearance, the presiding judge advises the defendants of their rights and each defendant is given the opportunity to enter a plea. Following a holiday weekend, this first appearance is held on the first business day following the holiday. In the case of the Fourth of July weekend, first appearances will be held on Tuesday, July 5th, at 2pm.

There are usually 25-30 inmates attending first appearances on any usual Monday – 62 is the most the PSB has ever had for this appearance. These 62 inmates are those who either could not post bond, chose not to post bond, or had no bond amount set until seeing the Judge.

Overall, there were 105 inmates booked into the Kootenai County PSB over the holiday weekend (between 5pm on July 1st until 5am on July 5th). Of those, 33 were felony arrests. A total of 21 DUI arrests were made during the same time period (3 were felonies and 5 were Excessive DUIs – over 0.20).

The Jail’s capacity is 327. The busy weekend increased the jail population to 357 (22 of whom are housed in other jails due to overcrowding).

Bookings weren’t the only thing keeping Jail staff busy during the holiday weekend. There were 69 inmates released from custody during the weekend. Releasing an inmate takes as much effort as the initial booking process, so this kept staff busy as well.

To view the Daily Press Log or Current Inmate List go to [kcsheriff.com](http://www.kcsheriff.com/in-custody-list.html). The Daily Press Log provides information on arrests made in a 24 hour period from 5am to 5am daily. The Current Inmate List provides an alphabetical listing of all inmates currently in custody.

Ben Wolfinger, Sheriff

By: Major Kim Edmondson