



SHERIFF KOOTENAI COUNTY



SHERIFF **BEN WOLFINGER**

UNDERSHERIFF **DAN MATTOS**

Media Release March 18, 2016

Hayden, ID – An early morning traffic stop leads to four arrests for mail theft and drug charges.

On March 12, 2016 at about 1:15 AM, a Kootenai County Sheriff's deputy was patrolling the Hayden area when he observed a 2008 Ford Focus eastbound on Hayden Avenue from Ramsey Road at a high rate of speed.

When the vehicle finally pulled over for the deputy at Hayden Avenue and US Highway 95, the deputy noticed that the occupants were moving around the interior of the car quite a bit.

When the deputy contacted the occupants, he found that the driver, later identified as Kelsey L. Wentzel, 29 years old of Cataldo, Idaho didn't have current insurance or a current driver's license. During the stop, a Sheriff's K9 alerted to the odor of narcotics in the car.

Once all the occupants were removed from the car, the deputies located used drug paraphernalia, a concealed bowie knife, a concealed handgun that later turned out to be an air-soft type gun that was painted black and a large amount of US mail.

Based on the evidence and admissions, the deputies' opinion was that the foursome was driving from Cataldo, Idaho to Washington and during their trip they were driving through neighborhoods stealing people's mail. In all, the deputies found mail belonging to twenty-six victims from Cataldo, Hayden, Spokane, Spokane Valley and Elk, Washington.

The four were identified as and booked into the Kootenai County Jail for the following charges:

- **Kelsey L. Wentzel**, 29 years old of Cataldo, ID: Grand theft, possession of stolen property, possession of drug paraphernalia and attempting to conceal/destroy evidence. Bond was set at \$15,600 – released on bond 3/14/16
- **Jacob M. Thomas**, 30 years old of Chattaroy, WA: Grand theft, possession of stolen property, possession of drug paraphernalia and possession of a concealed weapon. Bond was set at \$25,900 – released on bond 3/16/16
- **Hannah L. Ryckman**, 20 years old of Spokane Valley, WA: Possession of stolen property, possession of fraudulently obtained goods, frequenting a place where drugs are used and attempting to conceal/destroy evidence. Bond was set at \$20,600 – still in custody
- **Joseph M. Stull**, 20 years old of Vancouver, WA: Grand theft, possession of stolen property, frequenting a place where drugs are used and attempting to conceal/destroy evidence. Bond was set at \$15,600 – still in custody

Ben Wolfinger, Sheriff

By: Lieutenant Stu Miller