



ROCKY WATSON, SHERIFF
TAD LEACH, UNDERSHERIFF

KOOTENAI COUNTY SHERIFF'S DEPARTMENT

MEDIA RELEASE

April 5, 2010

On April 3, 2010 at about 4:20 pm, deputies from the Kootenai County Sheriff's Department were called to the Coeur d'Alene Casino for a report of a person causing a disturbance.

Once on scene, the male causing the disturbance had been detained by Casino Security personnel, who in turn told the deputy that the disturbance was due to a possible kidnapping situation that had occurred earlier in the day.

The suspect in the case, John M. Costa, 47 years old, of Chewelah, WA, had been the caregiver to the 49 year old female victim. He went to the Casino earlier in the day and contacted the victim and took her to a hotel in Plummer, ID in an effort to convince her to drop alleged battery charges against him stemming from an incident while he was her caregiver in Washington. He later drove her back to the casino where the victim's son and current caregiver located her and alerted casino security to the incident.

The victim, whose identity is not being released at this time, was transported to Kootenai Medical Center in Coeur d'Alene with non-life threatening injuries she received as a result of Costa allegedly battering her. The suspect was arrested and transported to the Kootenai County Jail where he was booked for 1st degree kidnapping. He is also facing possible charges in Benewah County for the assault while at the hotel.

This case is still under investigation and more charges could be filed at a later time. Costa is scheduled for his first appearance today at 1:00 pm.

Rocky Watson, Sheriff
By: Lieutenant Stu Miller



COSTA, JOHN MICHAEL