



# KOOTENAI COUNTY SHERIFF

SHERIFF ROCKY WATSON  
UNDERSHERIFF TRAVIS CHANEY

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## KOOTENAI COUNTY SHERIFF'S OFFICE MEDIA RELEASE JUNE 17, 2011

Sheriff's Office investigators assigned to the North Idaho Violent Crimes Task Force (NIVCTF) lead an investigation this month that culminated in the serving of two search warrants on Tuesday for the illegal sale of the drug known as Spice.

Tuesday afternoon members of the NIVCTF and uniformed Sheriff's deputies served search warrants at the Big Smoke businesses located at 281 W. Hayden Avenue in Hayden and 213 W. Appleway in Coeur d'Alene. Investigators seized over 2400 grams of Spice with a retail value in excess of \$25,000.00. Also seized was approximately \$5,000.00 in cash.

The search warrants came after undercover officers purchased the illegal drug from both establishments in previous weeks. Investigations are on-going to determine the distribution source for the product. Charging decisions are pending.

New laws passed this year by the Idaho Legislature made Spice and the drug known as Bath Salts illegal in Idaho. The laws went into effect on March 10, 2011. The law change was in addition to pharmacy board rules that were enacted last year.

Investigators will continue to monitor local establishments for the sale of illegal drugs and drug paraphernalia. Violators may be subject to prison terms, fines and civil forfeiture of money and property.

The NIVCTF, consisting of investigators representing the FBI, Idaho State Police, Kootenai County Sheriff's Department, Shoshone County Sheriff's Office, Bonner County Sheriff's Office, Coeur d'Alene Police Department, Post Falls Police Department, and the Coeur d'Alene Tribal Police Department, is tasked with investigating a myriad of violent crimes to include armed robbery, kidnapping, felonious assault and drug trafficking. The NIVCTF is also responsible for locating and apprehending violent fugitives.

Rocky Watson, Sheriff

By: Major Ben Wolfinger