

# BENTON COUNTY SHERIFF'S OFFICE

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**Troy Heck, Sheriff**  
**Neal Jacobson, Chief Deputy**

## PRESS RELEASE

**DATE: 03-26-2019**

### **AUTHORITY OF SHERIFF TROY HECK**

On March 23<sup>rd</sup> the Benton County Sheriff's Office found and arrested 3 juvenile males and 2 juvenile females who had broken into a building in Bend in the River Park near Rice. At about 6:45 pm on March 23<sup>rd</sup>, a witness at Bend in the River Park in Watab Township reported seeing several juveniles smash a window on a locked building in the park and then enter the building. Deputies and officers from the Rice Police Department and Royalton Police Department were sent to the scene. When they arrived at the scene, the responding officers found three 17 year old males, one 16 year old female, and one 15 year old female inside the park building. These 5 juveniles and several witnesses were interviewed. Deputies learned that the 5 juveniles had arrived at the park together to take some photographs. While they were near the locked building, one of the male juveniles broke a window on the building and all 5 of the juveniles entered the building. According to one of the juveniles, they entered the building to take photographs of themselves inside the building. At the conclusion of the investigation, the juveniles were released to the custody of their parents. Police reports regarding this incident will be forwarded to the County Attorney's Office seeking burglary and trespassing charges on all 5 suspects.

This incident appears to be another in an ongoing trend among area teens that involves trespassing into empty or abandoned buildings to document their presence inside the building and then share their acts on social media. While these acts of trespass and burglary are illegal, they can also be quite dangerous as these unoccupied buildings may house unknown hazards. We hope that by sharing this information, more teens and families are made aware of both the potential legal issues created by this behavior and the risk posed to the safety of those who trespass into these properties.

Troy Heck  
Benton County Sheriff