



P.O. BOX 616 • 49 BRYANT STREET • BRIDGEPORT, CA 93517 • (760) 932-7549 • FAX (760) 932-7435

Ralph Obenberger
Sheriff/Coroner

MONO COUNTY SHERIFF'S OFFICE
PRESS RELEASE

Robert Weber
Undersheriff

To: All News Outlets

From: Jennifer Hansen, Public Information Officer

Date: January 14, 2014

RE: Recent MONET Activity in the Walker/Coleville area

Within the past few weeks, the Mono County Narcotics Enforcement Team (MONET), with the assistance of the Mono County Sheriff's Office, has completed several narcotics related investigations in the Walker/Coleville area.

During the last weeks of December, as part of a narcotics investigation, MONET agents, and the Mono County Sheriff's Office, conducted a search warrant investigation at a residence in Coleville. After several alerts within the residence from narcotics detection K9 "Tara", indicating the presence of narcotics, the subsequent discovery and recovery of multiple prescription narcotics; glass smoking devices; a digital scale; two (2) used hypodermic needles; and plastic bindles led to the arrest of two individuals that were booked into the Mono County Jail in Bridgeport without incident. A third party was arrested, in conjunction with this investigation, by the Douglas County Sheriff's Office in Nevada and transported to the Mono County Jail without incident.

Floyd Hancock, age 55, of Coleville, CA, and Tammy Braier, age 53, also of Coleville, CA, were arrested for possession of a controlled substance and possession of drug paraphernalia. Michael Braier, age 29, of Coleville, CA, was later located in Nevada and arrested for the sales of a controlled substance within 1000 feet of a school and possession of drug paraphernalia. Mr. Braier is currently in custody in the Mono County Jail. Charges for all three individuals are pending with the Mono County District Attorney's Office.

The following week, as part of a separate ongoing narcotics investigation, MONET agents, and the Mono County Sheriff's Office, conducted a traffic stop on a vehicle traveling northbound on Hwy 395 through Coleville. The narcotics detection K9 "Tara" was requested and a sniff and search of the vehicle was conducted. A physical search of the vehicle was conducted after "Tara" indicated the presence of narcotics in the vehicle. The discovery and recovery of ecstasy; steroids; and prescription narcotics led to the arrest of one individual who was transported and booked in the Mono County Jail without incident.

Robert Underwood, age 22, of Gardnerville, NV, was arrested for the possession of a controlled substance and sales of a controlled substance. All charges are pending with the Mono County District Attorney's Office.

Written and reported by: Jennifer M. Hansen, Public Information Officer

The law requires that arrest information be made available to the public. This publication may contain suspect information about individuals booked by the Mono County Sheriff's Department recently. Names of juveniles (under 18 years of age) are not public. Suspect information and ongoing investigation details are also withheld. Since most cases have yet to be adjudicated, all charges should be considered allegations. For questions/concerns regarding any information contained in this publication, contact Undersheriff Robert Weber at (760) 932-7549.



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Ralph Obenberger
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MONO COUNTY SHERIFF'S OFFICE
PRESS RELEASE

Robert Weber
Undersheriff

To: All News Outlets

From: Jennifer Hansen, Public Information Officer

Date: January 14, 2014

RE: Traffic stop leads to narcotics arrest

On the evening of January 11, 2014, at approximately 10:50 pm, Mono County Sheriff's Deputies conducted a traffic stop on a vehicle traveling northbound on Hwy 395 near Walker.

Braden Marsh, age 22, of Escondido, CA, and passenger, Merissa Sanchez, age 18, also of Escondido, CA, were stopped by deputies on northbound Hwy 395 near Hackney Drive in Walker for speeding. As deputies approached the vehicle, a strong odor of marijuana emitted from the vehicle. Both Mr. Marsh and Ms. Sanchez were asked to exit the vehicle. Upon a vehicle search, a black purse was located under the rear passenger seat floor board containing over three hundred (300) grams of concentrated cannabis candies; four (4) grams of concentrated cannabis wax; nine (9) grams of psilocybin mushrooms; two (2) blotter tabs of LSD; five (5) capsules of ecstasy; seven (7) grams of marijuana; a digital scale; multiple plastic packaging bags; and a glass pipe. Located along the center console of the vehicle, two (2) large glass bongs were also recovered. Mr. Marsh and Ms. Sanchez were arrested and transported to the Mono County Jail in Bridgeport without incident.

Braden Marsh, age 22, of Escondido, CA, was arrested for possession of a controlled substance; possession of a controlled substance for sale; transportation of a controlled substance; possession of concentrated cannabis; possession of marijuana for sale; and possession of marijuana while driving. Mr. Marsh is currently in custody at the Mono County Jail.

Merissa Sanchez, age 18, of Escondido, CA, was arrested for possession of a controlled substance; possession of a controlled substance for sale; transportation of a controlled substance; possession of concentrated cannabis; and possession of marijuana for sale. Ms. Sanchez is currently in custody at the Mono County Jail.

All charges for Mr. Marsh and Ms. Sanchez are pending with the Mono County District Attorney's Office.

Written and reported by: Jennifer M. Hansen, Public Information Officer

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MONO COUNTY SHERIFF'S OFFICE
PRESS RELEASE

Robert Weber
Undersheriff

To: All News Outlets

From: Jennifer M. Hansen, Public Information Officer

Date: January 21, 2014

RE: Traffic stop leads to arrest of two Nevada residents

On the morning of Monday, January 20, 2014, at approximately 10:50 am, Mono County Sheriff's Deputies conducted a traffic stop on a vehicle headed southbound on Hwy 395 at Hwy 203 for no registration stickers on the rear license plate.

Jose Arreola, age 29, of Reno, NV, and passenger Esidro Andrade, age 33, of Sparks, NV, were stopped by deputies on southbound Hwy 395 at Hwy 203 for no registration stickers on the rear license plate. As the vehicle was run for current registration information, Mono County Sheriff's Dispatch advised deputies that Mr. Arreola had an active arrest warrant out of San Bernardino and Mr. Andrade was a convicted felon out of Nevada for the trafficking of narcotics. Dispatch also advised deputies that neither Mr. Arreola nor Mr. Andrade had a valid driver's license. When Mr. Arreola was questioned about the current registration on the vehicle, he stated that a friend of his had stolen the current license plate for the vehicle.

Due to Mr. Andrade's history of narcotics trafficking, deputies requested the narcotic detection K-9 "Tara" to conduct a search of the vehicle. With several alerts in the vehicle by "Tara", indicating the presence of narcotics, a physical search of the vehicle was conducted with the discovery and recovery of over fifteen (15) grams of methamphetamine, and a glass pipe with burnt methamphetamine residue inside, sitting between the driver's and passenger's seat. Both Mr. Arreola and Mr. Andrade were placed under arrest and transported to the Mono County Jail in Bridgeport without incident.

Jose Arreola, age 29, of Reno, NV, was arrested for possession of a controlled substance; possession of a controlled substance for sale; driving without a license; and forged/altered vehicle registration. Mr. Arreola is currently in custody at the Mono County Jail.

Esidro Andrade, age 33, of Sparks, NV, was arrested for possession of a controlled substance; possession of a controlled substance for sale; possession of controlled substance paraphernalia; and being under the influence of a controlled substance. Mr. Andrade is currently in custody at the Mono County Jail.

All charges for Mr. Arreola and Mr. Andrade are pending with the Mono County District Attorney's Office.

Written and reported by: Jennifer M. Hansen, Public Information Officer



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PRESS RELEASE

Robert Weber
Undersheriff

To: All Media Partners

From: Jennifer M. Hansen, Public Information Officer

Date: January 23, 2014

RE: Mono County Sheriff's Office – Inmate Worker Program

Lately, you might have seen local inmates around various areas and communities of Mono County performing community service work. The increased community service the inmates of the Mono County Jail are performing is part of the implementation of the Inmate Worker Program.

In 2011, Governor Jerry Brown signed Assembly Bill (AB) 109, a historic legislation that has, in so far, helped California “close the revolving door” of low-level inmates that cycle through the State prison system. This legislation has been California’s solution to reducing the number of inmates in State prison.

With the recent implementation of AB 109, the impact to the Mono County Jail has been significant. The low-level inmates once being sent to State prison are now staying housed and serving their sentence in local county jails. The challenge that the Mono County Jail faces, as a small jail that only houses 44 beds, is how to keep these long-term inmates motivated and engage them in constructive activities.

With funding from the AB109 realignment and the Community Corrections Partnership (CCP), comprising of local agencies including the Mono County Sheriff’s Office; Mono County Probation; Mono County Superior Court; Mammoth Lakes Police Department; Mono County District Attorney’s Office; Mono County Public Defenders; Mono County Department of Social Services; Mono County Office of Education; Mono County Department of Behavioral Health; Mono County Board of Supervisors; and Wild Iris, the Mono County Jail has aggressively implemented an Inmate Worker Program.

This program allows our locally housed inmates, who have not been charged with a violent or sexual crime, to engage in providing community service throughout Mono County. This program includes work details such as: washing Mono County Sheriff’s Office patrol and jail vehicles; washing county-wide fire protection districts fire engines and equipment; weed removal at local fire stations, county parks, cemeteries, and along local sidewalks and roadways; litter and trash removal along county roadways; snow removal along local community sidewalks; painting projects of county-wide facilities and offices; preparation and cleanup for large localized county-wide events; and snow removal around fire hydrants within the Town of Mammoth Lakes. Funding has allowed for the department to purchase a work trailer with tools and other necessary equipment for the inmates to perform these varied tasks.

The Inmate Worker Program has already shown positive results around Mono County and its communities. Citizens benefit from the hard work the inmates put in to keep their local communities clean. Local agencies benefit from the hard work the inmates put in that allow their staff to focus on other projects. This program also

benefits the inmates by getting them outside and helping to build camaraderie amongst themselves which allows for a better living environment for the inmates and jail staff.

In addition to the Inmate Worker Program, the CCP group is actively working on additional programming opportunities for the locally housed inmates in the Mono County Jail. These additional programs are in the works to begin later this year.

Written and reported by: Jennifer M. Hansen, Public Information Officer

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Ralph Obenberger
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MONO COUNTY SHERIFF'S OFFICE
PRESS RELEASE

Robert Weber
Undersheriff

To: All Media Partners

From: Jennifer M. Hansen, Public Information Officer

Date: January 24, 2014

RE: MONET narcotics investigation leads to several arrests

The Mono County Narcotics Enforcement Team (MONET), along with the assistance of the Mono County Sheriff's Office, the Mammoth Lakes Police Department, and the Inyo County Narcotics Enforcement Team (INET), concluded a narcotics investigation in the Town of Mammoth Lakes.

During the past couple of weeks, as part of a continuous narcotics investigation, MONET agents, along with the Mono County Sheriff's Office, were following leads regarding a local methamphetamine distributor around the Town of Mammoth Lakes. With information of a pending narcotics sale, MONET agents observed Juan Manuel Vargas Gutierrez, age 21, of Bishop, CA, meet with a female, in his parked vehicle, in a parking lot. The female purchased one ounce of methamphetamine from Mr. Gutierrez and his mother, Maria Socorro Vargas Gomez, age 39, also of Bishop, CA. The transaction was completed and Mr. Gutierrez drove away.

Mr. Gutierrez then met with a juvenile in another parking lot, outside of his vehicle, and exchanged six (6) bindles of methamphetamine to the juvenile. Mr. Gutierrez returned to his vehicle and drove away. Mammoth Lakes Police Officers conducted a traffic stop on his vehicle. Mr. Gutierrez and Ms. Gomez were placed under arrest and transported to the Mammoth Lakes Police Department without incident.

Upon questioning of Mr. Gutierrez, he stated he and his mother had driven to Mammoth Lakes from Bishop with the intent to sell and distribute methamphetamine. He stated he had provided methamphetamine to the juvenile before, as the juvenile helped Mr. Gutierrez distribute the methamphetamine. A search warrant was obtained for the resident of the juvenile where the six (6) bindles of methamphetamine were discovered and recovered from inside the handle bars of the juvenile's scooter. Juvenile probation was contacted and took the juvenile into custody without incident. A second search warrant was obtained by the Inyo County Narcotics Enforcement Team (INET), for Mr. Gutierrez's resident in Bishop. INET agents discovered and recovered additional methamphetamine, a digital scale, and additional packing materials from the residence. The total methamphetamine recovered from this incident was approximately thirty (30) ounces. Mr. Gutierrez and Ms. Gomez were transported and booked into the Mono County Jail in Bridgeport without incident.

Juan Manuel Vargas Gutierrez, age 21, of Bishop, CA, was arrested for possession of a controlled substance; possession of a controlled substance for sale; transportation of a controlled substance; using a minor as a selling agent; and conspiracy to commit a crime. Mr. Gutierrez is currently in custody.

Maria Socorro Vargas Gomez, age 39, of Bishop, CA, was arrested for possession of a controlled substance; possession of a controlled substance for sale; transportation of a controlled substance; and conspiracy to commit a crime.

The juvenile was arrested for possession of a controlled substance; possession of a controlled substance for sale; and transportation of a controlled substance.

All charges for this incident are pending with the Mono County District Attorney's Office.

Written and reported by: Jennifer M. Hansen, Public Information Officer

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PRESS RELEASE

Robert Weber
Undersheriff

To: All Media Partners

From: Jennifer M. Hansen, Public Information Officer

Date: January 29, 2014

RE: "Tara" – the successful year of the narcotic detection K-9

The Mono County Narcotics Enforcement Team (MONET) is an inter-agency task force with agents representing the Mono County Sheriff's Office and the Mono County District Attorney's Office. MONET's goal is to eliminate and/or reduce controlled substance trafficking in Mono County by means of investigations that ultimately lead to the identification, apprehension, prosecution, and conviction of controlled substance dealers and offenders. During the past year, MONET has had success in working to combat the narcotics problems faced throughout Mono County. This success has largely been in part due to one particular member of the MONET team: "Tara" the 5-year old Belgian Malinois.

"Tara", the narcotic detection K-9, is trained to detect the odor of narcotics, specifically marijuana, heroin, cocaine, ecstasy, methamphetamine and their derivatives. She is trained to alert to the presence of narcotic odor. Her alert consists of a noticeable change in behavior with a final response of barking, biting, or scratching at the location of the odor. Her alerts vary depending on the location of the odor. She is trained on odor strength varying from residual narcotic odors to the odor of pounds of narcotics.

Having a narcotics detection K-9, provides MONET and local law enforcement with an extra tool to help aid in the battle against the narcotics problems faced throughout Mono County. "Tara" has been instrumental in helping locate well-hidden narcotics, in both vehicles and buildings (such as homes), that her human counterpart would miss by just conducting a physical search. In Mono County, especially along the Hwy 395 corridor, more and more drug dealers and traffickers are bringing narcotics into and through our local communities. "Tara" helps find hidden narcotics in cars and other places that most people wouldn't even think would be a hiding place for narcotics. With her keen detection skills, she can assist local law enforcement in conducting interditory traffic stops on narcotics dealers and traffickers and hopefully recover the narcotics before they even enter our communities.

Over the past year, "Tara" has conducted forty nine (49) successful vehicle searches; twelve (12) successful building search warrant recoveries; and twelve (12) successful school "sniff" searches. She has successfully recovered over 133 ounces of narcotics off the streets and out of the communities of Mono County.

The Mono County Narcotics Enforcement Team (MONET), and the Mono County Sheriff's Office, is fortunate to have "Tara" as a member of our team. As she celebrates her one-year anniversary, we look forward to her continued participation, dedication, and success in narcotics detection and recovery.

Written and reported by: Jennifer M. Hansen, Public Information Officer



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MONO COUNTY SHERIFF'S OFFICE
PRESS RELEASE

Robert Weber
Undersheriff

To: All Media Partners

From: Jennifer M. Hansen, Public Information Officer

Date: February 12, 2014

RE: MONET narcotics warrant leads to arrest of a June Lake resident

The Mono County Narcotics Enforcement Team (MONET), along with the assistance of the Mono County Sheriff's Office and the California Highway Patrol (CHP), concluded a narcotics warrant investigation in June Lake.

On the morning of Tuesday, February, 11, 2014, at approximately 8:00 am, MONET agents, the Mono County Sheriff's Office and CHP, conducted two simultaneous search warrants at two residences' in the June Lake area. Between the search warrants, and several alerts by narcotics detection K-9, Tara, it was concluded that one of the residences is being used as a local distribution center to maintain and sell methamphetamine. MONET agents seized a vehicle that was used in the transportation and sales of narcotics and over a thousand dollars in narcotics proceeds. Jesus Vargas Gonzalez, age 43, of June Lake, CA, was placed under arrest and transported and booked into the Mono County Jail in Bridgeport without incident.

Jesus Vargas Gonzalez was arrested for the transportation and sales of a controlled substance and maintaining a residence with the intent to house and sell narcotics. Mr. Gonzalez is currently in custody with all charges pending with the Mono County District Attorney's Office.

Written and reported by: Jennifer M. Hansen, Public Information Officer



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Ralph Obenberger
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MONO COUNTY SHERIFF'S OFFICE
PRESS RELEASE

Robert Weber
Undersheriff

To: All Media Partners

From: Jennifer M. Hansen, Public Information Officer

Date: February 14, 2014

RE: MONET narcotics warrant leads to arrest of a Mammoth Lakes resident

The Mono County Narcotics Enforcement Team (MONET), with the assistance of the Mono County Sheriff's Office, concluded a narcotics warrant investigation in the Town of Mammoth Lakes.

Within the past week, as part of a narcotics investigation, MONET agents, and the Mono County Sheriff's Office, conducted a search warrant at a residence in the Town of Mammoth Lakes. During a physical search of the residence, MONET agents and Mono County Sheriff's Deputies subsequently discovered and recovered: eighty five (85) ecstasy pills; five (5) pounds of marijuana; packaging materials and storage containers; written instructions on how to manufacture hash/wax; butane canisters and glass tubing used to manufacture hash/wax; and a couple thousand dollars in narcotics proceeds. This led to the arrest of one resident. He was transported and booked in the Mono County Jail in Bridgeport without incident.

Eric Vandenhenden, age 21, of Mammoth Lakes, CA, was arrested for possession of a controlled substance; possession of a controlled substance for sale; manufacturing a controlled substance; possession of marijuana; possession of marijuana for sale; and maintaining a residence to house and distribute narcotics.

All charges for this case are pending with the Mono County District Attorney's Office.

Written and reported by: Jennifer M. Hansen, Public Information Officer



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Ralph Obenberger
Sheriff/Coroner

MONO COUNTY SHERIFF'S OFFICE
PRESS RELEASE

Robert Weber
Undersheriff

To: All Media Partners

From: Jennifer M. Hansen, Public Information Officer

Date: February 24, 2014

RE: MONET narcotics search warrant leads to arrest of a Mammoth Lakes resident

The Mono County Narcotics Enforcement Team (MONET), along with the assistance of the Mono County Sheriff's Office, concluded a narcotics warrant investigation in the Town of Mammoth Lakes.

On the morning of Saturday, February 22, 2014, MONET agents, and Mono County Sheriff's deputies, conducted two simultaneous search warrants at two residences' within the Town of Mammoth Lakes. Contact was made with one of the residents, Daniel Milev, age 38, of Mammoth Lakes, who stated he was hallucinating someone breaking into his home and was glad law enforcement was there to help him. He also stated he had consumed an undisclosed amount of narcotics that he had purchased in Southern California and brought to Mammoth.

With several alerts inside the residence by narcotic detection K-9, Tara, a physical search of Mr. Milev's residence was conducted and approximately a quarter ounce of methamphetamine, a digital scale, numerous piece of aluminum foil containing burnt residue consistent with narcotics residue, and approximately five and a half (5.5) grams of psilocybin mushrooms were discovered and recovered. Mr. Milev was arrested and transported to the Mono County Jail in Bridgeport without incident.

Daniel Milev, age 38, of Mammoth Lakes, was arrested for transportation of a controlled substance; possession of a controlled substance; possession of a controlled substance for sale; maintaining a residence with the intent to house and sell narcotics; possession of narcotics paraphernalia; and being under the influence of a controlled substance. Mr. Milev is currently in custody in the Mono County Jail.

All charges are pending with the Mono County District Attorney's Office.

Written and reported by: Jennifer M. Hansen, Public Information Officer



MONO COUNTY

SHERIFF

911

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Ralph Obenberger
Sheriff/Coroner

MONO COUNTY SHERIFF'S OFFICE
PRESS RELEASE

Robert Weber
Undersheriff

To: All Media Partners

From: Jennifer M. Hansen, Public Information Officer

Date: February 24, 2014

RE: Routine traffic stop turns into a high speed pursuit

On Saturday, February 22, 2014, at approximately 8:30 am, Mono County Sheriff's Deputies conducted a routine traffic stop on a vehicle traveling at a high rate of speed through the community of Coleville.

Mono County Sheriff's Deputies conducted a routine traffic stop on northbound Hwy 395 in the community of Coleville for a vehicle traveling at a high rate of speed. When deputies approached the vehicle, both driver and passenger acted suspiciously when asked by deputies for their identification, registration and proof of insurance. Both the driver, Zachary Carr, age 32, of Pocatello, ID, and passenger, Geoffrey Guess, age 26, told deputies they didn't have their identification with them and "must have left it at home." Mr. Carr was asked to turn off the engine and to step out of the vehicle. Mr. Carr complied with the deputies' request and exited the vehicle. As deputies were questioning Mr. Carr, the passenger, Geoffrey Guess, climbed into the driver's seat of the vehicle and sped away. As deputies were trying to safely secure Mr. Carr in the back of the patrol unit, Mr. Carr became uncooperative. Deputies were finally able to detained Mr. Carr in the back of the patrol unit. Due to Mr. Carr being detained, and the high rate of speed at which the fleeing vehicle was traveling, Mono County Sheriff's Dispatch put out an alert to Nevada law enforcement and Douglas County Sheriff's Deputies initiated the pursuit.

Upon further questioning, Mr. Carr stated that he was helping Mr. Guess flee law enforcement out of Utah. Mr. Carr knew Mr. Guess was a fugitive and was aiding in taking him to Southern California to prevent him from being arrested. Mr. Carr also stated that he had recently consumed methamphetamine.

Zachary Carr, age 32, of Pocatello, ID, was arrested for aiding a fugitive; evading a peace officer; and being under the influence of a controlled substance. Mr. Carr is currently in custody at the Mono County Jail with all charges pending with the Mono County District Attorney's Office.

Geoffrey Guess, age 26, led Douglas County Sheriff's Deputies and Nevada Highway Patrol on a high speed pursuit (with speeds over 100 mph) through Carson City, NV, and Reno, NV. Mr. Guess was able to escape the Nevada Highway Patrol in Reno and is currently still at large. Mr. Guess has a Class III felony warrant out of Utah and a misdemeanor warrant out of Kings County and is suspected to be dangerous. Mr. Guess was driving a 2013 Silver Hyundai sedan with California license plate 6VRP791. The vehicle has been recovered but law enforcement is still searching for Mr. Guess. If anyone has any information on the location of Mr. Guess, please contact your local law enforcement agency immediately.

Written and reported by: Jennifer M. Hansen, Public Information Officer



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PRESS RELEASE

Robert Weber
Undersheriff

To: All Media Partners

From: Jennifer M. Hansen, Public Information Officer

Date: February 28, 2014

RE: Single vehicle rollover in the tri-valley area

On Thursday, February 27, 2014, at approximately 1:45 pm, Mono County Sheriff's Dispatch received a call regarding a possible single vehicle traffic accident near Jeffrey Canyon in the tri-valley area.

Mono County Sheriff's deputies, with the assistance of Mono County Paramedics, the California Highway Patrol (CHP), the California Department of Forestry (CDF), White Mountain Fire Department, Chalfant Valley Fire Department, U.S. Forest Service (USFS), and the Mono County Sheriff Search and Rescue (SAR) Team, responded to a single vehicle that had rolled over the side of the roadway leading up to the Champion Spark Plug Mine. This area is a steep dirt road with switchbacks, rock outcroppings, and a few sloping sections where vehicles lean toward the edge. The single vehicle, containing the driver and one passenger, had just entered a steep section of the road when the driver lost control and drove over the edge. The vehicle rolled several times down the cliff, coming to rest on some large rocks.

All responding agencies were able to access the vehicle where both the driver and the passenger were given medical assessments and treatment. One of the victims was placed on a backboard and transported down the rough terrain in the rear of a USFS truck attended to by EMT's. The other victim was transported safely by other responding personnel. Both the driver and the passenger, once safely off the mountainside, were transported by Mono County Paramedics to Northern Inyo Hospital in Bishop for further treatment. The heavily damaged vehicle was left in place for future recovery.

The Mono County Sheriff's Office wants to remind everyone recreating throughout Mono County to always know your surroundings and the terrain, travel at safe speeds, and keep in mind the possibility of changing weather conditions. Always think safety first as you enjoy your outdoor activities!

Written and reported by: Jennifer M. Hansen, Public Information Officer



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PRESS RELEASE

Robert Weber
Undersheriff

To: All Media Partners

From: Jennifer M. Hansen, Public Information Officer

Date: March 17, 2014

RE: A Volunteer team dedicated to saving lives – Annual Search and Rescue recruitment is here!

Are you a Mono County resident and at least 18 years of age? Are you an avid outdoorsman and enjoy all the Eastern Sierras have to offer in terms of outdoor recreation? Have you ever wondered if you could be doing more? Well, we have just the right thing for you! If you love the mountains and want to help people, join the team – The Mono County Sheriff's Search and Rescue (SAR) team!

The SAR team annual recruitment will take place on Wednesday, March 19th, 2014, at 7:00 p.m., at the SAR building located at the corner of southbound Hwy 203 and Meridian Blvd (next to the Mammoth Community Water District – simply follow the signs and the cones). This is the perfect opportunity to meet current team members, tour the SAR building, see what equipment is utilized by the team, and get all the information you need on this dynamic all-volunteer team. You don't want to miss the annual recruitment!

The SAR team is the local search and rescue team comprised of all volunteer members. The team averages approximately 30 operations per year. The team is seeking members who want to be a part of a dynamic team, who want to get out there and help people, and who have the time and dedication it takes for trainings and field operations.

For more information on the Mono County Sheriff's Search and Rescue (SAR) team, please visit www.monosar.org, "like" the Facebook page, or simply by calling (760) 914-0354.

We will see you on Wednesday, March 19th, at 7:00 p.m.!

Written and reported by: Jennifer M. Hansen, Public Information Officer



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PRESS RELEASE

Robert Weber
Undersheriff

To: All Media Partners

From: Jennifer M. Hansen, Public Information Officer

Date: March 20, 2014

RE: MONET operation leads to the arrest of two Bishop Men

The Mono County Narcotics Enforcement Team (MONET), with the assistance of the Mono County Sheriff's Office and investigators from the Mono County District Attorney's Office, concluded a narcotics investigation near Lower Rock Creek Road.

On the evening of Monday, March 17, 2014, at approximately 4:00 pm, MONET agents, along with the Mono County Sheriff's Office and District Attorney's Office, were following a lead regarding a methamphetamine distributor in Mono and Inyo counties. With information of a pending narcotics sale, MONET agents met with David Hale and Timothy Brooks at the parking area of the Paradise Lodge trailhead near Lower Rock Creek Road. Mr. Hale and Mr. Brooks were detained on scene.

After several alerts inside the vehicle by narcotics detection K-9, Tara, indicating the presence of narcotics, a physical search of the vehicle discovered and recovered an ounce of methamphetamine and a glass smoking pipe hidden in a wash mitten used in car detailing. Mr. Hale and Mr. Brooks were placed under arrest and transported to the Mono County Jail in Bridgeport without incident.

David Hale, age 30, of Bishop, was arrested for transportation of a controlled substance; transportation of a controlled substance for sale; possession of a controlled substance; possession of a controlled substance for sale; possession of controlled substance paraphernalia; and conspiracy to commit a crime.

Timothy Brooks, age 22, of Bishop, was arrested for transportation of a controlled substance; transportation of a controlled substance for sale; possession of a controlled substance; possession of a controlled substance for sale; and conspiracy to commit a crime.

Both Mr. Hale and Mr. Brooks are currently in custody with charges pending with the Mono County District Attorney's Office.

Written and reported by: Jennifer M. Hansen, Public Information Officer



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Undersheriff

To: All Media Partners

From: Jennifer M. Hansen, Public Information Officer

Date: March 20, 2014

RE: MONET warrant leads to arrest of a Mammoth Lakes resident

The Mono County Narcotics Enforcement Team (MONET), with the assistance of the Mammoth Lakes Police Department, concluded a narcotics warrant investigation in the Town of Mammoth Lakes.

In the past couple of weeks, as part of a narcotics warrant investigation, MONET agents, along with the Mammoth Lakes Police Department (MLPD), concluded a warrant arrest at a residence in Mammoth Lakes. MLPD Officers made contact with Dustin Coats inside his residence in Mammoth Lakes. Mr. Coats was openly smoking marijuana in the presence of his two-year-old son and Officers as they made contact. It was explained to Mr. Coats that he had a warrant out for his arrest for the purchase and sales of prescription narcotics. Mr. Coats was arrested by MLPD Officers and transported to the Mammoth Lakes Police Department without incident.

MONET agents met Mr. Coats at the Mammoth Lakes Police Department for further questioning. Mr. Coats stated he had purchased prescription narcotics and turned around and sold them on several different occasions. Mr. Coats also stated, that even though it was stupid, he had taken his two-year-old son with him during the prescription narcotic sale transactions. Mr. Coats was taken to the Mono County Jail in Bridgeport without incident.

Dustin Coats, age 27, of Mammoth Lakes, was arrested for possession of a narcotic controlled substance; possession of a narcotics controlled substance for sale; transportation of a narcotic controlled substance for sale; conspiracy to commit a crime; and willful cruelty to a child.

All charges are pending with the Mono County District Attorney's Office.

Written and reported by: Jennifer M. Hansen, Public Information Officer



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Ralph Obenberger
Sheriff/Coroner

MONO COUNTY SHERIFF'S OFFICE
PRESS RELEASE

Robert Weber
Undersheriff

To: All Media Partners

From: Jennifer M. Hansen, Public Information Officer

Date: March 27, 2014

RE: Cops vs. Kids: Basketball Game Fundraiser

The weekend is almost here! Are you still trying to figure out the perfect plans, especially when the weather forecast is calling for another storm?

Here's an idea! On Saturday, March 29th, 2014, at 5:00 pm, join the Mono County Sheriff's Office and the California Highway Patrol as deputies and officers take on the Coleville High School boys' basketball team. That's right! It's cops versus kids in a friendly competition to raise money for the Coleville High School Booster Club.

Bring the family, have some fun, cheer for your "team," and support your local school. Remember, the game starts at 5:00 pm at Coleville High School (111591 Hwy 395). Come on out and support a great cause! We will see you on the courts!

Written and reported by: Jennifer M. Hansen, Public Information Officer



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Ralph Obenberger
Sheriff/Coroner

MONO COUNTY SHERIFF'S OFFICE
PRESS RELEASE

Robert Weber
Undersheriff

To: All Media Partners

From: Jennifer M. Hansen, Public Information Officer

Date: March 28, 2014

RE: DUI traffic stops leads to arrest of a Mammoth Lakes resident

On the evening of Thursday, March 27, 2014, at approximately 8:20 pm, Mono County Sheriff's Dispatch received a call from an employee at the McDonald's in Mammoth Lakes reporting a possible drunk driver in their drive thru.

Mono County Sheriff's Deputies were clearing an unrelated traffic stop along Hwy 203, outside of the Town of Mammoth Lakes, when dispatch advised of a possible DUI driver at the drive thru at the Mammoth McDonald's. Deputies responded to the location and witnessed a black pickup truck speeding through the parking lot onto Sierra Park Road. The driver then, rapidly, turned onto outbound Hwy 203 and quickly accelerated. Deputies tried to initiate a traffic stop on the vehicle traveling at a high rate of speed. The truck quickly turned onto Meridian Blvd and proceeded onto Commerce Dr., where the truck stopped in a driveway.

Deputies, with the assistance of Mammoth Lakes Police Department Officers, made contact with the driver, identified as Jason Martin, age 45, of Mammoth Lakes. Mr. Martin would not comply with deputies and officers upon exiting his vehicle and resisted arrest. Mr. Martin was warned that if he continued to resist arrest and not comply with the deputies and officers instructions, he would be pepper sprayed. He continued to resist arrest and was subsequently pepper sprayed so deputies and officers could gain control over him. He was placed under arrest and transported to the Mammoth Lakes Police Department for medical evaluation by Mono County Paramedics. While being evaluated, Mr. Martin provided a breath sample with an alcohol screening test of 0.20%, more than three times the 0.08% legal limit. Mr. Martin was medically cleared and transported to the Mono County Jail in Bridgeport without further incident.

Jason Martin, age 45, of Mammoth Lakes, was arrested for evading a peace officer; resisting and obstructing a peace officer; driving a vehicle while under the influence of alcohol; driving a vehicle while under the influence of alcohol over 0.08%; driving with a suspended license for DUI; and reckless driving.

Mr. Martin is currently in custody with all charges pending with the Mono County District Attorney's Office.

Written and reported by: Jennifer M. Hansen, Public Information Officer



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Ralph Obenberger
Sheriff/Coroner

MONO COUNTY SHERIFF'S OFFICE
PRESS RELEASE

Robert Weber
Undersheriff

To: All Media Partners

From: Jennifer M. Hansen, Public Information Officer

Date: April 2, 2014

RE: April is Sexual Assault Awareness Month

April is Sexual Assault Awareness Month. This year's nationwide campaign is dedicated to healthy sexuality and our countries young adults.

Rape, sexual assault, and sexual harassment impact our communities. Statistics show that 1 in 3 women and 1 in 6 men will experience some form of sexual assault in their lifetime. The statistics don't stop with adults. Children and teenagers are also impacted by rape, sexual assault, and sexual harassment. 1 in 4 girls and 1 in 6 boys will be sexually assaulted before their 18th birthday. (Statistics provided by the Bureau of Justice)

We can all become more educated in sexual assault awareness and prevention by knowing the different types of sexual assault. Some examples include:

- Rape or attempted rape (sexual intercourse against a person's will)
- Marital rape (rape within a marriage)
- Unwanted sexual touching or unwanted sexual coercion
- Stalking
- Sexual harassment

It is also important to know your local resources to provide further information to you or someone you know that has been a victim of sexual assault and abuse. The Mono County Sheriff's Office is available to help anyone report a case involving sexual assault and abuse. Wild Iris, located in Mammoth and Bishop, is another agency available to provide information and services to victims of sexual assault and abuse.

We can all work together to educate our communities about sexual assault awareness and prevention. It's time to take appropriate action and support each other to create a safe environment for one another. Join the Mono County Sheriff's Office in recognition and support of Sexual Assault Awareness Month.

Written and reported by: Jennifer M. Hansen, Public Information Officer



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Ralph Obenberger
Sheriff/Coroner

MONO COUNTY SHERIFF'S OFFICE
PRESS RELEASE

Robert Weber
Undersheriff

To: All Media Partners

From: Jennifer M. Hansen, Public Information Officer

Date: April 8, 2014

RE: Bones found near the Casa Diablo Range

On the afternoon of Saturday, April 5th, 2014, at approximately 4:20 pm, Mono County Sheriff's Dispatch received a call from some hikers reporting they had possibly located several bones that appeared to be human in the Casa Diablo Range area. Mono County Sheriff's Office Deputies responded to the area to get information from the reporting party. With the daylight hours slowly coming to a close, it was determined to continue the search first thing in the morning.

On the morning of Sunday, April 6th, 2014, Mono County Sheriff's Office, with the assistance of the Mono County Sheriff Search and Rescue Team (SAR), responded to the area of Casa Diablo range to conduct a search of the area for further bones and evidence. Bones were located, recovered, and are believed to be human. The bones have been collected for analysis and possible DNA testing to prove if they are human bones.

This case is currently under investigation by the Mono County Sheriff's Office.

Written and reported by: Jennifer M. Hansen, Public Information Officer



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Ralph Obenberger
Sheriff/Coroner

MONO COUNTY SHERIFF'S OFFICE
PRESS RELEASE

Robert Weber
Undersheriff

To: All Media Partners

From: Jennifer M. Hansen, Public Information Officer

Date: April 8, 2014

RE: Cops vs. Kids: Basketball Game Fundraiser – Lee Vining High School

It's that time again! With the cops coming off a recent win with the Coleville High School boys' basketball team, the Cops vs Kids game is back! Who will be victorious this time?

On Saturday, April 12th, 2014, at 5:00pm, join the Mono County Sheriff's Office and the California Highway Patrol as deputies and officers take on the Lee Vining High School boys' basketball team. That's right! It's another "cops versus kids" in a friendly competition to raise money for the Lee Vining High School Booster Club.

Bring the family, have some fun, cheer for your "team," and support your local school. Remember, the game starts at 5:00pm at Lee Vining High School. Come on out and support a great cause. We will see you on the court!

Written and reported by: Jennifer M. Hansen, Public Information Officer



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Ralph Obenberger
Sheriff/Coroner

MONO COUNTY SHERIFF'S OFFICE
PRESS RELEASE

Robert Weber
Undersheriff

To: All Media Partners

From: Jennifer M. Hansen, Public Information Officer

Date: April 8, 2014

RE: Mono County Sheriff's Office honors dispatchers during National Telecommunications Week

The Mono County Sheriff's Office is celebrating our dispatchers in recognition of National Telecommunications Week. In 1991, Congress formally proclaimed the second week in April "National Telecommunications Week" to recognize the women and men who put countless hours behind the radio, phone and computer to ensure the highest level of public safety.

Our dispatchers are not only here to serve the communication needs of the Mono County Sheriff's Office, but also to provide service for the Mammoth Lakes Police Department, Mono County Paramedics, and all the fire protection districts throughout Mono County (including Antelope Valley, Bridgeport, Lee Vining, June Lake, Mammoth Lakes, Long Valley, Wheeler Crest/Paradise, Chalfant/White Mountain/Benton). Our dispatchers are not only there to answer the call and get proper resources to any situation, they are also our jailers. They are there to ensure the jail operates properly including the safety of all inmates. "Our dispatching staff are an integral part of the safety of Mono County, both for the citizens and the first responders. They are the unseen heroes who can help save a life via a phone call," said Sheriff Ralph Obenberger.

The dispatchers are the first ones to receive the call for all emergency and non-emergency situations. They are truly the first people to respond to a citizen's call for help. They are that calm, reassuring voice that help is on the way.

Where our dispatchers are recognized daily for their dedication, please join the Mono County Sheriff's Office in recognizing and truly thanking our dispatching staff! Here's to you!

Written and reported by: Jennifer M. Hansen, Public Information Officer



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Ralph Obenberger
Sheriff/Coroner

MONO COUNTY SHERIFF'S OFFICE
PRESS RELEASE

Robert Weber
Undersheriff

To: All Media Partners

From: Jennifer M. Hansen, Public Information Officer

Date: April 21, 2014

RE: National Prescription Drug Take-Back Day event

Got drugs? Are you looking to get rid of unwanted, unused and expired prescription medications? Unwanted, unused and expired prescription medications can be dangerous to our family, friends, children, and communities if they fall into the wrong hands.

On Saturday, April 26th, 2014, from 10:00am – 2:00pm, the Mono County District Attorney's Office, with support of local law enforcement, asks you to participate in the Prescription Drug Take-Back Day event, in accordance with the Drug Enforcement Administration's (DEA) National Drug Taker-Back Initiative. This initiative addresses a vital public safety and public health issue. Prescription drug abuse is on the rise as well as the number of accidental poisonings and overdoses due to the misuse of these medications. Studies indicate that a majority of abused prescription medications are obtained from family members and friends, right from the home medicine cabinet. Other studies are indicating that the usual methods for disposing of unwanted, unused and expired medications (such as flushing down the toilet or throwing away in the trash) pose potential environmental safety and health hazards.

Across Mono County, residents and visitors will have an opportunity to get rid of their potentially dangerous, unwanted, unused and expired prescription medications and help prevent prescription drug abuse. Simply remove all personal information from any packaging, or dump all medications into one Ziploc-type baggie, and bring them to one of the four (4) collection sites:

Walker General Store (106651 Hwy 395 – Coleville)

Bridgeport Fire Department (309 Main St – Bridgeport)

June Lake Fire Department (2380 Hwy 158 – June Lake)

Vons (481 Old Mammoth Road – Mammoth Lakes)

This take-back event is free and anonymous, no questions asked. Please help in preventing prescription drug abuse by getting rid of your unwanted, unused and expired medications on Saturday, April 26th!

Written and reported by: Jennifer M. Hansen, Public Information Officer



MONO COUNTY

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Ralph Obenberger
Sheriff/Coroner

MONO COUNTY SHERIFF'S OFFICE
PRESS RELEASE

Robert Weber
Undersheriff

To: All News Outlets

From: Jennifer Hansen, Public Information Officer

Date: April 22, 2014

RE: Fishing and Boating Season is upon us

It is that time of year! Spring has sprung in the Eastern Sierra and that means fishing season is upon us with opening day set for Saturday, April 26th, 2014. With the large number of fishing enthusiasts anticipated to be recreating on and off the waterways of Mono County, the Mono County Sheriff's Office would like to remind boaters, float tubers, fishermen on shore, etc. to think safety first while enjoying their fishing activities.

The Mono County Sheriff's Office continues to operate our Boating Law Enforcement Program under grant funding from the State of California and the Department of Boating and Waterways. The department operates patrol boats across all the major waterways throughout the county, and will be enforcing boating laws and ensuring everyone's safety throughout opening weekend. Please remember to use caution and common sense when operating any type of watercraft for your safety and for the safety of those around you.

Since boating isn't the only way to access and enjoy the many lakes around the Eastern Sierra, the Mono County Sheriff's Office will also be patrolling via ATV the many off-road trails that are currently accessible throughout Mono County. Our Off-Highway Vehicle (OHV) Patrol Program operates under grant funding from the State of California and focuses on current registration, helmet law enforcement, and the safety of our residents and visitors. The patrol program will also enforce wilderness intrusions and alcohol consumption while off-road recreating. Please be safe when you are enjoying the open spaces of Mono County.

Also, as a reminder to visitors and residents alike, always be prepared for changing weather conditions along with hazardous conditions on some of our lakes. Even though our winter is not what most would've called heavy, some lakes are softening up due to the recent warm weather. Be aware and use caution around any lakes that still may be covered with ice as they may be dangerous to walk on. Anytime you are experiencing our beautiful county, make sure someone knows where you are headed and be prepared for rain, snow, freezing temperatures, or that perfect blue bird sunny day.

Enjoy yourself this opening weekend and good luck catching the "Big One!"

Written and prepared by Jennifer Hansen, Public Information Officer



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Ralph Obenberger
Sheriff/Coroner

MONO COUNTY SHERIFF'S OFFICE
PRESS RELEASE

Robert Weber
Undersheriff

To: All News Outlets

From: Jennifer M. Hansen, Public Information Officer

Date: April 25, 2014

RE: MCSO assists in felony arrest warrant of an Oregon man

On Tuesday, April 22, 2014, at approximately 3:30pm, several U.S. Postal Inspectors met with Mono County Sheriff's Deputies at the Administrative Offices in Bridgeport for assistance with a felony arrest warrant.

Mono County Sheriff's Deputies assisted several U.S. Postal Inspectors with an out-of-state felony arrest warrant, out of Oregon, for David Charles Corkett, age 52. Mr. Corkett was wanted on felony child pornography charges and was believed to be living in the Bridgeport area. Deputies located Mr. Corkett, arrested him without incident, and transported him to the Mono County Jail.

Mono County Sheriff's Deputies have had prior contact with Mr. Corkett. On January 31, 2013, he attempted suicide at the Mono Basin Visitor's Center in Lee Vining by a self-inflicted gunshot wound to the chest. He was transported to Renown Medical Center in Reno for treatment and recovery. He survived the self-inflicted gunshot wound and relocated back to the Bridgeport area.

Mr. Corkett is currently in custody in the Mono County Jail with felony child pornography charges pending with Clatsop County, Oregon.

Written and prepared by Jennifer M. Hansen, Public Information Officer



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Ralph Obenberger
Sheriff/Coroner

MONO COUNTY SHERIFF'S OFFICE
PRESS RELEASE

Robert Weber
Undersheriff

To: All News Outlets

From: Jennifer M. Hansen, Public Information Officer

Date: April 28, 2014

RE: Search and Rescue Team Operation: Missing Person

At dusk, on the afternoon of Thursday, April 24th, 2014, at approximately 6:05 pm, Mono County Sheriff's Dispatch received a call regarding a potential missing person outside the Town of Mammoth Lakes, around SR 203 and Hwy 395.

The Mono County Sheriff's Search and Rescue (SAR) team, with the assistance of Mono County Sheriff's Deputies, were dispatched to mile marker 27 on the southbound side of Hwy 395. The reporting party stated that at approximately 1 mile north of SR 203, on Hwy 395, the subject left his family and walked into the forest west of the highway. The subject had a pre-existing medical condition and a lack of proper clothing for the expected cold night temperatures. The SAR team began tracking the subject's footprints when he called a family member and reported he had come back to the highway and hitchhiked to Lone Pine. His family safely met him in Lone Pine.

Written and prepared by Jennifer M. Hansen, Public Information Officer



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Ralph Obenberger
Sheriff/Coroner

MONO COUNTY SHERIFF'S OFFICE
PRESS RELEASE

Robert Weber
Undersheriff

To: All Media Partners

From: Jennifer M. Hansen, Public Information Officer

Date: May 8, 2014

RE: Bear Activity throughout the community of Crowley Lake

Spring is making its way into the Eastern Sierra and the communities of Mono County. Springtime means local roads are opening, fishing season has begun, wildflowers are in bloom, and local wildlife are starting to come out of hibernation looking for food.

This is the mountains and bears do share our space. There have been a few reports in the community of Crowley Lake of a local bear snacking on bird feeders and bird seed. Where many of us try to help feed local wildlife, like the birds, please remember this also attracts other wildlife, such as bears. Due to the current drought conditions, it is anticipated that bears may be forced to seek out food other than their native diet. Please remember some simple tips to lessen the likelihood of a bear encounter: to avoid vehicle break-ins, do not leave food, wrappers, ice chests, lunch boxes, etc. in your vehicle; do not leave outdoor trash cans open, unattended and unsecured; use proper bear proof food storage containers; do not leave out any type of food including pet food and bird seed; make sure all BBQ's and outdoor cooking areas are kept clean to prevent problems with bears; and, if you accidentally come "face to face" with a bear, slowly step back and make as much noise as possible to alert the bear of your presence. Please do not take matters into your own hands. These simple tips are for your safety and the safety of our local bears.

If these simple tips do not work, and your safety is still at risk, please do not hesitate to call the Mono County Sheriff's Office at (760) 932-7549 ext. 7 for non-emergencies, or 911 for emergencies, or the California Department of Fish and Wildlife. Please be safe and cognizant of wildlife in all communities throughout Mono County!

Written and prepared by Jennifer M. Hansen, Public Information Officer



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Ralph Obenberger
Sheriff/Coroner

MONO COUNTY SHERIFF'S OFFICE
PRESS RELEASE

Robert Weber
Undersheriff

To: All Media Partners

From: Jennifer M. Hansen, Public Information Officer

Date: May 8, 2014

RE: Traffic stop leads to narcotics arrest in Bridgeport

On the evening of Tuesday, May 6, 2014, at approximately 9:15pm, Mono County Sheriff's Deputies conducted a traffic stop on a vehicle traveling southbound on Hwy 395 through the community of Bridgeport.

Mark Bishop, age 55, of Claremont, CA, and passenger, Heather Davis, age 25, of Alta Loma, CA, were enroute from Lake Tahoe to Rancho Cucamonga, when they were pulled over by deputies on southbound Hwy 395 at the Walker River Lodge in Bridgeport for several vehicle code violations. As deputies approached the vehicle, an overwhelming odor of marijuana emitted from the vehicle. Both Mr. Bishop and Ms. Davis exited the vehicle. When asked if any narcotics were present inside the vehicle, Mr. Bishop stated there was marijuana but under the legal parameter of his medical marijuana card. He stated he also had proper, legal documentation to show he could transport the marijuana. Upon a vehicle search, four (4) large trash bags containing 64 pounds (1,024 ounces) of marijuana buds and trimmings; one (1) white plastic bag containing 2.5 pounds (40.23 ounces) of processed marijuana; one (1) white plastic bag containing 10.14 ounces of concentrated cannabis; and one (1) plastic bag, belonging to Ms. Davis, containing cocaine were recovered from the vehicle. The "transportation documents" Mr. Bishop possessed for the transportation of the marijuana was fictitious and did not allow for legal transportation of marijuana.

Mark Anthony Bishop, age 55, of Claremont, CA, was arrested for possession of marijuana for sale; possession of concentrated cannabis; and possession of marijuana over 28.5 grams. Mr. Bishop placed bail and was released from the Mono County Jail.

Heather Ashley Davis, age 25, of Alta Loma, CA, was arrested for possession of marijuana for sale; possession of a narcotic controlled substance; possession of concentrated cannabis; and possession of marijuana over 28.5 grams. Ms. Davis is currently in custody in the Mono County Jail.

All charges for Mr. Bishop and Ms. Davis are pending with the Mono County District Attorney's Office.

Written and reported by: Jennifer M. Hansen, Public Information Officer



MONO COUNTY

SHERIFF

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Ralph Obenberger
Sheriff/Coroner

MONO COUNTY SHERIFF'S OFFICE
PRESS RELEASE

Robert Weber
Undersheriff

To: All News Outlets

From: Jennifer M. Hansen, Public Information Officer

Date: May 13, 2014

RE: Search and Rescue Team Operation: Aid to an injured hiker on the Rush Creek Trail

On the afternoon of Monday, May 12, 2014, at approximately 2:45 pm, Mono County Sheriff's Dispatch received a call regarding a hiker with an ankle injury on the Rush Creek Trail.

A female hiker, age 34, of Berkeley, CA, was hiking on the Rush Creek Trail out of Tuolumne Meadows when she twisted her ankle on some rocks and fell to the ground. Upon attempting to walk, she was unable to put weight on her ankle, was experiencing high levels of pain and was unable to continue the hike. A fellow group of hikers called 911 for assistance. The Mono County Sheriff's Search and Rescue (SAR) Team was dispatched to aid the injured hiker. SAR ground teams were able to hike to the victim's location and safely evacuate her via a wheeled litter. She was taken to her car at Tuolumne Meadows where her fellow hikers took her to seek further medical treatment for her injured ankle.

Written and prepared by Jennifer M. Hansen, Public Information Officer



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Ralph Obenberger
Sheriff/Coroner

MONO COUNTY SHERIFF'S OFFICE
PRESS RELEASE

Robert Weber
Undersheriff

To: All News Outlets

From: Jennifer M. Hansen, Public Information Officer

Date: May 20, 2014

RE: Every 15 Minutes Program

There is a hum in the morning air of emergency sirens bringing with them the fear that something is wrong, very wrong. Why are the emergency vehicles heading to the high school? Are our kids ok? What is going on?

Life's lessons are best learned through experience. Unfortunately, when the audience is local teenagers and the topic is drinking and driving, experience is not the teacher of choice. Every 15 Minutes someone dies as the result of an alcohol related collision. During the next two-days, local Mammoth High School students will be participating in the Every 15 Minutes Program, The program offers real life experience without the real life risks. It is an event designed to dramatically illustrate to teenagers the potentially dangerous and fatal consequences of drinking alcohol and driving. This program challenges students to think about drinking and driving, personal safety and the responsibility of making mature decisions when lives are involved.

For those who are unfamiliar with the Every 15 Minutes Program, it is a program designed to guide and demonstrate to our teenagers the devastating effects of losing a loved one due to a bad choice. The event includes students represented as the "living dead" to show just how many people are victims of drunk driving collisions; there is a mock-simulated drunk driving collision where several students will lose their lives and the teenage driver is arrested for drunk driving; there is mock-simulated court trial where the teenage driver is "tried" for the collision and deaths of fellow students. To end the two-day event, an assembly is held complete with memorial service of those students lost during the event. The assembly concludes with a guest speaker reiterating the importance of not drinking and driving and that the decision to consume alcohol can affect many more people than just the one who drinks.

The event includes participation by: Mammoth Lakes Police Department; Mono County Sheriff's Department; California Highway Patrol; Mammoth Lakes Fire Department; Mono County Paramedics; Mono County Behavioral Health; Mammoth Hospital; Mammoth High School, including staff, students, parents and the Booster Club; Mono County District Attorney's Office; other community officials; and the community at large. The goal is to utilize the strengths, talents and resources of our community to prevent teenage drinking and driving.

Written and prepared by Jennifer M. Hansen, Public Information Officer



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Ralph Obenberger
Sheriff/Coroner

MONO COUNTY SHERIFF'S OFFICE
PRESS RELEASE

Robert Weber
Undersheriff

To: All Media Partners

From: Jennifer M. Hansen, Public Information Officer

Date: May 23, 2014

RE: Search and Rescue Team Operation: Aid to an injured trail maintenance worker in the Davis Lakes area

On the afternoon of Thursday, May 22, 2014, at approximately 12:55 pm, Mono County Sheriff's Dispatch received a call regarding an injured trail maintenance crew member in the Davis Lakes area.

A male trail maintenance crew member, age 20, was conducting trail maintenance with fellow crew members, in the Davis Lakes area, when he hurt his knee. Upon attempting to walk, he was unable to put weight on his knee and was unable to hike back to their camp. His fellow crew members contacted the Mono County Sheriff's Office for assistance.

The Mono County Sheriff's Search and Rescue (SAR) Team was dispatched to aid the crew member. Due to the area of the trail where the crews were working, approximately five (5) miles south of the Crowley Lake community, the SAR team requested assistance of the California Highway Patrol H40 helicopter out of Fresno. The H40 was available and was able to land in a meadow approximately 1/3 of a mile away from the crew member's camp. With the assistance of other crew members, they were able to carry the injured male to the helicopter landing zone. He was then flown to the Mammoth-Yosemite Airport where he was met by Mono County Paramedics and transported via ambulance to Mammoth Hospital for treatment.

Written and prepared by Jennifer M. Hansen, Public Information Officer



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Ralph Obenberger
Sheriff/Coroner

MONO COUNTY SHERIFF'S OFFICE
PRESS RELEASE

Robert Weber
Undersheriff

To: All Media Partners

From: Jennifer M. Hansen, Public Information Officer

Date: June 3, 2014

RE: Deputies provide assistance to a stuck razor near Kavanaugh Ridge

On the evening of Monday, June 2nd, 2014, at approximately 5:10pm, Mono County Sheriff's Dispatch received a call regarding an ATV side-by-side (razor) that was stuck in the snow near Kavanaugh Ridge and needed assistance.

A couple was riding their razor from Greek Creek to Virginia Lakes when it started to slide down a snow bank near Kavanaugh Ridge. The razor came to rest on the snow bank right on the edge of the ridge. The female passenger sustained a knee injury during the incident. The couple called the Mono County Sheriff's Office for assistance. Deputies responded to the area to assist the couple. Using the Mono County Sheriff's Office ranger, deputies were able to pull the razor off the ridge. The female stated she did not need immediate medical attention for her knee injury, and once safely down the ridge, would seek proper medical treatment.

Even though the Eastern Sierra did not experience a heavy winter, and has been experiencing summer-like conditions, please remember to be aware of your surroundings and changes in the terrain when off-road recreating throughout the many off-road trails of Mono County.

Written and prepared by Jennifer M. Hansen, Public Information Officer



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Ralph Obenberger
Sheriff/Coroner

MONO COUNTY SHERIFF'S OFFICE
PRESS RELEASE

Robert Weber
Undersheriff

To: All Media Partners

From: Jennifer M. Hansen, Public Information Officer

Date: June 24, 2014

RE: Search and Rescue Team Operation: Mutual Aid assistance to the Tuolumne County Sheriff's Office for a stranded backpacker

On the afternoon of Saturday, June 21, 2014, at approximately 3:10 pm, Mono County Sheriff's Dispatch received a call regarding a mutual aid request from the Tuolumne County Sheriff's Office for a stranded backpacker at the Mono County/Tuolumne County line.

While on a three-day backpacking trip, a female backpacker slid down a snowfield just west of the Mono County/Tuolumne County border, approximately six (6) miles south of Highway 108 (Sonora Pass). Due to her precarious situation on the edge of a cliff, her climbing partner called via cellphone for assistance.

The Mono County Sheriff's Search and Rescue (SAR) Team was dispatched to aid the stranded backpacker. A California Highway Patrol (CHP) H40 helicopter from Fresno was also requested to insert two Tuolumne County technical search and rescue personnel who were able to reach the uninjured but stranded backpacker right before the sun set on Saturday evening. Mono County SAR personnel hiked to their location during the night to bring additional rescue gear and overnight gear to all rescue personnel.

On the morning of Sunday, June 22, 2014, all parties hiked out to the search and rescue base at Leavitt Lake.

Written and prepared by Jennifer M. Hansen, Public Information Officer



MONO COUNTY

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Ralph Obenberger
Sheriff/Coroner

MONO COUNTY SHERIFF'S OFFICE
PRESS RELEASE

Robert Weber
Undersheriff

To: All Media Partners

From: Jennifer M. Hansen, Public Information Officer

Date: June 26, 2014

RE: Search and Rescue Team Operation: Aid to lost backcountry hiker

On the morning of Monday, June 23rd, 2014, at approximately 8:00am, a female hiker from Florida was continuing on a multi-day solo backcountry backpacking trip. While traversing the Cascade Valley area, around Silver Peak, she became disoriented and lost. For a 24-hour period, she attempted to relocation the trail and became ill. She stayed in place overnight.

On the morning of Tuesday, June 24th, 2014, the hiker knew she was still lost and activated her SPOT personal locator beacon, sending out a distress signal. Due to her backcountry location, Fresno County picked up the distress signal and a California Highway Patrol (CHP) H40 helicopter responded to the area to attempt rescue. Due to the location of the hiker and the weather conditions, the helicopter was unable to land. The helicopter crew was unable to determine the severity of the hiker's condition from the air and flew to the Mammoth/Yosemite Airport and requested the Mono County Sheriff's Search and Rescue Team to assist with a hoist operation.

Mono County Sheriff's Search and Rescue (SAR) Team members responded to the airport. A SAR Team member, also an EMT, accompanied the H40 crew back to the hiker's location and was hoisted down to evaluate her medical condition. No medical treatment was needed and she was hoisted out, with the SAR member, and flown back to the Mammoth/Yosemite Airport. No further medical treatment was needed and she was safely taken to her hotel in Mammoth Lakes.

The Mono County Sheriff's Search and Rescue Team wants to remind everyone hiking in and around the backcountry to be familiar with your route; carry a compass and map; carry plenty of food and water; and always let someone know when you are leaving for your hike and when you expect to return. Stay safe and enjoy the outdoors!

Written and prepared by Jennifer M. Hansen, Public Information Officer



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Ralph Obenberger
Sheriff/Coroner

MONO COUNTY SHERIFF'S OFFICE
PRESS RELEASE

Robert Weber
Undersheriff

To: All Media Partners

From: Jennifer M. Hansen, Public Information Officer

Date: June 26, 2014

RE: Vandalism to vehicles parked on Hwy 203

For those carpoolers and others that park in the dirt lot on southbound Hwy 203, across from the chain-up area, please beware that several vehicles have been vandalized.

On Tuesday, June 24th, 2014, at approximately 7:15am, a local resident parked their vehicle in the dirt lot for the duration of the day. When they returned to their vehicle around 5:00pm, they noticed the front passenger side window had been smashed. There was a large rock next to the vehicle which is believed to have been used to smash the window.

On Wednesday, June 25th, 2014, at approximately 7:15am, a different local resident parked their vehicle in the same dirt lot. A car passing through the lot noticed that both the driver's side and passenger side windows had been smashed.

Mono County Sheriff's Investigators are asking anyone that has any information on the person that is vandalizing vehicles in this area, or has seen any suspicious activity, to please contact our dispatch center at (760) 932-7549. The Mono County Sheriff's Office is urging people to take caution when parking their vehicles in this common dirt lot. Always remember to leave your valuables somewhere other than inside your vehicle and ensure your vehicle is locked. If you see any suspicious activity, or notice any other vehicles that have been vandalized, please contact local law enforcement immediately.

Written and prepared by Jennifer M. Hansen, Public Information Officer



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Ralph Obenberger
Sheriff/Coroner

MONO COUNTY SHERIFF'S OFFICE
PRESS RELEASE

Robert Weber
Undersheriff

To: All Media Partners

From: Jennifer M. Hansen, Public Information Officer

Date: June 30, 2014

RE: Think Safety First this 4th of July

As the Fourth of July holiday approaches, the Mono County Sheriff's Office would like to remind everyone to think safety first while enjoying your holiday activities throughout Mono County.

As a reminder, pursuant to Mono County Code Section 10.18, the use or discharge of fireworks, including safe and sane fireworks, are prohibited, except for in designated areas within the county. If you are using fireworks of any kind in a designated area, please remember to read and follow all instructions, have water and a fire extinguisher readily available, and always supervise children. Mono County Sheriff Deputies will issue tickets and/or confiscate fireworks being used outside the designated areas.

As you enjoy your campouts and family BBQ's, please remember with the extremely dry conditions, to use extreme caution with your campfires and grills. Only light fires and grills in designated areas, never leave a fire or grill burning unattended, and always have plenty of water and a fire extinguisher available. Please take notice to any restrictions that are in place due to the extreme conditions.

The Fourth of July holiday is a time to celebrate! As you enjoy your celebrations and parties, please remember to have a designated driver. Keep the many travelers of the Mono County roadways safe – please do not drink and drive.

The Mono County Sheriff's Office would like to wish everyone a very fun and safe Fourth of July holiday!

Written and prepared by Jennifer M. Hansen, Public Information Officer



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Ralph Obenberger
Sheriff/Coroner

MONO COUNTY SHERIFF'S OFFICE
PRESS RELEASE

Robert Weber
Undersheriff

To: All Media Partners

From: Jennifer M. Hansen, Public Information Officer

Date: July 14, 2014

RE: MONET warrant leads to arrests in the Bridgeport area

The Mono County Narcotics Enforcement Team (MONET), with the assistance of the Mono County Sheriff's Office, concluded a warrant investigation in the Bridgeport area.

Within the past week, as part of a continuing investigation, MONET agents, and the Mono County Sheriff's Office, conducted a search warrant at a residence in the Bridgeport area. During a physical search of the residence, MONET agents and Mono County Sheriff's Deputies subsequently discovered and recovered: approximately 20 pounds of processed marijuana; 225 mature and immature marijuana plants growing inside and outside the residence; and multiple illegal firearms.

Jeffrey Greene, age 50, of Bridgeport, CA, and Justis Daniels, age 43, of Big Sur, CA, were operating a marijuana cultivation facility inside Mr. Greene's residence. Mr. Greene stated he was under his legal rights of his medical marijuana card and as part of an LLC as the "farmer" for co-op marijuana stores in Mammoth Lakes and Los Angeles. Mr. Daniels was working under Mr. Greene to maintain the growing operation. Upon investigation, Mr. Greene's medical marijuana card had expired and he had no legal documentation showing he was the "farmer" for the co-op marijuana stores. Both Mr. Greene and Mr. Daniels were placed under arrest and transported to the Mono County Jail in Bridgeport without incident.

Jeffrey Greene, age 50, of Bridgeport, CA, was arrested for possession of marijuana for sale and unauthorized cultivation and harvesting. All charges are pending with the Mono County District Attorney's Office.

Justis Daniels, age 43, of Big Sur, CA, was arrested for possession of marijuana for sale; unauthorized cultivation and harvesting; possession of assault weapons; and possession of short-barreled rifles. All charges are pending with the Mono County District Attorney's Office.

Written and prepared by Jennifer M. Hansen, Public Information Officer



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Ralph Obenberger
Sheriff/Coroner

MONO COUNTY SHERIFF'S OFFICE
PRESS RELEASE

Robert Weber
Undersheriff

To: All Media Partners

From: Jennifer M. Hansen, Public Information Officer

Date: July 15, 2014

RE: Recent MONET activity in the Town of Mammoth Lakes

The Mono County Narcotics Enforcement Team (MONET), along with the assistance of Mono County Sheriff's Deputies and the Mammoth Lakes Fire Department, concluded a warrant investigation in the Town of Mammoth Lakes.

On Friday, July 11, 2014, Scott Mack, age 53, of Mammoth Lakes, was arrested for sales and possession for sale, cultivation and production of concentrated cannabis. Mr. Mack was operating a marijuana lab in his place of residence where 127 marijuana plants and several pounds of processed marijuana was recovered and seized. Mr. Mack was taken into custody by Mono County Sheriff's Deputies and transported to the Mono County Jail in Bridgeport without incident. All charges are pending with the Mono County District Attorney's Office.

Written and prepared by Jennifer M. Hansen, Public Information Officer



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Ralph Obenberger
Sheriff/Coroner

MONO COUNTY SHERIFF'S OFFICE
PRESS RELEASE

Robert Weber
Undersheriff

To: All Media Partners

From: Jennifer M. Hansen, Public Information Officer

Date: July 22, 2014

RE: Search and Rescue Team Operation: Aid to injured backcountry pack riders

On the afternoon of Friday, July 18, 2014, at approximately 3:00pm, Mono County Sheriff's Dispatch received a call regarding two injured backcountry pack trip participants.

A multi-day guided pack trip was returning from their trip, when approximately 1.5 miles from the Agnew Meadows pack stations, two mules became spooked and the riders were thrown from the mules. The Mono County Sheriff Search and Rescue (SAR) team responded to aid the two injured riders. One rider suffered a bruised leg. The other rider sustained serious injuries. Eight SAR members hiked in and stabilized the seriously injured rider for evacuation to the trailhead via a wheeled litter. Mono County Paramedics met with SAR team members and the victim and transported them by ambulance to Mammoth Hospital for treatment.

Written and prepared by Jennifer M. Hansen, Public Information Officer



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Ralph Obenberger
Sheriff/Coroner

MONO COUNTY SHERIFF'S OFFICE
PRESS RELEASE

Robert Weber
Undersheriff

To: All Media Partners

From: Jennifer M. Hansen, Public Information Officer

Date: July 22, 2014

RE: Search and Rescue Team Operation: Aid to lost backpacker

On the evening of Friday, July 18, 2014, at approximately 9:00pm, Mono County Sheriff's Dispatch received a call regarding a lost backpacker in the area of Cora Lake.

A 22-year-old backpacker was separated from his friends on the Pacific Crest Trail and became lost in the general area of Cora Lake, approximately 12 trail miles south of Hwy 108. The backpacker was able to send a text message to his parents requesting help. The Mono County Sheriff Search and Rescue (SAR) team responded to locate the lost backpacker.

Search teams reported to the area and were given assignments covering three routes toward Cora Lake. A California Highway Patrol (CHP) H40 helicopter, from Fresno, was requested to join the search. SAR team members received another text message from the backpacker with a more precise location. SAR team members communicated this information with the H40 helicopter to spot the backpacker from the air. In the rapidly deteriorating weather and increasing winds, the crew of the H40 helicopter located the backpacker, extricated him, and transported him to the Mammoth/Yosemite Airport in late afternoon of Saturday, July 19. The backpacker was uninjured and did not require medical attention.

SAR ground teams were in the field for 14 hours and logged over 120 hiking miles.

Written and prepared by Jennifer M. Hansen, Public Information Officer



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Ralph Obenberger
Sheriff/Coroner

MONO COUNTY SHERIFF'S OFFICE
PRESS RELEASE

Robert Weber
Undersheriff

To: All Media Partners

From: Jennifer M. Hansen, Public Information Officer

Date: July 22, 2014

RE: Search and Rescue Team Operation: Aid to stranded climbers

On the early morning of Sunday, July 20, 2014, at approximately midnight, Mono County Sheriff's Dispatch received a call regarding two climbers that were stranded on Clyde Minaret.

Two climbers had begun a climb on Saturday, July 19, 2014, on Clyde Minaret, a popular peak located in the Minaret Range approximately 12 miles northwest of Mammoth Lakes. Due to the thunderstorms that occurred during the day, the climbers were unable to complete their climb before darkness fell and became stranded at 12,000 feet elevation. Due to hypothermia and dehydration, the climbers were unable to complete the climb and descent on Sunday morning. The Mono County Sheriff Search and Rescue (SAR) team was called to aid the two stranded climbers.

The SAR team was able to obtain the assistance of two helicopters, one from the California Highway Patrol (CHP) H40 based out of Fresno, and the other from the California National Guard based in Stockton. The CHP H40 helicopter crew was able to rescue one of the climbers, but due to the arrival of heavy rain and clouds, were unable to rescue the second climber. Two hours later, the rain cleared and the crew of the National Guard helicopter was able to retrieve the second climber. Both climbers were flown to the SAR team base at Minaret Vista just north of Mammoth Mountain. Neither climber required medical treatment after evaluation by the Mono County Paramedics.

Written and prepared by Jennifer M. Hansen, Public Information Officer



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Ralph Obenberger
Sheriff/Coroner

MONO COUNTY SHERIFF'S OFFICE
PRESS RELEASE

Robert Weber
Undersheriff

To: All Media Partners

From: Jennifer M. Hansen, Public Information Officer

Date: July 29, 2014

RE: Search and Rescue Team Operation: Aid to stranded hikers in Lundy Canyon

On the afternoon of Monday, July 28th, 2014, at approximately 12:30pm, Mono County Sheriff's Dispatch received a call regarding two stranded hikers in the Lundy Canyon area.

To access a family mining claim on steep and rocky slopes above Mill Creek, two brothers, from Utah and Nevada, climbed up the canyon with backpacks and tools. They became stranded in rainy weather on a steep slope and were unable to go up or down safely. They were able to talk to family members with a family radio transceiver to alert them they were stranded and needed help. The family members drove down to the U.S. Forest Service Fire Station to call for help.

The Mono County Sheriff's Search and Rescue (SAR) Team was called out in aid of the two men stranded on the steep slopes in Lundy Canyon. The Team responded with eleven members and climbed up above the two stranded men, the belayed a team member down to them with harnesses and helmets for the cold and wet miners. The miners were belayed and assisted in climbing to safety. They were then escorted down to the trailhead with no injuries.

Written and prepared by Jennifer M. Hansen, Public Information Officer



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Ralph Obenberger
Sheriff/Coroner

MONO COUNTY SHERIFF'S OFFICE
PRESS RELEASE

Robert Weber
Undersheriff

To: All Media Partners

From: Jennifer M. Hansen, Public Information Officer

Date: August 4, 2014

RE: Search and Rescue Team Operation: Aid to stranded climbers on Mt. Ritter

On the afternoon of Saturday, August 2, 2014, at approximately 3:00pm, Mono County Sheriff's Dispatch received a call regarding a father-son climbing team stranded on Mt. Ritter.

A father and son climbing team had attempted to summit Mt. Ritter, a popular peak located 13 miles northwest of Mammoth Lakes. The climbing team had reached a point on their descent that was blocked by a waterfall. They were unable to continue their descent from the peak due to the high volume of water coming down the steep slope. The Mono County Sheriff's Search and Rescue (SAR) Team was called to aid the stranded climbing team.

The SAR Team responded, along with a California Highway Patrol H40 helicopter based in Auburn, CA. The helicopter inserted a two-person search and rescue climbing team in the valley 400 feet below the father and son. Due to favorable weather and wind conditions, the helicopter was able to hover over the father and son, and with the assistance of the SAR Team, was able to load them into the helicopter while maintaining a hover next to the rock ledge where the climbers were stranded. The H40 crew flew the uninjured climbers to the Mammoth/Yosemite Airport and then returned to the scene to extract the SAR members.

Written and prepared by Jennifer M. Hansen, Public Information Officer



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Ralph Obenberger
Sheriff/Coroner

MONO COUNTY SHERIFF'S OFFICE
PRESS RELEASE

Robert Weber
Undersheriff

To: All Media Partners

From: Jennifer M. Hansen, Public Information Officer

Date: August 6, 2014

RE: Search and Rescue Team Operation: Aid to injured camper at Big McGee Lake

On the evening of Tuesday, August 5th, 2014, at approximately 6:00pm, Mono County Sheriff's Dispatch received a call from the California Office of Emergency Services (Cal OES) stating they had received a distress signal from a SPOT device near Big McGee Lake.

A 68-year-old man was camping with two of his friends at Big McGee Lake. He was walking on a large granite rock when he began to lose his footing. He was unable to catch his fall and slipped down the rock, striking his right knee on the rocks below. He sustained significant lacerations to his right knee, with extensive bleeding. His friends were able to come to his aid and sent out a distress signal with a SPOT beacon. The signal was relayed to a staff member at Cal OES. Upon confirmation of the location, the Mono County Sheriff's Search and Rescue (SAR) team was called to aid the injured camper.

Ten search and rescue team members responded and staged at McGee Creek trailhead. Ground teams hiked into the victim's location with medical equipment. A helicopter from China Lake Naval Air Station was also able to respond. Just before midnight, the helicopter was able to land, meet the ground SAR teams and a flight medic was able to medically assess the victim. He was then flown to the Mammoth/Yosemite Airport, transferred to the Mono County Paramedics and transported to Mammoth Hospital for further treatment.

This incident is an example of some beneficial things people can do when recreating in the backcountry. Travel with a group of people, if you can, to ensure you have help if you need it. Remember having first aid supplies and a distress beacon, or others forms of communication, is crucial if you are doing activities that involve higher than normal risk. Remoteness and solitude are some of the qualities that make time in the backcountry special, but even in the best conditions, remember it could take rescuers several hours to get to you if you need help.

Written and prepared by Jennifer M. Hansen, Public Information Officer



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Ralph Obenberger
Sheriff/Coroner

MONO COUNTY SHERIFF'S OFFICE
PRESS RELEASE

Robert Weber
Undersheriff

To: All Media Partners

From: Jennifer M. Hansen, Public Information Officer

Date: August 7, 2014

RE: Search and Rescue Team Operation: Aid to ultra-marathon runners on the PCT trail

On the evening of Wednesday, August 6, 2014, at approximately 6:00pm, Mono County Sheriff's Dispatch received notification that a SPOT device had been activated on the PCT Trail near Upper Piute Meadows.

Two ultra-marathon runners were attempting to run from Tuolumne Meadows to Sonora Pass in 24 hours. They departed Tuolumne Meadows around noon, carrying only minimal food and supplies, when severe weather caught them off guard on the PCT Trail near Upper Piute Meadows. Numerous storm cells were passing through the area and stream crossings and flooding were high concerns. The runners activated their SPOT device. The Mono County Sheriff Search and Rescue (SAR) Team was called to aid the runners.

Six search and rescue team members responded to the incident. The team staged in Bridgeport and readied food and shelter to be hiked in to the runners. A Longhorn helicopter from Fallon also responded to help the SAR ground team. The helicopter crew located the runners, safely hoisted them aboard the helicopter and transported them to the Bridgeport Airport. Mono County Paramedics assessed the runners, one of whom was experiencing stage-two hypothermia. After providing warmth and food, SAR team members transported the runners to their vehicle parked in Tuolumne Meadows.

Written and prepared by Jennifer M. Hansen, Public Information Officer



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Ralph Obenberger
Sheriff/Coroner

MONO COUNTY SHERIFF'S OFFICE
PRESS RELEASE

Robert Weber
Undersheriff

To: All Media Partners

From: Jennifer M. Hansen, Public Information Officer

Date: August 13, 2014

RE: Search and Rescue Team Operation: Aid to lost hikers near Red's Meadow

On the evening of Tuesday, August 12th, 2014, at approximately 5:30pm, Mono County Sheriff's Dispatch received a 911 call regarding two lost hikers out of Red's Meadow.

Two hikers were on a day hike from Red's Meadow to Rainbow Falls. On the return trip from Rainbow Falls to Red's Meadow, the hikers took the wrong trail and became lost. One of the hikers was diabetic and did not bring any medication on the day hike. The hiker was beginning to feel chilled and other negative effects of the diabetes, and since they were lost, wasn't sure how far they could continue hiking. The other hiker had cell phone reception and was able to call 911 and give their location near Pond Lily Lake, about 5 miles south of Red's Meadow.

The Mono County Sheriff's Search and Rescue (SAR) team was called to aid the lost hikers. Six SAR team members staged at Minaret Vista. Due to the medical circumstance, and the hikers remote location, attempts were made to get air support for the rescue. A 551 helicopter from Yosemite National Park was available to assist the SAR team. The helicopter crew was able to fly to the hikers location, land and transport them to the SAR base at Minaret Vista. The diabetic hiker was assessed by Mono County Paramedics and required no further medical treatment. The hikers were taken to their vehicle parked near Mammoth Mountain.

The Mono County Sheriff's Search and Rescue (SAR) team reminds anyone traveling in the backcountry, even if just for a day hike, to always be prepared and carry adequate supplies, including any medications. It is important to be aware that it might take search and rescue teams time to come to your aid if you are lost, injured or ill.

Written and prepared by Jennifer M. Hansen, Public Information Officer



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Ralph Obenberger
Sheriff/Coroner

MONO COUNTY SHERIFF'S OFFICE
PRESS RELEASE

Robert Weber
Undersheriff

To: All Media Partners

From: Jennifer M. Hansen, Public Information Officer

Date: August 15, 2014

RE: Search and Rescue Team Operation: Aid to an injured hiker at Arrowhead Lake

On the afternoon of Thursday, August 14th, 2014, at approximately 2:00pm, Mono County Sheriff's Dispatch received a call regarding an injured hiker at Arrowhead Lake.

A 32-year old female hiked to Arrowhead Lake where she sustained a leg fracture by striking a tree while swinging from a rope over the lake. Due to her leg fracture, she was unable to hike out. The Mono County Sheriff's Search and Rescue (SAR) team was called to aid the injured hiker.

Members from the SAR team, and personnel from Mono County Paramedics and the Mammoth Lakes Fire Department, hiked to her location, stabilized the fracture and transported her one and a half miles, using a wheeled litter, to the ambulance at the trailhead. The rescuers were also assisted in the carryout by a group of cross-country runners from California State University San Marcos. The injured hiker was transported via ambulance to Mammoth Hospital for further treatment.

Written and prepared by Jennifer M. Hansen, Public Information Officer



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Ralph Obenberger
Sheriff/Coroner

MONO COUNTY SHERIFF'S OFFICE
PRESS RELEASE

Robert Weber
Undersheriff

To: All Media Partners

From: Jennifer M. Hansen, Public Information Officer

Date: August 18, 2014

RE: Search and Rescue Team Operation: Aid to an injured climber on Saw Tooth Range

On the afternoon of Friday, August 15th, 2014, at approximately 12:55pm, Mono County Sheriff's Dispatch received a call regarding an injured climber on a ridge in the Saw Tooth Range near Bridgeport.

Two climbers were attempting to climb a ridge in the Saw Tooth Range near Bridgeport. During their ascent, they were climbing up a 45-degree ice field with ice axes. One of the climbers, a 31-year old male visiting from Japan, fell when his ice axe lost purchase on the ice. He slid and tumbled 125 feet down the ice into the rocks below. He sustained serious injuries to his arms (with a bone breaking the skin and visible), ribs and abdomen. There was heavy bleeding and the injured climber asked his friend to tourniquet-pressure dress both of his arms with his bandana and webbing. There was no cell phone service in their location, so, after treating his friend's injuries, the second climber hiked out two and a half hours to find help. The Mono County Sheriff's Search and Rescue (SAR) Team was called to aid the injured climber.

Six SAR Team members staged at Bryant Airfield in Bridgeport. A helicopter from Yosemite National Park attempted to locate the injured climber. Initially, the climber was unable to be located via air, so a ground team was inserted to search for the climber. It was discovered that the injured climber had moved from where his friend had left him and attempted to walk out of the area. Fortunately, he was located, stabilized and flown out of the area for further medical treatment.

Written and prepared by Jennifer M. Hansen, Public Information Officer



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Ralph Obenberger
Sheriff/Coroner

MONO COUNTY SHERIFF'S OFFICE
PRESS RELEASE

Robert Weber
Undersheriff

To: All Media Partners

From: Jennifer M. Hansen, Public Information Officer

Date: August 28, 2014

RE: Search and Rescue Team Operation: Aid to an ill hiker on Duck Pass

On the afternoon of Tuesday, August 26, 2014, at approximately 2:45pm, Mono County Sheriff's Dispatch received a call regarding a hiker on the Duck Pass Trail that needed assistance.

A 77-year-old woman, from San Diego, was hiking to the top of Duck Pass with her hiking club. On the return climb out of Barney Lake Basin, she suddenly became quite ill and was unable to continue. The Mono County Sheriff's Search and Rescue (SAR) Team was called to aid the hiker on the Duck Pass Trail.

Thirteen search and rescue members responded to the Coldwater trailhead. A hasty team of two quickly departed to locate and assess the hiker. They were closely followed by three other teams with gear and a wheeled litter. A mule and packer from the Mammoth Lakes Pack Outfit assisted the SAR team in quickly transporting the wheeled litter to the hiker's location.

The hiker was evacuated approximately three miles via wheeled litter to the trailhead, where she was met by Mono County Paramedics and transported via ambulance to Mammoth Hospital for further treatment.

Written and prepared by Jennifer M. Hansen, Public Information Officer



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Ralph Obenberger
Sheriff/Coroner

MONO COUNTY SHERIFF'S OFFICE
PRESS RELEASE

Robert Weber
Undersheriff

To: All Media Partners

From: Jennifer M. Hansen, Public Information Officer

Date: September 12, 2014

RE: Swimming Accident at Grant Lake

On the afternoon of Thursday, September 11, 2014, at approximately 3:45pm, Mono County Sheriff's Dispatch received an emergency call from OnStar regarding a possible swimming accident and drowning at Grant Lake.

Two friends, both from Mammoth Lakes, were spending the afternoon along the shores of Grant Lake. The friends decided to swim across the narrow part of the lake. During their swim, friend one turned his head around to ensure friend two was swimming with him. He was swimming with no problems so they continued with their swim across the narrows. Friend one continued to swim to the shore and noticed that his friend was no longer visible in the water. He returned to the water, screaming for help, to search for his friend. When he couldn't find his friend, he ran to the marina to get help. OnStar was utilized to call 911 and personnel from the Mono County Sheriff's Office, June Lake Fire Department, Mono County Paramedics, and Grant Lake marina were dispatched to locate the missing swimmer.

Personnel arrived on scene and began searching for the missing swimmer. Nicklous Slaminski, age 27, of Mammoth Lakes, was located, unresponsive, near the south end of the boat ramp. Mr. Slaminski was removed from the water and medically assessed by paramedics. Mr. Slaminski was pulseless and determined deceased at the scene.

The cause of death for Mr. Slaminski is currently under investigation by the Mono County Sheriff's Office pending autopsy results.

Written and prepared by Jennifer M. Hansen, Public Information Officer



MONO COUNTY

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Ralph Obenberger
Sheriff/Coroner

MONO COUNTY SHERIFF'S OFFICE
PRESS RELEASE

Robert Weber
Undersheriff

To: All Media Partners

From: Jennifer M. Hansen, Public Information Officer

Date: September 25, 2014

RE: Search and Rescue Team Operation: Aid to lost hunter

On the evening of Monday, September 22, 2014, at approximately 8:30PM, Mono County Sheriff's Dispatch received a 911 call of a report of a lost hunter near Poison Creek.

Two hunters began a deer hunting and camping trip near Poison Creek. Shortly after their arrival, one of the hunters took his rifle and left camp. He told his friend that he wanted to do some scouting and would be away for about 20 minutes to return to camp by nightfall. When it got dark, the hunter had failed to return to camp. The hunter's friend waited two hours but his friend never returned. He asked two other hunters in the area for assistance by they were unable to locate the hunter. The friend was concerned that the hunter, age 81, had possibly fallen and might be injured. The hunter was not equipped to spend a cold night outdoors.

The Mono County Sheriff's Search and Rescue (SAR) Team was called to assist in locating the lost hunter. Four SAR team members responded to the camp. In the early morning hours of Tuesday, September 23, 2014, a hasty search of the area was conducted from the point where the hunter was last seen. The search area was covered in varying terrain including thick timber, willows, brambles, a creek and rocky slopes. There was no sign of the hunter. As the search continued, the California Office of Emergency Services (Cal OES) was contacted for mutual aid. More than 20 additional search and rescue personnel responded including deputies from the Mono County Sheriff's Office; SAR teams from Alpine and Tuolumne Counties; and a helicopter from the California Highway Patrol (CHP).

The helicopter crew conducted an aerial search directed by ground personnel. Later in the afternoon, the helicopter crew spotted a person partially matching the hunter's description lying in a wash east of the ground searchers. The person appeared to be unable to move but could wave at the helicopter. Ground searchers went to his location and confirmed it was the lost hunter. He had fallen down a steep section of wash and spent the night in cold temperatures. Although he was uninjured, he was exhausted and unable to walk out. He was evaluated by EMT's and placed in a wheeled litter. Search crews evacuated him out of the difficult terrain. After evaluation my Mono County Paramedics, he was released to family who had come to the search base.

The Mono County Sheriff's Search and Rescue (SAR) Team wants to remind everyone of the terrain challenges found throughout our area. There are many areas of the Eastern Sierra that are difficult to access on foot. Cell phones often don't work in these areas and there is little natural light upon nightfall. People entering these areas should be aware of the risk of being delayed, exhausted or injured merely by the difficulty of negotiating the

terrain. In any instance, if traveling, hiking, hunting, and/or camping in these areas, make sure to have the proper equipment with you and be prepared to spend the night in changing seasonal conditions. Be safe out there and Happy Hunting Season!

Written and prepared by Jennifer M. Hansen, Public Information Officer



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Ralph Obenberger
Sheriff/Coroner

MONO COUNTY SHERIFF'S OFFICE
PRESS RELEASE

Robert Weber
Undersheriff

To: All Media Partners

From: Jennifer M. Hansen, Public Information Officer

Date: September 30, 2014

RE: CodeRed Emergency Alert System

What is the CodeRed Emergency Alert System?

During the June Fire, several residents and visitors were contacted by the Mono County Sheriff's Office reverse-911 system, also known as the CodeRed Emergency Alert System. What is this and why were some residents informed and others were not? Why is this system so important in an emergency situation?

Mono County utilizes what is known as the CodeRed Emergency Alert System when a critical incident or emergency situation takes place within the county. This system is a database of resident and citizen information for use only in critical and emergency situations. The CodeRed System is used to send critical communications from evacuation notices, to hazardous weather alerts, to missing children alerts. When residents and citizens enter their information into the CodeRed Emergency Alert System, they are added to a nationwide database set exclusively for emergency community alerts in emergency situations. Your contact information remains private and is only used to contact you for community emergency communications. To register for the CodeRed emergency alerts, visit www.monosheriff.org – Resources – Code Red.

The CodeRed system also has a mobile app available. Designed to keep you informed and aware, the CodeRed Mobile App uses the national CodeRed Emergency System to alert subscribers within reach of a given notification and emergency situation. The app is geo-aware, and will ask you to use your "current location," so no matter where you are when an alert is issued, you will receive a push notification along with a voice file of the alert up to 24-hours after the alert has been issued. This is a free app. Simply search "code red" to find the app through your current smart phone provider.

The Mono County Sheriff's Office encourages everyone to sign-up for the CodeRed Emergency Alert System to stay informed in case of an emergency.

Written and prepared by Jennifer M. Hansen, Public Information Officer



P.O. BOX 616 • 49 BRYANT STREET • BRIDGEPORT, CA 93517 • (760) 932-7549 • FAX (760) 932-7435

Ralph Obenberger
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MONO COUNTY SHERIFF'S OFFICE
PRESS RELEASE

Robert Weber
Undersheriff

To: All Media Partners

From: Jennifer M. Hansen, Public Information Officer

Date: September 30, 2014

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link:<https://cne.coderedweb.com/Default.aspx?groupid=4%2FcfmFs%2FJlkP7wllCTj%2B4w%3D%3D>.

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Written and prepared by Jennifer M. Hansen, Public Information Officer



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P.O. BOX 616 • 49 BRYANT STREET • BRIDGEPORT, CA 93517 • (760) 932-7549 • FAX (760) 932-7435

Ralph Obenberger
Sheriff/Coroner

MONO COUNTY SHERIFF'S OFFICE
PRESS RELEASE

Robert Weber
Undersheriff

To: All Media Partners

From: Jennifer M. Hansen, Public Information Officer

Date: October 14, 2014

RE: Mono County Sheriff's Office to participate in the 2014 California Great Shakeout

The Mono County Sheriff's Office, along with millions of people, schools and organizations nationwide, will participate in earthquake preparedness, communication and drills as part of the Great Shakeout on Thursday, October 16, 2014 at 10:16 a.m. Participants will "Drop, Cover and Hold On," practicing the appropriate protective actions to take in response to an earthquake. Everyone should know how to protect themselves in an earthquake, especially in an area prone to earthquakes like Mono County. The 2014 California Shakeout Earthquake drill is an annual opportunity for people in homes, schools and organizations to practice what to do during an earthquake and how to improve preparedness. The recent swarms of earthquakes that have happened in recent weeks in Mono County have people thinking about the potential of the "big one" in this area. The Great Shakeout comes at the perfect opportunity to think preparedness and put plans into action.

The Mono County Sheriff's Office encourages all residents and visitors to sign up in the CodeRed Emergency Alert System, which will be used to communicate preparedness and disaster recovery information in the case of an actual earthquake. For residents, visitors and businesses interested in signing up for CodeRed alerts, please visit www.monosheriff.org – Resources – CodeRed.

During an earthquake, the Mono County Sheriff's Office will use the CodeRed system to let people know when it is safe to exit their homes, businesses or other buildings. The CodeRed system may also be used to communicate post-earthquake aid information including shelters, outages and government closures. The CodeRed system alerts you via landline, mobile phone and email. Notifications will also be delivered through the CodeRed Mobile Alert app, available on the App Store and Google Play, giving everyone the ability to receive instant alerts on their smartphone if you are on-the-go.

"We know the CodeRed system can save lives, but we can't contact you if we don't have your information. The Great Shakeout is a great event to remind everyone to be prepared and informed about earthquakes," said Jennifer Hansen, MCSO Public Information Officer.

We hope you will participate with us! For more information about the Great Shakeout, including tips to help practice, prepare and be ready to respond to an earthquake, please visit www.shakeout.org.

Written and prepared by Jennifer M. Hansen, Public Information Officer



P.O. BOX 616 • 49 BRYANT STREET • BRIDGEPORT, CA 93517 • (760) 932-7549 • FAX (760) 932-7435

Ralph Obenberger
Sheriff/Coroner

MONO COUNTY SHERIFF'S OFFICE
PRESS RELEASE

Robert Weber
Undersheriff

To: All Media Partners

From: Jennifer M. Hansen, Public Information Officer

Date: October 16, 2014

RE: Mono County Sheriff's Office to participate in the 2014 California Great Shakeout: Today is the Day!

What are you doing this morning at 10:16 a.m.? Why not join the Mono County Sheriff's Office and participate in the 2014 California Great Shakeout Drill and "Drop, Cover and Hold On?"

Many areas of the globe are prone to earthquakes, especially California and Mono County. You could be anywhere when an earthquake strikes: at home, at work, at school or even on vacation. Are you prepared to survive and to recover quickly? Federal, state and local emergency management experts agree that "Drop, Cover and Hold On" is the appropriate action to reduce injury and death during an earthquake. The Great Shakeout is a great opportunity to practice how to protect yourself during an earthquake.

During this drill (and whenever you feel an earthquake, "Drop, Cover and Hold On"):

DROP to the ground;

Take COVER by getting under a desk or table; and,

HOLD ON until the shaking stops.

If there isn't a desk or table near you, drop to the ground in an inside corner and cover your head and neck until the shaking stops. This drill gives you the opportunity to practice what you would do during an actual earthquake. This drill is a great opportunity to put preparedness plans in place for you and your family. Don't wait until after an earthquake to prepare for what you should do. Think safety and prepare first! For more information on earthquake preparedness, please visit www.shakeout.org.

The Mono County Sheriff's Office encourages all residents and visitors to sign up for the CodeRed Emergency Alert System, which will be used to communicate preparedness and disaster recovery information in the case of an actual earthquake. Please visit www.monosheriff.org – Resources – CodeRed.

During an earthquake, the Mono County Sheriff's Office will use the CodeRed Alert System to let people know when it is safe to exit their homes, businesses or other buildings. The CodeRed Alert System may also be used to communicate post-earthquake aid information including shelters, outages and other closures. Notifications will be made via landline phones, cell phones and emails. There is also a mobile app available giving everyone the ability to receive instant alerts on their smartphone if you are on-the-go. "We know the CodeRed Alert System can save lives, but we can't contact you if we

don't have your information. The 2014 California Great Shakeout is a great event to remind everyone to be prepared and informed about earthquakes," said Jennifer Hansen, MSCO Public Information Officer.

We hope you participate today! Get ready to "Drop, Cover and Hold On!"

Written and prepared by Jennifer M. Hansen, Public Information Officer



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Ralph Obenberger
Sheriff/Coroner

MONO COUNTY SHERIFF'S OFFICE
PRESS RELEASE

Robert Weber
Undersheriff

To: All Media Partners

From: Jennifer M. Hansen, Public Information Officer

Date: November 24, 2014

RE: Mono County Sheriff Search and Rescue Team Thanks Community – Recaps 2014

This past year has been a busy one for the Mono County Sheriff Search and Rescue (SAR) Team. The all-volunteer team “dedicated to saving lives” has responded to 31 callouts in 2014. These incidents involved 41 subjects; all but one was visitors to the Eastern Sierra and Mono County. These incidents also included 15 searches and 19 rescues that resulted in over 275 volunteer team hours spent in the field.

The SAR Team is so grateful for the support they receive from all our Mono County community members and want to thank those who also attended the *Valley Uprising* film screening and fundraiser held at Canyon Lodge. These fundraising events help this team in purchasing much needed equipment and providing necessary training for its members.

As the SAR team looks forward to the upcoming 2015 year, their needs are many as their resources are limited. The team hopes to upgrade their snowmobiles to newer models that can reach some of the snowmobilers that operate high-performance equipment. In addition, the team will be replacing their snowmobile helmets. The team also would like to replace some of their summer equipment including climbing gear and swift water rescue equipment.

If you would like to help the Mono County Sheriff Search and Rescue Team, there are two ways to do so. You may make a tax-deductible donation to support the team or you can become a member. Please visit our website for more information and the address to send your donations to. Mark your calendars now! The SAR Team will host an open house for prospective members on Wednesday, March 18th at 6:00pm at their building in Mammoth Lakes (located next to Mammoth Lakes Community Water District). As this event gets closer, more details will be provided but please mark your calendars now!

The Mono County Sheriff Search and Rescue Team wants to wish everyone a happy, healthy and safe holiday season! For more information about the SAR Team, please visit www.monosar.org.

“The Mono County Sheriff Search and Rescue Team: We do searches and rescues at any time, in any weather, for as long as it takes, for free.”

Written and prepared by: Jennifer M. Hansen, Public Information Officer



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Ralph Obenberger
Sheriff/Coroner

MONO COUNTY SHERIFF'S OFFICE
PRESS RELEASE

Robert Weber
Undersheriff

To: All News Outlets

From: Jennifer M. Hansen, Public Information Officer

Date: December 2, 2014

RE: Traffic stop leads to narcotics arrest

On the morning of Saturday, November 29th, 2014, at approximately 7:30am, Mono County Sheriff's Deputies conducted a traffic stop on a vehicle traveling southbound on Hwy 395 near SR 108 and Fale Hot Springs.

Bertin Cortez-Guzman, age 27, of Reedly, CA, and Jose Becerra-Cortez, age 18, also of Reedly, CA, were stopped by deputies on southbound Hwy 395 near SR 108 and Fale Hot Springs for speeding. When the driver, Mr. Cortez-Guzman, was asked for his driver's license, he provided deputies with his Mexican Consulate Card as he did not have a California driver's license. Both Mr. Cortez-Guzman and Mr. Becerra-Cortez were asked to exit the vehicle. Upon a vehicle search, a medium sized black and blue nylon case was located in the center console of the vehicle. Deputies became suspicious and called for the narcotics detection K-9.

K-9 Tara alerted to the exterior of the vehicle, and once deployed inside the vehicle, she alerted to the center console compartment and revealed methamphetamine. Inside the nylon bag were twenty six (26) individually wrapped plastic baggies containing methamphetamine.

After further investigation, it was determined that Mr. Cortez-Guzman and Mr. Becerra-Cortez were traveling from Reedly, CA, to Mammoth Lakes, CA, to meet a buyer and sell the pre-packaged methamphetamine.

Jose Becerra-Cortez, age 18, of Reedly, CA, was arrested for 11378 HS (possession of a controlled substance for sale) and 11379 (A) HS (transportation of a controlled substance).

Bertin Cortez-Guzman, age 27, of Reedly, CA, was arrested for 12500 (A) VC (driving without a license); 11377 (A) HS (possession of a controlled substance); 11378 HS (possession of a controlled substance for sale); and 11379 (A) HS (transportation of a controlled substance). Mr. Cortez-Guzman is currently in custody at the Mono County Jail.

All charges for Mr. Becerra-Cortez and Mr. Cortez-Guzman are pending with the Mono County District Attorney's Office.

Written and reported by: Jennifer M. Hansen, Public Information Officer



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Sheriff/Coroner

MONO COUNTY SHERIFF'S OFFICE
PRESS RELEASE

Robert Weber
Undersheriff

To: All News Outlets

From: Jennifer M. Hansen, Public Information Officer

Date: December 9, 2014

RE: Graffiti found throughout community of Chalfant

On Monday, December 8th, 2014, Mono County Sheriff's Dispatch received calls from citizens of Chalfant regarding several buildings throughout the community that had been vandalized.

Mono County Sheriff's Deputies responded to several locations throughout the Chalfant community to find walls, buildings and equipment vandalized by graffiti. Graffiti was found: on the Chalfant Community Center on the largest wall facing Valley Road; on the men's room door at the community park; at the Chalfant Fire Department on vehicles used for training; and on a large box trailer parked on Hunter Ave.

The Mono County Sheriff's Office is asking the public's assistance to identify the individual (s) responsible for the graffiti. If you have any information, please contact the Mono County Sheriff's Office at (760) 932-7549 ext. 7.

Written and reported by: Jennifer M. Hansen, Public Information Officer