



P.O. Box 616 / 100 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 3, 2013**

**RE: Traffic Stop conducted on Rap Artist Frank Ocean**

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On Monday, December 31, 2012, at approximately 4:30pm, a Mono County Deputy Sheriff, with the assistance of a California Highway Patrol Officer, observed a black BMW traveling at a high rate of speed, southbound on US Hwy 395 near Tom's Place.

The vehicle was stopped by the Deputy. As the Deputy approached the vehicle, a strong odor of marijuana came from inside the car. Christopher Breaux, aka Frank Ocean, age 25, of Beverly Hills, CA, had a small bag of marijuana on his person. Mr. Breaux was cited for possession of marijuana and released.

This incident has been forwarded to the Mono County District Attorney's Office for review.

*Written and prepared by Jennifer 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-old) 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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*Robert Weber*  
Undersheriff

**To: All News Outlets**

**From: Jennifer Hansen, Public Information Officer**

**Date: January 15, 2013**

**RE: Mono County Sheriff's Office Welcomes a New Member to the MONET Task Force**

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In late 2012, the Mono County Sheriff's Office added its newest member to the Mono Narcotics Enforcement Team (MONET). "Tara" is a 4-year old Belgian Malinois who is trained in narcotic detection.

Recently, "Tara" and her handler, the Mono County Sheriff's Office Narcotic Enforcement Deputy, attended a 200-hour training and certification course in Riverside, CA, sponsored by Alderhorst International Kennels. This course certified "Tara" in narcotic detection.



"Tara" 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. "Tara" is trained on odor strength varying from residual narcotic odors to the odor of pounds of narcotics.

The Mono County Sheriff's Office is pleased to welcome "Tara" as the newest member of our team!

*Written and prepared by Jennifer Hansen, Public Information Officer*

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*Robert Weber*  
Undersheriff

**To: All News Outlets**

**From: Jennifer Hansen, Public Information Officer**

**Date: January 16, 2013**

**RE: Sheriff Ralph Obenberger lends a helping hand to stranded motorists**

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On the evening of Friday, January 11, 2013, at approximately 5:00 pm, Sheriff Ralph Obenberger was traveling home to June Lake after work when he noticed a Los Angeles County Sheriff's Department vehicle stranded on the northbound lane of Hwy 158. Sheriff Obenberger turned around to see if he could lend any assistance to the stranded vehicle. When Sheriff Obenberger made contact with the vehicle, it was occupied with two female Search and Rescue volunteers from the Montrose Search and Rescue team in town finalizing details for a Mountain Rescue Association training to be held in March for over 300 Search and Rescue volunteers. The volunteers had already checked out of their hotel, hoping to make it back to Southern California that night, when their vehicle just quit on them. Their vehicle became inoperative due to an unknown problem. The volunteers were in contact with their agency watch commander and were trying to figure out how to handle the situation. The volunteers stated that their agency was contemplating sending a tow truck from the Los Angeles area to help them and the volunteers would just need to wait until the tow truck arrived.

The temperature at this time of the evening was in the mid-teens and snowing. Sheriff Obenberger told the volunteers that he would have a local tow company, Lee Vining Shell, tow the vehicle and try to at least determine what the problem was. Sheriff Obenberger didn't want to leave the volunteers in the cold, snowy conditions, so took the volunteers to his house for a safe, warm place to stay while their vehicle was being inspected. Sheriff Obenberger told the volunteers not to worry and that he would pay for the vehicle tow charges, if necessary, just to avoid any delays in getting the problem solved.

The volunteers stayed with Sheriff Obenberger and his family until the next morning, Saturday, January 12, 2013. The volunteers were taken to their vehicle at Lee Vining Shell where it was ultimately determined that the vehicle could not be repaired due to some major mechanical issues in the engine. Lee Vining Shell safely transported the vehicle and the volunteers back to Southern California. The volunteers were shocked with the hospitality they were shown by Sheriff Obenberger and Lee Vining Shell. "This is just what people in Mono County do ... we take care of people and get things done," said Sheriff Obenberger.

*Written and prepared by Jennifer Hansen, Public Information Officer*

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**- PRESS RELEASE -**

*Robert Weber*  
Undersheriff

**To: All News Outlets**

**From: Jennifer Hansen, Public Information Officer**

**Date: January 22, 2013**

**RE: Wesley Hoskin joins the Deputy ranks at the Mono County Sheriff's Department**

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The Mono County Sheriff's Department would like to congratulate our newest Deputy, Wesley Hoskins, to our team. Deputy Hoskins was hired and promoted through the ranks of the Mono County Sheriff's Department. Deputy Hoskins started with the department in November of 2009 as a Public Safety Officer, which encompasses the duties of jailer and dispatcher. Through the support and authorization of the Mono County Board of Supervisors, in July of 2012, Wesley was promoted to Deputy Sheriff and has completed the 6-month training program at the Riverside County Sheriff's Academy held in Riverside, CA.

Deputy Hoskins graduated from the academy on Thursday, January 17<sup>th</sup>, 2013, at the very top of his class. He is currently starting his field training program to learn the ins and outs of his new position. The department is proud of Wesley for his academic achievements and representing the Mono County Sheriff's Department throughout his academy journey. The department is glad to have him onboard as our newest Deputy! Congratulations, Deputy Hoskins, on your recent achievements and graduation!



*Written and prepared by Jennifer Hansen, Public Information Officer*



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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 31, 2013**

**RE: Man attempts suicide at the Mono Basin Visitor's Center**

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At approximately 8:00 am, on Thursday, January 31, 2013, Mono County Sheriff's Office dispatch received a call of an unresponsive male, who had possibly committed suicide, in the parking lot of the Mono Basin Visitor's Center in Lee Vining.

Mono County Sheriff's Deputies, Lee Vining Fire Department, and the Mono County Paramedics responded to the Mono Basin Visitor's Center. They located the man in the parking lot with a single gunshot wound to his chest. The man was taken via ambulance to the medical clinic in Bridgeport and then transported via Careflight to Renown Medical Center in Reno for treatment.

The circumstances of this incident are currently under investigation, but it appears this was a suicide attempt by a self-inflicted gunshot wound.

*Written and prepared by Jennifer Hansen, Public Information Officer*







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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: February 5, 2013**

**RE: Mono County Sheriff's Office hosts first Certified Snowmobile Training Course**

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Over the course of the past week, the Mono County Sheriff's Office hosted the first in a series of Snowmobile Operations courses. These training courses are designed to educate new officers in snowmobile use as well as increase the experience level of those already familiar with the snow machines. This course training began in Mammoth Lakes, at the new Search and Rescue building, and continued into field exercises in the Crestview and June Lake areas. Participants from various law enforcement agencies trained for 3-days with professional and experienced instructors. Participants enjoyed the diverse scenery and varied snow conditions Mono County has to offer. This training course is directed toward law enforcement personnel assigned to Off-Highway Vehicle (OHV) patrol and/or Search and Rescue responsibilities requiring over the snow travel. The first training course was a success and will be offered intermittently throughout the winter season.

The Mono County Sheriff's Office must have the capability to respond and rescue stranded and injured winter off-road recreational visitors and residents. The California State Parks Off-Highway Vehicle grant program provides grant funding, through the California Off-Highway Vehicle registration fees, to support and ensure deputies have the proper equipment, and fund staff time, to conduct these missions. The Mono County Sheriff's Office currently operates four (4) snowmobiles for off-highway vehicle patrol in the winter to conduct Search and Rescue operations, enforce traffic violations relating to off-highway vehicle use, to prevent wilderness intrusion on the National Forests, and to enforce California Vehicle Code violations.

As the program has progressed from a patrol function to dual response, patrol and search and rescue, the need for training was soon recognized. The uniqueness of the equipment, coupled with extreme weather and terrain, makes training imperative to limit injuries to first responders. This training is needed for personnel safety but also has to be officially recognized in order to ensure the course material is relevant and is being taught in a safe and controlled manner to novice students. The California Peace Officer's Standards and Training (P.O.S.T) approved Mono County Sheriff's Office to be certified to provide training of this kind.

The Mono County Sheriff's Office is proud to be the first law enforcement agency in California to offer this P.O.S.T certified Snowmobile Operator's course and have had a successful first round of training.

*Written and prepared by Jennifer Hansen, Public Information Officer*





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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: February 5, 2013**

**RE: Now Hiring for Public Safety Officers**

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The Mono County Sheriff's Office would like to announce that we are accepting applications to hire Public Safety Officers to join our Correctional Facility team.

The Public Safety Officer position, under supervision, supervises the conduct of prisoners at county holding facilities. The Public Safety Officer assists with and performs booking and screening procedures; assists with the transportation of prisoners; receives and transmits radio and telephone communications and dispatches law enforcement and other public safety personnel. The Public Safety Officer performs a variety of Sheriff's Department office support work and provides information to the public relating to the Sheriff's Department. The Public Safety Officer answers questions concerning prisoners and inmate status

If you would like more information, or are interested in the position and would like to fill out an application, please visit [www.monosheriff.org](http://www.monosheriff.org) or contact Jennifer Hansen, Public Information Officer, at (760) 932-5279 or [jhansen@monosheriff.org](mailto:jhansen@monosheriff.org).

*Written and prepared by Jennifer Hansen, Public Information Officer*





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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: February 14, 2013**

**RE: Mono County Sheriff's Search and Rescue (SAR) Team Annual Awards Dinner 2012**

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The Mono County Sheriff Search and Rescue Team is a non-profit organization of volunteers dedicated to saving lives. They do searches and rescues at any time, in any weather, for as long as it takes, for free.

Each year, the Team honors members for their individual excellence and public service. Two annual awards are given by the Team each year to honor members who have excelled.

The team's primary honor for achievement is the **Pete Schoerner Rescue Member of the Year** award. The award is named in memory of a beloved teammate who was killed in an ice climbing accident in 1996.

**The Pete Schoerner Rescue Member of the Year** for 2012 is **Jeff Holmquist**. Jeff serves the Team as a member of the Board of Directors, and is a past President, Vice President, and Training Officer. This is the second time he has been selected by the Team for this honor. He is also one of very few honored with selection as Lifetime Members. Jeff participated in 70 team events in 2012, including 22 field missions. Since 2000, Jeff has served the County on 894 team events, including 386 rescues and searches. He has a wide variety of skills, frequently serves as Operations Leader, teaches training courses, and is one of the team's key players in all types of missions.

New members in training are called Candidate Members, and must undergo training, practice, and testing in eighteen skill categories before being considered for advancement to Rescue Member. Examples of these skills include first aid and victim care, tracking, technical rescue, mountain navigation, helicopter operations, and skill with electronic aids such as computers, radios, avalanche transceivers, and GPS receivers. Completion of all requirements takes a lot of dedication and faithfulness over a period that is typically a year or more.

The team honors one candidate member each year with the **Rick Mosher Candidate Member of the Year Award**. Rick Mosher is the only team member to have died in the line of duty and was killed while searching in a small airplane that crashed during an operation on August 15, 1979.

This year the team selected **Megan Guffey** as the **Rick Mosher Candidate Member of the Year**. Megan has been very active and faithful in both her training and in rescue operations. Since beginning her training of April of 2012, she has participated in 35 Team events and 5 rescues and searches. The 2012 honorees were presented with laser engraved cherry wood plaques.



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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: February 28, 2013**

**RE: Mono County Sheriff's Office Personnel pays final respects to fallen San Bernardino County Sheriff's Department Detective**

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The bond and sense of family that the law enforcement and first responder community has for one another is unsurpassed. Every member of this community supports one another through the good days and the hard times.

On Tuesday, February 12, 2013, Detective Jeremiah Mackay of the San Bernardino County Sheriff's Department tragically lost his life in the line of duty during a shootout with fugitive ex-police officer Christopher Dorner. On Thursday, February 21, 2013, over 10,000 law enforcement and first responder personnel and civilians attended the memorial service for this fallen deputy.

Several members of the department proudly represented the Mono County Sheriff's Office to honor and support the family of Detective Mackay and the San Bernardino County Sheriff's Department.

"Law enforcement memorial services are not easy to attend, nor should they be," stated Lt. West. "It is a bittersweet experience – a mixture of sorrow and pride. The presence, demeanor, and professionalism of our department were a support to not only Detective Mackay's family but to the men and women of the San Bernardino County Sheriff's Department, and the brothers and sisters of our extended law enforcement family as a whole."

*Written and prepared by Jennifer Hansen, Public Information Officer*





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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: March 5, 2013**

**RE: Mountain Rescue Association hosts Search and Rescue Training in Mono County**

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During the weekend of March 1, 2013, Mono County, and more specifically, the community of June Lake, was host to the Mountain Rescue Association's (MRA) certification/recertification course for various Search and Rescue teams.

Throughout the weekend, 18 Search and Rescue teams from across California and Alaska, including the Mono County Sheriff Search and Rescue team, participated in various hands-on trainings in areas such as: snow rescue techniques; navigation techniques; avalanche beacon training; rope techniques; litter/medical rescue techniques; and radio techniques.

The Mountain Rescue Association (MRA) was established in 1959 on Mt. Hood, Oregon, and is the oldest search and rescue association in the United States. It is an organization of teams dedicated to saving lives through rescue and mountain safety education. The Mono County Sheriff's Search and Rescue team is an associate member of this organization.

*Written and prepared by Jennifer Hansen, Public Information Officer*





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**PRESS RELEASE**

***Robert Weber***  
*Undersheriff*

**To: All News Outlets**

**From: Jennifer Hansen, Public Information Officer**

**Date: March 27, 2013**

**RE: Recent burglary activity in the Walker/Coleville area**

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On Tuesday, March 19, 2013, at approximately 11:30 am, Mono County Sheriff's Office dispatch received a call regarding a potential burglary in progress at a residence in Walker.

Mono County Sheriff's Deputies and Investigators were dispatched to Walker for the report of two unknown suspects, dressed in dark clothing, who had entered a residence through an unlocked door. The suspects were unaware that the residence was occupied and were chased away by the homeowner. Prior to the incident taking place, a male subject knocked on the front door of the residence inquiring about a person who did not live there. It is believed, at this time, that the male at the front door may have been checking to see if the residence was occupied prior to the attempted burglary. This case is still under active investigation by the Mono County Sheriff's Office.

The Mono County Sheriff's Office would like to remind the residents of the Walker/Coleville communities to keep their residence locked and beware of any suspicious activity. Increased deputy patrol has been, and will continue, to be done to continue to ensure the safety of the public. If you believe suspicious activity is taking place, please do not take matters into your own hands. Please call the Mono County Sheriff's Office Dispatch at (760) 932-7549 ext. 7, and we will have a deputy respond and assist you.

*Written and prepared by Jennifer Hansen, Public Information Officer*



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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: April 8, 2013**

**RE: Coroner's Investigation into the death of a New Hampshire man**

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On the afternoon of Sunday, April 7, 2013, at approximately 12:45 p.m., Mono County Sheriff's Office Dispatch received a call regarding an unresponsive male in the Mammoth Lakes area.

Chelone N. Miller, age 29, of Easton, New Hampshire, was found unresponsive in his van in the Mammoth Lakes area. Mono County Paramedics, Mammoth Lakes Fire Department, Mammoth Lakes Police Department and Mono County Sheriff's Deputies were dispatched to the scene. Upon arrival, it was determined that Mr. Miller was deceased. Cause of death is currently being investigated by the Mono County Sheriff's Department pending autopsy results. Foul play is not suspected in the cause of death.

*Written and prepared by Jennifer Hansen, Public Information Officer*



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**PRESS RELEASE**

**Robert Weber**  
*Undersheriff*

**To: All News Outlets**

**From: Jennifer Hansen, Public Information Officer**

**Date: April 22, 2013**

**RE: Fishing and Boating Season is upon us**

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It is that time of year! Fishing season is upon the Eastern Sierra with opening day set for Saturday, April 27<sup>th</sup>. With the large number of fishing enthusiasts anticipated to be on the waterways of Mono County, the Mono County Sheriff's Department would like to remind boaters, float tubers, etc. to think safety first while enjoying their fishing activities.

The Mono County Sheriff's Department 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.

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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# Department of Justice

**United States Attorney Benjamin B. Wagner  
Eastern District of California**

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE  
Wednesday, April 24, 2013  
[www.justice.gov/usao/cae](http://www.justice.gov/usao/cae)  
Docket #: 2:13-cr-138-KJM

CONTACT: LAUREN HORWOOD  
PHONE: 916-554-2706  
[usacaee.edcapress@usdoj.gov](mailto:usacaee.edcapress@usdoj.gov)

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## **BRIDGEPORT BANK MANAGER ARRAIGNED FOR EMBEZZLEMENT**

SACRAMENTO, Calif. — Roxanna Foley, 52, of Bridgeport, was arraigned today in federal court in Sacramento, United States Attorney Benjamin B. Wagner announced.

On April 18, 2013, a federal grand jury returned an indictment, charging her with theft and embezzlement by a bank employee. According to the indictment and statements made in court, between October 2011 and March 20, 2012, Foley embezzled approximately \$320,000 from the Eastern Sierra Community Bank where she was employed as a manager.

Foley was released today on a \$50,000 bond. She is scheduled to appear before United States District Judge Kimberly J. Mueller on May 29, 2013 for a status conference.

If convicted, Foley faces a maximum statutory penalty of 30 years in prison, a \$1 million fine, and a five-year term of supervised release. Any sentence, however, would be determined at the discretion of the court after consideration of any applicable statutory factors and the Federal Sentencing Guidelines, which take into account a number of variables. The charges are only allegations; the defendant is presumed innocent until and unless proven guilty beyond a reasonable doubt.

This case is the product of an investigation by the Federal Bureau of Investigation and the Mono County Sheriff's Department. Assistant United States Attorney Kyle Reardon is prosecuting the case.

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# Department of Justice

**United States Attorney Benjamin B. Wagner  
Eastern District of California**

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE  
Wednesday, April 24, 2013  
[www.justice.gov/usao/cae](http://www.justice.gov/usao/cae)  
Docket #: 2:13-cr-139-MCE

CONTACT: LAUREN HORWOOD  
PHONE: 916-554-2706  
[usacae.edcapress@usdoj.gov](mailto:usacae.edcapress@usdoj.gov)

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## **MONO COUNTY SEX OFFENDER ARRAIGNED IN FEDERAL COURT**

SACRAMENTO, Calif. — Gene Wayne Harris, 41, of Mammoth Lakes, was arraigned in federal court today on a grand jury indictment that charged him with attempted production of child pornography and attempted enticement of a minor, United States Attorney Benjamin B. Wagner announced.

According to the indictment and statements made in court, between March 1, 2013, and March 8, 2013, while Harris communicated with a person he believed to be a 14-year-old girl, he attempted to produce child pornography, and attempted to entice a minor to engage in prohibited sexual conduct. He is a registered sex offender.

This case is the product of an investigation by the Federal Bureau of Investigation and the Mono County Sheriff's Department. Assistant United States Attorney Kyle Reardon is prosecuting the case.

Because Harris has a prior conviction for sexual battery in violation of California law, if Harris is convicted of the production charge in the indictment, he faces a statutory penalty of 25 to 50 years in prison, a \$250,000 fine, and a lifetime period of supervised release. If convicted of the enticement charge, he faces 10 years to life in prison, a fine of \$250,000, and a lifetime period of supervised release. Any sentence, however, would be determined at the discretion of the court after consideration of any applicable statutory factors and the Federal Sentencing Guidelines, which take into account a number of variables.

The charges are only allegations, and the defendant is presumed innocent until and unless proven guilty beyond a reasonable doubt.

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Sheriff/Coroner

**MONO COUNTY SHERIFF'S OFFICE**  
**PRESS RELEASE**

*Robert Weber*  
Undersheriff

**To: All News Outlets**

**From: Jennifer Hansen, Public Information Officer**

**Source: Ralph Obenberger, Sheriff-Coroner**

**Date: April 30, 2013**

**RE: It's been a busy week for the Mono County Sheriff's Office**

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Over the course of the last week, the Mono County Sheriff's Office has been busy handling a wide range of calls to keep the residents and visitors of Mono County safe.

On Tuesday, April 23, 2013, patrol deputies conducted a traffic stop on a vehicle in the town of Walker for speed. Upon contacting the subjects in the vehicle, and a subsequent investigation, one subject, Mr. Ricardo Galicia-Osuna, age 19, of South Lake Tahoe, CA, was placed under arrest for possession of cocaine and other various charges.

On Tuesday, April 23, 2013, patrol deputies conducted a traffic stop on a vehicle traveling inbound on Highway 203 from Highway 395, near the town of Mammoth Lakes, for several traffic violations. Upon contacting the subjects in the vehicle, and a subsequent investigation, one subject, Ms. Abigail Bateman, age 23, of San Diego, CA, was placed under arrest for possession of cocaine, possession of prescription narcotics without a prescription and other various charges.

On Thursday, April 25, 2013, patrol deputies, along with the California Highway Patrol, conducted a traffic stop on a vehicle near the intersection of Highway 395 and Highway 203 for illegal window tinting. Upon contacting the driver of the vehicle, and a subsequent investigation, the driver, Mr. Dillon Prieto, age 20, of Murrieta, CA, was placed under arrest for driving under the influence.

On Thursday, April 25, 2013, patrol deputies conducted a traffic stop on a vehicle near the intersection of Highway 395 and Highway 203 for non-functioning vehicle lighting. Upon contacting the occupants of the vehicle, and a subsequent investigation, both occupants, Ms. Andrea Francis, age 34, and Mr. Demorio Williams, age 40, both residents of Reno, NV, were arrested for possession of a stolen firearm, felon in possession of a firearm, receiving stolen property, and other various charges.

On Saturday, April 27, 2013, at approximately 6:15 am, patrol deputies responded to a capsized vessel in June Lake. Mr. James Boyd, age 50, of Mount Baldy, CA, had just rented a boat from the Big Rock



Marina and inadvertently fell out of the boat into the lake, and then, overturned the boat completely trying to climb back into it. The boat was saved, all loose tackle and other items were lost to the bottom of the lake, and Mr. Boyd did not sustain any injuries.

On Saturday, April 27, 2013, patrol deputies conducted a traffic stop on a vehicle near the McGee Creek Caltrans Station for speed. Upon contacting the occupants of the vehicle, the driver Mr. Mario Salazar, age 32, of Bishop, CA, was arrested for driving under the influence, and the passenger, Mr. Alex Lujano, age 32, of Bishop, CA, was arrested for violating his parole terms.

On Saturday, April 27, 2013, at approximately 4:15 am, MONET and Mono County Sheriff's deputies, along with the Mammoth Lakes Police Department and Mono County Paramedics, concluded a narcotics investigation at the Motel 6 in Mammoth Lakes. Two subjects, Mr. Jesse Lovell, age 20, and Ms. Kirea Lovell, age 22, both of Anaheim, CA, were arrested for possession and possession for sales of methamphetamine and heroin, and numerous other charges.

On Sunday, April 28, 2013, patrol deputies responded to Bridgeport for a report of a grand theft. Throughout an investigation, a possible suspect was identified as well as the vehicle. It was believed that the suspect was also possibly armed with a handgun. Shortly after gathering this information, the suspect's vehicle was seen in Bridgeport and a high risk traffic stop was conducted. The driver was identified as Mr. Paul Harlow, age 37, of Fernly, NV, and the victims positively identified him as the suspect they believed had committed the crime. Through further investigation, the stolen items were recovered (fishing gear, cell phones, etc.) from the suspect's vehicle. A loaded .357 handgun was also recovered from the vehicle. During the investigation, a second victim contacted the Sheriff's Office and ultimately identified his stolen property that was recovered from the suspect's vehicle. Mr. Harlow was arrested for grand theft, possession of a loaded firearm, possession of narcotics, and other charges.

Throughout the course of the past week, Mono County deputies also arrested (5) individuals for various warrant charges, our (3) patrol boats had numerous contacts on the water, and our deputies handled (1) Coroner investigation in the Walker area of a local resident whom appears to be of natural causes.

*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*  
Sheriff/Coroner

**MONO COUNTY SHERIFF'S OFFICE**  
**PRESS RELEASE**

*Robert Weber*  
Undersheriff

**To:** All News Outlets

**From:** Jennifer Hansen, Public Information Officer

**Date:** May 1, 2013

**RE:** Mono County Sheriff's Department Joins Facebook

---

The Mono County Sheriff's Department has joined the social media bandwagon with the introduction of their official Facebook page. Please visit <http://www.facebook.com/pages/Mono-County-Sheriffs-Department/597961140216123> and "like" us.

The official Facebook page of the Mono County Sheriff's Department will provide information on the latest news and press releases, public safety tips, and community services and programs. The department wants to utilize this page as another means to communicate with our communities, residents, visitors, local partners, and news media alike. We ask you to remember, that in case of an emergency, *always* call 911. If you need to report a crime, please contact the Mono County Sheriff's Department directly at (760) 932-7549. The department website is also another avenue to gain information at [www.monosheriff.org](http://www.monosheriff.org).

We would also like to ask that everyone who "likes" the page, please take the time to read our policy regarding the information available on our page, including how public comments will be used and handled. You can find all this information under "About Us."

*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 Hansen, Public Information Officer**

**Date: May 6, 2013**

**RE: Recent MONET Activity**

---

The Mono County Narcotics Enforcement Team (MONET), along with the assistance of Mono County Sheriff's Deputies and Mono County District Attorney Investigators, concluded several warrant investigations in the Town of Mammoth Lakes.

On the afternoon of Friday, May 3, 2013, Benjamin Schoenfeld, age 31, of Mammoth Lakes, was arrested for the possession of cocaine. Several ounces of cocaine were seized. Mr. Schoenfeld was an employee of the Motel 6 hotel and was having cocaine shipped in to his place of business. Mr. Schoenfeld was taken into custody and transported to the Mono County Jail in Bridgeport without incident. Charges are pending with the Mono County District Attorney's Office.

On the morning of Saturday, May 4, 2013, Casey Hart and Jeffrey Hawkins, both age 26, of Mammoth Lakes, were arrested for possession of and possession for sale of psilocybin mushrooms, marijuana, and concentrated cannabis. Both were transported to the Mono County Jail in Bridgeport without incident. Charges are pending with the Mono County District Attorney's Office.

*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 Hansen, Public Information Officer**

**Date: May 6, 2013**

**RE: Search and Rescue Team Operation: Aid to an Injured Snowboarder on Matterhorn Peak**

---

On Sunday, May 5, 2013, at approximately 12:00 pm, Mono County Sheriff's Department Dispatch received a call via cell phone for an injured snowboarder, age 24, who fell while descending Matterhorn Peak.

The Mono County Sheriff Search and Rescue (SAR) Team was called to aid in the medical carryout of the injured snowboarder. A CHP Helicopter H-20 was also dispatched to provide assistance if possible. A local guide and her group of clients were near the accident scene and were able to provide medical assistance to the patient. While a SAR ground team was en route to the Horse Creek trailhead, the H-20 was able to lift the patient out and fly him to Reno for treatment.

*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 Hansen, Public Information Officer**

**Date: May 8, 2013**

**RE: Annual California Peace Officers Memorial Event**

---

On Monday, May 6, 2013, personnel from the Mono County Sheriff's Office joined fellow California Peace Officers in honoring and remembering the men and women of law enforcement who have given the ultimate sacrifice in the line of duty at the Annual California Peace Officers Memorial Event held in Sacramento.

At this year's Memorial Event, Mono County Sheriff's Office honored one of their own as Deputy William Franklin Edwards was enrolled and placed on the California Peace Officer Memorial Wall. Deputy Edwards was killed in the line of duty on April 29<sup>th</sup>, 1907, when he responded to arrest three intoxicated male subjects in the Benton area. Deputy Edwards contacted the men by an "old mill" with the assistance of several others. A struggle ensued over a weapon which was wrested from Deputy Edwards. The male immediately fired once striking Deputy Edwards in the arm, passing through his chest, and killing him instantly.

Through the hard work and research conducted by Lt. Phil West, Mono County Sheriff's Office Historian, Deputy Edwards was proudly honored at the 2013 California Peace Officers Memorial Event. Deputy Edwards will also be honored and placed on the National Peace Officers Memorial in Washington, D.C., on Monday, May 13<sup>th</sup>, 2013, at the candle light vigil for the start of National Law Enforcement Week (May 12 – 18).

Deputy Edwards' family was present at the Memorial Ceremony and extended their utmost thanks to Sheriff Obenberger, Lt. West and the Mono County Sheriff's Office for their dedication in having Deputy Edwards honored, remembered, and placed on both Memorial Walls over 100 years later.

*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 Hansen, Public Information Officer**

**Date: May 14, 2013**

**RE: Coroner's Investigation into the death of a Colorado Man in the Town of Mammoth Lakes**

On the night of Sunday, May 12, 2013, at approximately 9:55 pm, Mono County Sheriff's Dispatch received a call regarding an unresponsive male found in a Jacuzzi in Mammoth Lakes.

Keegan Moore, age 29, of Cortez, CO, was found unresponsive in a Jacuzzi in Mammoth Lakes. Mono County Paramedics and Mammoth Lakes Police Department were dispatched to the scene. Life saving measures were conducted by the Paramedics and Mr. Moore was transported to Mammoth Hospital where he was pronounced deceased. Mono County Sheriff's Deputies responded to Mammoth Hospital to begin the Coroner's investigation.

The cause of death is still under investigation by the Mono County Sheriff's Office and is pending autopsy and toxicological reports. Foul play is not suspected in the cause of death.

*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 Hansen, Public Information Officer  
**Date:** May 14, 2013  
**RE:** Fatal Traffic Accident on Hwy 395 in Bridgeport

---

On the early morning of Tuesday, May 14, 2013, at approximately 3:45 am, Mono County Sheriff's Dispatch received a 911 call regarding a possible explosion. A single big rig semi-tractor trailer had failed to negotiate the turn at Hwy 182 and Hwy 395 in Bridgeport. The semi tractor-trailer went over the bridge, landing on the embankment of the East Walker River, where the big rig became fully engulfed in flames upon impact.

Mono County Sheriff's Deputies, California Highway Patrol Officers, Bridgeport Fire Department, Mammoth Lakes Fire Department Hazmat Team, Mono County Paramedics, and Caltrans all responded to the scene. Upon arrival it was determined that the driver was killed in the crash. As of 6:20 am, fire crews are still working on putting out the big rig fire.

**Until further notice, Hwy 395, both north and southbound, is closed out of Bridgeport.** All traffic heading northbound towards Bridgeport will be detoured at Hwy 182, to Nevada 338, to Nevada 208, and back to Hwy 395. For those travelers heading southbound from Nevada, you will be detoured from Hwy 395, to Nevada 208, to Nevada 338, to Hwy 182 and back onto Hwy 395. All local roads will remain open at this time to help detour traffic around the crash site. Hwy 395 will remain closed until the accident scene is clear and the bridge is determined via Caltrans to be safe to drive over.

Updates will be available as the investigation into this accident is conducted. The California Highway Patrol will lead the investigation into the actual cause of the crash and will work in conjunction with Caltrans on the condition of the bridge and the re-opening of Hwy 395. The Mono County Sheriff's Office will lead the investigation involving the death of the driver.

*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 Hansen, Public Information Officer**

**Date: May 21, 2013**

**RE: Search and Rescue Team Operation: Search for a Missing Hiker at Horseshoe Lake**

---

On the evening of Saturday, May 18, 2013, at approximately 8:00pm, Mono County Sheriff's Dispatch received a call regarding an overdue hiker in the Horseshoe Lake area.

A 63-year-old hiker, from Merced, CA, was reported overdue by his son when he didn't return after a 3-4 hour hike. The Mono County Sheriff's Search and Rescue (SAR) team was called out to aid in the search for the missing hiker. The search continued all night with no sightings of the hiker. On the morning of Sunday, May 19, 2013, the Mono County SAR team received additional search assistance from a CHP H40 helicopter out of Fresno, the Inyo County Search and Rescue team, and canine teams from Truckee and Clovis.

The hiker originally hiked out of the Horseshoe Lake area, over Mammoth Pass, down through Red's Meadow and then left the trail to find an "all downhill trail or passage" that he figured would put him out on 395 somewhere around Bishop. He did not make it out of the Red's Meadow area before nightfall. He spent a cold night out before some hikers spotted him the next morning, knew the search was going on, and informed the hiker that search efforts were currently in progress for him. The hikers were able to get in touch with the SAR team and take the hiker to a nearby trailhead out of Red's Meadow where Mono County Sheriff's SAR team members met the hiker and reunited him with his son.

*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 Hansen, Public Information Officer  
**Date:** May 22, 2013  
**RE:** CodeRed Emergency Alert System and Mobile App

---

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, log on to [www.monosheriff.org](http://www.monosheriff.org) – Resources – CodeRed. You will automatically be linked to the national database system and asked to enter your contact information, including multiple phone numbers, text, and email addresses.

The CodeRed system has also joined the technology bandwagon. 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 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 for up to 24-hours after the alert has been issued. This is a free app and is currently available for all smart phones - simply search “code red” to find the app through your current smart phone provider.

We encourage everyone to sign-up for the CodeRed Emergency Alert System to stay informed in case of an emergency. If you have any questions, or come across any problems with the CodeRed System, please contact Jennifer Hansen, Public Information Officer, at (760) 932-5279 or [jhansen@monosheriff.org](mailto:jhansen@monosheriff.org).

*Written and prepared by: Jennifer 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 Hansen, Public Information Officer  
**Date:** June 3, 2013  
**RE:** ATV Crash in Walker

---

On the afternoon of Saturday, June 1, 2013, at approximately 4:45 pm, Mono County Sheriff's Dispatch received a 911 call regarding an ATV rider who had possibly driven off a cliff in the Walker area.

Mono County Sheriff's Deputies, Antelope Valley Fire Department, Mountain Warfare Training Center (MWTC) Fire Department and Mono County Paramedics responded to the scene. Upon arrival, it was determined that the ATV had gone over a cliff and down a ravine near the intersection of Camp Antelope Road and Bircham Flats Road in Walker. The ATV traveled down a slope, coming to rest in a large rock formation at the bottom of the ravine.

The victim was carried out by fire and medic personnel and then transported via ATV to Bircham Flats Road where he was then transported to a Care Flight helicopter. He was transported to Renown Medical Center in Reno for several broken bones and other injuries related to the crash.

*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 Hansen, Public Information Officer**

**Date: June 3, 2013**

**RE: Plane Crash at Bryant Airfield in Bridgeport**

---

On the morning of Sunday, June 2, 2013, at approximately 9:30am, Mono County Sheriff's Dispatch received a call regarding a possible airplane crash at Bryant Airfield in Bridgeport.

Personnel from the Mono County Sheriff's Office, Bridgeport Fire Department, US Forest Service Fire Department, and Mono County Paramedics were dispatched to the scene. Upon arrival, it was confirmed that a 1972 single engine Cessna plane had crashed at Bryant Airfield and was resting on its roof. There were four passengers in the plane. One passenger was transported via Care Flight to Renown Medical Center in Reno for treatment of their injuries. The other three passengers were transported via ambulance to Carson Valley Medical Center in Carson City for treatment of their injuries.

The cause of the crash has yet to be determined and is currently under investigation by the FAA.

*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 Hansen, Public Information Officer**

**Date: June 18, 2013**

**RE: Search and Rescue Team Operation: Mutual Aid Search for a Missing Hiker on Boundary Peak**

---

On the afternoon of Wednesday, June 12, 2013, at approximately 2:15pm, Mono County Sheriff's Dispatch received a call regarding a potential mutual aid search and rescue on Boundary Peak, out of Esmeralda County, NV, for a 54-year-old stranded hiker.

On Wednesday, June 12, 2013, a 54-year-old hiker from Glencoe, IL, was descending from a day hike to Boundary Peak. He lost his descent route and walked about 3000 feet down steep/loose terrain on the wrong side of the peak. He became stranded on a near vertical edge. He was able to call 911 for help. He did believe he would be able to climb off the ledge, back up the mountainside. Through communication with Esmeralda County Sheriff's Office, the US Forest Service, and the Mono County Sheriff's Office, he stated he had climbed about 1000 feet and "thought" he knew where he was. He was advised to go east into Trail Canyon, back to his car, when he was able to get back to the ridge top. There was no further communication with the hiker. Since Esmeralda County does not have a search and rescue team, Mono County Sheriff's Search and Rescue (SAR) team and Mineral County Search and Rescue team were put on standby until the hiker was indeed confirmed off the peak. Esmeralda County Sheriff's deputies advised they would check the hiker's car, parked at the trailhead in Trail Canyon, the next morning to ensure he had found his way down.

On the morning of June 13, 2013, it was determined that the hiker had not returned to his car and a search and rescue was formally initiated by Esmeralda County asking for ground and air resources from the Mono County Sheriff's Search and Rescue team. Search support included two air force rescue HH-60 from Nellis Air Force Base in NV; CHP A-Star H-40 helicopter; a quad team from Mineral County; and ground teams from Mineral, Mono and Inyo Counties SAR teams. Emergency management agencies from California and Nevada were also contacted for additional resources, should they be necessary. The search was conducted throughout the day for the missing hiker with no success.

On Friday, June 14, 2013, two HH-60 helicopters began a search of each side of the peak with ground teams beginning to hike the last known point. At approximately 11:00am, air crews advised they had located the missing hiker walking down the mountainside. A flight medic was lowered to the hiker to begin medical treatment. They were airlifted out where the hiker was then flown to Southern Inyo Hospital for treatment of minor injuries and dehydration.

*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 Hansen, Public Information Officer**

**Date: June 18, 2013**

**RE: Small Wildfire in the Mono City area**

---

On the morning of June 18, 2013, at approximately 7:40am, Mono County Sheriff's deputies were traveling northbound on Hwy 395 when they noticed smoke just south of Hwy 167 on the west side of Hwy 395 in the Mono City area. It appeared that approximately ¼ acre of land/brush was burning. The fire appears to have been started by an overhead power line that caught fire.

The Mono County Sheriff's Office, California Highway Patrol, Mono County Paramedics, Bridgeport Fire Department, Lee Vining Fire Department, Mono City Fire Department, June Lake Fire Department, Mammoth Lakes Fire Department, and Long Valley Fire Department all responded to the area. For safety purposes, CHP closed the Lundy Lake Road at Hwy 395 to prevent public entrance into the fire area. At this time, all roads are now open.

There is no current threat to homes in the Mono City area or the Lundy Lake area or to anyone traveling on Hwy 395. The fire is about five acres with fire personnel making good progress in full containment. Any further updates will be given via the fire authorities should conditions deteriorate or change.

*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 Hansen, Public Information Officer**

**Date: June 21, 2013**

**RE: Search and Rescue Team Operation: Search for a Missing Day Hikers at Saddlebag Lake**

---

On the evening of Wednesday, June 19, 2013, at approximately 8:45pm, Mono County Sheriff's Dispatch received a call regarding overdue day hikers in the Saddlebag Lake area.

A couple hiking with their grandson, from Wooster, OH, was reported overdue by their son when they didn't return to Bishop after their day hike to Saddlebag Lake. They had only packed a backpack with a lunch and limited supplies. They had taken the boat taxi across the lake and were expected to catch the last taxi back at the end of the day. There was concern due to the age of the couple and of the grandson. They were not dressed for overnight conditions, had no light source, no resources to make a fire, and were unfamiliar with the area.

The Mono County Sheriff's Search and Rescue (SAR) team was called out to aid in the search for the missing day hikers. Eight (8) SAR team members responded to the area to begin a ground search effort. At least six (6) spontaneous volunteers, including staff from Saddlebag Lake resort, hiked in and checked the trails around the lake, leading in and out, while the SAR response was underway. There was no sign of the overdue day hikers. A check to see if their vehicle was still at the trailhead showed that the vehicle had left the area. As efforts to locate the vehicle were underway, Mono County Sheriff's Dispatch received a call from the reporting party (the son) that the overdue hikers had in fact returned home and were safe. They had been delayed from their hike and missed the last water taxi. They had to hike around the lake and back to their vehicle but safely made it home.

*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 Hansen, Public Information Officer**

**Date: June 25, 2013**

**RE: Think Safety First for the 4<sup>th</sup> of July**

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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.

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 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:** June 25, 2013  
**RE:** Recent MONET Activity

---

The Mono County Narcotics Enforcement Team (MONET), along with the assistance of Mono County Sheriff deputies, concluded a warrant investigation in the Walker/Coleville area/

On the morning of Monday, June 24, 2013, Luis Olvera, age 33, of Walker, CA, was arrested for the sale of methamphetamine. Mr. Olvera was taken into custody by Mono County Sheriff deputies and transported to the Mono County Jail in Bridgeport without incident. Mr. Olvera is currently in custody with charges pending through the Mono County District Attorney's Office.

*Written and prepared by: Jennifer 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-old) 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.*

*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*  
Sheriff/Coroner

**MONO COUNTY SHERIFF'S OFFICE**  
**PRESS RELEASE**

*Robert Weber*  
Undersheriff

**To:** All News Outlets  
**From:** Jennifer Hansen, Public Information Officer  
**Date:** June 26, 2013  
**RE:** Accidental Shooting at the Bridgeport Gun Range

---

On the afternoon of Tuesday, June 25<sup>th</sup>, 2013, at approximately 4:30pm, Mono County Sheriff's Dispatch received a 911 call for medical aid of a possible accidental shooting at the gun range in Bridgeport.

Mono County Sheriff's Deputies, Mono County Paramedics, and Bridgeport Fire Department were dispatched to the scene. Upon arrival, it was determined that a father, age 57, and son, age 30, both out of county residents, were shooting at the range and had an accidental discharge of a rifle (.223). The bullet from the rifle struck victim one in his right leg. The bullet penetrated both legs and exited through the left foot. Victim two, who was standing next to victim one, sustained shrapnel injuries. Careflight was requested for both the victims. Antelope Valley Fire Department was put on standby at the Walker Ball Field for one of the two incoming Careflight's. Victim one was flown from Bridgeport to Renown Medical Center in Reno for treatment of the gunshot wound and shrapnel injuries. Victim two was transported by Mono County Paramedics to the Walker Ball Field and then flown to Renown Medical Center in Reno for treatment of shrapnel injuries.

With unfortunate and accidental incidents such as this, it's very important to remember basic firearm safety tips to ensure your own safety and the safety of those around you. Always treat all guns as if they are loaded, even if you think they are unloaded. Always keep the gun pointed in the safest possible direction. A "safe direction" is one where an accidental discharge of the gun will not cause any injury or damage. Always keep your finger off the trigger and outside the trigger guard until you are ready to shoot. Know your target, its surroundings and beyond. Be aware of all the people around you before you shoot. Know how to properly operate your gun. Remember, it is your personal responsibility to ensure your weapon is secure and safe. Use firearm safety devices on the gun, such as a trigger lock or cable lock. For more gun safety tips, please visit the California Department of Justice Firearms Bureau website at <http://oag.ca.gov/firearms>.

*Written and prepared by: Jennifer 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 News Outlets**

**From: Jennifer Hansen, Public Information Officer**

**Date: June 28, 2013**

**RE: Coroner's Investigation into a suicide at Gull Lake Marina in June Lake**

---

On the morning of Thursday, June 27, 2013, at approximately 9:30 am, Mono County Sheriff's Dispatch received a call regarding an unresponsive male at the Gull Lake Marina in June Lake.

Daniel Barnes, age 28, from Murrieta, CA, was found unresponsive at the Gull Lake Marina in June Lake. Mono County Sheriff Deputies and Investigators, Mono County Paramedics, and June Lake Fire Department were dispatched to the scene. When units arrived on scene, it was determined that Mr. Barnes was deceased from an apparent single, self-inflicted gunshot wound to the head. This incident is still under investigation by the Mono County Sheriff's Office. Foul play is not suspected.

*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 Hansen, Public Information Officer**

**Date: June 28, 2013**

**RE: Search and Rescue Team Operation: Aid to an injured backpacker on the Pacific Crest Trail**

---

On the afternoon of Tuesday, June 25, 2013, at approximately 2:15pm, Mono County Sheriff's Dispatch received a call regarding a backpacker with a leg injury on the Pacific Crest Trail.

A local couple was backpacking on the Pacific Crest Trail (PCT). The wife, age 75, of Swall Meadows, was walking on a flat section of dirt trail when she rolled her left ankle. She heard a pop and collapsed experiencing severe pain. She was unable to put any weight on the limb and therefore was unable to walk out of the backcountry. Her husband was able to make a flat area next to the trail where they could camp and await help. They had a tent, food for the night, and did not plan to move from their location. The husband gave a note to a fellow hiker making his way back to Red's Meadow. The note stated that his wife had a broken ankle and they were unable to walk out. The hiker passed along the note when he arrived in Red's Meadow and called 911.

The area the victim was in was a remote area near the border of Fresno, Madera, and Mono Counties. Madera County Sheriff's Dispatch was notified and requested mutual aid from the Mono County Sheriff Search and Rescue (SAR) team. The SAR team was called and the rescue effort was initiated. The Mono County SAR team also requested the assistance of the California Highway Patrol and their H40 helicopter. It was determined that the helicopter could not make contact with the victim until the next morning. A SAR ground team was to hike into the victim, assess the victim and the area for a medical evacuation by air in the morning.

On the morning of Wednesday, June 26, 2013, at approximately 6:30am, the SAR ground team located the victim and assessed her medical condition. The H40 helicopter was able to extract her by hoist with the aid of the ground team. She was flown to Mammoth Lakes and transferred to Mono County Paramedics who took her to Mammoth Hospital for further treatment. During this time, the SAR ground team assisted her husband in packing up and hiking him out to the Red's Meadow Trailhead. He returned safely home to meet his wife.

*Written and prepared by: Jennifer 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: July 1, 2013**

**RE: Search and Rescue Team Operation: Aid to an Injured Climber**

---

On the afternoon of Sunday, June 30, 2013, at approximately 1:30pm, Mono County Sheriff's Dispatch received a call regarding an injured climber in the Clark Canyon area.

A 59-year-old climber, from San Francisco, CA, was reported injured while climbing in the Clark Canyon area. The Mono County Sheriff's Search and Rescue (SAR) team and Mono County Paramedics were called out to aid in the rescue of the injured climber. The female climber was climbing the "Al's Garage" climbing route when she dislocated her hip. She experienced extreme pain and was unable to continue the climb. Her climbing partner was able to lower her to the ground where it was determined she would be unable to walk. Her climbing partner called 911 and asked for carryout assistance. The paramedics and a SAR ground team were able to hike to her location. She was splinted and then evacuated by wheeled litter where Mono County Paramedics transported her to Mammoth Hospital for further treatment.

*Written and prepared by: Jennifer 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 Hansen, Public Information Officer**

**Date: July 9, 2013**

**RE: Search and Rescue Team Operation: Search for Overdue Climbers in the Laurel Mountain area**

---

On the evening of Saturday, July 6, 2013, Mono County Sheriff's Dispatch received a call regarding two overdue climbers in the Laurel Mountain area.

A couple, ages 31 and 32, from Oakland, CA, were climbing the Northeast Gully of Laurel Mountain when they failed to return from their climb and were reported overdue by friends. At approximately 10:30 pm, on Saturday, July 6, the Mono County Sheriff Search and Rescue (SAR) team was called out to search for the overdue climbers. One group of SAR members attempted to determine the location of the climbers via light signals from Convict Lake. Another group of SAR members drove the Laurel Lakes road in case the climbers descended in that direction. Neither SAR group was successful in locating the climbers. It was determined that air resources would be needed in the morning and the search was concluded for the night.

On the morning of Sunday, July 7, 2013, the SAR team staged at Convict Lake. SAR members scanned cliffs, hiked, and drove to high points in the area hoping to spot the climbers. A team began climbing the Northeast Gully route while another team ascended the other side of Laurel Mountain. After several hours of searching, the climbers were located by a spotting scope from Convict Lake. The climbers were off-route and halfway up the mountain. SAR climbers continued to climb toward the couple. A National Guard helicopter, from Mather, was able to fly in and extricate the couple and SAR climbers to safety. The overdue climbers were dehydrated but otherwise uninjured.

The climbing in the Northeast Gully is not technically difficult, but the route is long and requires good route finding skills and experience. Off-route, the rock becomes loose and the terrain is steeper. Per the Mono County Sheriff Search and Rescue (SAR) team, there have been two other rescues on this route in the last ten years due to climbers becoming stranded in steep, loose terrain. The Mono County Sheriff SAR team would like to remind climbers to not be deceived by the easy technical rating of this route and to gain experience on shorter alpine routes before attempting this climb.

*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 Hansen, Public Information Officer**

**Date: July 10, 2013**

**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 Deputies and the Mammoth Lakes Fire Department, concluded a warrant investigation in the Town of Mammoth Lakes.

On the morning of Wednesday, July 10, 2013, Jacob Pellegrini, age 29, of Mammoth Lakes, CA, was arrested for sales and possession for sales, cultivation, and chemical production of concentrated cannabis. Mr. Pellegrini was operating a full marijuana lab in his place of residence where 98 plants and 5 grams of "wax" (marijuana hash manufactured via butane) were seized. Mr. Pellegrini was taken into custody by Mono County Sheriff Deputies and transported to the Mono County Jail in Bridgeport without incident. Mr. Pellegrini is currently in custody with charges pending through the Mono County District Attorney's Office.

*Written and prepared by: Jennifer 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-old) 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**  
*Sheriff/Coroner*

**MONO COUNTY SHERIFF'S OFFICE**  
**PRESS RELEASE**

**Robert Weber**  
*Undersheriff*

**To: All News Outlets**

**From: Jennifer Hansen, Public Information Officer**

**Date: July 15, 2013**

**RE: Traffic Stop leads to the arrest of two Upland, CA residents**

---

On the afternoon of Saturday, July 13, 2013, at approximately 2:55 pm, Mono County Sheriff's Deputies conducted a traffic stop on a vehicle headed southbound out of Lee Vining at a high rate of speed.

Raissa Leinani Cadiente, age 25, of Upland, CA, and passenger, Robert Earl Pitts, age 35, also of Upland, CA, were stopped by deputies on southbound Hwy 395 at Utility Road outside of Lee Vining for speeding. As the vehicle was run for current registration information, Mono County Sheriff's Dispatch advised deputies that the vehicle was reported stolen out of Downey, CA, and that Ms. Cadiente was the wanted suspect. She was also driving on a suspended license. Ms. Cadiente and Mr. Pitts were both asked to exit the vehicle. Ms. Cadiente was then asked if there was anything illegal in the vehicle. She stated there was a small amount of marijuana but she possessed a medical marijuana card for it.

Upon the vehicle search, a small amount of marijuana was located in the glove box. Also, numerous Macy's bags, with brand new merchandise, were also found behind the driver and passenger seats of the vehicle. Deputies could not locate any receipts or proof of purchase for the items in the bags. Deputies further searched the vehicle and located fourteen (14) Green Dot Debit cards wrapped together with rubber bands. These cards are generally used to fraudulently obtain bank information and funds. Deputies located a bank statement, with a debit card number and pin number. The bank statement did not belong to either Ms. Cadiente or Mr. Pitts. Further investigation found that the Green Dot Debit cards were in fact stolen with the intent to sell, and the Macy's merchandise had been fraudulently purchased.

Ms. Cadiente was placed under arrest for vehicle theft, driving with a suspended license, and receiving stolen property. She was transported to the Mono County Jail without incident.

Mr. Pitts had an active misdemeanor warrant out of San Bernardino County and was also placed under arrest. He was also transported to the Mono County Jail without incident. Both cases are pending charges with the Mono County District Attorney's Office.

*Written and prepared by: Jennifer 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-old) 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***  
*Sheriff/Coroner*

**MONO COUNTY SHERIFF'S OFFICE**  
**PRESS RELEASE**

***Robert Weber***  
*Undersheriff*

**To: All News Outlets**

**From: Jennifer Hansen, Public Information Officer**

**Date: July 16, 2013**

**RE: Search and Rescue Team Operation: Aid to a hiker with altitude sickness**

---

On the afternoon of Monday, July 16, 2013, at approximately 4:00 pm, Mono County Sheriff's Dispatch received a call regarding a twelve-year-old hiker, from Beverly Hills, CA, with possible altitude sickness on the Spark Plug Mine trail below White Mountain Peak.

The Mono County Sheriff Search and Rescue (SAR) team, with the assistance of the White Mountain Fire Department, were dispatched to the area. The hiking group was about two hundred yards up the Spark Plug Mine trail. They had hiked about 3.5 miles on the road to the trailhead from White Mountain Ranch on Hwy 6. The group sought shelter from the sun, and to let the ill hiker rest, at a pinon pine above the trail. Once off trail, the hikers were unable to descent down the steep, rocky terrain. The SAR team climbed to the hiker's location, assessed the patient, who had since recovered, and rigged a lowering system to help get the hikers off the steep terrain. Each hiker was lowered from the slope back to the trailhead. The ill hiker was able to walk to the trailhead and back down to White Mountain Ranch without further assistance.

*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 Hansen, Public Information Officer**

**Date: July 19, 2013**

**RE: Traffic stop in Bridgeport leads to arrest and narcotics search warrant**

---

On the evening of Tuesday, July 16, 2013, at approximately 9:10pm, Mono County Sheriff's Deputies conducted a traffic stop northbound on Hwy 395 in Bridgeport.

Amy Villastringham, age 29, of South Lake Tahoe, CA, and Dustin White, age 32, of Minden, NV, were stopped by deputies on northbound Hwy 395 in Bridgeport for an equipment violation. As the vehicle was run for current license and registration information, Mono County Sheriff's Dispatch advised deputies that Ms. Villastringham was driving on a suspended license. Mr. White returned with several possible felony warrants, one of which was for narcotics transportation. Both Ms. Villastringham and Mr. White were asked to exit the vehicle and if there was anything illegal in the vehicle. Ms. Villastringham stated she had marijuana in the car but that she possessed a medical marijuana card for it. Mr. White stated he had several drugs in a black back pack in the car.

During a search of the vehicle the following narcotics were seized: 346 ecstasy pills; 8 grams of cocaine; 508 grams of marijuana; 221 grams of hash wax; and other narcotics paraphernalia.

Ms. Villastringham and Mr. White were arrested for violations including possession of narcotics and narcotics paraphernalia, transportation of narcotics, and possible narcotics for sale. They were transported to the Mono County Jail without incident and are currently in custody. All charges are pending with the Mono County District Attorney's Office.

As a result of the traffic stop, seized vehicle, and seized narcotics, on the morning of Friday, July 19, 2013, a search warrant was issued in South Lake Tahoe, CA.

Mono County Sheriff's Deputies, with the assistance of South Lake Tahoe Police Department, South Lake Tahoe Regional Narcotics Enforcement Team, U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE), and the California Highway Patrol (CHP), served a search warrant at the residence of Ms. Villastringham at 1047 Williams St., South Lake Tahoe, CA. Additional narcotics and narcotic paraphernalia were found in the residence. Further charges against Ms. Villastringham are also pending with the El Dorado County District Attorney's Office.

*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 Hansen, Public Information Officer  
**Date:** July 22, 2013  
**RE:** Search and Rescue Team Operation: Aid to an ill backpacker on the John Muir Trail

---

On the evening of Saturday, July 20, 2013, Mono County Sheriff's Dispatch received an emergency call from a SPOT satellite device warning of an ill and/or injured hiker on the John Muir Trail.

The Mono County Sheriff Search and Rescue (SAR) team was dispatched to the area. A father, age 52, and son, age 22, from Clovis, CA, were backpacking from Lake Edison to Tuolumne Meadows when the father became ill and activated his emergency notification device. The SAR team responded and hiked approximately 8 miles, throughout the night, toward the location indicated by the SPOT device on the John Muir Trail near Rush Creek. The team interviewed other hikers who had helped the ill man cope with dehydration and nausea. The team requested air support and Helicopter 551 from Yosemite National Park was able to fly into the location and land near the ill backpacker. He was medically evaluated and evacuated to Crane Flat in Yosemite National Park. The son was able to continue the hike and walk out to Tuolumne Meadows.

*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 Hansen, Public Information Officer  
**Date:** July 24, 2013  
**RE:** Reports of bear activity in the Crowley Lake area

---

In recent months, there have been several reports of a bear sighting throughout the community of Crowley Lake. The Mono County Sheriff's Office, within the last 60 days, have only received two calls regarding any bear activity in the area. If you have a bear on your property, or come across a bear in your neighborhood, and feel your safety is at risk, please call Dispatch at (760) 932-7549 ext. 7 for non-emergencies, 911 for emergency situations, or contact California Department of Fish and Game, and we will gladly send a deputy to assist you. Please do not take matters into your own hands.

This is the mountains and bears do share our space. Please remember some simple tips to lessen the likelihood of an 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 trash cans and make sure to secure them properly after each use; when camping in the area, use proper bear proof food storage containers; and, if you accidentally come "face to face" with a bear, slowly step back and make as much noise as possible to scare the bear from your path. If these simple tips do not work, and your safety is still at risk, please don't hesitate to call the Mono County Sheriff's Office.

*Written and prepared by: Jennifer 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:** July 31, 2013

**RE:** Search and Rescue Team Operation: Aid to an ill backpacker near Summit Lake

---

On Monday morning, July 29, 2013, the Mono County Sheriff Search & Rescue (SAR) Team was called out for a hiker experiencing chest pains near Summit Lake, about 4 miles from the Virginia Lakes trailhead. The 61 year old backpacker began experiencing chest pains around midnight and pressed the 911 emergency button on his SPOT device in the morning. The SPOT device sends a signal to an orbiting satellite, which then sends a signal showing the device's location to an emergency notification center. The center then notifies emergency personnel for the area in which the SPOT device is activated. The SAR team, along with personnel from Yosemite Search and Rescue, hiked into the area with emergency medical equipment. In addition, the Yosemite National Park helicopter was requested for a medical extraction. The team and helicopter reached the backpacker, evaluated his medical condition, and then flew him to the Mammoth Lakes airport where he was taken by paramedics to Mammoth Hospital for treatment.

*Source: Mono County Sheriff Search and Rescue Team*



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: July 31, 2013**

**RE: Traffic stop leads to narcotics arrest**

---

On the evening of Monday, July 29, 2013, at approximately 8:30pm, Mono County Sheriff's Deputies conducted a traffic stop on a vehicle headed southbound on Hwy 395 near McGee Creek.

Bruce Pottenger, age 55, of Minden, NV, was stopped by deputies on southbound Hwy 395 and McGee Creek Road for expired registration. During questioning of the expired registration, Mr. Pottenger advised deputies that he was on probation for drug possession. Mr. Pottenger was asked to exit his vehicle and also asked if he possessed any drugs on his person or in the vehicle. He stated he did not.

Upon a vehicle search, four (4) grams of methamphetamine, three (3) methamphetamine pipes, and narcotic paraphernalia was located inside a black backpack in the vehicle. Mr. Pottenger was arrested and taken to the Mono County Jail in Bridgeport without incident. Charges for this incident are pending with the Mono County District Attorney's Office.

*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 Hansen, Public Information Officer**

**Date: August 6, 2013**

**RE: Search efforts for missing hiker, Matthew Greene, continue throughout the Eastern Sierra**

---

On July 29, 2013, avid outdoorsman, Matthew Greene, age 39, was reported missing to the Mammoth Lakes Police Department (MLPD). Mr. Greene was passing through the Mammoth Lakes area to do some hiking, camping, and conquer peaks throughout the Eastern Sierra. Mr. Greene is believed to have expressed interest in climbing Mt. Lyell, south of Tuolumne Meadows, Mt. Ritter, and Mt. Banner.

The Mono County Sheriff's Search and Rescue (SAR) Team has sent ground teams to search around the Ritter/Banner area. As a training mission, a CHP helicopter, along with the assistance of Mono County SAR, did a brief search of the area, including the Minarets. To date, Mr. Greene has not been located.

Due to the potential climbing destinations of Mt. Ritter and Mt. Banner being outside of Mono County, the Mono County Sheriff's Search and Rescue (SAR) Team has not been officially activated. The SAR team, to actively aid the family and friends of Mr. Greene in their search efforts, has utilized training opportunities to try and locate him. The SAR team has verified that no summit register entries have been entered by Mr. Greene at either peak. The SAR team is currently analyzing forest service permits and emailing permit holders to try and gather additional information regarding Mr. Greene's location.

The Mono County Sheriff's Office has sent information in reference to this investigation to Madeira County and the Yosemite Search and Rescue Team as their jurisdiction is potentially involved. At this time, Mono County SAR has not been formally requested as mutual aid in this search.

Mr. Greene is 5'11" and weighs approximately 160 lbs. Anyone with any information on Mr. Greene's whereabouts or other tips for this investigation are encouraged to call Detective Hornbeck at the Mammoth Lakes Police Department at (760) 934-2011 or the Mono County Sheriff's Office at (760) 932-7549 ext. 7.

*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 Hansen, Public Information Officer**

**Date: August 7, 2013**

**RE: Coroner Investigation into the suicide of a Coleville resident**

---

On the afternoon of August, 6, 2013, at approximately 1:40pm, Mono County Sheriff's Dispatch received a call regarding a possible suicidal male, age, 33, walking on SR 108.

Mono County Sheriff's Deputies, along with the assistance of the California Highway Patrol (CHP), responded to the areas of Hwy 395 and SR 108. Deputies were directed by a witness of the possible location of the male subject. Law enforcement personnel set up a perimeter in hopes to negotiate with the male subject, but also contain him to a geographical area for the safety of all involved. While trying to locate the subject, a single gunshot was heard by deputies. Law enforcement personnel ultimately located the subject. He was found to have suffered a single self-inflicted gunshot wound to the chest.

Mono County Sheriff's Investigators are conducting an investigation into this incident.

*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 Hansen, Public Information Officer**

**Date: August 14, 2013**

**RE: It's "Back to School" time for Mono County Schools**

---

It is that time of year again – back to school time. The Mono County Sheriff's Office would like to remind all residents and visitors, pedestrians and drivers, to think safety first as the new school year approaches. Here are some basic safety tips for the upcoming school year.

Drivers traveling through the Mono County communities need to remember that school will soon be back in session and that children will be walking to and from bus stops and schools. Be mindful and watchful of children entering the street from behind school buses or running into the street. Please remind your children to stay out of the street while they wait for the bus. Remind them to wait until the bus comes to a complete stop before approaching the street to board the bus. Drivers need to pay attention to school bus crossings, and always remember, when those red lights are flashing, please stop within a safe distance from the bus, allow time for the children to board, and for the bus to continue its travels. Always watch your speed when entering school zones and obey the 25 M.P.H. speed limit posted in all Mono County school zones.

The Mono County Sheriff's Office has re-implemented the School Resource program within the Eastern Sierra Unified School District (ESUSD). Deputy Magdaleno "Nino" Hernandez is the department's new School Resource Officer and is dedicated to keeping all Mono County schools safe this school year.

Mono County schools are back in session beginning Monday, August 19<sup>th</sup>, for Edna Beaman Elementary, and all other Mono County schools including Antelope Elementary, Coleville High School, Bridgeport Elementary, Lee Vining Elementary, and Lee Vining High School will begin Tuesday, August 20<sup>th</sup>.

Here's to a safe and successful 2013-2014 school year!

*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 Hansen, Public Information Officer**

**Date: August 19, 2013**

**RE: It was a busy weekend for the Mono County Sheriff Search and Rescue (SAR) Team**

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On the morning of Saturday, August 17, 2013, at approximately 1:00am, Mono County Sheriff's Dispatch received a call regarding a fallen climber with potential arm and leg injuries in the Minarets. A 57 year-old climber, from the Santa Clara area, was climbing Clyde Minaret when he fell approximately 30-60 feet injuring his left arm and leg. He could not continue the climb or get himself off the mountain due to the impact of the fall. The Mono County Sheriff Search and Rescue (SAR) team was called to aid Madeira County in a mutual aid rescue of the fallen climber. Due to the location of the climber, the SAR team requested air support. A Blackhawk helicopter from the Army Air National Guard was provided for assistance. With the steep terrain near the climbing site, the helicopter was unable to directly hoist the injured climber from his location. The helicopter inserted a technical/medical climbing team at the bottom of the climbing route. The team was able to climb to the injured climber, conduct a medical assessment, and splint the injuries. The team was able to then lower him to the base of the climbing route. The helicopter was unable to provide any more assistance due to the afternoon changing to night and returned the morning of Sunday, August 18<sup>th</sup>. The helicopter was able to extricate the injured climber and the SAR team and air evacuate them to the Minaret Vista landing zone. The injured climber was met by Mono County Paramedics and transferred to Mammoth Hospital for further treatment of his injuries.

On the very early morning of Sunday, August 18, 2013, at approximately midnight, Mono County Sheriff's Dispatch received a call regarding an injured hiker near the Marie Lakes area. A 55 year-old hiker, and his friend, were hiking in the Marie Lakes area when the hiker fell approximately 15 feet on steep rock and terrain with a heavy impact on his pelvis region. The hiker was able to hike back to Marie Lake where he couldn't continue the hike out. His friend left the area, found some other hikers with a cell phone, and was able to call 911. A second response team of the Mono County Sheriff's Search and Rescue (SAR) team was dispatched to rescue the injured hiker. A ground team hiked to the injured hiker to find that he had suffered internal injuries. After the Blackhawk Air Army National Guard helicopter cleared the call of the injured climber, it assisted the SAR team in extricating the hiker to the Minaret Vista landing zone. The injured hiker was met by Mono County Paramedics and transferred to Mammoth Hospital for treatment of his internal injuries.

The SAR team had approximately half a dozen standby calls throughout the weekend. Fortunately, these standby calls did not become official call outs as the subjects were either able to self-extricate from their location without needing further assistance or medical attention or they returned safely home from their adventures in the Eastern Sierra. Please remember if you are hiking, climbing, or enjoying other outdoor activities throughout the areas of the Eastern Sierra, to tell someone where you are going and an approximate time of when you think you will return. Or, enjoy your outdoor activities with a friend or group in case you need help.

*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 Hansen, Public Information Officer**

**Date: August 21, 2013**

**RE: Attempted suicide injures another near Hot Creek Hatchery**

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On the evening of Tuesday, August 20, 2013, at approximately 6:45 pm, Mono County Sheriff's Dispatch received a 911 call that a shooting had just occurred at the Mammoth Lakes Fish Hatchery, otherwise known as Hot Creek Hatchery. Mono County Sheriff's Deputies, along with the California Highway Patrol (CHP), the Mammoth Lakes Police Department (MLPD), Mono County Paramedics, and Long Valley Fire Department, were dispatched to the scene.

A 49 year-old man, from Benton, was contemplating suicide in his garage. The male subject tried to shoot himself and flinched. He discharged the weapon, missing himself, shooting the bullet through the garage wall, and striking his 44 year-old girlfriend, of Mammoth Lakes, in her right arm. The girlfriend and her daughter ran from the scene to seek safety at a neighbor's house. The man exited his garage, threatened to kill his neighbor, and encountered the first CHP Officer on scene. The male subject threatened to also shoot the officer. The officer was able to talk the male subject down. He was still combative, uncooperative and the officer deployed his taser to gain control of the male subject as backup arrived from Mono County Sheriff's Deputies and Mammoth Lakes Police Department Officers.

While gaining control of the male subject, Mono County Sheriff's Deputies noticed a self-inflicted gunshot wound to his left foot. With the escort of Mono County Sheriff's Deputies, the male subject was transported by Mono County Paramedics to Mammoth Hospital for treatment to his left foot. The girlfriend received non-life threatening injuries to her right arm and was medically cleared by Paramedics on scene.

This incident is currently under investigation by Mono County Sheriff's Investigators with all potential charges pending with the Mono County District Attorney's Office.

*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 Hansen, Public Information Officer**

**Date: October 1, 2013**

**RE: Wild Iris honors and awards Deputy Marty Thompson for exemplary service towards victims of Domestic Violence in Mono County**

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Domestic violence touches the lives of Americans of all ages and of all social, economic, religious, ethnic, geographic, and racial groups. October is Domestic Violence Awareness Month, and, to kick off the awareness of domestic violence in Mono County, Wild Iris, with the assistance of the Mono County Board of Supervisors, proudly presented Deputy Marty Thompson with an exemplary service award on behalf of the victims of domestic violence in Mono County.

Susi Bains, Director of Programs for Wild Iris, had this to say about Deputy Thompson. "A call from a Wild Iris client alerted us to assistance from Deputy Marty Thompson that was over and above the call of duty. Deputy Thompson personally accompanied the client back to her home after an abusive domestic violence incident to ensure her safety. He even helped the client move boxes of personal items out of her home." The client Deputy Thompson helped said, "I am grateful for Deputy Thompson and feel much safer knowing that he is around and keeping an eye out for me."

Where this may seem like a small act or something within the call of duty for a law enforcement deputy to perform, it was no small act for the victim Deputy Thompson helped and made feel safe. As Deputy Thompson was presented his exemplary service award by the Mono County Board of Supervisors and Wild Iris, he stated, "Helping people is a huge aspect of this job and it's one of the parts I truly love about my job."

The Mono County Sheriff's Office is proud of and congratulates Deputy Thompson on his exemplary service and advocacy to the victims of domestic violence throughout Mono County.

*Written and prepared by: Jennifer 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:** October 2, 2013

**RE:** Mono County Sheriff Search and Rescue (SAR) responded to a possible downed aircraft

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On September 30, 2013, and October 1, 2013, the Mono County Sheriff Search & Rescue (SAR) Team responded to a report of a possible downed aircraft near Matterhorn Peak above Twin Lakes Mono Village. Campers, in the area, reported observing an object, trailing three plumes of smoke, fly overhead at a high rate of speed and then drop quickly. They did not hear any engine noise, but reported hearing a boom, which at first they thought was a car door slamming. Later, they reported observing intermittent plumes of what appeared to be white smoke rising from the Matterhorn Peak area and reported the sighting to the Mono Village staff. The Mono Village staff contacted the Mono County Sheriff's Office.

A SAR member was dispatched with an ELT (emergency locator transmitter) receiver which can hone in on an aircraft's emergency beacon, but no signal was detected. A deputy was dispatched with an infra-red heat detecting device but the results were inconclusive.

On October 1, 2013, three (3) SAR teams were sent into the field with ELT receivers to look for signals from various locations, including Tuolumne Meadows. CHP Helicopter H20 did an extensive air search of the area with no findings. Since no aircraft have been reported missing, or overdue, the search has been suspended. It is speculated that the objects seen may have been meteor fragments or space debris, and the plumes of smoke could have been steam generated from these objects hitting the glaciers or snow fields in the area.

*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 Hansen, Public Information Officer**

**Date: October 3, 2013**

**RE: In recognition of Domestic Violence Awareness Month – Mono County Sheriff's Office announces the implementation of VINE services**

---

One in every four women will experience domestic violence in her lifetime, according to the National Coalition Against Domestic Violence. During the month of October, in recognition of Domestic Violence Awareness Month, various agencies across Mono County will bring awareness to the seriousness of domestic violence. As statistics show, an estimated 1.3 million people are victims of physical assault by an intimate partner each year. There are an estimated 16,800 homicides and 2.2 million medically treated injuries due to domestic violence each year. These statistics are major concerns for law enforcement as a majority of domestic violence incidents go unreported.

The Mono County Sheriff's Office is one of the 53 counties throughout California that has implemented VINE (Victim Information and Notification Everyday) services. VINE is an automated database system that has combined California county jail and state inmate information that keeps crime victims and their families informed when an offender is released from jail. Some other benefits for this service include:

- VINE is a free service that is available 24-hours a day, seven days a week.
- VINE is available in English and Spanish and all victim registrations remain confidential.
- VINE allows victims to be notified with accurate information regarding offenders so they can protect themselves.
- VINE provides a 24-hour service and gives registered victims an instant notification via phone or email about offender's whereabouts.

In law enforcement, it is all about safety first and the VINE service is another avenue that can be used to keep victims of domestic violence safe. To access the VINE service, visit [www.vinelink.com](http://www.vinelink.com), call (877) 411-5588, or download the mobile VINE app for any smartphone.

The Mono County Sheriff's Office is pleased to be one of the 53 counties throughout California to offer this service to keep those domestic violence victims within the communities of Mono County safe.

*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 Hansen, Public Information Officer**

**Date: October 10, 2013**

**RE: Mono County Sheriff Search and Rescue (SAR) Team invites their donors and the communities of Mono County to their Building Dedication and Open House**

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The Mono County Sheriff Search and Rescue (SAR) Team, over the past several years, have been working very hard in fundraising efforts to build a permanent building and permanent "home" for the team. The SAR Team, besides the thousands of countless volunteer hours spent in the field helping those in need, the team also does thousands of hours of training to keep their skills fresh. The team has vehicles, snowmobiles, and other equipment that help make their volunteer time more effective to those victims they serve. Even though the team has been fortunate to always have a place to "store" equipment, and other facilities which to house their trainings, the team has never actually had their own "home".

With their successful fundraising efforts, the generous land use by the Mammoth Community Water District, and all the generous donations they received (over \$850,000), the SAR Team is proud to announce that their new "home" is complete! The dream of finally having a home base in which to operate this team of dedicated volunteers has come true!

On Saturday, November 23rd, 2013, the SAR Team would like to extend a welcome invitation to all of their generous donors, and all the members of the Mono County communities, to join them in their building dedication and open house from 11:00am to 3:00pm at 1315 Meridian Blvd in Mammoth Lakes. Please join the team rain, snow, or shine for this major accomplishment! The team will be hosting tours of the new building and training center, along with demonstrations of their equipment. Great food will be provided along with pictures and videos of team call-outs and rescues. Come along to hear some guest speakers talk about this amazing group of volunteers, meet team members, and enjoy the camaraderie of our Mono County community. The team could not have been successful in meeting this goal and accomplishment without the kindness and generosity of those within and beyond Mono County and it is time to celebrate together!

*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 Hansen, Public Information Officer**

**Date: October 21, 2013**

**RE: Abby, the Mustang Police Horse**

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The Mono County Sheriff's Office is saddened to report the loss of one of our mounted team members, Abby, the Mustang Police Horse. Abby had a 17-year career span as a mounted patrol horse with partner Lt. Phil West.

Abby was a former wild mustang, foaled in 1991, and gathered from the BLM Herd Management 'Area 52,' near Tonopah, NV. Abby came to Lt. Phil West in 1992 from Officer Rich Perkins of the Bishop Police Department. In the spring of 1994, after Lt. West lost his first mustang police horse, Modoc, Abby went into training to become the replacement horse. Abby became a familiar face in the Eastern Sierras with the inter-agency Eastern Sierra Mounted Enforcement Unit, working details from Lone Pine to Bridgeport and gathered thousands of loving strokes from citizens and visitors in the course of her career.

Abby's career with Lt. West spanned 17-years. She began with the Bishop Police Department (1994-2002) and continued and ended with the Mono County Sheriff's Office (2002-2010). Abby accompanied Lt. West to the California Peace Officers Memorial from 2003-2010. She was retired in 2006 and worked only a few details a year, as her replacement, Bigun (also a former wild mustang) was taking a larger portion of her workload. Abby was fully retired in 2010 with Bigun taking over all of her law enforcement related duties.

In addition to working mounted patrol, Abby had her shot at stardom and was featured on BLM's, "Wild Horse Trading Cards," and on the Discovery Channel's, 'Animal Planet.' She was also a family companion and pet, involved with Lt. West's children in various horse shows and high school rodeo events. Sometimes, these events would occur on the same day as mounted details where she would compete and then change demeanor for working the street later that same day. Abby was 'sent up to heaven' on Saturday, October 19, 2013 due to complications of Cushing's Syndrome. Abby was an integral member of the Mono County Sheriff's Office Mounted Unit and will be greatly missed.

"Abby was an ambassador for and a true testament to the mentality of the wild horses. She was a family companion, show and competition horse, in addition to her law enforcement duties. I can best describe Abby as resolute in action yet gentle in manner. Our family misses her greatly and would like to thank the Eastern Sierra communities for their support throughout the years that she served." –Lt. Phil West

*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 Hansen, Public Information Officer**

**Date: November 20, 2013**

**RE: Attempted Murder in Bridgeport**

---

On the evening of Tuesday, November 19, 2013, at approximately 7:40pm, Mono County Sheriff's Dispatch was contacted by the California Highway Patrol (CHP) hotline reporting a male parked outside the Bridgeport CHP Office that needed paramedics for an unknown medical issue.

Mono County Sheriff's Deputies, with the assistance of the California Highway Patrol (CHP), Mono County Paramedics, and the Bridgeport Fire Department, responded to the 74800 Block of Highway 395 in Bridgeport in front of the CHP Office. Deputies, and other responders, located the male victim, John Peabody, age 66, of Plymouth, CA, in the driver's seat of his vehicle, covered in blood, with multiple stab wounds to his head, face, and arms.

Upon initial investigation, it was determined that there was some type of altercation between Mr. Peabody and Mr. Travis Christian, age 27, of Bridgeport, CA, who was working as the night manager at the Big Mountain Lodge, in Bridgeport. During the altercation, it is believed that Mr. Christian began beating and stabbing Mr. Peabody in the head and face.

A guest staying at the lodge heard the altercation, and Mr. Peabody yelling for help, and assisted Mr. Peabody, allowing him to drive to the CHP Office to get help. Mr. Christian was subsequently located by Sheriff's Deputies and placed under arrest without incident.

Mr. Peabody was Care Flighted to Renown Medical Center in Reno where he is currently in ICU being treated for his injuries. Mr. Christian is currently in custody at the Mono County Jail in Bridgeport pending charges of attempted murder. This case is currently under investigation with the Mono County Sheriff's Office and Mono County District Attorney's Office.

*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 Hansen, Public Information Officer**

**Date: November 26, 2013**

**RE: A Place to Call Home: Mono County Sheriff Search and Rescue Team dedicates new building**

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On Saturday, November 23, 2013, the Mono County Sheriff Search and Rescue (SAR) Team welcomed the local community, distinguished donors and guests to the dedication and open house of their new building.

Because of all the donations that have been made over recent years, the new SAR building was made possible. As the dedication event started, SAR Team President, Dan Corning, took the stage, welcomed the roomful of guests, and simply said, "We couldn't have done this without you." He introduced the first speaker, Sheriff Ralph Obenberger. "I would like to welcome each and every one of you to a very special day in the history of the Mono County Sheriff Search and Rescue Team. The SAR Team is a fantastic group of individuals that put their safety at risk, not to be patted on the back, but just to help someone in need. I am very proud to call the SAR Team an integral part of the Sheriff's Department. I would like to thank all the donors, whether you donated monetarily; with your building expertise; or in any other way. This project could not have been done without you." Thanks were definitely the theme of the event. SAR Team Vice President, Jutta Schmidt, took the stage and said, "Today is all about thanks. Thank you everyone for making this possible. We've been in the building for a year and still can't believe this is our home. I'm glad this event fell near Thanksgiving – what a perfect way to give thanks. We have to say thank you to the Mammoth Community Water District for the land lease. You can't have a building without a place to put it. Thank you to all the donors whether you gave monetarily or via space, food, ideas and time. It's amazing what people are willing to do to help. Thank you to our major donors including the Arthur B. Schultz Foundation for their \$250,000 matching grant and to Bev Langston for the \$200,000 donation. It is gratifying to have support of a community like ours. Every dollar or penny or act matters. We couldn't do it without you. Thank you! Thank you! Thank you!" Supervisor Byng Hunt, of the Mono County Board of Supervisors, said a few words, "The Mono County Board of Supervisors recently approved a new vehicle purchase for the SAR Team from funds of the old sprung structure. Personally, and on behalf of the Board of Supervisors, thank you! Thank you to an amazing job well done. For a volunteer organization, you can't be beat." To finish off the speaking portion of the event, Greg Dallas of MMSA stood up, "This team puts millions of hours into training and in the field, nothing deters them. They get up and respond to each and every call. There is no team more deserving of having a 'home.' It is a comforting feeling for the team support to their community. Your fundraising efforts, and the fact you got this building accomplished, is a true testament to what you do out there."

All SAR Team members, community members, distinguished donors and guests gathered outside for the official rope cutting ceremony (yes, rope not ribbon – this is SAR after all). The rope was cut and the dedication of the SAR building concluded with lunch, provided by Mammoth Mountain Ski Area (MMSA), great conversation, and many more thank-you's. For more information on the SAR Team, to make a donation, or ways to become a volunteer, please visit

[www.monosar.org](http://www.monosar.org).

*Reported and written 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 Hansen, Public Information Officer**

**Date: December 3, 2013**

**RE: In preparation for the winter season: friendly winter preparedness tips**

---

It's that time of year again! Yes, winter is slowly creeping upon us. As we all hope for that massive snow storm to strike and an epic winter season, the question remains, are you prepared for the season?

The Mono County Sheriff's Office would like to remind citizens and visitors alike to always be prepared for winter conditions, whether you are simply out and about in town on foot or driving across the many roadways of Mono County. Always have an emergency bag in your vehicle with extra food, water, warm clothing and shoes, and emergency supplies just in case you are stuck in your vehicle for an unknown amount of time as you try to reach your intended destination due to hazardous weather and road conditions. Remember, if you get stuck in your vehicle, stay in your vehicle until help arrives or you can safely continue on your journey. Remember to take some extra time while traveling, slow down, and obey all chain control requirements. Even those that are seasoned drivers on the Mono County roadways, please slow down and take your time when driving on the snowy conditions. This ensures your safety and those traveling around you.

Be aware of your surroundings while traveling the roadways and various communities of Mono County. Watch for snow removal equipment. This could be a large snowplow clearing the roadway or an individual shoveling a driveway or sidewalk. Both their safety and your own are important and will benefit from your awareness. Also, be aware of the various locations around Mono County that have parking restrictions during the winter months. Vehicles parked in the restricted areas will hinder necessary snow removal and be subject to citations and/or having the vehicle towed. These restrictions are in place and enforced for your safety and to allow proper snow removal for safer driving conditions for all.

Mono County utilizes what is known as the CodeRed Emergency Alert System when a critical incident or emergency situations takes place within the county. This system is a database of resident and citizen information for use only in critical and emergency situations to send critical communications from evacuation notices, to hazardous weather alerts, to missing children alerts. Your contact information remains private and is only used to contact you for community emergency communications. To register for the CodeRed emergency alerts, log on to [www.monosheriff.org](http://www.monosheriff.org) – Resources – CodeRed. There is also a mobile app available for all Android and Apple phones.

Please remember to think safety first this winter and here's hoping for a great winter season!

*Reported and written 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 Hansen, Public Information Officer**

**Date: December 5, 2013**

**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 Deputies, concluded a warrant investigation in the Town of Mammoth Lakes.

On the morning of Wednesday, December 4, 2013, Jose Priciliano Perez Torres, age 32, of Mammoth Lakes, CA, was arrested for the possession of a controlled substance, possession of a controlled substance for the purpose of sales, and sales of a controlled substance.

A search of Mr. Torres' residence was conducted, and after several alerts by the narcotic detection K9 "Tara," over an ounce of methamphetamine was recovered, along with several thousand dollars in cash thought to be illegally obtained through the sale of narcotics. Mr. Torres was taken into custody by Mono County Sheriff Deputies and transported and booked into the Mono County Jail in Bridgeport without incident. Mr. Torres is currently in custody with all charges pending through 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-old) 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*  
Sheriff/Coroner

**MONO COUNTY SHERIFF'S OFFICE**  
**PRESS RELEASE**

*Robert Weber*  
Undersheriff

**To:** All News Outlets  
**From:** Jennifer Hansen, Public Information Officer  
**Date:** December 16, 2013  
**RE:** Annual Mono County Sheriff Search and Rescue Team Awards Dinner

---

**Mono County Sheriff Search and Rescue Team  
Annual Awards Dinner  
2013**

The Mono County Sheriff Search and Rescue Team is a non-profit organization of volunteers dedicated to saving lives. They do searches and rescues at any time, in any weather, for as long as it takes, for free.

Each year, the Team honors members for their individual excellence and public service.

The Team's highest honor, election to status as a Lifetime Member, is only rarely conferred by the Team to a Rescue Member who has made unusual, faithful, and regular contributions to the Team and to the welfare of victims over a significant number of years.

**Steve Case** received this high honor at the Team's annual awards dinner on December 14, 2013.

Steve joined the Team in 1992, and has the longest tenure of any current member. Since 1995, records show that Steve has participated in 175 search or rescue missions, 161 trainings, and 175 meetings, for a total of 508 Team events. This is an enormous voluntary commitment of time and talent to the County and the Team.

Steve Case has faithfully served the Team in a wide variety of roles, including Board member and as trainer for new members. He is very versatile and dependable, and has consistently been eager to accept difficult field assignments in any weather.

Two awards are given by the Team each year to honor members who have excelled.

The team's primary honor for achievement is the **Pete Schoerner Rescue Member of the Year** award. The award is named in memory of a beloved teammate who was killed in an ice climbing accident in 1996.

**The Pete Schoerner Rescue Member of the Year** for 2013 is **Heidi Vetter**. Heidi serves the Team as a member of the Board of Directors and as an Operations Leader. She participated in 35 Team events in 2013. Since 2008, Heidi has served the Team and Mono County on 177 Team events, including 48 rescues and searches. She has a wide variety of leading and organizing skills, and is a key player in everything the Team does.

New members in training are called Candidate Members, and must undergo training, practice, and testing in eighteen skill categories before being considered for advancement to Rescue Member. Examples of these skills include first aid and victim care, tracking, technical rescue, mountain navigation, helicopter operations, and skill with electronic aids such as computers, radios, avalanche transceivers, and GPS receivers. Completion of all requirements takes a lot of dedication and faithfulness over a period that is typically a year or more.

The team honors one candidate member each year with the **Rick Mosher Candidate Member of the Year Award**. Rick Mosher is the only team member to have died in the line of duty and was killed while searching in a small airplane that crashed during an operation on August 15, 1979.

This year the team selected **Glenn Goryl** as the **Rick Mosher Candidate Member of the Year**. Glenn has been very active and faithful in his training and rescue operations, and has devoted a lot of personal time to Team projects and public awareness. He completed all his training requirements for Rescue Member in less than the minimum time. Since beginning his training in April of 2013, he has participated in 53 Team events and 19 rescues and searches.

The 2013 honorees were presented with laser engraved plaques at an awards dinner in the Team's new building.

*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.*



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: December 17, 2013**  
**RE: Recent MONET Investigations in the Town of Mammoth Lakes**

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

On the morning of Sunday, December 15, 2013, at approximately 7:00am, MONET agents, and the Mono County Sheriff's Office, conducted a search warrant investigation at a residence in the Town of Mammoth Lakes. With this initial search warrant, additional information was obtained, leading to another residence, also in Mammoth Lakes, being included in the narcotics investigation. Between the two searches, and several alerts by narcotics detection K-9, Tara, indicating the presence of narcotics, the subsequent discovery and recovery of approximately four (4) ounces of cocaine; concentrated cannabis; multiple types of prescription narcotics; several digital scales; plastic bindles; pay sheets indicating the sales of narcotics; and one pistol led to the arrest of four individuals who were transported and booked into the Mono County Jail in Bridgeport without incident.

Vasily Shkunov, age 23, of Mammoth Lakes, CA, was ultimately arrested for possession of a controlled substance; possession of a controlled substance for the purpose of sales; sales of a controlled substance; possession of prescription narcotics; being under the influence of a controlled substance; and conspiracy to commit a crime. Mr. Shkunov is currently in custody at the Mono County Jail.

Alyssa Magana, age 20, of Mammoth Lakes, CA, was arrested for possession of a controlled substance and being under the influence of a controlled substance.

Adrianna Garcia-Mallison, age 21, of Anaheim, CA, was arrested for possession of a controlled substance; possession of prescription narcotics; transportation of a controlled substance; being under the influence of a controlled substance; and conspiracy to commit a crime.

Steven Barone, age 24, of Harbor City, CA, was arrested for possession of a controlled substance and being under the influence of a controlled substance.

All charges for the four (4) individuals are pending through 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-old) 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***  
*Sheriff/Coroner*

**MONO COUNTY SHERIFF'S OFFICE**  
**PRESS RELEASE**

***Robert Weber***  
*Undersheriff*

**To: All News Outlets**

**From: Jennifer Hansen, Public Information Officer**

**Date: December 20, 2013**

**RE: Traffic stop leads to narcotics arrest**

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

On the afternoon of Wednesday, December 18, 2013, at approximately 1:30pm, Mammoth Lakes Police Officers, with the assistance of Mono County Sheriff's Deputies, conducted a traffic stop on a black pickup truck for several vehicle code violations. During the traffic stop, both occupants of the vehicle exhibited signs of being under the influence. MONET agents, and K9 "Tara", were requested for a search of the vehicle. K9 "Tara" alerted agents to the vehicles driver seat. Agents, deputies, and officers conducted a physical search of the vehicle and located a glass pipe with methamphetamine inside. When the driver, Gregorio Tinoco Hernandez, age 24, of Mammoth Lakes, and passenger, Antonio Garcia Serrano, age 36, also of Mammoth Lakes, were questioned about the glass pipe, both admitted to smoking methamphetamine. Mr. Hernandez also told MONET agents that he was currently on his way to purchase methamphetamine from another person. Mr. Hernandez and Mr. Serrano were placed under arrest without incident.

With the intended narcotic purchase information, MONET and INET agents setup the buy. Mr. Rene Lugo Cortez, age 22, of Bishop, CA, was parked in an upper parking lot when he recognized the vehicle, driven by undercover agents, that he was to sell methamphetamine too. Mr. Cortez exited his vehicle and instructed the passengers to then drive away. Passenger, Kenneth Chandler, age 21, of Bishop, CA, changed seats and drove Cortez's vehicle away. Mr. Cortez met with the undercover agents, knew they were not the intended buyers, tried to run from the authorities, and was placed under arrest without further incident.

MONET agents, deputies, and officers located Mr. Cortez's vehicle and conducted a traffic stop. K9 Tara conducted a search of the vehicle and alerted agents to the presence of narcotics in the vehicle. After the alert, a glass pipe, an ounce of methamphetamine, and a digital scale were located inside the vehicle. Mr. Chandler and passenger, Felis Landa, age 26, of Bishop, CA, were placed under arrest without incident. When Mr. Cortez, Mr. Chandler, and Mr. Landa were questioned, they admitted to smoking methamphetamine and that they have traveled from Bishop to Mammoth Lakes with the intention of selling methamphetamine to Mr. Hernandez. All five individuals were transported and booked into the Mono County Jail in Bridgeport.

Gregorio Tinoco Hernandez, age 24, of Mammoth Lakes, was arrested for possession of a controlled substance; possession of controlled substance paraphernalia; and being under the influence of a controlled substance.

Antonio Garcia Serrano, age 36, of Mammoth Lakes, was arrested for possession of a controlled substance; possession of controlled substance paraphernalia; and being under the influence of a controlled substance.

Rene Lugo Cortez, age 22, of Bishop, was ultimately arrested for transportation of a controlled substance; possession of a controlled substance; possession of a controlled substance for sales; possession of controlled substance paraphernalia; being under the influence of a controlled substance; and conspiracy to commit a crime. Mr. Cortez is currently in custody in the Mono County Jail.

Felis Landa, age 26, of Bishop, was arrested for possession of a controlled substance for sales; possession of a controlled substance; being under the influence of a controlled substance; and conspiracy to commit a crime. Mr. Landa is currently in custody in the Mono County Jail.

Kenneth Chandler, age 21, of Bishop, was arrested for possession of a controlled substance for sale; possession of a controlled substance; being under the influence of a controlled substance; and conspiracy to commit a crime. Mr. Chandler is currently in custody in the Mono County Jail.

All charges for the five individuals are pending through 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*  
Sheriff/Coroner

**MONO COUNTY SHERIFF'S OFFICE**

*Robert Weber*  
Undersheriff

Date : Wednesday, August 28, 2013

From : Sgt. Seth Clark

Subject: Press Release, Recent Saturation Patrol Nets 17 Felony Arrests

Between Thursday, August 22<sup>nd</sup>, 2013, and Sunday, August 25<sup>th</sup>, 2013, the Mono County Sheriff's Office conducted a saturation patrol in various locations in the northern half of Mono County. The purpose of the enforcement was to combat people trafficking illegal narcotics through and too our communities. With the assistance of the Mammoth Lakes Police Department, the California Highway Patrol, the Bishop Police Department, the South Lake Tahoe Police Department, and the Eldorado County Sheriff's Office, the patrol was successful in netting 17 felony arrests. The above mentioned agencies supplied officers and drug sniffing dogs.

The following people were arrested and booked into the Mono County jail:

On Thursday, August 22<sup>nd</sup>, 2013, Michael Stefaun, age 44, and James Wilson, age 43, of San Diego, were arrested as a results of a traffic stop for possession of cocaine, ecstasy, marijuana, and psilocybin mushrooms.



On Friday, August 23<sup>rd</sup>, 2013, Todd Buckley, age 30, and Kyle Walker, also age 30, both from Bellingham Washington, were arrested as a result from a traffic stop for possession of psilocybin mushrooms.



On Friday, August 23rd 2013, Tracy Duncan, age 42, from McMinnville Oregon, was arrested for possession of a methamphetamine pipe and a used syringe.

(No picture available)

On Saturday, August 24<sup>th</sup>, 2013, Martin Robertaccio, Curtis Wood, Jeremiah Mezzel, and Luke Mezzei from Los Angeles County were arrested as a result from a traffic stop for possession of cocaine, ecstasy, MDMA, LSD, and marijuana.



On Saturday, August 24th, 2013, Paul Neadow, age 35, of Wilton Manor Florida, and Bret Gerber, age 47, of San Diego were arrested on a traffic stop for possession of Mdma, psilocybin mushrooms, GHB, and ecstasy.



On Saturday, August 24th, 2013, San Diego residents Kristen Brewer, age 32, and Daniel Jacob, age 55, were arrested when deputies located methamphetamine and marijuana inside their vehicle.



(No picture available for Jacob)

On Saturday, August 24th, 2013, Max Bruce, age 45, and Robert Payne, age 45, both from the Los Angeles area were arrested for possession of GHB, ecstasy, MDMA , and Ketamine.

(No pictures available)

On Saturday, August 24<sup>th</sup>, 2013, Scott Kampmeyer, age 41, of Sherman Oaks, was arrested for transporting LSD, ecstasy, marijuana, and cocaine.



On Sunday, August 25<sup>th</sup>, 2013, Jonathan Blaising, age 26, was arrested for possession of Adderall and Xanax without a prescription.



All cases have been submitted to the Mono County District Attorney's office for filing.

Written and prepared by:

Sergeant Seth Clark  
**Mono County Sheriff's Department**  
P.O. Box 616  
Bridgeport, CA 93517  
(760) 932-7549