



Richard C. Scholl
Sheriff/ Coroner

Ralph Obenberger
Undersheriff

To: All Press Outlets

From: Ralph Obenberger, Undersheriff

Date: August 16, 2012

RE: Marijuana Eradication in the Inyo National Forest

As part of the campaign of the Mono Narcotic Enforcement Team (MONET) to combat the cultivation of marijuana within Mono County, MONET agents, with the assistance of the Inyo Narcotics Enforcement Team, Inyo County Sheriff's Office, Mammoth Lakes Police Department, Mono County Paramedics, Mono County Public Works, California Highway Patrol, U.S. Forest Service, Bureau of Land Management, California Department of Justice (CAMP), and the U.S. Customs Service, eradicated a large marijuana operation located on Forest Service lands in the Inyo National Forest.

The eradication took place on Wednesday August 15th and Thursday August 16th 2012. Over two days, with the assistance of two helicopters and one fixed wing aircraft, law enforcement eradicated approximately 30,000 marijuana plants from a large grow site, which was approximately 1 ½ miles in length, with a potential street value of approximately \$108 million dollars.

During the eradication, two suspects were taken into custody within the grow site. The suspects were identified as Edilio Navarro age 34 of Lake Elsinore Ca. and Nemesis Venegas age 22 of Perris Ca. During the arrest five handguns and one rifle were also seized. There are still several outstanding suspects, who are believed to be armed. The suspects arrested have been booked in the Mono County Jail with bail set at \$50,000 and they could be ultimately charged in Federal Court.

With these types of illegal marijuana grow sites, public lands are routinely desecrated with garbage, piping material, etc. The U.S. Forest Service will return to the affected area and complete an extensive cleanup and restoration operation due to the destruction of public lands by these cultivators. The cleanup and restoration is not only time consuming, but labor intensive and is done at a high cost to the taxpayers.

MONET agents would like to warn outdoor enthusiasts of the dangers of locating one of these grow sites. If you see anything that looks out of place such as cleared areas of forest that should not be cleared, fertilizer bags, black plastic pipes, large camps that seem out of place, or actively growing marijuana plants, please immediately leave the area and note the location, if possible, and notify the appropriate law enforcement agency. These large scale marijuana cultivators are routinely armed and are known to protect the gardens in any way they can.



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Richard C. Scholl
Sheriff/Coroner

MONO COUNTY SHERIFF'S OFFICE

Ralph Obenberger
Undersheriff

To: All News Outlets

From: Jennifer Hansen, Public Information Officer

Date: August 6, 2012

RE: Missing 11-year-old girl located and safe

On Friday, August 3, 2012, at approximately 8:00 pm, Mono County Sheriff's Department Dispatch received a call regarding the report of a missing 11-year old girl from the Mountain View, CA area.

Mono County Deputies and Investigators began the search for the missing girl. She was last seen at her residence in Mountain View getting ready to leave for a camping trip with a friend and his family. The family was supposed to be camping around the Bridgeport area. When the girl did not check in with her mother to say that she had arrived at the campsite safely, her mother called the Mono County Sheriff's Department to report her daughter missing.

On Saturday, August 4, 2012, at approximately 2:00 pm, Mono County Deputies located the vehicle the girl was said to be traveling in at the Walker General Store in the Walker/Coleville area. Deputies made contact with the vehicle owner who confirmed he had the missing girl and she was safe at the campsite. Deputies went to the Leavitt Meadows campground to ensure the girl was in fact there and safe. Deputies made contact with the girl, she was safe, and didn't have the opportunity to call her mother due to poor cell phone reception in the campground. The mother was notified that her daughter was located and was safe.

Prepared and written by: Jennifer Hansen, Public Information Officer

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Richard C. Scholl
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MONO COUNTY SHERIFF'S OFFICE

Ralph Obenberger
Undersheriff

To: All News Outlets

From: Jennifer Hansen, Public Information Officer

Date: August 3, 2012

RE: MONET Investigations lead to several arrests

On Wednesday, August 1st, and, Thursday, August 2nd, 2012, the Mono County Narcotics Task Force (MONET), with the assistance of the Mono County Sheriff's Department, the Mammoth Lakes Police Department, and the Inyo County Narcotics Task Force (INET), made seven narcotics related arrests.

On the morning of Wednesday, August 1st, MONET agents served a search warrant within the Town of Mammoth Lakes relating to the suspicion of sales of heroin and methamphetamine. The search warrant resulted in three arrests and the seizure of over \$4,000.00 in proceeds from the sale of the narcotics. Agents also recovered scales, packaging materials, large amounts of smoking devices, a firearm, prescription pills and methamphetamine. Benjamin John Pyorala, age 25, of Mammoth Lakes, was arrested for sales of heroin, possession of narcotics paraphernalia, possession of a controlled substance, and an addict in possession of a firearm. Steven Robert Mesa, age 26, of Mammoth Lakes, was arrested for possession of methamphetamine and possession of narcotics paraphernalia. Jose Cortez-Lugo, age 21, of Mammoth Lakes, was arrested for possession of narcotics paraphernalia.

In a separate investigation, on Wednesday, August 1st, Jessica Mari Schuricht, age 24, of Costa Mesa, was arrested for the possession and sales of morphine.

On Thursday, August 2nd, MONET agents arrested three subjects for the possession and sales of controlled substances.

Theodore Rauh, age 34, of Mammoth Lakes, was arrested for possession and sales of approximately 100 doses of LSD.

David Brandon Abruzzo, age 32, of Mammoth Lakes, was arrested for the sales of approximately 114 grams of psilocybin mushrooms. Mr. Abruzzo's arrest led to the service of a search warrant of his residence on Joaquin Street. MONET agents seized \$1,800.00 in

proceeds from the sales of the narcotics and recovered approximately 2,000 grams of psilocybin mushrooms, 150 doses of LSD, 985 grams of marijuana, 230 grams of hash, 5 grams of Ketamine powder, scales, and packaging material.

Peter Francis Jednak, age 21, of Mammoth Lakes, was arrested for the possession and sales of cocaine, psilocybin mushrooms, and marijuana.

All suspects were transported to the Mono County Jail without further incident.

Prepared and written by: Jennifer Hansen, Public Information Officer



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Richard C. Scholl
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MONO COUNTY SHERIFF'S OFFICE

Ralph Obenberger
Undersheriff

To: All News Outlets

From: Jennifer Hansen, Public Information Officer

Date: July 31, 2012

RE: Two Dead Mules found near June Mountain Ski Area

On Sunday, July 29th, 2012, at approximately 3:45pm, Mono County Sheriff's Dispatchers received a report of two potential dead mules in a holding area near June Mountain Ski Area.

Mono County Sheriff's Deputies arrived on scene and were met by members of the Frontier Pack Train. The Pack Train stated they had received a call informing them that it appeared two mules were lying dead in their holding area that was set up 8-days prior. The Pack Train confirmed that two mules had been killed inside their holding area and looked to have been dead for several days. The area around the holding area was searched by Mono County Sheriff Deputies with no evidence of foul play. The Pack Train stated that all the other mules and horses in the holding area were unharmed.

The incident has been forwarded to Mono County Sheriff's Investigators, along with the law enforcement officers from the U.S. Forest Service, to investigate the cause of death to the two mules.

Prepared and written by: Jennifer Hansen, Public Information Officer

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MONO COUNTY
SHERIFF

911

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Richard C. Scholl
Sheriff/ Coroner

Ralph Obenberger
Undersheriff

To: All Press Outlets

From: Ralph Obenberger, Undersheriff

Date: July 27, 2012

RE: New Patrol Boat For The Sheriff's Office

On Monday July 23, 2012 the Mono County Sheriff's Office took possession of their newest patrol boat. The boat, which was designed and built by Rogue Jet Boatworks, is a 22' Aluminum Jet designed specifically for our Office with Law Enforcement purposes in mind. This new boat will replace an older patrol boat that was taken out of service this past year. The new boat was purchased with grant funds from the California Department of Boating and Waterways.

The Mono County Sheriff's Office maintains a fleet of three patrol boats which monitor and patrol the lakes and waterways of Mono County. In doing so, our Office hopes that everyone safely enjoys the opportunities Mono County's waterways provide.

Please see the (3) photos attached below:







MONO COUNTY
SHERIFF

911

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Richard C. Scholl
Sheriff/ Coroner

Ralph Obenberger
Undersheriff

To: All Press Outlets

From: Ralph Obenberger, Undersheriff

Date: July 13, 2012

RE: Two Adults Arrested For Child Endangerment

On Friday July 13, 2012 at approximately 8:20am, the California Highway Patrol (CHP) dispatch center notified the Mono County Sheriff's Department of a possible child abduction that just occurred in the Bishop area. A caller told the CHP that two white males just placed a young female juvenile into the cargo area of a tractor trailer and proceeded northbound on Highway 395.

Mono County deputies located the semi-truck on Highway 395 near Benton Crossing Road and conducted a traffic stop on the truck. The deputies searched the locked refrigerated cargo trailer and located an eleven year old female hiding amongst the loose cargo.

During the investigation, it was determined that Mr. George Lewis Arciero, age 52, a resident of Apple Valley Ca., had taken his granddaughter to work with him for the day (the granddaughter was the juvenile located in the locked refrigerated cargo trailer).

While in Bishop, Mr. Arciero picked up a Mr. Jason Ray Jernigan, age 33, a resident of Bishop, at which time they placed the female juvenile into the refrigerated cargo trailer and locked it prior to proceeding northbound out of the Bishop area.

Both Mr. Arciero and Mr. Jernigan were placed under arrest for child endangerment and transported and booked into the Mono County Jail without incident. The case will be forwarded to the Mono County District Attorney's office. The juvenile was released to Mono County Child Protective Services who will reunite the juvenile with her mother.

Two photos of tractor attached below:





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Ralph Obenberger
Undersheriff

To: All News Outlets

From: Jennifer Hansen, Public Information Officer

Date: July 5, 2012

RE: Fatal Traffic Accident on Hwy 395

On Saturday, June 30th, 2012, at approximately 11:30am, Mono County Sheriff's Department dispatch received a call regarding a traffic accident that had occurred on Hwy 395 at Obsidian Dome Road.

Mono County Sheriff's Deputies, California Highway Patrol, Mono County Paramedics, and June Lake Fire Department were dispatched to respond to the accident. When Mono County Sheriff's Deputies arrived on scene, a gray Jeep SUV was on its side in the middle of the intersection at Hwy 395 and the Obsidian Dome Road turnoff. A green Dodge Caravan, with damage to the driver's side door, was resting on the east dirt shoulder. Witnesses of the accident stated the Dodge Caravan was traveling eastbound from Obsidian Dome Road onto Hwy 395 without stopping to observe if there was any oncoming traffic. The Jeep SUV, unable to stop to avoid the collision, struck the caravan.

The driver of the Dodge Caravan, Randy Sly, age 53, a transient of the Mammoth Lakes area, was killed as a result of the collision. Passengers of the Jeep SUV suffered major injuries and were transported to Mammoth Hospital for treatment. Autopsy results indicate that Mr. Sly's cause of death was due to traumatic injuries caused by the traffic collision. Accident details are currently under investigation by the California Highway Patrol.

Prepared and written by: Jennifer Hansen, Public Information Officer

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To: All News Outlets

From: Jennifer Hansen, Public Information Officer

Date: July 5, 2012

RE: Overdue Climber found deceased in the Sawtooth Range

On Tuesday, July 3, at 5:50 pm, Mono County Sheriff's Department dispatch received a call reporting a climber that was overdue from a planned traverse of several peaks in the Sawtooth Range from Matterhorn Peak to Blacksmith Peak. This range is the boundary between Mono County and Yosemite National Park.

Mono County Sheriff's Deputies, along with team members from the Mono County Sheriff's and Yosemite National Park Search and Rescue (SAR) Teams, responded to the Matterhorn Peak area to search for the overdue hiker, Michael J. Ybarra, age 45, of Los Angeles, CA. Search teams found that Mr. Ybarra had signed the summit register at Matterhorn Peak, but not at Cleaver Peak, thus intensifying the search efforts between the two peaks.

As the search expanded into a multi-day, multi-agency search, a crew from the National Guard out of Sacramento was requested to aid in the search efforts via a Blackhawk helicopter. The helicopter crew located Mr. Ybarra, deceased, on the steep western flank between Matterhorn Peak and Cleaver Peak. Yosemite National Park and Tuolumne County personnel recovered Mr. Ybarra's body on Wednesday, July 4th.

Final cause of death is pending autopsy results but appears to be the result of a solo climber fall.

Prepared and written by: Jennifer Hansen, Public Information Officer

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Ralph Obenberger
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To: All News Outlets

From: Jennifer Hansen, Public Information Officer

Date: June 26, 2012

RE: Think Safety First for the 4th of July

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

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.

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 Department would like to wish everyone a very fun and safe Fourth of July!

Prepared and written by: Jennifer Hansen, Public Information Officer

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Ralph Obenberger
Undersheriff

To: All News Outlets

From: Jennifer Hansen, Public Information Officer

Date: June 12, 2012

RE: Missing person found on Tioga Pass

On Tuesday, June 12, 2012, at approximately 11:00am, Mono County Sheriff's Office Dispatch received a call from the Tuolumne County Sheriff's Office with the report of a missing person thought to be traveling on Hwy 120W south down Tioga Pass.

Mono County Sheriff's Investigators responded to Tioga Pass at Blue Slide and located a vehicle approximately 200 yards off the roadway. Lee Vining Fire Department, Mono County Paramedics, California Highway Patrol, Mono County Sheriff Search and Rescue, Yosemite Search and Rescue, U.S Forest Service, the National Park Service and Caltrans were dispatched to aid in the efforts of locating the missing person. Lee Vining Fire personnel reached the vehicle via rope where Roberta Singer, age 20, from Simi Valley, CA, was found deceased.

The cause of the accident is under investigation by the California Highway Patrol and final cause of death is under investigation by the Mono County Sheriff's Office.

Prepared and written by: Jennifer Hansen, Public Information Officer



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Ralph Obenberger
Undersheriff

To: All News Outlets

From: Jennifer Hansen, Public Information Officer

RE: National Peace Officer Memorial Day Event

Every May 15, in honor of National Peace Officers Memorial Day, law enforcement agencies nationwide join hands to honor those brave men and women who have made the ultimate sacrifice of giving their life in the line of duty. On average, one law enforcement officer is killed in the line of duty somewhere in the United States every 53 hours. Since the first known in line of duty death in 1791, more than 19,000 U.S. law enforcement officers have made the ultimate sacrifice. Former President George Bush said, "It takes a special kind of person to serve in law enforcement. Most people run from danger. Law enforcement officers run towards it."



The Mono County Sheriff's Department hosted the first memorial ceremony, on the lawn in front of the Bridgeport courthouse, to honor the fallen law enforcement officers killed in the line of duty in the Eastern Sierra. "We are here today to honor those brave men and women who went to work one day and never returned home," said Sheriff Richard C. Scholl to start the ceremony. "Unlike most other careers, the brave men and women who embark upon a life in law enforcement know fully that they might one day be called upon to lay down their lives in the call of duty."

Deputies and police officers representing Mono County Sheriff's Department; Inyo County Sheriff's Department; Mammoth Lakes Police Department; Bishop Police Department; California Highway Patrol; California Department of Fish and Game; Mountain Warfare Training Center Police Department; and Mono County Paramedics stood together to honor all the lives lost in the Eastern Sierra. A moment of silence was given to those fallen Eastern Sierra officers: Sheriff N.F. Scott (1862, MCSO); Sheriff Thomas Passmore (1878, ICSO); Sheriff William Moore (1879, ICSO); Deputy William Edwards (1907, MCSO); Constable Walter



Reed (1912, ICSO); Sheriff James Dolan (1915; MCSO); Deputy Lemoyne Hazard (1925, ICSO); Inspector James Randolph Jr. (1979, ICSO); Police Officer Richard Perkins (2001, Bishop PD); and Officer Paul Pino (2003, CHP).



“As we leave here today, have in your thoughts the men and women who go to work each day as the protectors of society never knowing if that day may be their last,” stated Sheriff Richard C. Scholl as the ceremony concluded and the wreath was laid to honor those law enforcement officers of the Eastern Sierra who have the ultimate sacrifice of giving their life in the line of duty.

Sheriff Richard C. Scholl and Sgt. Phil West with the ceremonial wreath

Prepared and written by: Jennifer Hansen, Public Information Officer

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MONO COUNTY SHERIFF'S OFFICE

Ralph Obenberger
Undersheriff

To: All News Outlets

From: Jennifer Hansen, Public Information Officer

Date: May 7, 2012

RE: Final Update: Search and Rescue efforts conclude on missing backcountry skier

On Thursday, May 3, 2012, at approximately 3:30pm, Boris Avdeev, age 31, of Ann Arbor, Michigan, was found, by search and rescue teams, deceased in Cocaine Chute, a popular backcountry skiing location. Mr. Avdeev was an experienced backcountry skier that went missing on April 19, 2012.

On Friday afternoon, May 4, 2012, Mono County Sheriff's Search and Rescue (SAR) ground teams, with the assistance of other agencies, recovered and carried out Mr. Avdeev's body from the Cocaine Chute area and concluded this search and rescue operation.

The Mono County Sheriff's Department would like to thank the Douglas County, El Dorado County, and Yosemite Search and Rescue teams, along with Fallon and Mather Air Stations for their aid in the search and recovery of Mr. Avdeev. Final cause of death is pending autopsy and toxicology results.

Prepared and written by: Jennifer Hansen, Public Information Officer

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MONO COUNTY SHERIFF'S OFFICE

Ralph Obenberger
Undersheriff

To: All News Outlets

From: Jennifer Hansen, Public Information Officer

Date: May 4, 2012

RE: Update: Ongoing Search and Rescue efforts currently in progress to find a missing solo backcountry skier

On Thursday, May 3, 2012, at approximately 3:30pm, Boris Avdeev, age 31, of Ann Arbor, Michigan, was found, by search and rescue teams, deceased in Cocaine chute, a popular backcountry skiing location. Mr. Avdeev was an experienced backcountry skier that went missing on April 19, 2012.

As of Friday afternoon, May 4, 2012, Mono County Sheriff's Search and Rescue (SAR) team, along with the aid of Douglas County and El Dorado County Sheriff's Search and Rescue teams and a Spartan 895 black hawk helicopter from Mather Air Field, are continuing this operation to recover Mr. Avdeev's body from the chute. The Mono County Sheriff's Department is asking the public not to respond to this area for any assistance.

This is still an ongoing Search and Rescue operation and more details will be given as they become available. At this time, Mr. Avdeev's cause of death is unknown.

Prepared and written by: Jennifer Hansen, Public Information Officer

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Richard C. Scholl
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MONO COUNTY SHERIFF'S OFFICE

Ralph Obenberger
Undersheriff

To: All News Outlets

From: Jennifer Hansen, Public Information Officer

Date: May 3, 2012

RE: Ongoing Search and Rescue efforts currently in progress to find a missing solo backcountry skier

On Tuesday, May 1, 2012, at approximately 4:30 pm, Mono County Sheriff's Dispatch received a call regarding a black Honda Civic that had been parked near Poole Plant Road off Hwy 120 West since April 19th.

Mono County Sheriff's Deputies responded to the area and found a note left under the windshield wiper of the vehicle stating that a solo backcountry skier was heading up Mount Dana Couloir for the day to ski down Cocaine Chute. With the warmer temperatures, even in the higher elevations, snow conditions have been affected and several avalanches have been seen in this area over the past several weeks.

Boris Avdeev, age 31, of Ann Arbor, Michigan, an experienced backcountry skier, has not been heard from since setting out on his solo backcountry ski trip on April 19th. On Wednesday, May 2, 2012, Mono County Sheriff's Search and Rescue (SAR) ground teams were dispatched to the Cocaine Chute area to start performing a lower chute search to see if they could locate Mr. Avdeev. The ground teams were unable to locate him. On Thursday, May 3, 2012, additional resources were requested including a helicopter from Fallon Air Station, two rescue dog teams, and a mutual aid request for Inyo County Sheriff's and Yosemite Search and Rescue teams to help aid in the search efforts.

This is currently an ongoing Search and Rescue operation and more details will be given as they become available. If anyone has any information regarding this current operation that may aid the search teams, please contact Mono County Sheriff's Department Dispatch at (760) 932-7549.

Prepared and written by: Jennifer Hansen, Public Information Officer

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MONO COUNTY SHERIFF'S OFFICE

Ralph Obenberger
Undersheriff

To: All News Outlets

From: Jennifer Hansen, Public Information Officer

Source: Mono County Narcotics Task Force (MONET)

Date: April 30, 2012

RE: MONET bust turns into a high speed pursuit

On Saturday, April 28, 2012, the Mono County Narcotics Task Force (MONET), along with the assistance of the Inyo County Narcotics Task Force (INET), Mono County Sheriff's Department, Mammoth Lakes Police Department, California Highway Patrol, Inyo County Sheriff's Department and the Bishop Police Department, concluded an investigation in Mammoth Lakes into the transportation and sales of methamphetamine.

MONET agents arranged to purchase methamphetamine from Hector Pacheco, Jr., age 34, of Ontario, CA. Mr. Pacheco met with the undercover agents and completed the transaction sale. As the transaction was completed, an arrest team attempted to take him into custody. Mr. Pacheco got into his vehicle and rapidly accelerated away nearly striking a member of the arrest team. As Mr. Pacheco fled the scene, he struck a Mono County Sheriff's patrol unit that was attempting to stop him. He fled at a high rate of speed down Old Mammoth Road failing to stop at two controlled intersections.

Mr. Pacheco continued to flee outside of the Town of Mammoth Lakes traveling southbound on to Hwy 203 and onto Hwy 395 at speeds in excess of 100 miles per hour. Law enforcement officers pursued him from Mammoth Lakes to just outside of Bishop. His vehicle was stopped by law enforcement officers using the PIT maneuver (a pursuit tactic used to force a fleeing vehicle to stop). Mr. Pacheco was arrested without further incident and transported to the Mono County Jail in Bridgeport. As a result of the arrest, MONET agents seized a ½ pound of methamphetamine. Mr. Pacheco is currently in custody at the Mono County Jail facing charges of felony evading, assault with a deadly weapon, and transportation and sales of narcotics.

MONET would like to thank all the agencies that assisted with this case. It was a successful team effort.

Prepared and written by: Jennifer Hansen, Public Information Officer

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Richard C. Scholl
Sheriff/Coroner

MONO COUNTY SHERIFF'S OFFICE

Ralph Obenberger
Undersheriff

To: All News Outlets

From: Jennifer Hansen, Public Information Officer

Date: April 25, 2012

RE: Fishing and Boating Season is upon us

Fishing season is upon the Eastern Sierra with opening day set for Saturday, April 28th. With the large number of boaters 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 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. The department operates patrol boats across all the major waterways throughout the county. 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 locals alike, 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 exploring 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 and good luck on catching the "Big One!"

Prepared and written by: Jennifer Hansen, Public Information Officer

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Richard C. Scholl
Sheriff/Coroner

MONO COUNTY SHERIFF'S OFFICE

Ralph Obenberger
Undersheriff

To: All News Outlets

From: Jennifer Hansen, Public Information Officer

Date: April 23, 2012

RE: Cut Verizon Fiber Optic Line causing outages countywide

Verizon services in Mono County, from Bridgeport south, are currently unavailable. These services include land-line telephones, internet, and cell phones.

A big rig truck in the Round Valley area took down several telephone poles which resulted in a fiber optic line being cut in two places. Verizon crews are currently working on repairing the damaged line but the repair will take some time. It is estimated that the repair and restoration of all Verizon services will take place around 5:00 p.m., tomorrow, Tuesday, April 24th.

Mono County 911 emergency lines are currently being re-routed to Inyo County

Prepared and written by: Jennifer Hansen, Public Information Officer

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MONO COUNTY SHERIFF'S OFFICE

Ralph Obenberger
Undersheriff

To: All News Outlets

From: Jennifer Hansen, Public Information Officer

Date: April 5, 2012

RE: Local Bank Embezzlement Investigation Leads to the Arrest of One Local Bridgeport Woman

On Thursday, April 5, 2012, Mono County Sheriff's Department Investigators, in conjunction with the Federal Bureau of Investigation (FBI), served several warrants in the Bridgeport area in regards to possible embezzlement from the Eastern Sierra Community Bank in Bridgeport.

Roxanna Foley, age 51, of Bridgeport, CA, former bank branch manager of Eastern Sierra Community Bank, was arrested for felony embezzlement. Ms. Foley was booked into the Mono County Jail without incident. This is an ongoing investigation with the Mono County Sheriff's Department, the Mono County District Attorney's Office, and the FBI.

Prepared and written by: Jennifer Hansen, Public Information Officer

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Ralph Obenberger
Undersheriff

To: All News Outlets

From: Jennifer Hansen, Public Information Officer

Date: April 5, 2012

RE: 150th Anniversary Honoring the Only "In Line of Duty Death" for the Mono County Sheriff's Department

In the year of 1861, the United States was experiencing the Civil War. Areas all over the country were in battles against each other. Locally, the Owens Valley was not immune from these tribulations of war. The war was known as the Owens Valley Indian War. This was a war that lasted for about two years and began because of the white man's disregard for the property and rights of the local Indians.

On Saturday, April 5, 1862, Mono County's first Sheriff, N.F. Scott, responded to the Owens Valley for a battle taking place between the Native American Indians and the U.S. Calvary. After the Calvary had attacked a group of about 500, they retreated and sought shelter in an irrigation ditch under the cover of darkness. Sheriff Scott was shot and killed when he lit his pipe.

Sheriff N.F. Scott is the only member of the Mono County Sheriff's Department to be shot and killed in the line of duty. Today, on the 150th anniversary of his death, the Mono County Sheriff's Department will honor and forever recognize their first leader.

Sheriff N.F. Scott, along with all those law enforcement personnel who have lost their lives in the line of duty, will be nationally recognized on Tuesday, May 15, 2012, in honor of National Law Enforcement Memorial Day.

Prepared and written by: Jennifer Hansen, Public Information Officer

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Ralph Obenberger
Undersheriff

To: All News Outlets

From: Jennifer Hansen, Public Information Officer

Date: April 5, 2012

**RE: 150th Anniversary Honoring the "In Line of Duty Death"
of Sheriff N.F. Scott**

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MONO COUNTY SHERIFF'S OFFICE

Ralph Obenberger
Undersheriff

To: All News Outlets

From: Jennifer Hansen, Public Information Officer

Date: April 2, 2012

RE: Missing hiker found deceased near Coleville

On the afternoon of Thursday, March 22, 2012, Mono County Sheriff's Dispatch received a call regarding an overdue hiker around the hills of Coleville. Carial McCall, age 78, of Coleville, was reported missing by his son when he did not return home from a short hike in the hills around his home.

Mono County Deputies and Antelope Valley Fire Department responded to Mr. McCall's residence and began a search inside and out with no results as to the whereabouts of where Mr. McCall was. The Mono County Sheriff's Search and Rescue (SAR) team was then dispatched to respond to aid in broadening the search area.

Search efforts continued throughout the night. On Friday, March 23, additional agencies including the California Rescue Dog Association (CARDA), personnel from Alpine County, and a CHP helicopter joined the search to locate Mr. McCall. The search continued throughout the day and night with negative results into the location of Mr. McCall.

By Saturday, March 24, the search team included personnel from Mono, El Dorado, and Inyo Counties including several additional CARDA dog teams. At approximately, 1:00 pm, Mr. McCall was found deceased in steep terrain about a mile from his home. His death is under investigation by the Mono County Sheriff's Office but appears to be of natural causes. Final cause of death is pending autopsy and toxicology reports.

Prepared and written by: Jennifer Hansen, Public Information Officer

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Ralph Obenberger
Undersheriff

To: All News Outlets

From: Jennifer Hansen, Public Information Officer

Source: Jennifer Hansen, Spokesperson/Public Information Officer

Date: March 12, 2012

RE: Update: Single Vehicle into Topaz Lake

On Friday, March 9, 2012, at approximately 4:00 pm, Mono County Sheriff's Office Dispatch received a report of a vehicle that had been driven into the water, from the shoreline, at Topaz Lake.

It was reported that several friends were fishing on the shoreline of Topaz Lake when apparently one of the friends got into his vehicle attempting to start the engine. Friends heard a splash and saw the vehicle in the water and floating away from the shore before it completely sank. The driver, identified as Francis McConnell, age 74, of Topaz, was found by divers unrestrained, lifeless and deceased. Mr. McConnell was brought to the surface and transported via boat to the shore.

California Highway Patrol is the lead agency into the investigation of what caused the accident. Final cause of death of Mr. McConnell will be determined by the Mono County Sheriff's Office upon completion of autopsy and toxicology results.

Prepared and written by: Jennifer Hansen, Public Information Officer

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Ralph Obenberger
Undersheriff

To: All News Outlets

From: Jennifer Hansen, Public Information Officer

Source: Jennifer Hansen, Spokesperson/Public Information Officer

Date: March 9, 2012

RE: Single Vehicle Accident into Topaz Lake

On Friday, March 9, 2012, at approximately 3:30 pm, Mono County Sheriff's Office Dispatch received a call regarding a possible vehicle off the highway and into Topaz Lake around Highpoint Curve on Hwy 395.

Mono County Sheriff's Deputies, Antelope Valley Fire Department, Mono County Paramedics, California Highway Patrol, and Douglas County Sheriff's Deputies and Dive Team were dispatched to the scene. A single vehicle was located completely submerged in Topaz Lake with one occupant inside the vehicle. Douglas County Dive Team with the assistance of Mono County Paramedics located the occupant of the vehicle and determined that they were deceased and would recover the body from the vehicle. Efforts are currently under way to retrieve the vehicle from the lake.

California Highway Patrol is the lead agency into the investigation of what caused the accident. Final cause of death of the occupant of the vehicle will be determined by the Mono County Sheriff's Office upon completion of autopsy and toxicology results.

Prepared and written by: Jennifer Hansen, Public Information Officer

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Ralph Obenberger
Undersheriff

To: All News Outlets

From: Jennifer Hansen, Public Information Officer

Date: March 2, 2012

RE: Residential Break-In and Pursuit in Chalfant

On Thursday, March 1, 2012 at approximately 7:00 a.m., Mono County Sheriff's Dispatch received a 911 call from a 9-year old child stating someone had broken into his house in Chalfant through the bedroom window and was causing harm to his mother. The suspect was reported to be armed with a knife. Mono County Sheriff's Deputies along with California Highway Patrol Officers were dispatched to the scene.

CHP arrived at the residence first and determined that two of the occupants of the house, a mother and child, had escaped and were safe in a neighbor's house. A neighbor was currently over at the residence helping get another infant child out of the house safely. The suspect, Bryce Williams, age 29, of Bishop, CA, fled the scene in a blue Ford Focus.

Mono County Sheriff's Deputies spotted Mr. Williams vehicle driving at a high rate of speed southbound on Hwy 6 headed toward Bishop. Mono County Sheriff Units along with additional CHP Units and Inyo County Sheriff Units pursued Mr. Williams as he entered Bishop. Mr. Williams exited his vehicle at an apartment complex in Bishop and was ultimately found hiding in one of the apartments. Inyo County Sheriff's Deputies arrested Mr. Williams without incident. Mr. Williams was transported to Northern Inyo Hospital for medical clearance and then transported to the Inyo County Jail in Independence for miscellaneous charges. Some of the charges pending against Mr. Williams in Mono County will include inflicting corporal injury, burglary, false imprisonment, and child cruelty.

Prepared and written by: Jennifer Hansen, Public Information Officer

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Ralph Obenberger
Undersheriff

To: All News Outlets

From: Jennifer Hansen, Public Information Officer

Date: February 17, 2012

RE: Recent MONET Activity

On the night of Wednesday, February 15, 2012, Mono County Sheriff's Deputies and Bishop Police Department Officers assisted the Mono County Narcotic Enforcement Team (MONET) in the conclusion of an investigation into the sales of methamphetamine in the Chalfant Valley area near White Mountain Estates.

Dustin Anthony Smith, age 24, of Bishop, CA, was arrested for being under the influence of a controlled substance and possession of a controlled substance for sale. Mr. Smith was transported and booked into the Mono County Jail in Bridgeport.

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Ralph Obenberger
Undersheriff

To: All News Outlets

From: Jennifer Hansen, Public Information Officer

Date: February 4, 2012

RE: Residential Explosion and Fire

On Friday February 3, 2012 at approximately 8:53 p.m. the Mono County Sheriff's Dispatch received numerous 911 calls regarding an explosion and a residential structure that was on fire at the Mountain Warfare Training Center (MWTC) Base Housing.

The following agencies were dispatched to the scene: Antelope Valley Fire Department, MWTC Fire Department, Mono County Paramedics, Mono County Sheriff's Department, California Highway Patrol, MWTC Police Department, along with the East Fork Fire Department out of Nevada.

Upon arrival, medical personnel assisted the victims and fire personnel battled the fire, which was still engulfing the residence. Careflight responded and two of the victims were airlifted to hospitals out of the area, with another victim being pronounced deceased at the scene.

Mono County Social Services responded and opened the Walker Community Center for use as a shelter, if needed, and the Red Cross was contacted out of both California and Nevada.

Due to this incident occurring at MWTC, any further press information will be disseminated by Captain Nicholas Mannweiler out of the Marine Corp. Air Ground Combat Center in 29 Palms California. Captain Mannweiler can be reached at 760-401-0191 or nicholas.mannweiler@usmc.mil.

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Ralph Obenberger
Undersheriff

To: All Media Outlets
From: Jennifer Hansen, Public Information Officer
Date: January 27, 2012
RE: Update: Coroner's Investigation into the death of Dr. Andrew Bourne

Dr. Andrew Bourne, age 46, of Mammoth Lakes, was found deceased by his spouse on the afternoon of Tuesday, January 24th.

An autopsy was conducted on the morning of Friday January 27, 2012 by the Orange County Sheriff's Department Coroner with results confirming that Dr. Bourne did commit suicide. There is no evidence to suspect foul play in his death. Final cause of death is still pending toxicological results which could take several weeks or longer.

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Ralph Obenberger
Undersheriff

To: All Media Outlets

From: Jennifer Hansen, Public Information Officer

Date: January 25, 2012

RE: Update: Coroner's Investigation into the death of Dr. Andrew Bourne

On Tuesday, January 24th, 2012, at approximately 4:00pm, Mono County Sheriff's Dispatch received a 911 call regarding a deceased male that was found on the Hot Creek Hatchery Road outside the Town of Mammoth Lakes area.

Dr. Andrew Bourne, age 46, of Mammoth Lakes, was found deceased by his spouse. There is no evidence to suspect foul play in the death; however, the final cause of death is still under investigation.

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Ralph Obenberger
Undersheriff

To: All Media Outlets
From: Jennifer Hansen, Public Information Officer
Date: January 24, 2012
RE: Introducing the CodeRed Emergency Alert System 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. 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. To register for the CodeRed emergency alerts, log on to www.monosheriff.org and click on the CodeRed Community Notification System link.

The CodeRed system has also joined the technology bandwagon by introducing the release of the new CodeRed Mobile Alert Public Safety app for smart phones. This app will not only benefit the residents of Mono County but also the travelers and visitors to the area. Smart phones with the new app will be alerted with a push notification along with the 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 the Apple iPhone via download from iTunes. The Android app will be available soon. For more information on the CodeRed Mobile Alert app, please visit www.ecnetwork.com/iphone/iphone/coderedmobilealert.

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MONO COUNTY SHERIFF'S OFFICE

Ralph Obenberger
Undersheriff

To: All Media Outlets
From: Jennifer Hansen, Public Information Officer
Date: January 24, 2012
RE: Coroner's Investigation into the death of a Mammoth Lakes man

On the afternoon of Tuesday, January 24, 2012 at approximately 4:00, Mono County Sheriff's Department dispatch received a call regarding a deceased male in the Mammoth Lakes area.

Dr. Andrew Bourne, age 46, of Mammoth Lakes, was found unresponsive in the Mammoth Lakes area. Long Valley Fire Department, California Highway Patrol, Mono County Paramedics and Mono County Sheriff's Deputies were dispatched to the scene. When units arrived on scene, it was determined that Dr. Bourne was deceased. Cause of death is currently under investigation by the Mono County Sheriff's Department. Foul play is not suspected in the cause of death.

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Ralph Obenberger
Undersheriff

To: All Media Outlets

From: Jennifer Hansen, Public Information Officer

Date: January 12, 2012

RE: Update into the Coroner's Investigation into the death of a Mammoth Lakes resident

On the afternoon of Thursday, December 15, 2011, at approximately 4:15, Mono County Sheriff's Department dispatch received a call regarding an unresponsive male in the Mammoth Lakes area.

Tom Greenstein, age 41, of Mammoth Lakes, was found unresponsive and without vital signs in his Mammoth Lakes home. Mammoth Lakes Police Department and Mono County Paramedics were dispatched to the residence in Mammoth. When units arrived on scene, it was determined that Mr. Greenstein was deceased. Mono County Sheriff's deputies were dispatched to the scene to begin the coroner's investigation. The final cause of death was determined as acute narcotic intoxication. The final cause of death was confirmed by autopsy and toxicological results.

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MONO COUNTY SHERIFF'S OFFICE

Ralph Obenberger
Undersheriff

To: All Media Outlets
From: Jennifer Hansen, Public Information Officer
Date: January 10, 2012
RE: Update into the Coroner's Investigation into the death of a Bishop resident

On the morning of Monday, December 26, 2011, at approximately 9:45, Mono County Sheriff's Department dispatch received a call regarding an unresponsive male in the Mammoth Lakes area.

Kevin James Jarvis, age 26, of Bishop, California, was found unresponsive and without vital signs at a family members Mammoth Lakes home. Mammoth Lakes Police Department and Mono County Paramedics were dispatched to the residence in Mammoth. When units arrived on scene, it was determined that Mr. Jarvis was deceased. Mono County Sheriff's deputies were dispatched to the scene to begin the coroner's investigation. The final cause of death was determined as a drug overdose. The final cause of death was confirmed by autopsy and toxicological results.

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