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**Ralph Obenberger**  
*Sheriff/Coroner*

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

**Robert Weber**  
*Undersheriff*

**To: All Media Partners**

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

**Date: January 29, 2014**

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

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

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

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

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

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

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