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PRESS RELEASE

National Prescription Drug Take-Back Day

Vons – Mammoth Lakes Bridgeport Fire Station

June Lake Fire Station Walker General Store

After collecting more than 1,000 tons of expired, unwanted prescription medications at previous events over the past three years, the Drug Enforcement Administration (DEA) in partnership with the Mono County District Attorney and its national, tribal, and community partners will hold a seventh National Prescription Drug Take-Back Day across the country on Saturday, April 26th.

The public has embraced the opportunity these Take-Back Day events provide to prevent pill abuse and theft by ridding their homes of potentially dangerous expired, unused, or unwanted prescription drugs. Kids have ready access to old or unused pills in the home which leads to prescription abuse. Also, every home throughout communities is a target for drug dealers due to the knowledge that most homes contain these old and unused prescription drugs.

Unused medications in homes create a public health and safety concern, because they are highly susceptible to accidental ingestion, diversion, misuse, theft and abuse. Rates of prescription drug abuse in the U.S. are alarmingly high--more Americans currently abuse prescription drugs than the number of those using cocaine, hallucinogens, and heroin *combined*, according to the most recent National Survey on Drug Use and Health. The majority of abused prescription drugs are obtained from family and friends, including from the home medicine cabinet, according to surveys of users.

The Mono County District Attorney's Office will be sponsoring this year's event in Mono County. They have arranged for disposal bins to be present at several locations throughout the county. These drop-offs are the safest and most environmentally friendly way to dispose of prescription drugs and no questions will be asked. In southern Mono County you will find depositories at Vons in Mammoth Lakes, and at the June Lake Fire Station. In north Mono County you will find them at the Bridgeport Fire Station and the Walker General Store.

Again, the event will take place on **Saturday, April 26, 2014 between 10:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m.**

Thank you for being a part of this very important program.

Tim Kendall Mono County District Attorney