



# Siskiyou County Sheriff's Office

## News Release

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### **Sheriff's Office & Federal and State Law Enforcement Partners Conduct Special Enforcement Operation in Happy Camp**

**March 15, 2017**

On March 15, 2017 in the early morning hours, the Siskiyou County Sheriff's Office (SCSO) coordinated a multi-agency special enforcement operation in the Happy Camp area. According to Sergeant Jeremiah LaRue, "The purpose of the operation was to conduct probation and parole compliance checks and to execute arrest warrants for people in the Happy Camp area previously non-compliant with mandatory felony and misdemeanor court appearance requirements. Additionally, registered sex offenders in the area were targeted to ensure they were complying with applicable sex registry laws."

During the operation, peace officers from SCSO (field, detective, and jail units), Siskiyou County Probation Department (SCPD), the Siskiyou Unified Major Investigation Team (SUMIT), which is made up of Yreka Police Department, SCSO, SCPD, California Department of Justice, Siskiyou County District Attorney's Office, Weed Police Department, California Alcohol Beverage Control, and California Highway Patrol members; California State Parole, and law enforcement officers from the United States Forest Service (USFS) conducted a series of compliance checks and warrant enforcement operations in the Happy Camp area and in the Somes Bar areas of the county. Five arrests were made during the successful operation. During the operation, two suspects fled on foot into wooded areas but have been tentatively identified and additional charges are pending for resisting, obstructing, and delaying a peace officer. About 20 sites were visited by the multi-agency teams and numerous probation or parole searches, and registered sex offender compliance checks conducted. The following persons were arrested during the operation:

Ms. Katrina Garcia, 19, Happy Camp, was arrested on a juvenile arrest warrant for failure to comply with probation requirements.

Mr. Rick Lester, 29, Happy Camp, was arrested for a felony arrest warrant - failure to comply with probation requirements; a probation search revealed he was in possession of .5 gram of methamphetamine; Mr. Lester was also found to be in illegal possession of drug paraphernalia, ammunition, and an illegal weapon.

Ms. Kristy Goodwin, 51, of Somes Bar, was arrested for illegal possession of a handgun and ammunition; she was also charged with felon in possession of a firearm and ammunition and booked for a felony violation of probation.

Mr. John Garrison, 31, Somes Bar, was arrested at his residence for a felony warrant for failure to comply with probation requirements and he was further detained for a possible parole-related violation.

Mr. Gene “Gino” Wright, of Happy Camp fled a Somes Bar location on foot and is being sought for various charges.

According to Sheriff Jon Lopey, “I would like to thank the many federal, state, and local law enforcement agencies that participated in this successful compliance and arrest operation, which will serve to make Happy Camp and Somes Bar safer and hold law breakers accountable for their unlawful actions. Crime in the area often diminishes the quality of life for local residents and victimizes too many innocent people. We will be conducting more multi-agency operations in the future and we will target areas of the county that have exhibited an increase in property and violent crime reports. During a recent town hall in Happy Camp and through other communications with area residents, it has become clear that additional work needs to be done in the Happy Camp area to address crime problems and we will persist in our efforts to do so. We are also working with Karuk Tribal authorities, school, and other county agencies to use other resources to address the growing substance abuse problem in the area, which has a major impact on crime and deviancy. Multi-agency operations of this kind maximize the resources of SCSO and other agencies and exponentially exact a greater impact on crime and puts offenders on notice that we are not going to tolerate illegal criminal activity in this or other areas of the county.”

Anyone with information about fugitives from justice or crime in your local area is urged to contact your local law enforcement agency or the SCSO’s 24-hour Dispatch Center at (530) 841-2900. Drug-related crimes may also be directed to SUMIT at (530) 842-8131.”