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**PRESS RELEASE**

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

Thursday, July 27, 2017

**Removing Illicit Drugs from Community – Law Enforcement Collaboration**  
*-- Butte Interagency Narcotic Task Force Conduct Raid --*

**Chico, CA** – On Wednesday, July 26<sup>th</sup>, 2017 at 6:30PM, members of the Butte Interagency Narcotic Task Force, with the assistance of the Chico Police Department, conducted a successful raid of a Chico residence. Law enforcement officers arrested five individuals for numerous felony warrants and drug-related offenses and removed illegal narcotics including heroin and methamphetamine, drug-related paraphernalia and a weapon from the property.

The result of an ongoing narcotics investigation by Butte Interagency Narcotics Task Force (BINTF) members, a search warrant was executed at the home in the 1000 block of Village Lane, Chico, CA 95926.

Upon arrival detectives made contact with and detained one subject near the residence. Four individuals were subsequently identified and detained inside the home. A sixth subject ran out the back of the residence and was later found and detained by Chico Police Department officers.

“This latest collaborative effort between the Butte Interagency Narcotic Task Force and the Chico Police Department once again emphasizes the commitment Butte County law enforcement agencies have to identifying illegal drug activity in our communities,” said Chico Police Chief Michael O’Brien.

Inside the home detectives found multiple non-scheduled prescription pills, digital gram scales, numerous smoking devices for heroin and methamphetamine, used syringes and a loaded 12-gauge shotgun.

BINTF detectives arrested 39-year old Aaron Needham; he faces charges of Possession of Heroin and Maintaining a Residence for the Use of Narcotics. 36-year old Krista Needham is charged with Maintaining a Residence for the Use of Narcotics. 24-year old Spencer Spain was arrested and charged with Possession of Methamphetamine for Sales. 24-year old Tara Harrison is charged with Possession of Prescription Medications. 21-year old Austin Pinheiro was arrested on an outstanding felony warrant. The sixth individual involved was released without charges.

Detectives say one of the subjects, Krista Needham, is employed as a health-care provider at facilities in both Chico and Oroville. It is still under investigation whether Needham gained access to illicit drugs via her employment.

“This case is indicative of how drug-related crimes and those involved cut across various segments of our community and the need for greater awareness by all citizens,” explains Chief O’Brien.

The subjects were transported to the Butte County Jail. The case will now be turned over to the Butte County District Attorney’s Office.

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