Heather S. Benjamin
Public Information Officer
Mesa County Sheriff's Office
(970) 244-3929 Office
(970) 986-0950 Cell
Heather.Benjamin@mesacounty.us

Sgt. Lonnie Chavez
Grand Junction Police Department
(970) 244-3586 Office

NEWS RELEASE

November 16, 2009

Mesa County, CO—On Friday and Saturday of this last weekend, officers from the Colorado State Liquor Enforcement Agency, the Grand Junction Police Department and the Mesa County Sheriff's Office conducted 186 compliance checks for the sale of alcohol to underage people. Those compliance checks were done throughout the County and consisted of liquor stores, restaurants and wineries. The operation included using underage operatives who worked with officers from the above agencies to solicit the sale of alcohol.

"We will keep doing this until we have a 100% success rate and then we will continue doing it," Sgt. Tony Marsh, Mesa County Sheriff's Office said. "We hover around the 10-19% failure rate on almost every compliance check we do, so clearly kids under 21 are still getting alcohol. Consistency in checking identification is key to businesses having a successful 100% compliance with alcohol enforcement laws all the time."

Of the 186 establishments that had an underage person attempt to buy alcohol, 24 establishments failed (or sold alcohol to the underage person). This is the third time in 2009 that compliance checks have been done in Mesa County by this group and it was also done three times in 2008. During the November 2008 compliance operation, 113 establishments were checked and 14 failed. In April 2009, a similar operation was done twice in that month with eight failures the first time and zero failures the second time (or 100% compliance).

"The message we want to send is that establishments need to be checking identification of younger looking people, 35 and under is a good rule of thumb," Lisa Maestas, Grand Junction Police Department Liquor Enforcement Investigator said. "Obviously there are those under 21 that appear to be in their early twenties."

The following businesses failed during the most recent compliance check:

Il Bistro Italiano (GJ)	Suehiro Japanese Restaurant (GJ)	Dolce Vita (GJ)
Last Chance Liquors (GJ)	Teller Arms Liquors (GJ)	Stoney Mesa Winery LTD (Palisade)
Coronado Liquor Mart (Clifton)	Palisade Cafe & Grill (Palisade)	Peachwood Liquor (Palisade)
Center Town Liquors (Fruita)	In the Middle Liquors (Fruita)	Kuniko's Teriyaki Grill (GJ)
Eagles Fraternal Order (GJ)	Crown Liquors (GJ)	Genghis Grill (GJ)
Tequila's Mexican Restaurant (GJ)	Garfield's Off Broadway (GJ)	Albertson's Food Center (GJ)
Zen Garden (GJ)	New Dragon Wall (GJ)	Chuck E Cheese (GJ)
Pizza Hut-North Ave (GJ)	Qdoba Mexican Grill (GJ)	La Bamba Mexican Restaurant (GJ)

###

Heather S. Benjamin
Public Information Officer
Mesa County Sheriff's Office
(970) 244-3929 Office
(970) 986-0950 Cell
Heather.Benjamin@mesacounty.us

Sgt. Lonnie Chavez
Grand Junction Police Department
(970) 244-3586 Office

NEWS RELEASE