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NEWS RELEASE

For Immediate Release

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VINE Provides Peace of Mind to Crime Victims, Concerned Citizens

GARFIELD COUNTY, COLORADO – County residents can sleep well at night knowing they now have the option of keeping personal tabs on inmates in their local jail facility as well as those throughout the nation. Sheriff Lou Vallario is pleased to announce that beginning March 1, 2010, the Garfield County Sheriff's Office will officially begin using VINE (Victim Information and Notification Everyday) to notify crime victims of any change in their offender's status (e.g. bonding, facility transfer, etc.). Funded by the County Sheriffs of Colorado association, VINE gives crime victims and other concerned citizens access to timely and reliable information about the custody status of offenders 24 hours a day via telephone, e-mail or through the Internet.

The VINE network is currently active in more than 2,300 communities nationwide, and its benefits are many. Registered recipients have free, around-the-clock, anonymous access to offender information and are quickly notified of any status change. The system saves taxpayers money by eliminating the need for law enforcement to manually notify victims, and it allows victims and other recipients the option of changing their registered contact information or adding updates such as a new phone number.

Notifications are not just limited to victims, but now neighbors and any other concerned parties can receive this helpful information on a particular criminal or host of individuals. These automated notifications can be delivered in either English or Spanish, and the service will keep trying to reach intended recipients every half hour until successful contact is made or a full 48 hours has expired. After 48 hours, the system will attempt contact once every two hours until it successfully reaches the designated recipient.

Since your Sheriff's Office views VINE as a key public awareness tool, its Victim Response Team will be providing detailed registration instructions to anyone affected by an incident that falls under the Victim's Right Act. Any citizen of Garfield County is welcome to register for this service by either calling the toll-free number 1-888-263-8463 or visiting www.vinelink.com and following the online directions. Please visit the VINE website for additional information and to view the VINE demo and related testimonials.

The mission of the Garfield County Sheriff's Office is to provide solutions for the people by utilizing and employing strong morals, good character, untarnished integrity, technical knowledge and fiscal responsibility through professional, ethical and equitable conduct.

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