



News Release

*For Immediate Release:
For Further Information
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WeTip, the National Anonymous Crime Reporting Organization will honor three community members on January 28th, when they arrive in Show Low to provide law enforcement and community safety training for community members. WeTip will be in the area not only for training on the 28th in Show Low but also in Apache County on January 27th in Eagar and in St. John.

Susan Aguilar, Chief Executive Officer and Sue Mandell, WeTip National Director, will present the National Community Safety Award to Debe Campbell for her leadership and work with the Navajo County Drug Project, and Diana Ryan, Executive Director of Apache County Drug-Free Alliance. WeTip will also present the Radio Station of the Year award to White Mountain Radio, Director of Community Relations, Barbara Bruce.

WeTip was formally introduced to Navajo County in March of 2009 and Apache County became partners with WeTip in July of 2009. As these programs celebrate nearly two years, in both Apache County and Navajo County, WeTip training is the key to keeping the community up to date on utilizing the program effectively. The hot line number is 1-800-78 CRIME (27463). To get the word out about the program, brochures, cards and other information material have been distributed to chambers of commerce, law enforcement offices and schools in the partnering communities.

WeTip was founded February 1972, originally a citizen's group combating drug dealers and drug-related crime. Now, WeTip takes information on any type of incident, from violent and drug crimes to vandalism and school bullying. An operator is always available 24 hours a day, 365 days a year. Since its founding, WeTip, based out of California, has received over 450,000 anonymous tips, resulting in 15,000 solved cases and 8,000 criminal convictions.

If a caller is interested, they can be eligible for a reward of up to \$1,000 if the information they give leads to arrests and convictions. WeTip can also put out incident-specific flyers, with a description of what happened and a picture of a suspect or crime scene. Susan Aguilar, WeTip CEO, said, "People respond when we ask them for help." With all of this also comes the promise of anonymity for any WeTip caller. Those who call WeTip are never asked to identify themselves, Mandell said. In fact, when a caller begins to identify themselves, the operator has to end the call. They want the information, she said, but do not want to know who's informing them. "We absolutely cannot know who's on the phone," she said. Aguilar said WeTip was formed so people could give information on a crime without fearing reprisal from those they are reporting on, especially in drug-related or gang-related crimes. "We want to provide the WeTip program as a safe way to (give information)," she said. "We want them to know in the back of their mind, 'I will be safe when I do this.'" Mandell said that since WeTip's existence, not one caller has ever had their identity determined. "In 39 years, we've never had an informant identified," she said. The tipster retains their anonymity even when picking up their reward. Mandell said anyone who is interested in their reward is given a three-part code name. The caller uses that code name to pick up their reward anonymously in the city of their choice. Anonymity is not just a benefit for the caller but for the community as well. Mandell said they have seen the occurrences of crime go down in areas they go to, as those who would commit a crime might hold off for fear of being turned in.

Navajo County Attorney Brad Carlyon said criminals know no boundaries, as someone who commits a theft in Show Low may sell what they took in Pinetop and use the money to buy drugs elsewhere in the county. He said WeTip will provide information on a crime or suspect, no matter where an incident occurs. "These tips will help all of our communities," he said.

For further information on the January 27th & 28th training, please contact Susan Aguilar at 909 987-05005 Ext 249.