Junior Police Academy held for second year

By Ira Hayes
Weenuche Smoke Signals

TOWAOC—The Junior Police Academy was held for the second year by the Ute Mountain Tribal Police Department March 31 and April 1 at the Community Center.

The two-day course was conducted by Ute Mountain Tribal Police Officers Chris Cable and Karla Ross. Officer Cable has been here at Towaoc for one year and Officer Ross has been here for two years.

The course covered both Tribal and Bureau of Indian Affairs (BIA) jurisdictions and laws that apply to the community and also explained how police vehicles and equipment were used on the job.

"Through this course we hope to present a more positive image of the police and the work we do," said Cable on why the course was important to the relationship between the community's kids and the police.

Cable also said that they would like to motivate the kids to be good and stay out of trouble and added that building a positive relationship creates a safer community.

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Spotlight: Community

Alfred Wall Sr.

By Ira Hayes
Weenuche Smoke Signals

TOWAOC—Alfred Wall Sr. recently retired and was honored with a Guard Dance on March 29.

DU law students return to sign wills for community

By W. Plenty Holles
Weenuche Smoke Signals

TOWAOC—Students from University of Denver (DU) Sturm College of Law came to draft wills at no charge for American Indians March 13-21.

This is the second year that Professor Lucy Marsh invited students as part of the Tribal Wills Lab, which they are hoping to make an annual event.

“We had such a good time down here last year that lots of students wanted to come again," said Marsh.

“There was a waiting list, we couldn’t bring all the students that wanted to come,” he continued.

Typically, when getting a will drafted there is an interview process then one would go back a couple weeks to finalize the will.

“We’re condensed two weeks to week down to a day," said Marsh.

Marsh brought down twice as many students as last year and branched out to include the White Mesa, Utah community.

Professor Marsh had to go thru a lengthy process to get licensed to practice law in Utah so that they could draft wills in White Mesa.

The students chose to spend their spring break in the Ute communities to help draft wills receiving no extra credit to do so – there were even a few repeat students from last year.

“We had such tremendous success in terms of numbers of wills written – just the relationships that we’ve developed down here, we feel so welcome," said Colin Fletcher.
RUN continued

Towaoc and end at Twin Arrows Casino in Flagstaff, Arizona.

"We will be averaging 60 to 65 miles a day," said Baldwin.

Communities or chapters along the way will provide a place for participants to stay. Runners will be able to continue and follow along the way to the end of the run.

The Navajo Nation Vice-President, Rex Jim attended the meeting to promote collaboration with the tribe on the run.

Jim talked about the simple things that can be a start to living a healthier lifestyle.

"The whole idea is to promote health and sometimes when we think about things, we think that we need a lot of money and fancy equipment to be healthy," said Jim.

"They need is a pair of walking shoes to start walking. Drink more water, eat well and sleep well." Jim noted that many communities will offer health fairs and daily events along the route.

"People who have joined us have said I am running this not for me, but to offer respect for my mother or uncle who passed on who died of diabetes, or heart disease, or cancer," said Jim.

"These chronic illnesses don’t say ‘will you run too.’ Ute, Zuni, Navajo therefore I will leave you alone.' It takes all of us – we need to work together. The health of our nations is at stake.

Cedric Lang and Gordon Hammond plan to start the run from Towaoc.

The signing of a Proclamation between the Ute Mountain Ute Tribe and the Navajo Nation in support of the run was held on March 25 at the Ute Mountain Ute Tribe on August 2.

WALL continued

Wall was a Sundancer all through the 1970s. He later moved to become a Sundance singer, which he still does, and is also a Drum Dancer and singer. On July 25, he will be the Head Drum Dancer in Utah.

A Drum Dance to honor Alfred Wall Jr. was held on March 29 at the Towaoc Recreation Center.

During the Ute Mountain Ute Tribal Council’s March 25 scoping meeting, Wall was sworn in by Ute Mountain Ute Tribe Chairman, Manuel Heart, as the newest member of the Ute Mountain Ute Elder Committee.

Wall will work with other members of the committee on issues that affect the whole tribe.

He wants to continue giving back to the tribe, even after his retirement.

The Sister Nations Color Guard was formed in 2012 and features Ute Mountain Ute Tribal member, Michelle Alfaro.

The color guard is comprised of American Indian female veterans representing various tribes who wear regalia to keep them grounded in their traditions while they are called on for color guard duties.

The color guard recently carried the flags for the Denver March Powwow grand entries and during the last regular season home game of the Louisville Cardinals women basketball team which was nationally televised.

For more information on the Sister Nations Color Guard, check out their Facebook page.