

Letters

Dear Tribal members:

This letter is to address the recent mailing of a Polk County Sheriff's report and cover letter from Pete Wakeland. We, as respected Tribal Elders, are saddened and heartsick that our children are being accused of a crime that was never committed.

We raised responsible, hard-working, self-sufficient children who are fine examples of responsible community members. They have never been arrested or thrown in jail for anything.

They are good parents, role models, well-educated and respected volunteers.

You have been led to believe they've done something wrong. They haven't. We are asking when is this going to stop? When is enough enough?

As Tribal Elders and a past Tribal Council member, we politely ask that the Tribal Council move forward with important Tribal issues and stop harassing our children. We know that all Tribal Council are not involved in wasting Tribal resources and we thank you. Tribal Council needs to focus on protecting our casino, sustaining our health benefits, and provide education and opportunities for our children and grandchildren, and stop spending our time and money on a political letter.

This is bad public relations for our Tribe. Now, the outside federal and state agencies, newspapers and other Tribes will know that there is inside turmoil within our Tribal Council and membership. This is not a good example to aspire to.

Our Tribal Council needs to be able to agree to disagree with respect and dignity. You win some battles and you lose some. You need to be fair and equitable to all members and stop targeting members who oppose your decisions.

That's what real leadership is about: caring for all people, not just your family; civility and respect — those are the values we need to have in our leadership. We say these things because it our job as Tribal Elders and our culture to keep reminding you so that those traditions and cultures are not forgotten. That is what binds us together as a Tribe.

We also ask, if this continues, that you look into the contents of the Leno letter to see if there is any truth to the letter. This is the best way to clear the Leno family name.

Chip Tom

Roll # 818

Elinore (LaChance) Anders

Roll # 359

Sharon (Mercier) Hanson

Roll # 168

Dear Tribal members:

It is with regret that I address you today because I am grieved by the time, energy and financial resources our Tribe has expended on the Leno letter.

Recently, you received a letter from the Tribal administration and subsequent Polk County Sheriff's report regarding the Leno letter and alleged computer crime "theft of the confidential Tribal database." While I do not have that report, I understand my name appears in it and I would like to use this opportunity to address this issue.

First, I am addressing the membership in *Smoke Signals* because some of the Tribal Council refused to allow myself and others to include written responses in the letter sent by the administration.

Rather than being allowed to respond in a discrete manner, some of the Council preferred our responses to be in the public where others could see the evidence of the conflict and unrest within our Tribe. This is truly unfortunate when Tribal members are left to defend themselves in a forum such as this.

Some on Council argue that this is completely about the "theft" of the Tribal database and clearing Councilman Reyn Leno's good name. I agree with them and encourage the Council to take necessary steps to secure our Tribal data and to clear Councilman Leno's name. The best way to accomplish this is to show that the allegations in the Leno letter are untrue. To that end, I presented to the Council a petition signed by many Tribal members requesting an investigation into those allegations which has fallen on deaf ears.

To the best of my knowledge, Councilman Leno has only addressed one allegation in campaign materials where he admitted that his wife in the past was allowed to have a TV on her desk.

For those who agree that clearing Councilman Leno's name is important, please call, e-mail or send a letter to the Tribal Council requesting this investigation.

Now, let me be very clear, I was in no way involved in any acquisition or theft of any confidential Tribal database. I do not have, nor had, any access to any confidential Tribal database. I do not know who at the Tribe has access to the database. The police report is inconclusive, proving that no crime was committed.

Had there been a crime I am confident criminal charges would have been brought against the perpetrator.

To the best of my knowledge, no charges have been filed in this case against anyone. I will be happy to answer any questions; please e-mail me at andy.jenness@tribaltruth.info.

Respectfully,

Andy Jenness

Role #1936

Dear Tribal members:

You may have received a letter from the Tribe's Director of Development Pete Wakeland in addition to a Polk County Sheriff's investigative report.

In the Sheriff's report, it alleges use of the Tribal members' database and potential identity theft. Let me assure you that there have been no reports of identity theft to date and if any member has encountered any discrepancies in your accounts I strongly encourage you to call the police and report it.

For the members who are not informed why this police report was sent out and have questions, I would be thrilled to answer any and all questions you may have. There are many missing pieces of information that were not mailed out, and I believe you are entitled to hear it if you so choose.

I made a request to the Tribal Council in all fairness and without political bias that a copy of the political Leno letter, photo and a response from Mr. Jenness, Ms. Hanson and myself also be included in the mail out. My request was not granted, and in fact my ROI (Record of Instruction) request was lost for several days and still has not shown up to date!

If any member is wondering what letter and what photo, and if you did not receive one in 2008, I strongly encourage you to request a copy from your Tribal Council as it is not confidential information.

I do have a few things that I would like to get off my chest and that is that I was raised to be honest, truthful and forthright, and those are the values that have been instilled in me from birth. I have nothing to hide and as a representative and officer of this Tribe I take my role seriously, but more importantly my heritage, culture and my father's good name.

I am the fourth generation of Tribal Council in my family and I am proud of that, and with that comes responsibility to the people and members who support me. I have had many political letters written about me and sent to the membership, and there has never been any investigation into those letters. I guess it depends on who you are and who is in control. This is nothing more than a political maneuver to defame my character and my father's good name. I want to assure the membership that I will be available to answer your questions, or you may call or write to me.

I have outlined a few bullet points that I think you should be aware of:

- I have no access to the Tribal members' database; none.
- There are trained and proficient users of the database whose names are not included in the police report, and who were never questioned.
- The results of both the criminal investigation and the audit report were inconclusive.
- Tribal members' funds not budgeted and expended to date is reaching close to \$100,000. I could be wrong, so I strongly encourage you to ask your Tribal Council the exact amount that has been expended on behalf of you for a political letter. Think about how many children's winter coats could have been bought with money that has been wasted.
- No Tribal member has reported to Tribal Council that they were victims of identity theft.

I say this because I am fed up with expending anymore Tribal resources on this subject when there are more ways to be fiscally responsible. My wish is that the Tribal Council that keeps pushing this agenda will stop and focus on the really important issues that face this Tribe. For instance, how we are going to fund our education, health benefits and Elders? Elders have not been given a cost of living for some time. Per capita is down to 25 percent and it should be up to 45 percent. Program reviews are delinquent and spending is out of control.

These are but a few of the many issues that weigh heavy on my mind. There are critical issues and they are not being addressed because we are too focused on getting even. "Vengeance is mine, sayeth the Lord." It's time to move on.

Respectfully yours,

Kathleen Tom

Tribal Council Secretary

Roll # 817

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800-422-0232, ext. 1777

Dear Tribal members:

I want to send a special thank you to all of those who helped with the baseball field.

The field is in great condition and games and practices are occurring frequently on the field. This past week a team from Salem was visiting for a game and because of the great condition of the field, the kids were allowed to finish the game despite the downpour of rain.

A special thanks to the following people and departments for preparing such a nice field for our community:

- Denise Harvey and Duke Kimsey and crew for their work on the dug-outs;
- Mike Larsen and the Facilities and Maintenance crew for all their work on the field;
- Pete Wakeland and the Executive Office for their oversight of the project;
- Tribal Council for their support of the project.

I hope I didn't forget anybody, but if I did, know your work was appreciated.

Reyn Leno

Tribal Council Vice Chair

Roll # 453