

Marc Stewart/Coeur d'Alene Tribe re: Prosecutor Doug Payne's comments:

The Coeur d'Alene Tribe does not call people it disagrees with racists. Doug Payne's assertion that "tribal advocates" marginalize and humiliate people by calling them racists as a matter of common practice is untrue.

No one at the Tribe, including myself, has uttered the "R" word regarding this law enforcement issue. I have no idea what it is in the hearts of the decision makers in Benewah County. I fail to understand their logic on a number of issues, but it doesn't mean I resort to calling people names or throwing insults at them. Doug Payne's statement that the tribe uses race to advance government is untrue.

The Tribe deals with facts. For example, Doug Payne said in his 16 years as prosecutor there have been no forcible rapes, no armed robberies and only one murder. A preliminary search of Idaho State Police records shows since 1995 there have been 23 forcible rapes in Benewah County, 4 robberies and two murders.

There are Idaho State Police statistics that show crime in Benewah County has increased since the cross deputization agreement was terminated in 2007. ISP data also shows that crime in Kootenai County has steadily dropped in Kootenai County since the cross deputization agreement was put into place.

The issue is not a fabrication. There is documented proof, including several incidents in the last weekend and dispatch logs from Benewah County. The Tribe will continue document Benewah County's failure to help non-tribal members on the reservation.

Tribal members do not receive monthly payments from the federal government. Doug Payne said that every tribal member receive a federal subsidiary of \$25,000 annually. This is untrue.

Doug Payne said the Tribe insists it has the right to the exclusive use of water on Coeur d'Alene Lake. This is untrue.

The Tribe believes it has the right to promote public safety on the lake, by encouraging boaters to observe proper speeds and safety procedures, such as having life vests for everyone on board. The idea that tribe would attempt to limit anyone from enjoying the lake is untrue.

The Tribe maintains it has civil jurisdiction on the lake. Doug Payne said the Tribe refused to sign an agreement with Benewah County because the Tribe refused to give up criminal jurisdiction on the lake. This is untrue.

Doug Payne spoke to me recently and I asked him what it would take to get a cooperative agreement with Benewah County. He replied that he is against any agreement. He believes the Tribe is trying to federalize law enforcement in Benewah County. This is untrue.

The Tribe wants to protect the reservation and the people living on it. It is not acceptable to have criminals using the reservation as a safe harbor from justice. That is the truth.
