

# COMSTOCK CHRONICLE

Covering Storey County and Virginia City News

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Ancient proverb.....



**"A fish rots from the head down."**

**When an organization or state fails, it is the leadership that is the root cause.**

By Las Swanson

Sam Toll suggested this saying as appropriate for this matter. I'm inclined to agree with him.

"A fish rots from the head down" is an ancient proverb. In current usage, it is an observation that leadership is ultimately the root cause of any organization's problems or failures. If an organization is experiencing a problem, only leadership can correct that problem. If the leadership culture itself is unhealthy, there begins the rot and soon the fish is lost. If an undesirable or unhealthy condition exists, it is because leadership allows it to exist. If an organization is experiencing difficulty because it has the wrong individuals on board, it is leadership that allows the wrong individuals to stay. It is leadership that can demand the right people be hired and retained and that those who damage the organization be removed.

Leadership sets and maintains organizational standards.

Therefore, we look to our leadership to determine a healthy and appropriate course of action to identify and eliminate the individual/s responsible for the repeated leaks which damage Storey County, the citizenry and all individuals involved.

Such measures are necessary to keep the fish from rotting.

## Oops. VC Leaks, again?

By Las Swanson

As reported in last week's Comstock Chronicle, confidential Storey County documents have been leaked, more than once, to a reporter at a Reno media outlet. First, it was paperwork pertaining to the Black murder case. Then, it was the investigative results of a case alleging prohibited conduct and behavior.

Because the leaked documents pertain to ongoing cases within Storey County, no one is willing or able to talk about this matter. Due to this lack of available information, it is impossible to answer the questions that are on everyone's minds:

- Who is responsible for this leak?
- Who had copies of this report at the time it was leaked?
- Does Storey County have a policy for dealing with a leak of confidential information?
- If there is a policy, does it outline the consequences to an individual/s found guilty of leaking confidential documents?
- Will there be any action, taken by Storey County, to determine the source of this leak?
- Was any action taken after the leak of confidential documents pertaining to the Black case?
- If a leak is not suspected in Storey County, is there another theory as to how a Reno reporter obtained confidential information in not just one but at least two separate known instances?

- Have there been past additional leaks or has leakage been confined to just these two matters pertaining to the Sheriff's Office?
- Who would investigate the possibility of a leak? Would it be the Sheriff's Office, Courthouse Security or perhaps an independent investigator?

These questions have been posed to the office of the Storey County District Attorney, Human Resources and the County Manager in the hopes that they might be able to shed some light on the matter or put us in contact with the individuals who can.

I do not believe it is in the best interest of Storey County to simply sweep this incident under the rug. The fact that multiple Storey County "confidential" documents have somehow found their way into the hands of the media begs investigation.

It does not seem likely the company hired to conduct the investigation of the alleged *prohibited conduct and behavior* was responsible simply because leaks have occurred twice, to the same media source, and this investigative firm was not involved in the first matter. If we rule out this outside party, that leaves us only those inside Storey County to consider. The possibility that someone in an appointed or elected capacity could be responsible for leaking confidential documents to the media provides cause to question the

integrity and security of Storey County policies/procedures. Additionally, it makes me very uncomfortable to consider the possibility that we may have an elected or appointed official who would repeatedly, for their own gain (because this certainly does not benefit the community), provide confidential documents to the press. How many times will they be permitted to do this? In what other ways might they compromise Storey County for their own personal gain?

Leaks of this type violate Storey County's policy regarding confidentiality. Has the party responsible for these leaks exposed Storey County to the possibility of law suits from those individuals whose rights to privacy have been violated?

Has this individual violated the law in addition to Storey County policy?

Is this the type of person we want in a position of authority or leadership within Storey County?

If these leaks are not coming from inside Storey County, it behooves the County to prove that in order to set the record straight, preserve the reputation of Storey County in the public eye, prevent the damage that can be levied by the suspicion and mistrust of the public this repeated breach could engender and protect those who may become the targets of suspicion.

Sam Toll is investigating this matter and we will keep you posted with further information as it becomes available.

Here come elections...

### CANDIDATE FORUM

**SEPTEMBER 28  
6 pm to 9 pm**

At Virginia City  
High School Commons

**More Info:**  
(775) 847-0796

## WEEKEND WEATHER

### Friday



High 62°  
Low 39°  
Mostly Sunny  
Rise: 6:47 AM  
Set: 6:53 PM

UV Index: 6 of 10  
Thunderstorms: 0%  
Precipitation: 0 %  
Wind: NNW 9 MPH

### Saturday



High 69°  
Low 39°  
Sunny  
Rise: 6:48 AM  
Set: 6:51 PM

UV Index: 6 of 10  
Thunderstorms: 0%  
Precipitation: 0%  
Wind: NE 8 MPH

### Sunday



High 73°  
Low 39°  
Sunny  
Rise: 6:49 AM  
Set: 6:49 PM

UV Index: 6 of 10  
Thunderstorms: 0%  
Precipitation: 0%  
Wind: ENE 10 MPH

### **FREE!!!!** HEALTH CARE CLINIC

Sep 23, 24 & 25  
In Silver Springs for  
ALL Comstock  
residents in need!

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