

LETTERS

Tea Party Patriots 'standing up against destruction of our country'



Elgin Town Councilman Larry B. Risvold shared this photo representing his military service.

a DUI-traffic unit to consist of four new police officers, four new police cars and additional training during a time when our local, state and national governments are spending too much. Councilman Jones was the No. 1 supporter of the increase, saying it was "revenue neutral." I have always thought that police are not there to make money but rather to serve and protect -- but maybe I am wrong. Matthews has stated that he will pay back the \$250,000 in six months through speeding tickets and other fines, which means the working citizens of Kershaw County will be paying for Matthews' "revenue neutral" program.

During this time members of the Patriots set up a Facebook page which anyone can ask to be a member and can post whatever they like. Please check out the Kershaw County Patriots Facebook site and you will find articles on Agenda 21, Home Land Security, Constitutional Rights and many other topics.

One such article was posted by Marlene (Patty) Motley titled "When to shoot a cop." First off, let me say I do not know of anyone in the Kershaw County Patriots who would ever condone shooting anyone, especially a police officer. I will also point out that the title is way out there -- intended to get attention -- but the article does not condone shooting anyone. Sheriff Matthews himself stated the article did not promote the shooting of a cop. The article discusses situations when governments were dangerous such as in Nazi Germany. By the time the Jews were in concentration camps, it was too late for them to resist. At what point are citizens forced to defend themselves from government agents when the government agents are clearly wrong? That was the question being discussed and was the entire point of the article.

Jeff Mattox did not write or post the article, nor did he even comment on it. Jeff just clicked on the "Like" button on Facebook below the article to indicate that it was interesting. For some reason, the sheriff and Councilman Jones could not wait to run off at the mouth with their vulgar, slanderous attacks based on this one innocent act of Jeff's. The words they used were "Right Wing Extremist" and "Nazi" which they published in the newspaper and stated on the local news TV programs. Could this be a reprisal against someone who questioned their actions?

Soon after, Kershaw County Republican Party Chairman Chris Oviatt held an emergency meeting of the executive committee and removed the co-chair seat that Jeff held. Jeff was not kicked out of the Republican Party and is still a precinct executive committeeman for the GOP. Jeff, as a result of all these unfair and uncalled-for attacks, received

some threats that left him concerned for his physical safety. With the upcoming national election the Democrats want to shut up the Tea Parties across this county. They do not want us telling Americans about their fiscal incompetence and lies. Remember Janet Napolitano, shortly after being confirmed Secretary of Homeland Security, published a document stating that our veterans and returning veterans are our new terrorist threat? She has also published a document called "Rightwing Extremism: Current Economic and Political Climate Fueling Resurgence in Radicalization and Recruitment." Sheriff Matthews is using this document to justify placing individuals like me on a rightwing extremist list which he has done and which I find very appalling.

With Sheriff Matthews' extensive DEA and ATF background, one can imagine a police state which is very scary. I would strongly encourage Sheriff Matthews to welcome Sheriff Richard Mack and Oath keepers into our sheriff's department to train the sheriff and all his employees what it means to be a constitutional public servant. Lexington County Sheriff James Metts has already scheduled Sheriff Mack, who is a strict constitutional sheriff, to train all his deputies. That would go a long way to help repair Matthews' damaged image, with three \$2 million lawsuits pending. There are many Kershaw County citizens who have voters' remorse and for good reason. Top that with Councilman Jones' unacceptable statements and you have to wonder if it's fair to think there may be a different agenda being played out here.

I know that I and my fellow Patriots are not "right wing extremist" nor are we "Nazis." Someone should make a public apology.

Larry B. Risvold
Elgin

Summer reading selection's language, not message, remains parent's concern

For those of you who may not be familiar with this issue, my problem is with books with excessive profanity being used in the Kershaw County School District. The one discussed in this article used the "F" word close to 20 times along with other multiple, in my opinion, socially unacceptable words. I have to refer to this word as the "F" word because it would otherwise not be printed in this paper, just as it wasn't used in the WLTX news broadcast, but still OK for our school district to make it available to our kids.

To start with, I don't understand concern about First Amendment rights. No one is asking these types of books to be destroyed and no further books like them to ever be written, sold or read again. If this were someone who was trying to destroy these types of books or trying to remove them from the Kershaw County Public

Library, I would agree with the folks on the committee and back the authors of these books 100 percent. On that note, I would like to thank the author Chris Crutcher for donating five copies to our public library (again my opinion, this is where it should be) in this economy, I'm sure their budget is tight.

This situation was different however. Even if these books are removed from use in our school district they are readily available to students through the public library and, of course, multiple bookstores or even downloaded. I am very disappointed, but not surprised, at the decision to keep books with this type of language in our school system and am sure there are plenty of books with the same messages that do not rely on such an abundant use of profanity to get their message across. I

never had a problem with the stories or the messages in this book as I feel any topic can and should be discussed in a professional manner without the use of profanity. I would think, as a school district, we would be concentrating on teaching our kids how to respond to adversity and tough situations in a civil and professional manner so they don't rely on profanity-laced comments to express themselves in their adult lives.

Concerning the summer reading list, it would be nice for future lists to at least forewarn parents which books have objectionable or explicit language and content. I don't know about other parents but I don't have the time to read 40 books in one month in an effort to make an educated decision of which book is best for my kids.

Doug Berry
Camden



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