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## Clarkston woman creates stir

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By Brandon Macz of the Tribune

**Dianne Capps says comment made at Tea Party rally about hanging Sen. Murray taken out of context**



Dianne Capps...

Clarkston's Dianne Capps made national headlines when video from a Tea Party rally hit the Internet where she is heard making the claim she would like to hang U.S. Sen. Patty Murray.

But Capps said her statement was taken out of context in a story run by KLEW-TV, where she referenced the movie "Lonesome Dove" and its character Jake Spoon and the parallels between him and Murray, D-Wash.

"What happened to Jake when he ran with the wrong crowd?" asked Capps, who co-organized the Tea Party rally at the Asotin County Fairgrounds Saturday. "What happened to Jake when he ran with the wrong crowd? He got hung. And that's what I want to do with Patty Murray."

The news clip has since received links from multiple online blog and news sites, including the Seattle Post Intelligencer, the Seattle Times, MSNBC and the Huffington Post.

The news clip can be viewed at <http://www.klewtv.com/news/local/84420877.html>.

"They didn't print the whole thing," Capps said of KLEW's coverage, adding she went on to say people could 'hang' Murray by voting her out of office. "Patty Murray has been hanging with the wrong crowd. I would hang Patty Murray by vote. That's the whole point that's missing."

But KLEW news director Greg Meyer said the unedited footage from the Tea Party rally doesn't have Capps making a statement about hanging Murray with votes. Prior to the comment, he said, Capps had been talking about voter registration.

"The raw video shows that it wasn't taken out of context," Meyer said. "I still contend the coverage was fair. We had no agenda going into it."

Capps was contacted by KLEW for a story clarifying her statement, but Meyer said she declined an interview.

Calls have been pouring in, Capps said, since someone commented on a blog posted by the Huffington Post providing readers with her name, address and phone number.

"I have calls from California all night," Capps said, adding phone calls woke her at 5 a.m. Thursday and she plans on changing her number. "I've got calls that are, 'So you're going to hang Patty Murray?' They're talking over you and not hearing what you're saying. That statement may have sounded a little harsh, but we have a nation that's upside down."

Capps said she is on Murray's mailing list and has spoken with her office in the past.

"They know I'm a peaceful Christian living here in eastern Washington and very conservative," she said.

She said she believes Murray is likely used to hearing sometimes caustic statements as a senator working in Washington, D.C.

"We'd probably both laugh about it," Capps said. "She's used to people saying you voted wrong. That's basically what I said. She voted wrong and we need to vote her out."

Murray's press office declined to comment, but an e-mail statement was released by Murray's campaign manager, Carol Albert, addressing the comment that has gone viral online.

"Patty Murray shares the anger and frustration that many people are feeling today about the pace of our economic recovery and the partisan deadlock in Washington, D.C.," Albert's e-mail states. "But positions like that taken by the Tea Party spokesperson have never solved a problem. What people want right now is for people to come together to find solutions, not more rhetoric that drives us apart."

But it would appear Murray may actually profit from Capps' statement.

Albert is using the video on Murray's Web site seeking campaign donations from \$5 to \$4,800.

The video is shown to the right of an online donation form stating, "please watch the video" and "then make a generous contribution to Patty Murray's campaign."

"Patty's opponents will say and do just about anything to stop her," according to the donation page, "and we can't let them. We can't let these fringe ideas take our nation backwards."

Capps said she has not been contacted by authorities given several news agencies and blog sites are calling her comments a threat against Murray, but "I had my hair done just in case."

A determination on whether to investigate threats against a federal official would be made at the discretion of the U.S. Attorney's Office in the jurisdiction of the threat, said FBI Special Agent Frederick Gutt in Seattle.

When asked about the alleged threats made against Murray, Gutt said the FBI cannot comment on details or the existence of any ongoing matters.

Capps said she doesn't feel she needs to apologize for her statement, adding she referenced "Lonesome Dove" because she is a fan of the time period depicted in the film.

"I happened to mention and think about Jake (Spoon)," she said. "A slip of the tongue happens. I don't see where I need to apologize for hanging her by vote."

She added those attending the Tea Party rally didn't seem to take offense to her comment. "Most people didn't notice because they didn't take it out of context."