

## UNAPPROVED CHESTERFIELD NEWSLETTER 53



**December 17, 2013**

**By John Hoffmann**

Everybody comments at one time or another how I'm negative. Some people will say it different ways..."John is a bit of a curmudgeon"...or..."he reminds me of Andy Rooney." But I have to admit that at times I'm a "glass half-empty guy." When I was a police administrator or worked as an enforcement official for a large government transportation agency, I always planned for worse case scenarios. The last Town and Country newsletter I started with Christmas stuff. Most of it is repeated in this newsletter, BUT I DID ADD SOME NEW MATERIAL. For this newsletter I began with the usual sarcastic and negative new reports and then move on to Christmas.

### **BIG DIFFERENCE IN POLICE CALLS AT THE COMPETING OUTLETS MALLS:**

We received three months of police activity reports from the two new outlet malls and on review several things became very clear.



**Item 1...More Police Needed:** In three months Chesterfield cops answered 109 calls at the two outlet malls. Without more officers this would have meant that officers would be taken away from answering other calls and from patrolling other businesses and residential areas 109 times. Plus police have conducted 129 proactive foot patrols at both malls.

The city hired three new officers in 2013 and plans to add more in 2014.



**Item 2...Premium Outlet Mall generates more police activity.** Judging from the police activity at the two malls it appears as if the Premium Mall is busier than the Taubman Outlet Mall. During the first three full months of operations (September through November) the Premium Outlets generated 72% of the police calls. It appears as if this is caused for two reasons.

First it appears as if there are either more people at the Premium Outlets or stupider people. We base that on the fact that police responded to 16 calls of people locking their keys in their car at the Premium Outlet compared to 2-lockout calls at Taubman. Second are theft reports...

**Item 3...Shoplifters take note...you don't get arrested at the Taubman Outlets:** Outlet Malls draw shoplifters. Apparently the police are called for thefts at the Premium Outlet Malls and not at the Taubman Outlet Malls. I don't think this translates into there is better stuff to steal at the Premium Mall.

Back in September after both malls were operating Chesterfield Police Chief Ray Johnston told the Finance and Administration Committee the police department was being "inundated" with calls from the malls and he wanted a six officer team to patrol them. Keep in mind that is not six officers at the same time. It really breaks down to two officers at a time when consider days off and the need to provide 12-hours of coverage.

Johnson provided the number of calls in the first three weeks of both malls being open including auto accidents on roads near the malls. While Chief Johnson was able to include the accident information I was not, as I was told it would be too time consuming and difficult to obtain when I made my request. It was obtained for Chief Johnson, but impossible to get for me. In the words of Mel Brooks, "It's good to be the chief."

**Taubman Outlet Mall...friendly to shoplifters:** Chief Johnson also mentioned at the meeting that the security at the Taubman Mall had been instructed not to deal with shoplifters. It shows. During the period of September 1 to November 30 the police responded to exactly one Larceny call at the Taubman Mall and responded to 16 similar calls at the Premium Mall.

**Foot Beats:** Apparently the Chesterfield officers believe the Premium Mall needs more attention because out of all the foot patrols done at the two malls 60% of them are at the Premium Outlet. Over three months the Chesterfield Police conducted 77 foot patrols at the Premium Mall and 50 foot patrols at the Taubman Mall.

**MORE BUSINESS AT PREMIUM STORES:** Post-Dispatch business columnist Kavita Kumar on Friday wrote how sales at both malls slowed after the opening weeks, but how the Premium Outlet Mall is doing much better than the Taubman Mall.

[http://www.stltoday.com/business/columns/consumer-central/after-big-opening-rush-new-outlet-stores-hoping-traffic-will/article\\_856ccaf0-1ea6-5a44-ad1a-69cb416011c3.html](http://www.stltoday.com/business/columns/consumer-central/after-big-opening-rush-new-outlet-stores-hoping-traffic-will/article_856ccaf0-1ea6-5a44-ad1a-69cb416011c3.html)

### **T-FED RUNS INTO HOUSE AND TURNS OFF LIGHTS TO AVOID SUMMONS**

**SERVICE:** Theodore T. Federer, better known as “T-FED” has had quite a year after turning 21. There was the DWI arrest in Ellisville with other charges being filed this summer and his probation for DWI being revoked in Camden County. Then there was the charge that came about on October 29, 2013 in St. Charles reference an incident in December of 2012 when he attempted to get his younger brother, Jason, into the AmeriStar in St. Charles. The latest on that charge was a notation from deputy sheriff serving a criminal summons on T-Fed reference the offense on December 11. The notation read, “**AVOIDED SERVICE BY RUNNING IN HOUSE AND TURNING OFF LIGHTS.**”

It is nice to T-Fed is becoming more responsible and mature.



T-Fed's latest Facebook photo.



Two classic T-Fed Facebook photos.



Chesterfield PD Mugshot

Here is T-Fed's current rap sheet that we have been able to put together.

10/29/13 Aid a Person Under 21 To Enter Gambling Boat Mo Gaming Comm Enforcement Section  
08/09/13 Probation Violation and Revocation Camden County  
05/18/13 Driving While Intoxicated Ellisville PD  
05/18/13 Driving on Revoked License Ellisville PD  
05/18/13 Speeding Ellisville PD  
05/18/13 Failure to Show Proof of Insurance Ellisville PD  
05/18/13 Open Container of Alcohol w/driving Ellisville PD  
05/18/13 Possession of Marijuana Ellisville PD  
11-02-12 State of Missouri files Forfeiture Papers St. Louis County Prosecutor  
10-23-12 2001 Audi and \$8,975 in cash seized St. Louis County Police  
as profits of illegal activity  
08-25-12 Attempt to Purchase Liquor by a Minor Missouri Highway Patrol  
Montgomery County Missouri  
03-29-12 Stealing Chesterfield PD  
03-29-12 Destruction of Property Chesterfield PD  
02-13-12 Minor in Possession of Liquor Chesterfield PD  
02-13-12 Give false Information to Police Chesterfield PD  
01-11-12 Stealing Chesterfield PD  
01-11-12 Minor in Possession of Liquor Chesterfield PD  
09-03-11 Attempt to Purchase Liq by Minor Camden County Sheriff's Office  
09-03-11 Driving While Intoxicated Camden County Sheriff's Office  
07-04-11 Minor Intoxicated Missouri Water Patrol  
09-03-10 Speeding (20 Over PG 5 days jail) Livingston Co Sheriff's Office  
10-08-08 Impeding Traffic Town and Country PD

## **MONARCH BOARD OF DIRECTORS VS LOCAL 2665:**

**Correction:** In our last newsletter we wrote about the labor negotiations based on notes taken by Jean Whitney. We made one error concerning Holiday overtime. Instead of double time for holidays, the firefighters are currently getting \$100 more when working a shift on a holiday. They want double time and in some cases triple time. Here is an e-mail from former fire district director Rick Gans correcting us:

John-

A clarification about what Jean reported from the meeting...

With regard to Holiday pay, it appears Jean thinks they currently get double pay and the Union now wants triple pay for overtime on Holidays. That is not correct. They currently get \$100 extra per each Holiday they work and they are now proposing that be increased to double time pay which is a HUGE increase over the current Holiday pay (more than \$700 per FF average in place of the current \$100 per FF and this would absolutely be paid to all 27 FFs on duty before any overtime figures in). If the union proposal is passed with triple time pay being for overtime it would become an OUTRAGEOUSLY HUGE increase when it occurs.

Rick Gans

**THE LAST MONARCH NEGOTIATIONS OF THE YEAR: Things were civil and even respectful at Monday's Fire District Firefighter Labor Union contract negotiations.**

It was something that has not been seen in the past few months during the contract negotiations between the Fire District Board of Directors and Firefighters Local 2665. Everyone was nice. It was the last scheduled contract negotiations for the year. The next session will be in January. .

The Fire Union was still demanding more than the Fire District. The two proposals were handed out to those of us reporters. The Fire District's proposal was 34 pages long and nicely stapled. The Union's proposal was 54 pages and too large to staple. It was held together with a large paper clip.

**Good News:** Most of the two hours of negotiations featured Fire Board President Robin Harris going over the District's 34 page proposal. However things started off with Local 2665 attorney, Rick Berry making a very positive statement.

Berry announced that the fire Union has agreed on 21 of the 40 Fire District's proposals and up to six more proposals are near reaching tentative agreement status.

As Harris went through the District's latest proposals Brett Coleman, the lead negotiator for the Union did not raise his voice and asked polite questions. It was almost not worth attending the meeting. Everything was so low key. Several people in the crowd did start to leave after the first hour.



L:left to right Robin Harris, Jane Cunningham and Steven Sywers.

**“The Rick Berry ‘Until the Stars Fall From the Sky’ Clause”:** The District is not wanting to keep anything like what the current contract has which is a clause that if a new contract is not agreed upon, the old contract stays in full effect. Harris referred to

the clause as the “Rick Berry ‘Until the Stars Fall from the Sky Clause.’” Berry did not seem to take any offense to this.

In fact the District has filed an action in the Circuit Court to determine if the clause in the current contract is legally binding.

**Union Dues Deductions Still Out:** The Board has agreed to make direct deposits on everything from automatic payments for life insurance, saving plans, insurance payments and deferred comp payments for employees. The one thing they still will not allow in the new contract is direct payments to the fire union.

**HOLIDAYS:** The Union wants 12 paid Holidays while the District is willing to pay for eight.

UNION Holidays	DISTRICT Holidays
New Year’s Day	New Year’s Day
Martin Luther King, Jr. Day	Martin Luther King, Jr. Day
Easter	Easter
Memorial Day	Memorial Day
July Fourth	July Fourth
Labor Day	Labor Day
Veteran’s Day	Thanksgiving Day
Thanksgiving Day	Christmas Day
Day After Thanksgiving	
Christmas Eve	
New Year’s Eve	

The District’s contract proposal allows the Fire Chief to send 8-hour a day administration employees home early on the day before Thanksgiving, Christmas Eve and New Year’s Eve, but does not allow the entire day to be taken off, unless leave time is used.

**UNION PATCH:** The Union still wants firefighters to wear their Union patch on their uniform shirts. The District with the new alignment after the election of former Senator Jane Cunningham has been against this since the first day of negotiation. Now there is some new verbiage.



“Employees may wear the district approved “Union patch” on their uniform shirt, if the Union can demonstrate to the District’s satisfaction that such is in accord with Constitutional law, Statutory law and case law.”

“I have not found any case law on subject of citizens challenging a union logo on an uniform,” said Union lawyer Rick Berry.

“Maybe we will have a challenge and find out,” replied Jane Cunningham in while making one of her first comments of the evening.



From left to right...Local 2665 rep Keith Goldstein with his mouth shut, Capt. Brett Copeland asking a question and Union lawyer Rick berry taking notes.

**SICK PAY BUY BACK:** The District wants to reduce the amount of unused sick leave employees can sell back to the District and the amount paid for the sick leave.

Cunningham then mentioned that these changes were necessary as there is currently a \$1.6 million liability of unused sick leave on the books facing the District.

Frankly in the more than 30-years I worked for different public safety government agencies sick leave was there in case you got sick, not as a bankable asset.

The reason to allow employees to sell back sick leave is to keep them from abusing it. The downside of allowing employees to sell it back is that employees who are very sick, show up at work.

I experienced this when I worked for Montgomery County, the second largest government/political subdivision in Maryland after state government. Employees were given a cash bonus if they did not use any sick leave during a calendar year. It brought a lot of people to work in the offices, elevators and bathrooms who should have been home for a week.

While Union negotiators and Harris comment how well all of a sudden things have been moving along, Cunningham took a different view.

“How long does this keep going on? We have already gone months and spent \$100,000 on lawyers. That’s a lot of money,” she said.

## **THE LAWSUITS:**

Currently there are three legal actions in play in connection with the Fire District and the Fire Union.

1) The Fire Union filed suit on behalf of three members up for the next captain’s position. They claim there is an opening for a captain’s job and the District per the existing contract must promote someone already on the promotion list.

The District’s response is that the Union cannot tell the district how many supervisory officers they must have. Their position is they do not feel there is a need to file the open position and desire to reduce the number of the captains, eliminating a “relief” captain position.

This suit was filed on October 30 and the last notation on the case file was on November 19.

2) The Fire Union filed a motion in Federal court to find Cunningham in violation of rule of discussing matters learned in a closed session.

The Fire District maintains that what Director Cunningham said at a public meeting, where no members of the public were in attendance may have been mentioned in a closed meeting, but the same information she talked about was in open public records.



**3)** On December 11 the fire District filed suit against the Fire Union, asking for a judge to determine if the clause in the current contract forcing the existing contract to stay in effect is legal since it mandates conduct from a prior board of directors onto a newly elected board of directors.

Near the end of Monday's session, Rick Berry asked the district's labor lawyer, Bob Stewart what the district planned to do on January 1 when the contract expires. Stewart indicated that they would continue negotiating in good faith and the current contract would remain in effect until they reached agreement on a new 2-year deal or until the court issued a ruling.



Fire District's labor lawyer Bob Stewart responds to a question from Local 2665 attorney Rick Berry.

**NO BUSTING GOING ON MONDAY NIGHT:** For the first time since I began attending these contract negotiations I did not hear Keith Goldstein of Local 2665 accuse one of the District's Directors of "union busting." In fact Goldstein did not say a word. Perhaps that was one of the reasons the two hours went so smoothly.

**UNION DOESN'T LIKE WINDY COLD DAYS:** The Fire Union contract proposal has the following concerning outside training: "The District shall not require outside training of the employees if the temperature/**wind chill factor** outside is below forty (40) degrees Fahrenheit..." At a recent meeting where there picketers outside in a cold rain, Keith Goldstein of Local 2665 said how they would be picketing if cold, wet or hungry. Apparently local firefighters will picket in the cold, but they don't want to train in the cold.

The District wants to drop the "wind chill" portion dropped and simply state the outside temperature cannot be below 40-degrees.

Robin Harris points out that firefighters turnout gear is designed to keep them warm.

I understand why you would not like to see firefighters injured from frostbite due to frigid conditions for training. But really, do you cancel training because it is 48 outside but with a 25 mph wind?



How do Monarch firefighters train for cold water rescues if the contract forbids them from training outside if the temperatures reach 40?

**FOOD: Restaurant Review:** On December 8 at the Town and Country Board of Aldermen agenda meeting, Mayor & Cigarette Lobbyist Jon Dalton said there was a Big Deal in Town and country. I wrote in the last T&C Newsletter that when he said there was a “Big Deal” I immediately thought some important medical advancement was discovered at Missouri Baptist Medical Center or perhaps the police had arrested someone on the FBI’s Top Ten Most Wanted List.



But then Dalton said the “big deal” was that a chain restaurant, cooper’s Hawk was opening at the Town & Country Crossing Center at Woods Mill and Clayton Roads. It opened on December 12<sup>th</sup>.

On Monday I was joined by two others to check out the place and the food.

Jean Whitney, former Chesterfield Patch.com editor joined me and my wife for a 1:45 lunch. We set the time later so as not to be part of the lunch rush. Our server said we were her first customers of the day. The place opens at 11:30.

We did lunch since this newsletter is not a profit making enterprise and we could get three opinions on three meals for under \$100.

Jean had the Gnocchi Carbonara for \$17 with a glass of “Romance” red wine. All the wines are from cooper Hawks’ Illinois vineyards.



Pretzel bread arrived with Jean's order. It really didn't have much pretzel taste. The pretzel rolls at Costco, Schnuck's and Dierberg's are all better. r

Jean reported the gnocchi was a bit salty but good. She said her \$6.50 glass of wine reminded her of a Mogen David variety.

My wife had the roasted vegetables (\$3.99) and a cup of Crab and Lobster Bisque (\$5.99 a cup and \$6.99 for a bowl).



The roasted vegetables consisted of a carrot, some onions and leek plus a piece of zucchini. My wife reported the favor was good, but there weren't many vegetables. She likes the roasted veggies at Tucker's much better as you get much more for a \$1 less.



The Crab and Lobster Bisque was a big hit. It was tasty with lots of crab and lobster.

My wife also had the Unoaked chardonnay (\$7.25). She wasn't impressed, but the server brought her a sample of the Lux chardonnay (\$9.50 a glass) which she said was excellent.

I went for the Cheeseburger (\$11 with a side) and choose "Betty's Potatoes" as my side instead of French fries. As a side it goes for \$4.





The half-pound burger was very good. It was properly cooked. It had the lettuce and tomato on the bottom. The two slices of cheese were melted perfectly. The burger was flavorful. In case I didn't mention it was also \$11. The burgers at O'Connell's, Tuckers and Smitty's are also good and are well under 10 bucks.

"Betty's Potatoes" were another story. The string potatoes in a sauce with crumbs on top tasted more like Kraft Mac n' Cheese than potatoes.

The service was fine and they had chefs and managers in from headquarters in Chicago doing training of new employees.

The restaurant appears to be huge, but our server told us it is the smallest of all Cooper's Hawks. She also said while the other locations offer live music, this one will not due to its size. Frankly it looked huge, but maybe that was also because it was empty. There were two ladies dining when he walked in and when we paid the bill it was only us.

**COOPER'S HAWKS APPARENTLY BELIEVE PEOPLE IN SNOBURBIA CANNOT DO MATH:** I was amused that our check showed how much 15%, 18% and 20% of the bill was. Apparently Cooper's Hawk management doesn't think rich people can do math.

**NO RUSH:** My wife thought Cooper's Hawk in the day would be a good place for groups of women to meet once in a while for lunch. The dinner meals ranged from \$22 to \$34. It is cheaper than Ruth Chris but 30% more than Tuckers. We all agreed for lunch we would probably go to Tucker's, Smitty's or Red Lobster before our next trip to Cooper's Hawk.

## NEWSLETTER CHRISTMAS SPECIAL



**OUTRAGE FORCES ESPN TO RUN CARDINAL GLENNON AD:** ESPN, the all sports network, had refused to run an ad for the Cardinal Glennon Hospital because the ad mentioned Jesus and God in connection with Christmas messages of hope to sick children. The national outrage forced ESPN to reconsider. Now the Cardinal Glennon ad has aired around the world thanks to the uproar. Excellent marketing on behalf of SSM Cardinal Glennon...worldwide coverage for the cost of one commercial!

I joined the crowd that posted on the ESPN facebook page with the following:

Perhaps ESPN will stop covering Boston College and Notre Dame sports plus BYU, Southern Methodist and other religious based universities. In fact stop showing baseball players who wear crosses and do not mention any players by their first name if it happens to be Jesus. I think it is important to be consistent in keeping Jesus off the air since that appears to be your policy. It is good to see that you are not concerned about your advertisers, who are trying to reach buyers in the US market place where 78% of the population is Christian.

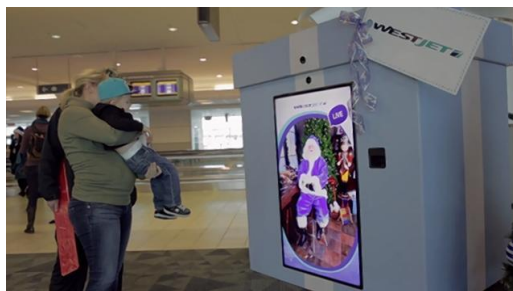
### **CANADIAN AIRLINE PULLS A GREAT CHRISTMAS PR STUNT FOR 116**

**PASSENGERS:** This posting on You Tube is worth a look. It is from the Southwest Airlines of Canada, West Jet and it happened on December 10. The You Tube video has already had 29,000,000 views. That is 1,000,000 more views than the Julie Andrews Do-Re-Me flash mob at the Antwerp Railroad station that was posted in 2009.

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=zIElvi2MuEk>

Here is the link to the 2009 Antwerp railroad station video.

<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=7EYAUazLI9k>



Taking to Santa before taking off on a West Jet flight.



baggage claim-eight, get misty eyed.

A passenger who just received a gift at

**CHICAGO'S MAGICAL PIANO:** Here is another You Tube video of Amtrak having some fun at Chicago's Union Station. It's more Christmas fun.

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=D9BOTXFCpQA>



**The rest of the Christmas stories originally appeared in the December 12th Town and Country Newsletter**

**MAYBE THE LAST YEAR FOR THE OVER THE TOP CHRISTMAS HOUSE ON LADUE ROAD:** The over-the-top but wonderful Christmas House on Ladue a couple of blocks east of Mason Road may be up for the last time. The house features its own radio station, lights that change to the beat of the music, videos on a huge round screen. I stopped by and watched the lights and video for about 20 minutes. There was an announcement that this might be the last Christmas for the show. The lights and accessories start going up in October. We suggest you put on your list of things to do this Christmas season.





**THE CHRISTMAS HOUSE ON W. JACKSON AT LOCKWOOD IS AGLOW AGAIN THIS YEAR:** Every year a visit to the overdone but spectacular light show on Ladue Road is followed by a trip to the more subtle but equally spectacular Christmas House on W. Jackson Avenue two doors south of Lockwood in Webster Groves.





**THE WREATH OF CHRISTMAS PAST:** I think it was in 2007, my wife, the artist decided it would be interesting to make unusual Christmas wreaths. We spent nine months going to estate sales and buying up Santa, Frosty and Angel ornaments. She would then glue them on a wooden circle and create a wreath. She was sure these would be a big hit. It was one of her art projects where I agreed with her. Of course these could not be sold cheap, since they involved a lot of time and gasoline in collecting the ornaments, which included some from the Jack Carney estate sale. That November we took the wreaths to a stand we had set up at the Webster Groves Christmas Sunday bazaar on the streets of downtown Webster Groves. We were set up in front of Charlie's Barber Shop on W. Lockwood and S. Gore. Lots of people stopped by and said how cool the wreaths were but after six hours we had zero sales. This one hung on our door last year.



Here is the one on our door this year:



## CHRISTMAS SOUNDS:

**The Route 66 Jazz Orchestra Christmas Concert:** The first concert was held on December 11 at the First Unity Church on Butler Hill Road. But don't worry there is a second one at the Kirkwood Station Brewery on E. Jefferson just past Kirkwood Road on Wednesday December 18 at 7pm. While the acoustics are a little better at the church, the food and bar service is much better in Kirkwood.



The final Christmas concert of the season by the route 66 Jazz Orchestra will be at the Kirkwood Station Brewery on E. Jefferson Ave. at Kirkwood Road.





A guest vocalist at the Route 66 Concert will be the very talented Dean Christopher.



**CHESTERFIELD'S JOE MANCUSO FEATURED:** On Sunday December 22 vocalist Joe Mancuso will join the Dave Dickey Big Band at Kirkwood Station Brewery on East Jefferson from 6-9 for a special Christmas show.

**THE CHARLIE B GROUP:** If you remember Charley B singing with Jim Manley standing in front of the Christmas tree at Jimmy's on the Park for seven years, here is some interesting news. Charlie and Jim will be putting on a Christmas show on Saturday December 21 at 7pm. It will be at the Kinda of Blue Club...which is actually a private home at **6101 Idaho Avenue in St. Louis**. Admission is \$10 and you bring whatever you want to eat or drink. Seating is limited so come a little early.



From December of 2010 at Jimmy's on the Park. Three weeks later Jimmy cancelled the 7-year Wednesday night run of the Charlie B Trio, that always morphed into more of a trip when area musicians would drop by.

**The Air Force Band of Mid-America:** We went to the Air Force Band Christmas concert on December 7. It was terrific, with maybe more self-promotion than in past years, but still a very nice evening at the Scottish Rite on Lindell.

Tech Sgt. Keisha Owin-Goodin of Chicago keeps getting better and better as the principal vocalist for the Band. She is also usually the feature vocalist with the Air Force Big Band, Shades of Blue. We first saw Keisha several Christmas' ago with most of the band was deployed to the Middle East to give Christmas concerts for the troops. That year there were only three or four band members left at Scott Air Force Base. Local musicians including some former members of the Air Force Band were hired to form a nine piece big band group that performed the Christmas concert series here. Keisha was the main vocalist.



Tech Sgt. Keisha Gwin-Goodin doing Winter Wonderland and then with all the vocalists doing carols. \



This was a "Holiday Concert" so the clarinet section had some fun with the Dreidel Song that followed a somber Ma'oz Tzur.



By the end of the show, the wind section of concert band was more outrageous than the big band brass and saxophones on the other side of the stage. Besides the head gear, the bassoon had flashing Christmas lights on it. Santa also made his annual visit.

**CHRISTMAS JAZZ SINGERS WERE GREAT:** If some of our regular readers remember, about five weeks ago I lambasted the vocal group the Java Jive that we saw at the Sheldon. On Monday night, I was late getting to the Webster University Jazz Singers holiday show, thanks to the Town and Country Board of Aldermen meeting. But I did catch the last hour of the show and it was great. Plus it is always nice to see college kids dressed up like adults.

Debby Lennon, who some in West County may know as the main female vocalist at St. Clements Catholic church on Bopp Road in Des Peres is the group's director. I first met Debby when she was singing with the Tommy Money Big Band. For a long time she has also been the director of the Webster University Jazz Singers. This year her 14 students sounded great. It was a real treat to hear them. But they are lucky because they were backed up with Carolbeth True on piano, Jeremy Pfeffer on the bass and Kevin Gianino on drums.





Webster U Jazz Vocal director Debby Lennon directs the Webster University Jazz Singers. Alyssa Hegwood gets into a very cool version of Sleigh Ride. **Students from Chesterfield** are freshman **Chela Mancuso**, the daughter of Joe Mancuso, on the far right of the first row and junior **Daniel Bradbury** second to the end

## ESCAPE RELATIVES OR JUST GET OUT OF THE HOUSE...WEBSTER

**UNIVERSITY TO SHOW CHRISTMAS TV FROM THE 1950s.** As part of the Webster University Film Series a special "Classic Christmas" 2-hour film consisting of Christmas shows from five 1950 era TV series.

The film will include Buffalo Bob and Howdy Doody, Betty White from her show "Date with an Angel," Ozzie and Harriet, Jack Benny, with Dennis Day, Mel Blanc and Rochester and finally Red Skelton as Freddy the Freeloader.

The film will be shown at 7:30 on December 23, 24 and 25 at Moore Auditorium on Lockwood in the main building. \$6 and \$5 for seniors at the door.



Red as Freddy the Freeloader



Howdy and Mr. Smith





The Nelsons around the Christmas Tree



Jack Benny tormenting a sales clerk played by Mel Blanc



Betty White from Date with an Angel

**MIRACLE ON 34<sup>TH</sup> STREET:** If you remember last year it seemed like the original 1947 version of Miracle on 34<sup>th</sup> Street (Was there ever a reason to make a different one?) seemed like it was on TV all Christmas season long. It was on TCM and it was featured for seven nights in a row on AMC. But if you are looking for it this year you might be out of luck. The TV rights for the movie were bought by HBO and it is only being shown seven times this year on the HBO Family Channel.

If you don't have that premium channel it's no Kris Kringle and Judge Henry X. Harper for you. If you have Netflix you have to order the movie, you can't download it. This makes me happy that I have the movie on a VHS tape and I still have a VCR that works.



20th Century Fox / Getty Images

Edmund Gwenn and Natalie Wood in two different scenes from Miracle on 34<sup>th</sup> Street.

This all reminds of it's a Wonderful Life. For several years no one owned the broadcasts rights to the movie and it was in public domain. It seemed like it was available on different TV stations and cable stations every night between Thanksgiving and Christmas. Where I was living at the time outside of Washington, DC even the local Community College's cable channel was running it every night. Then NBC bought the rights to it and it is now on the air two or three times a year, so it is not like Bert and Ernie, Clarence or Donna Reed and Jimmy Stewart are gone from your TVs.

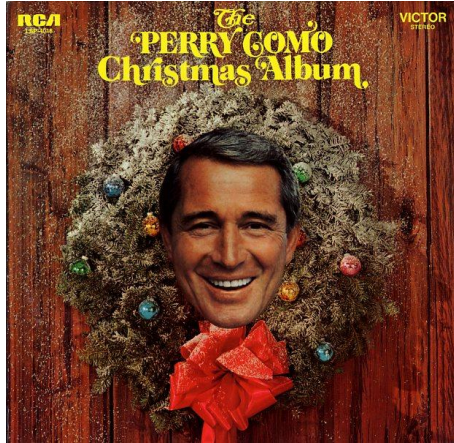


Bert and Ernie from the movie...the guys who these two characters on Sesame Street were named after.

**LIKE BEING AT CHURCH OR THE KRAFT MUSIC HALL:** I walked into the new super extra large Dierbergs in Des Peres and at first while listening to the Christmas music I thought I was in church...I heard of couple beautiful traditional Christmas songs by choirs. Then it was like being at the Kraft Music Hall in December...one 1950s era singer after another. I enjoyed it.

(The Kraft Music Hall was originally on the radio dating back to the 1930s when Bing Crosby was a host. Later Al Jolson was a host 1947-48. Jolson had the sarcastic wit of

Oscar Levant on the piano for two years. Perry Como was the host of the TV version from 1958 to 1967 and is probably the person closest associated with the show.)



I like to mess with the all too-young checkers during Christmas time, I say things like, “The Andrew Sisters really make Bing Crosby sound great don’t you think?”

“I am sick of this music,” is the reply from the checker.

I tried to convince one college age checker who was a baseball player and didn’t know who Bing Crosby was, that Bing was a big baseball guy.

“In ‘Going My Way” not only did he sing the Academy Award winning song (Swinging on a Star) he wore a St. Louis Browns jacket. Plus he was a part owner of the Pittsburgh Pirates in the 1950s,” I’d tell him and get a blank look back.

The other day I made my observation of the Christmas music taking me to different places to checker.

“At first I thought I was at church and then I thought I was at a telecast of the Kraft Music Hall,” I said.

“What’s a Kraft Music Hall, sir,” was the reply from a 20-something checker.

All this brings up the question:

Why do we get to hear Frank Sinatra, Dean Martin, Nat King Cole, Andy Williams, Bing Crosby, Doris Day and Perry Como in the grocery store in December and not in July once and a while?

**ANOTHER \$10,000 TO RUN AGAINST NO ONE:** I was waiting until the next quarterly campaign contributions reports were available on January 15, 2014 to continue to show how State Rep. John Diehl doesn't represent people from his district, but instead special interests from all over the country. We last reported on October 31 how Diehl had collected \$1,324,896 in money since 2008 to run against no one. We have also shown where Diehl is paying tens of thousands of dollars for political consultants and is taking fellow legislators out to \$300 and \$400 dinners.



Now we can add another \$10,000 to the pile of cash from another source outside of the district. While candidates and elected officials only have to report cash contributions quarterly, they have to report contributions in excess of \$5,000 immediately.

On 11/18/13 August Busch, III of Weldon Spring (St. Charles County...gives an office address in St. Peters) handed over \$10,000 to Diehl, who still has no known primary or general election opponent on the horizon in November of 2014.



August Busch, III who sold the Cardinals baseball team and who fathered August Busch IV, a person associated with dead women every couple of decades, and then put the kid in charge of the brewery which helped accelerate the buyout of the local business by the boys from Brazil/Belgium.

**MILLION DOLLAR DIEHL GETS \$550 IN WORLD SERIES TICKETS:** I'm almost embarrassed to have mentioned how State Rep. Sue Allen got \$163 in MU football tickets and food. The only reason it was worth mentioning was because the free handout was from Ameren UE. Who funds Ameren UE...why you and I do when we pay our electric bills.



But in the most recent lobbyist reports just out it turns out that Million Dollar John Diehl got two sets of \$275 World Series tickets from super lobbyist John Bardgett, totaling \$550. Diehl also got \$174 in playoff tickets from Bardgett. Bardgett claims the gifts were a lobbying effort for his firm and not a client. If you believe that one...I have some valuable stock in a company called Enron to sell you.

Among some on Bardgett's client list are Phillip Morris, Bank America, Pinnacle Entertainment (Casinos), healthcare providers and the St. Louis Cardinals.

**MEDIA WATCH:** I quit reading Bryan Burwell, sports columnist of the Post-Dispatch after he shaved 10 years off the age of Red Schoendienst in column, making him 75 when he was actually 85. Burwell would have had Red playing in the 1946 World Series when he was 13 instead of 23-years-old.

I think Post-dispatch TV reviewer and reporter Gail Pennington may have fallen into a similar category as Burwell. Here is part of what she wrote about the Carrie Underwood live version of the Sound of Music:

"A Sound of Music" without Julie Andrews as Maria? Never! But that's just what fans of Mary Martin, who created the role on Broadway said when Andrews was cast in the 1970 movie."



Pennington apparently is getting the Sound of Music (best 1965 film) confused with Patton (best film of 1970).

First of all the Sound of Music is a 1965 movie. Released in March of 1965, meaning it was filmed in 1964. It was nominated for ten Academy Awards and won as Best Picture at the awards ceremony in 1966. Andrews was nominated for Best Actress.

In 1964 Mary Martin was 51-years-old, an age making it difficult to play a 20-something novice nun, even though she had done it on Broadway without anyone thinking of a

Nurse Nellie Forbush in a two piece singing how she was going to wash that man out of her hair or as Peter Pan as far as that goes. .

However Martin was known for her Broadway role of Maria that she played at a very old age of 46, going with the role for two years from 1959 to 1961. Two years of Broadway audiences does not equal the third biggest box office grossing film (adjusted for inflation) of all time that is connected to the role with Andrews.

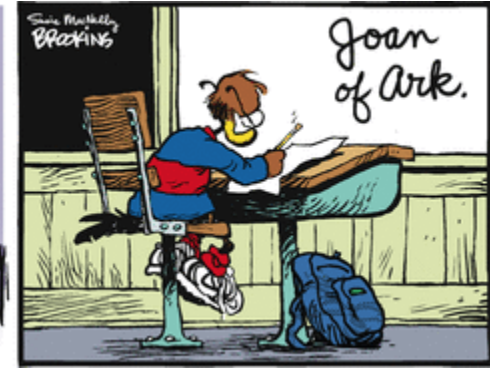
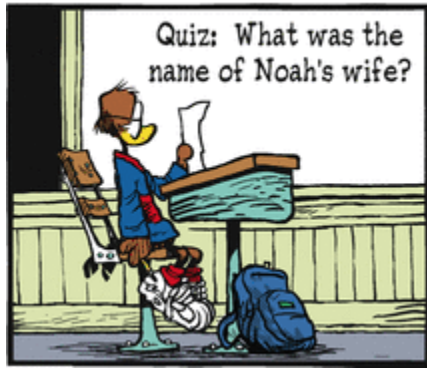
Also the movie was known in Hollywood to complete "Julie Andrews Revenge." Andrews who created the starring role of Miss Doolittle on Broadway for My Fair Lady only to lose the movie role to Audrey Hepburn who could not sing. She instead was cast in Marry Poppins and won the Academy Award for Best Actress. The following year she was nominated for best actress (only to lose to Julie Christie), but the Sound of Music won as best picture.

Apparently all of this escaped the attention of Gail Pennington. The movies that were released in 1970m, the biggest winners were two war movies, Patton and M\*A\*S\*H.

The fact the Pennington didn't have time to research her little one paragraph blurbs is bad enough. The fact that an entertainment critic at the Post-Dispatch has such a poor history of films (especially this one that is aired as a TV special once a year) is sad and the fact that an editor allowed this to escape tells you how sad the accuracy is of things in newspapers.

## CARTOONS:

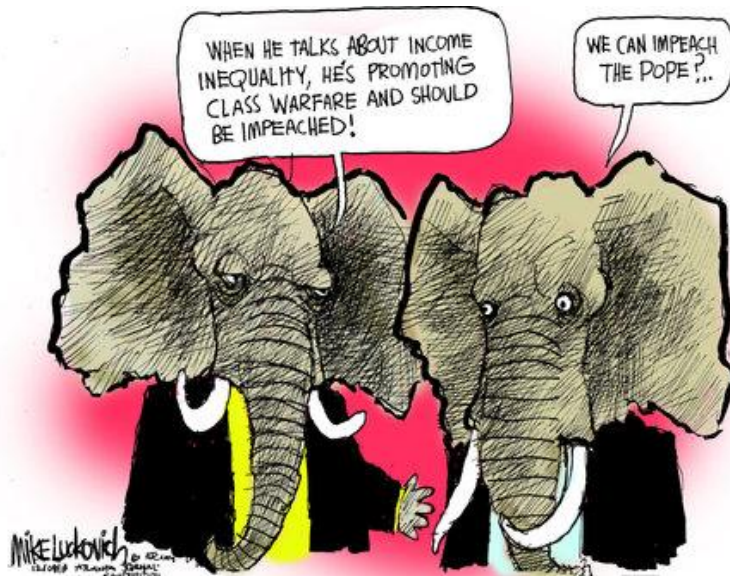




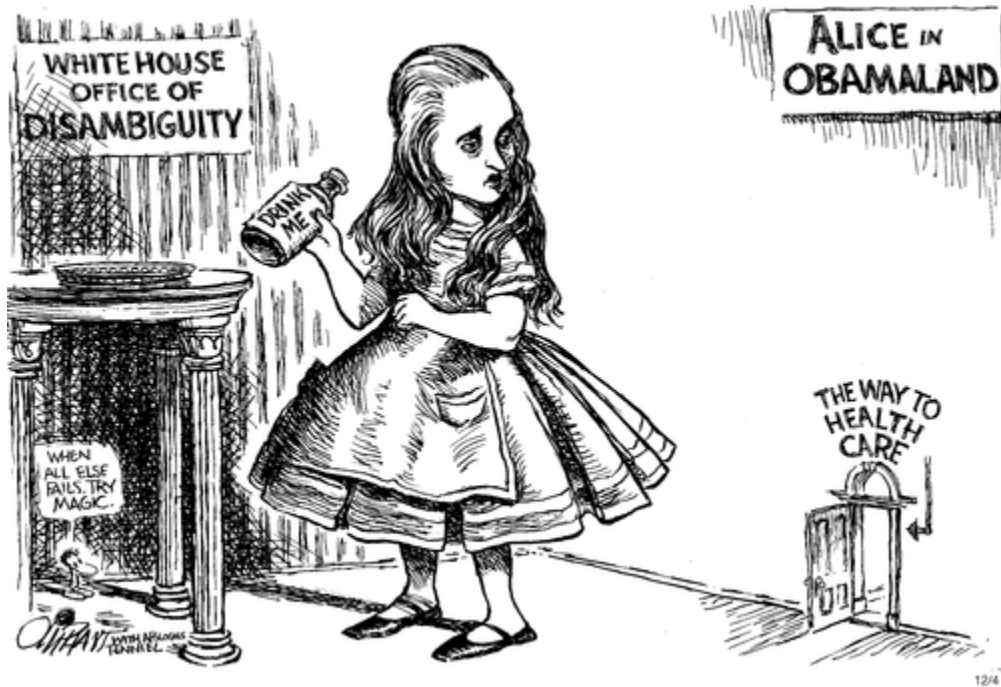




"I think they're going to try a Hail Mary."









AMAZON'S DRONE DELIVERY SYSTEM EXPERIENCED A FEW MINOR GLITCHES:

