

EX ALDERMAN NEWSLETTER 223 AND CHESTERFIELD 168

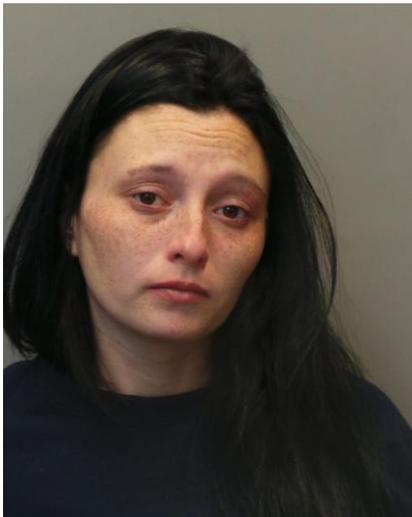


By John Hoffmann

April 12, 2016

GLENDALE POLICE RESPONSIBLE FOR SOLVING THEFTS BY MAID AT A TOWN AND COUNTRY HOME: On January 9, 2015 an officer with the Glendale Police, Officer Chris Sarantakis, called the homeowner of a house on Nettlecreek Drive in Town and Country.

Officer Sarantakis was investigating a theft from a residence in Glendale, where the homeowner believed a person with a three-member cleaning crew had stolen jewelry from their home on December 23, 2014. The crew with **The St. Louis Clean Team** had one new member, Kalyne Graves, 30. The crew members were interviewed by Glendale officers and Graves confessed to stealing the jewelry saying she sold it at a pawn shop in St. Louis.



Kalyne Graves

Officer Sarantakis went to the pawn shop, Missouri Gold Buyers at 4611 S. Kingshighway. The shop had photos of everything it bought from Graves. The Glendale victim identified some of the items as being theirs but other jewelry was not.

Officer Sarantakis then obtained the names, addresses and telephone numbers of the other homeowners the cleaning crew serviced on December 23, 2014.

Officer Sarantakis called the Adamitis home on Nettlecreek in Town and Country on January 9, 2015. He described the jewelry not identified by the Glendale victim and a checked revealed that a gold necklace belonging to Mrs. Adamitis and her mother's wedding ring were missing. Also missing from the house were some gift cards mostly to restaurants that had been bought before Christmas.

The Adamitises called the Town and Country Police and a report was taken listing \$1,125 worth of items missing.

Unfortunately for the victims in Glendale and Town and Country the gold had been melted down. Town and Country detectives obtained photos from Missouri Gold and Mrs. Adamitis identified her property, which no longer existed.

On January 16, 2015 Graves turned herself in at the Town and Country Police station. After being advised of her rights, she declined to make a statement. However during processing while being fingerprinted she made the spontaneous statement twice of "I really fucked up."

She was charged with Felony Stealing and later indicted by a Grand Jury.

Background: Here is some of Graves arrest record we found:

12/31/02 Felony Forgery Chesterfield PD
PG 03/10/05 placed on 3- year probation
09/14/06 Probation revoked, but placed on longer probation term
03/05/08 Probation violation warrant issued
02/26/09 Probation Revoked Graves sentenced to One-Year Jail

OUTCOME: On March 4, 2016 Graves pled guilty to three counts of Stealing O/\$500, one in Town and Country and two in Glendale. She was sentenced to four-years in prison, but was immediately placed on a 5-year probation term.

The one thing that mystified me was that if I could find the 2002 felony arrest and 2009 jail sentence, why couldn't The St. Louis Clean Team?

MORE ON THE PARKWAY SIX: How does someone sitting in jail on a \$250,000 cash only bond get bailed out by their parents within a couple days of their arrest?

It is easy if Dad is a bankruptcy lawyer and mom is a well known area children's orthopedic surgeon. You might see mom running at least five miles a day around town. She has always been extremely thin and had a recent battle with cancer. She practices medicine under the last name of Otis and serves on the Town and Country Parks Commission under the name of Petersen.

Word is out on the campus of Parkway West High School that 18-year-old Matthew Petersen, one of the six charged with the armed invasion and robbery at an apartment of two girls in the unincorporated part of Ballwin and made a cash bond of \$250,000, was involved in a marijuana deal and had been cheated. Judge Joe Duecker apparently thinking it was a good idea to get teenagers who do home invasions with AR-15s and semi-automatic handguns, back on the streets as soon as possible, lowered the bonds on the other four Parkway West students to \$100,000 with 10% cash and on the two Parkway South students from the City of St. Louis to \$25,000 with a 10% cash.

The marijuana rumors around the high school were confirmed by one of the lawyers representing the six, who was quoted in the Post-Dispatch that the armed robbery stemmed with the boys allegedly getting ripped off in a marijuana deal.



Dad



Mom



Holdup man



lacrosse player

According notes in the court file Dr. Otis shared text messages with lawyers representing other defendants creating a possible conflict of interest and was cautioned by Judge Dueker.

So far Petersen is represented by Joseph I. Murphy of St. Charles. Murphy shares an office with Ronald Brockmeyer, the disgraced former Ferguson municipal judge and former prosecutor and judge in a number of North County municipalities.

Douglas Forsyth, Sr. the lawyer for co-defendant Kerion James, 17, (St. Louis-Parkway South) was quoted as saying robbery at the apartment was merely "a marijuana heist."

It appears as if a possible defense for the Parkway-6 is, "We aren't robbers. We are just drug dealers."

Matthew Petersen (lower right square) reportedly has been accepted at Northwestern and had a 35 on his ACT tests. One has to wonder what a court order requiring home detention and an ankle bracelet alarm will do to a college offer. Who knows Northwestern might have a shortage of students working in the marijuana trades.



On April 6 **Carlos Perkins** (bottom center square) and **Kerion James** (top right square) posted bonds of 10% of \$25,000 and were release from jail.

On April 4 **Caleb Hester** (center top square) had his \$250,000 bond reduced to \$100,000 and he was released from jail after posting a 10% or \$10,000 cash bond. On April 6 he had the "house arrest" order modified to allow him to leave his house to seek work and/or go to work.

Nikolas Kebrdle (bottom left square) posted a bond and was release from jail on 04/06/16. His bond was reduced to 10% of \$100,000. He is allowed to leave his house to go to his attorney's office, for employment purposes and to visit his grandparents at 12008 Heatherdane in Town and Country.

Landon Cremeens (top left square) was released on April 6 after posting a bond of 10% on \$100,000. He is allowed to leave the house for employment, trips to his lawyer's office and church services.

All of the Parkway 6 are allowed to leave their house to attend school. The question is, will Parkway be letting them back in? They are currently banned from campuses.

TOWN AND COUNTRY AND CHESTERFIELD ARE ONE-TWO AS SAFEST CITIES IN MISSOURI FROM A BACKGROUND CHECK COMPANY: Well they might be the safest cities from violent crime, but as any reader of our "Gangs of Town and Country" section on our website might realize Town and Country isn't so safe from Fraud Artists and local teenagers turning into burglars.

Anyway the internet company **backgroundchecks.org** listed the 50 safest towns in Missouri according to FBI crime stats. Keep in mind these stats can be doctored intentionally by police agencies. The City of St. Louis Police were caught doing this by downgrading reports of "rape" to "common assaults" or other lesser charges. Webster Groves a couple years ago did this. There was a theft in Webster I was interested in reporting. I asked for a copy of the police report only to be told no report was written as the theft was minor and they put it on the shift "pass on pad." I caught Town and Country doing this when I was an alderman in 2009. Those minor theft offenses are counted in the FBI crime reports. If they don't write them up, they don't get counted.

Here are the Top 20 Safest town in Missouri according to backgroundchecks.org

- 1) Town and Country
- 2) Chesterfield
- 3) Manchester
- 4) Ballwin
- 5) Webster Groves
- 6) O'Fallon
- 7) Crestwood
- 8) Creve Coeur
- 9) Raymore
- 10) Webb City
- 11) Maryville
- 12) Lake St. Louis
- 13) Eureka
- 14) Lee's Summit
- 15) Nixa
- 16) Kirkwood
- 17) Troy
- 18) Washington
- 19) Arnold

20) Clayton

I was surprised to see Chesterfield as number 2 only because it has so many retail outlets and shopping areas that attract thieves from across the region. Despite all the shoplifting and check fraud cases, Chesterfield had such a low residential crime rate it put the city at number-2.

Kirkwood probably would have been higher if the city had not annex in the high crime Meacham Park neighborhood into the city.

Here is a link to the company's list of 50 safest cities in Missouri:

<http://backgroundchecks.org/50-safest-cities-in-missouri-2016.html>

Keep in mind in 2014 a Real Estate research group on the Web called MOVOTO Blog at movoto.com **ranked Glendale as the best place in Missouri to live**, followed by **Town and Country**, Ladue, Wildwood, **Chesterfield**, Creve Coeur, Dardenne Prairie, Clayton, Ballwin and Manchester. MOVOTO used more than crime stats for their list. They also included real estate prices, resell values, educational levels of residents, median household income, cost of living and unemployment rates.

Areavibes.com rates a town from the St. Louis Snoburbia Row as **one of the most boring towns in America**. Here is areavibes.com standards for reaching most boring status and their comments:

- % of Population Over 35 (higher is more boring)
- % of Married Households (higher is more boring)
- Median Age (higher is more boring)
- % of Households With Kids (higher is more boring)
- % of Households With People Over 65 (higher is more boring)
- Population Density (lower is more boring)

And the **THIRD MOST BORING TOWN IN AMERICA IS:**

LADUE, MISSOURI

Population: 8,524

Median Age: 46

Married Households: 71%

Households with kids: 40%

"Finally, we get to a place in the Midwest, where Americans typically think of as the most boring region in the nation. Here in Ladue, a St. Louis suburb, wealth and boring go hand in hand once again. Ladue is the wealthiest city in Missouri, where households bring in about \$141,000 a year.

There's nothing to do in town proper except golf or count your money. If that's your thing, then you're set."

NOW THERE IS THE HAPPIEST TOWNS IN AMERICA: Frontenac is now listed as the Happiest Town in America by Zippia, a San Francisco career counseling firm. Only towns under 10,000 are eligible.

Here is the criteria for this award from Zippia:

- Being well educated (Population with at least a bachelor's degree)
- Having a job (As measured by the unemployment rate)
- A short commute to work (God do people hate traffic)
- Low cost of living
- Having a family (Getting, and staying married, has a ton of happiness benefits, on average)
- Owning a home (That's a big plus)
- And the poverty rate (Money definitely helps out)

The top five included another local award winning town:

1. Frontenac, MO
2. Oak Hill, TN
3. Glendale, MO
4. Grimes, IA
5. New Albany, OH

The only thing I have trouble with is how upset Frontenac has been recently to be called the "Most Happiest." When Town and Country Mayor Jon Dalton tried to push a nursing home-assisted living facility at the site of a former elementary school on Clayton Road at Spoede Road, people were anything but happy. They put up protest signs up and down Clayton Road and Spoede Road.



Then the developers changed tactic and dropped the assisted living facility but wanted to build condos. Frontenac residents still were not happy. New signs appeared in front yards all over town protesting the condos.



A couple years prior to this Frontenac elected officials were not happy there was a trailer park among the homes of the super rich and tried to shut the trailer park down.

The trailer park had been located along I-64 for over 60 years and a Circuit Judge ruled it was here to stay as it was grandfathered in.

The residents of Frontenac who live in the neighborhood know as the "West End" even though it is located at the Northeast corner of Frontenac have not been happy for a long time. The West End is not filled with large houses of the super rich, but rather small houses of the very middle class or even lower middle class. For decades the City of Frontenac has refused to take over the streets of the West End claiming they are private. For years, the rich had great city streets and the not rich had terrible streets. These people have not been happy.

So the designation of being the Happiest Town in America strikes me as a little odd.

FELONY SHOPLIFTER ON PROBATION IN CHESTERFIELD CASE WITH PENDING CHARGES IN DES PERES IS KILLED FLEEING SHOPPING AREA IN MANCHESTER ON HWY 141.

At about 2:15 Saturday afternoon Ebony Franklin, 26, of Florissant the driver of a SUV that was speeding north on Hwy 141 away from the Costco and WalMart shopping areas was killed after colliding with a car driven by a local teenager making a left turn.



Franklin was a well known thief in the West County area. On February 16, 2012 she was arrested for felony theft from the Target Store in Chesterfield. She pled guilty on 09/05/13 and was placed on a No-Record SIS probation term. However she violated that probation several times with more arrests. Her probation was revoked but she was not sent to jail. Instead on 12/4/15 she was sentenced to 5-years in prison but was immediately placed on a 5-year probation term. If she had been sentenced to jail she would be alive today.

On 09/07/12 she was arrested for Stealing, Property Damage and Giving False Name to Police in Des Peres. Those cases were still pending at the time of her death with her next court date set for 05/05/16.

On 07/02/15 she was sentenced to a 5-year No-record SIS probation term in the City of St. Louis for felony Child Abuse. The Circuit Attorney's Office recommended four-years in prison. Judge Phillip Heagney went with the probation.



Ebony Franklin mug shots from two 2015 arrests.

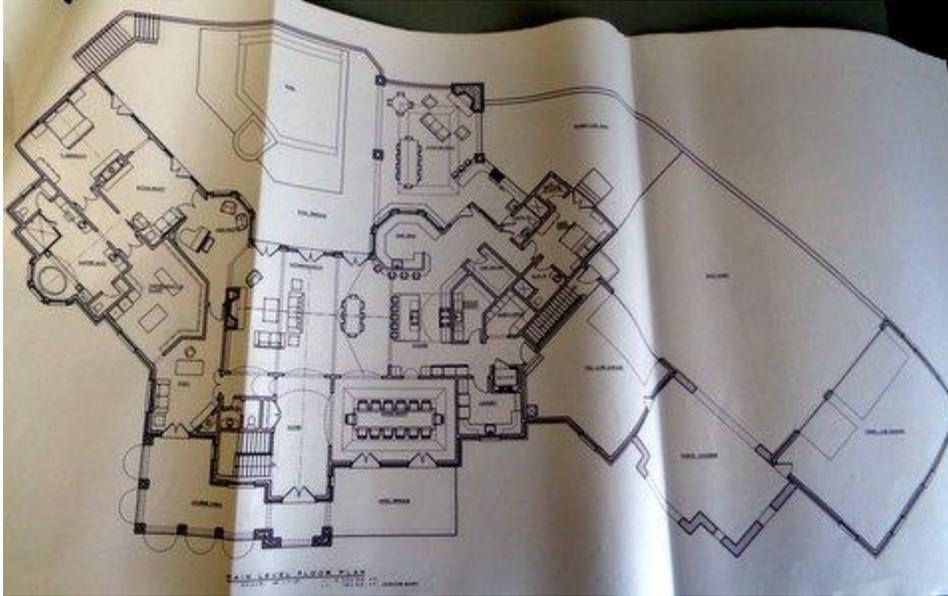
REAL ESTATE: Here is what is at 2019 S, Mason Road now. It is a 4081 sq ft ranch house with 4-bedrooms and 4.5 baths. It sits on 4.9 acres. It was built in 1949 but is

updated. Other than the lower three car garage this is a pretty cool place...but not for long.



NOW HERE IS WHAT IS PLANNED FOR 2019 S. MASON AFTER THE BULLDOZERS ARE DONE:





WHAT'S BLOCKED OUT THE SUN? The builder bragged that the house on Clayton Road in Ward 3 would be 18,800 sq feet and was going to be the largest in Town and Country. Of course it doesn't come close to the Jones House at 30,000 sq feet on Twin Fawn in Ladue, but still it is a big house. How big is it going to be? Here is a perspective compared to the next door neighbor's house.



TWO MORE NEW HOUSES:

12 Ballas Ct. Ballas Court is rapidly becoming all new homes, with very few original homesteads left on the map. Here is the latest one:

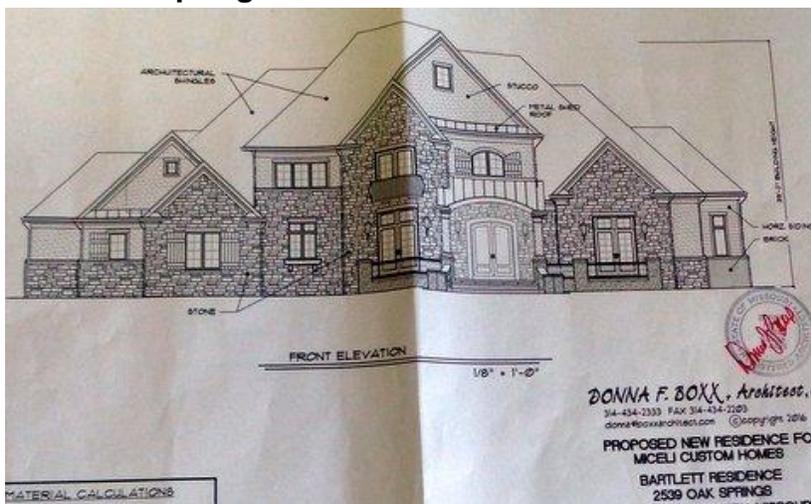


coming



going

2539 Oak Springs: Another new house in Ward 1



coming



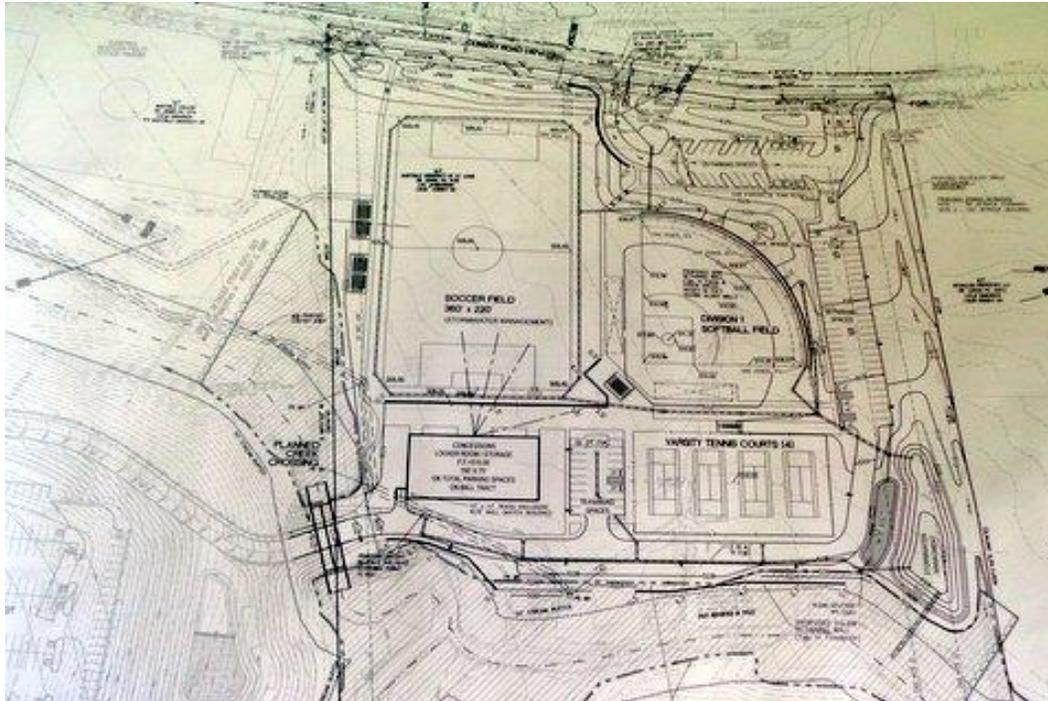
gone

One block west of Oak Springs is Town and Country Lane. I counted five original houses still on the street and 16 new McMansions.

NEW PLANS FOR MARYVILLE'S ATHLETIC FIELDS ALONG CONWAY ROAD, TENNIS ANYONE? At first it was going to be a softball field, soccer field, locker room and concession stand and of course a large facility for maintenance vehicles, lawn mowers and road salt. It got approved despite large scale neighborhood opposition, costing Phil Behnen his seat on the Board of Aldermen.

Then Maryville University decided it was cheaper to contract out all maintenance work so the biggest objectionable part of the plans vanished and it was just going to be a softball field, soccer field plus the locker rooms and concession stand.

But wait, just a few days ago new plans arrived at city hall. Now Maryville wants to also move the tennis courts to Conway Road. These new plans have to go back before the Planning and Zoning Commission and Board of Aldermen.



MARYVILLE ATHLETES GO ON THE ROAD: On April 7, we were on the campus of Maryville University where there is a lot of construction going on, much of it involving athletic fields.

The soccer and softball fields on the main campus had been bulldozed with construction of an artificial turf lacrosse and soccer field. The softball games have been moved to Lindenwood University in St. Charles and one doubleheader to the Chesterfield Valley Athletic Complex.



Former location of softball and soccer fields.

The baseball field which is not being moved, but was torn up as the school replaces the turf with artificial turf. The baseball team's home games have been moved to the fields at Lindenwood University in St. Charles and Parkway South High School in Manchester.



Ground is broken on Conway Road and then work stopped. The new plans have to be approved. Here is our photo from March 15 and one from April 7 from that site.



March 15



April 7

Guess what? They don't appear to be in a big hurry to build the soccer field, softball field and locker rooms. I've been told that Maryville does not plan to have this facility in operation now until 2018.

We will try and get back to check on construction this summer after new plans are approved.

CONWAY ROAD CLOSURE FOR THREE MONTHS: We reported last week how the St. Louis County Highway Department plans to closed Conway Road for three months starting May 2 just east of the entrance to Maryville University, east of the main entrance to St. Luke's Hospital and east of Highway 141. Access to the hospital can still be made prior to the bridge closure using the east side entrance.

Crews have been doing preliminary work at the bridge site recently often closing one lane with a flagging operation.



UNAPPROVED CHESTERFIELD NEWSLETTER 168



April 12 2016

CHESTERFIELD POLICE BLOTTER: Here is last week's crime and police activity report.



CHESTERFIELD POLICE DEPARTMENT Media Report March 30, 2016 - April 5, 2016

Time of Occurrence	Generic Address Business/Location	Name Incident Type
04/04/2016, 2137 2XX THF BLVD	Lowe's	Larceny under \$500 Shoplifting
Brief Narrative Description: 36 yo male took drill and walked out of store without paying.		
04/05/2016, 1935 2XX CHESTERFIELD MALL	Lady Foot Locker	Larceny over \$500 Shoplifting
Brief Narrative Description: Unknown subjects grabbed clothing and ran out of store without paying.		
04/05/2016, 2019 17XXX NORTH OUTER 40 RD	Sunglass Hut	Larceny over \$500 Shoplifting
Brief Narrative Description: Unknown subjects grabbed sunglasses and ran out of store without paying.		
04/05/2016, 2304 I-64E & CLARKSON RD		Drugs Paraphernalia
Brief Narrative Description: 27 yo male in possession of marijuana paraphernalia after being stopped for a traffic violation.		
04/04/2016, 1105 BOONES CROSSING & CHESTERFIELD AIRPORT		Drugs Paraphernalia
Brief Narrative Description: 23 yo female in possession of marijuana paraphernalia after being stopped for a traffic violation.		
04/01/2016, 1830 18XXX OUTLET BLVD	Coach	Fraud Credit Card
Brief Narrative Description: Unknown subject used victim's credit card information to make purchase.		
04/04/2016, 1530 18XX SWEET LAKE CT		Fraud Identity Theft
Brief Narrative Description: Unknown subject used victim's information to apply for loans.		
04/01/2016, 1200 17XXX NORTH OUTER 40 RD	H&M	Fraud Credit Card
Brief Narrative Description: Unknown subject used victim's credit card information to make purchase.		
04/03/2016, 0041 OLIVE BLVD & WOODLAKE VILLAGE DR		Drugs Possession - Misdemeanor
Brief Narrative Description: 16 yo female in possession of marijuana, paraphernalia, and out after curfew after being stopped for a traffic violation.		
04/03/2016, 1614 I64 W & BOONES CROSSING		Drugs Possession - Misdemeanor
Brief Narrative Description: 31 yo male in possession of marijuana and paraphernalia after being stopped for a traffic violation.		

04/03/2016, 1640 18XXX OUTLET BLVD **Bath and Body Larceny under \$500 Shoplifting**
Brief Narrative Description: Unknown subjects concealed fragrances and left store without paying.

03/30/2016, 1650 - 03/31/2016, 0825 13XX COUNTRYSIDE MANOR CT **Larceny over \$500 from Residence**

Brief Narrative Description: Unknown subject took trail cameras from victim's property.

04/02/2016, 0300 - 04/02/2016, 0900 18XX WESTMEADE DR **Property Damage to Vehicle**

Brief Narrative Description: Unknown subject bent radio antenna on victim's vehicle.

04/02/2016, 1340 - 04/02/2016, 2230 17XXX CHAISTAIN CT **Arson**

Brief Narrative Description: Unknown subject used accelerant to burn a portion of victim's rear deck and rear window.

04/01/2016, 0637 I64 W & BOONES CROSSING **Drugs Possession - Misdemeanor**

Brief Narrative Description: 26 yo male in possession of marijuana after being stopped for a traffic violation.

03/29/2016, 1700 - 03/30/2016, 0700 14XXX CLAYTON RD **Property Damage to Business**

Brief Narrative Description: Unknown subject damaged windows on business with a BB gun.

03/10/2016, 1200 - 03/10/2016, 2016 14XXX OLIVE BLVD **Surrey Place Fraud Credit Card**

Brief Narrative Description: Unknown subject used victim's debit card to make purchases.

03/30/2016, 1200 - 03/31/2016, 1430 17XXX CHESTERFIELD AIRPORT RD **East Coast**

Pizza Larceny under \$500 Brief Narrative Description: 24 yo male took tip jar from top of business countertop.

03/31/2016, 1519 4X CHESTERFIELD MALL **Macy's Larceny over \$500 Shoplifting**

Brief Narrative Description: 33 yo male concealed hats and left store without paying.

03/30/2016, 2330

03/30/2016, 2330 14XXX FOREST CREST DR **Drugs Paraphernalia**

Brief Narrative Description: 18 yo male in possession of marijuana paraphernalia after suspicious vehicle stop.

03/28/2016, 1200 17XX HEATHERCROFT DR **Fraud Credit Card**

Brief Narrative Description: Unknown subject used victim's debit card information to make purchase.

03/30/2016, 0105 8XX FOXSPRINGS DR **Drugs Paraphernalia**

Brief Narrative Description: 31 yo male in possession of narcotic paraphernalia.

03/30/2016, 1921 4X CHESTERFIELD MALL **Macy's Larceny under \$500 Shoplifting**

Brief Narrative Description: 17 yo female concealed makeup and left store without paying.

03/26/2016, 1200 3XX S WOODS MILL RD Brooking Park **Larceny over \$500 Business**

Brief Narrative Description: Unknown subject took cleaning machinery from business.

03/30/2016, 1045 - 03/30/2016, 1300 17XXX BLACKWOOD CT **Burglary Residential - Home**

Brief Narrative Description: Unknown subject entered victim's unlocked residence and took money, jewelry, and firearms.

Last week it was a race between shoplifting and drug cases. The drug cases won 7-to-6. The arson with accelerants being ignited on a deck and a home burglary were the two most serious cases of the week. The rat of the week award goes to the thief who stole the employee tip jar at California Pizza. There has been no arrest in the tip jar thief case yet.

UNIVERSITY CITY MAN WHO SHOT HIS WIFE AT HER CHESTERFIELD JOB GETS PROBATION: Over the last 40 years, including 30-years in law enforcement and additional time as a journalist I have come to realize if a person commits certain kinds of crimes in a rural area they are far more likely to get prison time than if the person committed the same crime in an urban setting.

This theory was proved once again in the case of Robert Yancey, 50, from 1405 Sheridan Drive in University City.

On Monday morning July 20, 2015 after 5 o'clock Cassandra Jacobs was about to leave for work when her husband Robert Yancey, arrived home after staying out all night. She was outside and had locked the screen door to the house. Yancey demanded the keys and the keys to the bar where he worked. She dropped the keys to the bar on the front porch but kept the keys to the screen door at the house.

She then got into her car and drove to her job at Friendship Village West of St. Louis County assisted living and nursing home at 15201 Olive Blvd. in Chesterfield.



Friendship Village West

She reported while stopped at a red light at Page and Ashby Yancey driving his 1988 Cadillac drove into the rear bumper of her car "tapping" it twice.



file photo

Jacobs arrived at work for the 6 AM shift at 5:55 when Yancey pulled his car behind hers and grabbed her demanding the keys. They fought for the keys, at which time Jacobs reached into her car for a steak knife she had taken with her for protection.

She reported that Yancey saw the steak knife and said, "You got a knife. Well, I have a gun and pulled out a semi-automatic pistol he often carries. She reported that he struck her in the face with the gun and then the gun went off shooting her in the shoulder.



Robert "Red" Yancey

The gunshot resulted in numerous Friendship West employees running outside and seeing Yancey driving away in his Cadillac.

Monarch FPD paramedics were at the scene and transported Jacobs to a nearby ER. The wound was a through-and-through with no serious damage.

Jacobs was taken to the Chesterfield Police Station where she told detectives that she and Yancey had been married for 11 years.

While she was giving a more detailed statement Yancey called her on her cell phone admitting that he shot her but saying it was an accident. She handed the phone to a detective and Yancey again admitted that he shot her but said the gun went off accidentally.

During the day detectives in search of Yancey's Cadillac went to a relative's home in Pagedale. They were told by the relative she told Yancey to go throw the gun in the river. They found the car in a closed unattached garage at the relative's home.

GUN LIES: Later that night of July 20 Yancey turned himself in at the Chesterfield Police Station. He was immediately asked about the gun. Here is what was said about the gun:

- 1) He threw the gun out of the window as he was driving (unsure where).
- 2) A relative called him and said it was in a "safe place" after being thrown into water
- 3) Yancey called an attorney who came to the police station at which time Yancey admitted that he stored it at a relative's home.

Detectives responded to the relative's house and recovered the Smith and Wesson 9mm semi-automatic pistol from a kitchen pantry. They later determined that Yancey had legally purchased the gun from Cabela's in St. Louis Mills Mall in Hazelwood.

When detectives recovered the gun there was one casing jammed in the slide and eight live bullets in the clip.



OUTCOME:

Yancey had been formerly charged and indicted for Felony Domestic Violence and Armed Criminal Action. Neither Yancey or Jacobs had criminal records.

On February 4, 2016 he pled guilty before Judge Kristine Kerr to the Felony Domestic Violence. The Armed Criminal Action charge, which requires a 3-year prison sentence, was dropped.

He was sentenced to seven years in prison but was immediately placed on a five year probation term.

So he used a firearm in the commission of a felony, shot a person and is not doing a day in prison.

Other action: Friendship Village West did obtain a court order prohibiting Yancey from stepping on their property for the rest of his life.

I could find no divorce action between Jacobs and Yancey. In fact Robert Yancey as of 2016 has three Cadillac automobiles registered at 1405 Sheridan Dr. University City and Cassandra Jacobs has a Pontiac and a Saturn registered at the same address. They appeared to be back living together.

The Problem Covering Monarch Fire Meetings! It is getting harder and harder to find much to write about at Monarch Fire Board meetings now that all the controversy is gone. All we can do is wait for court ruling on lawsuits filed by the Firefighters Union against the Board and the Board against the FF Union. This is the the best we could come up with after attending a recent meeting.

HOW TO MAKE A SHORT MEETING LONG: This concept was on displayed at the April 6 Monarch Fire Protection meeting, making a short meeting; long. Here are the things that lengthened the meeting:

1) Board member Jane Cunningham arrived 1 1/2 minutes late, plus taking off coat and getting settled before standing up for the Pledge of Allegiance. Total time 3 minutes.



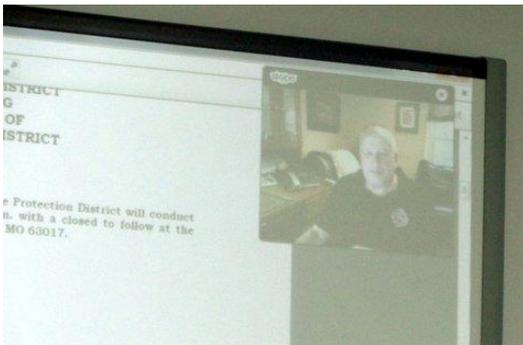
2) Board Member Rick Gans being sick and staying home, attended the meeting via Skype. Jane Cunningham did this in December, when she was sick. When she was on the screen you knew something was wrong as the color of her glasses did not match her blouse. But when she spoke she sounded awful. I hoped Board President Robin Harris would have just told her to go back to bed.



Jane in December, she looked bad and sounded

worse.

While Cunningham sounded terrible she did not complain. That was not the case with Gans. Everyone appreciated him staying home and not spreading germs, but he really didn't sound that bad. But he whined like he was.



Gans could not stop complaining. He kept saying how he could not hear what was being said. Then he did finally turn up the volume on his computer. But he would continue saying how he could hear one person fine but not others. The meeting stopped several times so the Skype camera and mic could be moved. All the votes during the night had been unanimous, so Gans could have taken some Nyquil and gone to bed. Between complaining and people repeating themselves, yelling a second and third time, 8 minutes were added.

3) QUESTIONING BILLS: This goes on at every meeting. Board members received their material well in advance of the meeting and could send an email to the Fire Chief or Finance Director and have their answers about specific bills long before the meeting.

Board President Robin Harris says he likes to do it at open meetings so the public can hear the answers. In most of the meetings this year the only public at meetings have been me and Jim Erickson of West Magazine, and frankly we don't really care. Harris started questions at the last meeting by saying, "I already know the answer to this but could you tell me why we had to have this repair?"

As bad as Harris is at this, Gans is worse. Total time on asking questions you could have asked staff during regular business hours: 9 minutes.

4) Opening sealed bids and being unable to find price bids. The Fire District was opening seal bids for Security Enhancements district wide and for a new phone system.

The problem was that the bidders were not putting their bids in the front of the document or on the last page of the document. The 10-years that I investigated fires and arsons for insurance companies often the detailed report writing would take almost as long as the investigation. But I always spelled out in a summary on the first page where the fire started and how it started. I did the same in a synopsis at the very end of the report. In between there were page after page of detailed technical information.

Most of the vendors on April 6 hid the bid in the report so well no one could find it.

Jane Cunningham would open the package and could not find the actual bid. Next Fire Chief Chuck Marsonette would help her look for the number and he also would be unsuccessful.

Out of five bids opened only one had the bid amount easy to find. The bid was located in another proposal package after a three minute search. Next a motion was made and passed to send the other three bids to the staff and for them to find the amount of the bid. Total time wasted 7 minutes.



The search for the bid amount was on.

The meeting took 40 minutes after starting about three minutes late and ending at 7:43. By my count about 27 minutes were wasted. This meeting could have been over in 13 minutes.

HEARD AROUND THE POLLS: Here is some post election stuff we have heard concerning election day or the days just before.

Recently retired Michael Herring and his wife, Vickie, haven't left for their new life in Wisconsin yet. We understand that Vickie was working the polls for the triumphant Randy Logan, a staunch opponent and hater of Mayor Bob Nation.

This is not a big surprise. Vickie was at the Censure Meeting and was clapping and yelling when people like Logan said disparaging things about the mayor and had her boos drown out by cheers and applause when a citizen would support Nation.

We later heard that Herring was making phone calls for Logan. The last nine months of Herring's 28-year career of leading one of the top suburban cities in Missouri has been sad. He escalated Libby Malberg-Tucker's complaint about Mayor Nation swearing in her closed office over Herring's management style of leaving the mayor in the dark, to ridiculous level of trying to impeach Nation for swearing.

He clearly took sides and refused to be neutral in the fast rising shit storm, where a special attorney hired to impeach Nation, found there was nothing to impeach Nation over and then aided in the move to censure him, which generated a legal bill of \$17,000 which later was voted down for payment. There was no contract for legal services with the lawyer that violated Missouri Law. All this was on Herring's watch.

Another voter sent us the following about Councilman Bruce DeGroot's different spin on reality: I voted at Wildhorse Elementary on Tuesday and Bruce Degroot was there campaigning for Connie Fults. You mentioned he was a 'wild card' in the latest issue, so I don't know if that makes a difference or not.

I told him Connie lost my vote after the battle to embarrass Mayor Nation, but he was quick to redirect the blame to the City Attorney (Harry O'Rourke).

Power of the newsletter: It was interesting that the three (Flachsbart, McGuinness and DeCampi) of the nine candidates that quoted something from this website or referred voters to this website on their fliers and mailers won.

MSD PULLS AN AL GERBER: I received my mail on Election Day around 4:30. It was 7 hours after my wife voted and two hours after I voted. In the mail was a flier to vote Yes on Props Y and S for bond issues for the sewer district. In 2014 when liberal Democrat Al Gerber ran against Republican Speaker of the House John Diehl his only mailer arrived at my house 90 minutes before the polls closed.

TIDE DRY CLEANERS ON CLAYTON ROAD STILL WAITING FOR INSURANCE PAYMENT AFTER A CAR DROVE INTO THE BUSINESS. One of the high-end dry cleaners in West County, the Tide Cleaners in the shopping center on Clayton Road at Henry is still missing part of the counter and its large front window after a car drove far into the business due to the old person, "I thought the gas pedal was the brake" goof that occurred on March 15.



THE QUARRY: The 26 acres on the west of I-270 and just north of Manchester Road in unincorporated St. Louis County is racing toward a late summer opening plans. The project calls for an 80-unit assisted living facility, a Marriott branded hotel, a bank, restaurant and apartment/condo units.

We were told by someone close to the project last week developers hope to have portions of the project open by late August.



Here is what the property used to look like before over 6,000,000 yards of fill dirt were added.



April 10 2016



April 10, 2016

OBITS: She may have been best known as the wife of former St. Louis Mayor A. J. Cervantes, but **Carmen Cervantes** lived in Chesterfield at 15909 Picardy Meadow Court and at 15317 Oak Tree Estates for a number of years. Carmen Cervantes died on April 5, 2016.

We last wrote about her when she was forced to call the Chesterfield Police on January 25, 2012 when her adult son Brett Cervantes, who she allowed to move into her condo, was causing a violent domestic disturbance. Brett Cervantes was arrested for assaulting a police officer. He was later convicted of the assault and served 30 days in jail along with four months in jail as part of a 4-year sentence/probation term for DWI.

At the time of the domestic violence call Brett was being arrested on a regular basis for DWI and had financial judgments piling up against him.

Carmen Cervantes was 88 at the time of the arrest of Brett at her home and was 91 at the time of her death.



Carmen and A.J. Cervantes

ODIE DICKENS, who grew up in Galveston, Texas, where her father was mayor. Odie worked at Monsanto during WWII, met her husband also a Monsanto employee and later moved to St. Louis. The Dickens lived in the second house on Algonquin Place from Rock Hill Road in Webster Groves. After her husband died Odie took a job in 1970 as the first Public information and PR director of the Webster Groves School District. Five years later she was the PR Director at Clayton Schools. She later worked for Governor Joe Teasdale and then started her own PR Consulting firm, The Dickens Company from her house located in between Columbia and Jefferson City.

Odie died at the age of 92 on Easter Saturday, March 26 in Jefferson City.



I mention Odie, because some people from Webster Groves, Clayton or who worked in Jefferson City in the 1980s and 1990s and are likely to have known Odie.

I knew Odie, because when I was a high school kid lucky enough to be a radio station disc jockey and later as a young cop hung out with her daughter Judy. Not dated, but Judy and friend Margaret Russell and I were friends that bummed around together once in a while.

My senior year in high school I was the midnight disc jockey at KADI and managed to sleep enough in one class to end up a half credit short of graduation. I took two college classes that summer and Odie got the principal at Webster Groves High School to accept six college credits for 1/2 of a high school credit and I was handed my diploma in the principal's office in August.

Odie told me many stories about growing up in the South and racism that opened my eyes to the world.

Judy got nursing degrees at SLU and was on one of the first transplant teams in St. Louis, rushing organs from helicopter pads to operating rooms. She is married now and living in Minnesota. Last I knew 34 years ago, Odie's son Tom was a minister and her other daughter, Debbie had been working at her consulting company. I had not seen

Odie since my wedding in Jefferson City in 1981, but I still think about some of those stories. Here is a link to her obit in the News-Tribune.

<http://www.newstribune.com/obituaries/2016/mar/29/odie-dickens/>

MUSIC: We wrote several weeks ago how **Thurman's Grill** at Thurman and Shenandoah, where a number of smaller music groups play Thursday through Saturdays, was closing effective April 2. Ptah Williams was supposed to be the last act at the place on April 1. Apparently the owner is having second thoughts. It turns out his sale of the bar fell through. Groups are now booked through April but none are on the calendar for May.

If you decide to go to this corner bar to hear some music, we would recommend that you stop at O'Connell's Pub at Kingshighway and Shaw to eat. Over the years both the food and service have not been a hallmark at Thurman's Grill.

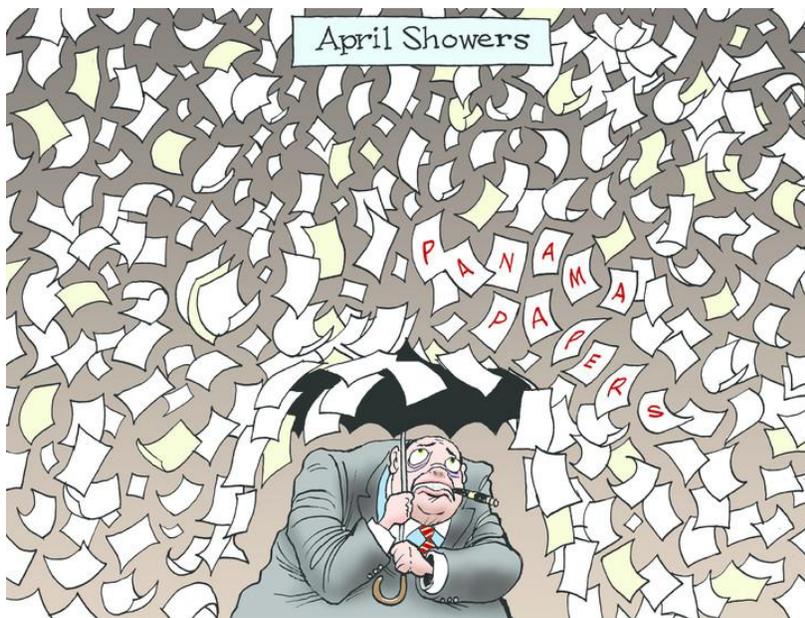


THIS WEEK AT SAHSA'S: A guest sax player as the trumpet star took a break.

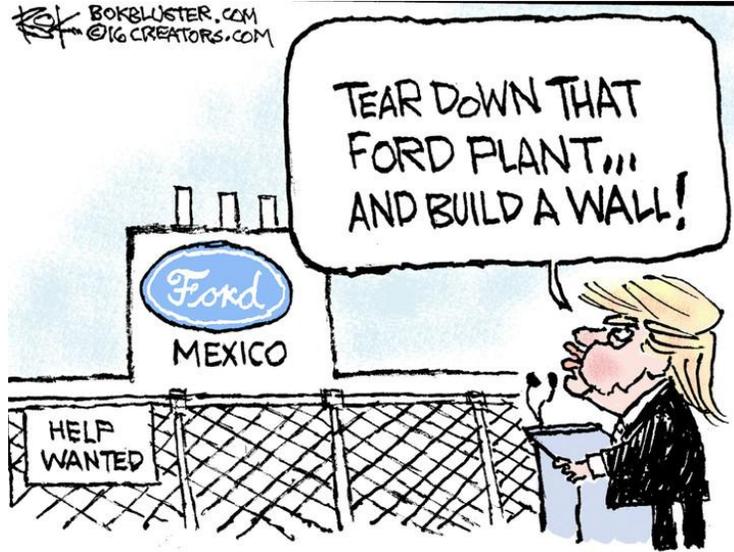


CARTOONS:

Substitute Mayor Dalton at a subdivision meeting for Senator Belfry and the below cartoon is pretty much the same thing.

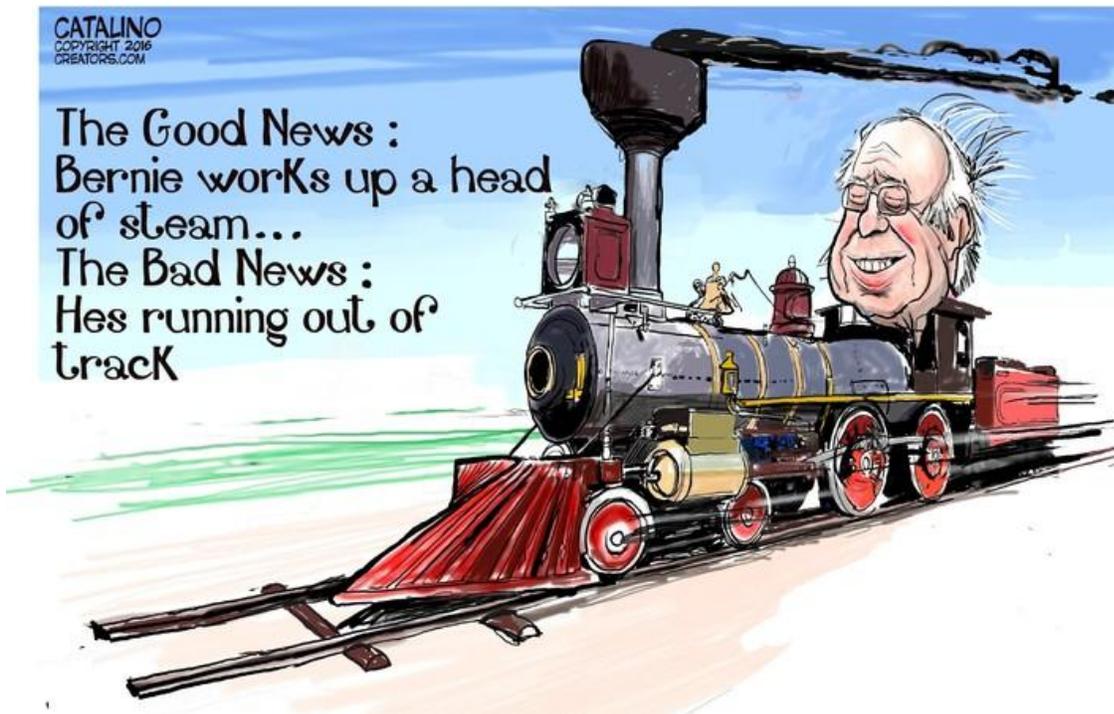


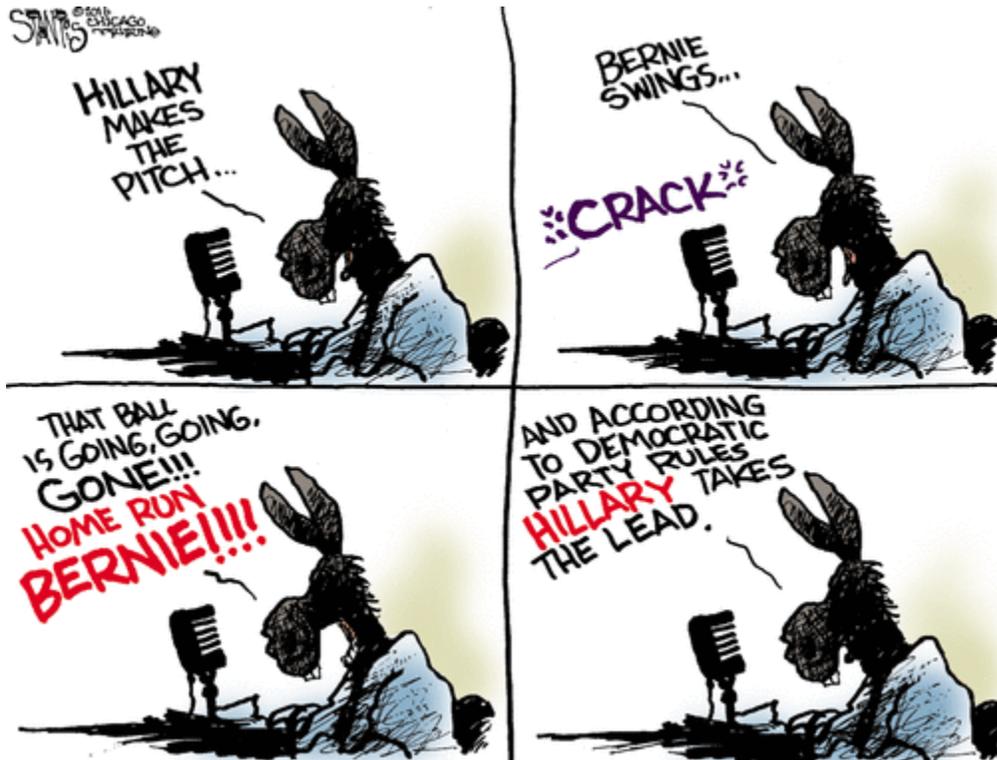
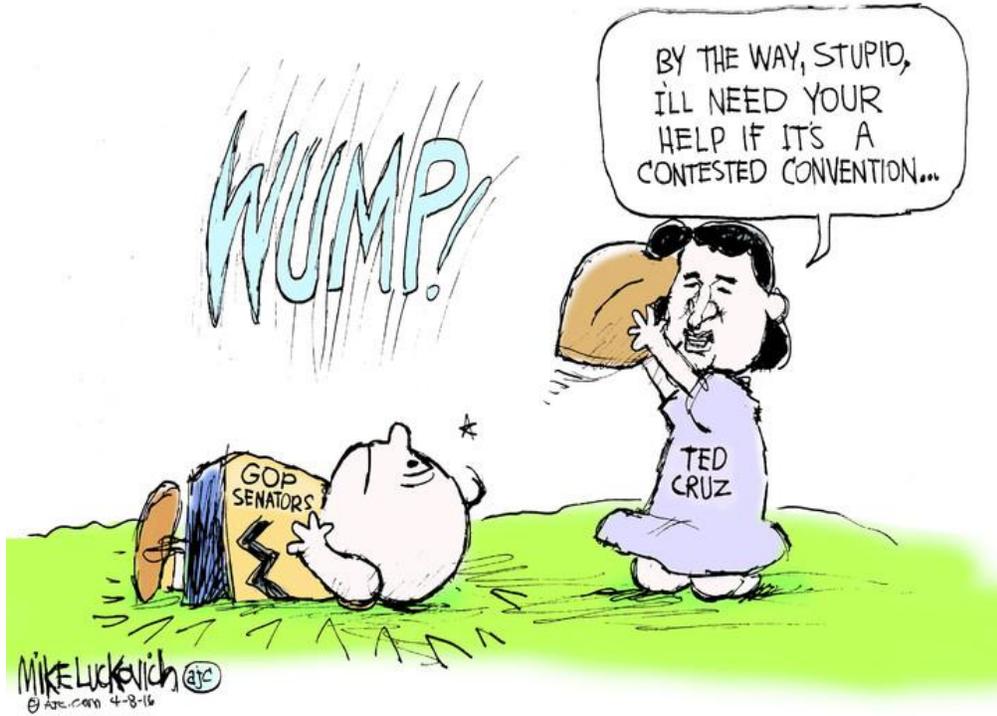
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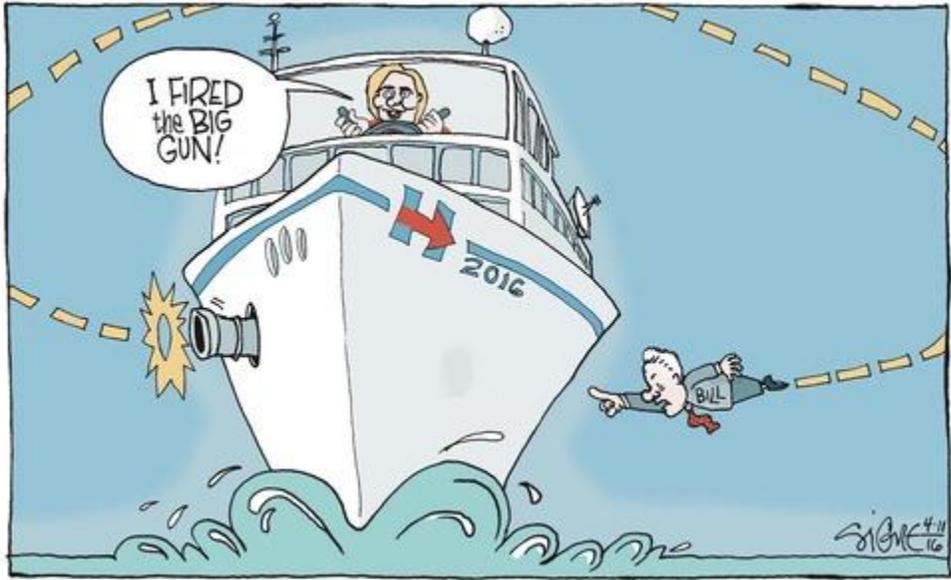








<p>BIG MC ⁴⁷/₁₆</p> <p>VANILLA ICE CREAM</p>	<p>SPRING BLIZZARD</p>	<p>BERNIE SANDERS RALLY</p>
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THE SQUIRMINATOR