

EX ALDERMAN NEWSLETTER 122



March 31, 2014

By John Hoffmann

MAYBE IT WORKS WELL IN MEXICO: The region was put under a code red outdoor fire warning for severe dry conditions. The same day the city's landscaping contractor was putting wood mulch out at Drace Park.

There was a lot of wood mulch applied around the park. One area that was covered was directly next to the barn on the south side of the park. The wood mulch goes right up next to Skip Mange's stored logs from an 1840 log cabin he wants to spend \$110,000 to rebuild.

But the best sight of them all was where the landscaping crew put wood mulch under a charcoal b-b-q grill that is directly next to a wooden pavilion.



Here is wood mulch in a bed up to the wooden pavilion at Drace Park. Workers put wood mulch under a charcoal b-b-q grill next to a wood pavilion, during a high outside fire warning.



More wood mulch spread during high outside fire warnings up to the barn in Drace park where logs to a log cabin are waiting to be rebuilt if a park grant is approved sits.

The landscaping crew was just leaving the park when I arrived and the entire crew consisted of Latinos. A member of the City Park Commission was walking two dogs in the park when I mentioned the ludicrousness of putting wood mulch under a b-b-q grill that is next to a wooden structure. His reply made me laugh.

"Maybe it works well in Mexico," he said.

THE NEXT DAY A MULCH WARNING ABOUT MULCH WAS SENT OUT BY A LOCAL FIRE MARSHAL: We will let this speak for itself.

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE Roger N. Herin, Fire Marshal/PIO

Phone: 314-581-2206

herin.r@monarchfpd.org

March 21, 2014

USE CAUTION WHEN SPREADING MULCH

Spring is the time of year to refresh your landscaping. The Monarch Fire Protection District is advising homeowners to be cautious when having mulch spread near your homes. Monarch has responded to two fire calls this week that were determined to be caused by new landscaping mulch having been applied over or around landscaping lights. Fortunately, these fires caused no damage other than to the lights.

Fire Marshal Roger Herin would like to warn everyone that this, while seeming to be just a nuisance, can be a dangerous problem. Herin states, "Several years ago, we responded to a fire that was determined to have been caused by mulch covering a landscaping light. That fire destroyed a garage and caused significant damage to the home it was attached to."

Most landscaping lights are low-voltage, but still produce enough heat to ignite mulch if enough air space is not provided around the lights to dissipate the heat. Herin says you should always follow the lighting manufacturer's instructions for maintaining enough clear space around the lights. Also, if you have a landscaping company providing mulch, be sure to clearly indicate the location of your landscaping lights so they can avoid covering them.

I have a feeling that Roger probably never thought anyone would be stupid enough to place wood mulch under a charcoal B-B-Q grill.

MEANWHILE OVER AT LONGVIEW PARK: For 10 years besides being a cop I was a fire and arson investigator. Insurance companies would send me all over the Midwest to investigate fires. Fire Marshalls and fire Investigators call wood chips a technical name..."fuel."

Over at Longview Park the landscapers placed wood mulch along the side of a very old barn that is made of wood (with metal siding) and contains HAY...something else we call fuel, plus four living and breathing horses.

I have to say that it is not very smart to spread a combustible next to an old wooden structure. I guess the exception is in Town and Country. Mulch and wood chips is for areas away from buildings...around trees and along paths...not for next to buildings.



FRED MEYLAND-SMITH AGAIN IS TRYING TO STOMP OUT SIGNS:

If any place needs some better signage it is the Cedars of Town and Country nursing facility along the I-64 South 40 Outer Road just before Mason Road. Apparently Ward-3 Alderman Fred Meyland-Smith doesn't want them to have it.

On Monday March 24 everything was sailing along during the agenda meeting that started at 6:15 because of one thing...Fred Meyland-Smith was not there. But

unfortunately for all concerned Fred showed up at about 6:55 and things went downhill from there.

Meyland-Smith wanted to say why he was against Cedars of Town and Country sign request. He felt the new sign request with modest 10-inch high letters (8 inches below the city's maximum) was an advertising sign and not an information sign since it listed:

**Assisted Living
Skill Nursing
Alzheimer Care**

"What's next is AAA going to want to put "24-Hour Roadside Assistance" on their sign," asked Meyland-Smith. (Actually AAA needs a larger sign. People come from all over the eastern region of Missouri for travel services, insurance and claims at the AAA offices. They need to easily see a sign from I-64 and Mason and service roads.)



This is the only sign to the Cedars of Town and Country and it is easy to miss.

Keep in mind Fred is normally against all new signs including those protected by the Bill of Rights and stacks of case law. Fred has been against these among others:

A flagpole in front of the Greek Church on South 40 Outer Road that was 40 feet high instead of 35. (Church signs and symbols are Protected under the 1st Amendment, including flagpoles.)

LED signs claiming they cause accidents. They don't and neighboring police departments and even the city's provider of fire and EMS services use them.

Signs at the Destiny Church. (Protected under the first Amendment)

Fred is even against the first amendment rights of a free press. Fred drew up a resolution concerning Alderman Conduct where aldermen could not write critical things

about fellow aldermen. It was an attempt to silence this newsletter back when I was on the board of aldermen. The city attorney advised him it was unconstitutional.

Fred complained about a column written by award winning Post-Dispatch columnist Bill McClellan over the laying off of three female employees at Christmas time.

Fred was livid about the Post-Dispatch religion reporter writing about the resistance the Greek Church received over their request to put up a flagpole. He said there was no reason for press coverage on the issue.

The one thing that Fred is always for is anything at Missouri Baptist Medical Center, including signs that can only be seen during winter months when foliage is not on the trees. Of course Fred has been on an advisory at Missouri Baptist, but doesn't think that is a conflict. I believe Cedars of Town and Country provides health care.

While giving Cedars of T&C nothing but a hard way to go, keep in mind that J.W. Terrell, Rawlings, Scott Trade along with many important businesses such as Ginger Bay Salon, Cooper's Hawk and even Mr. Good Cents Subs have sign variances. Both Cedars of Town and Country and Missouri Baptist Medical center provide health care. Fred has not seen a sign variance he did not like at Missouri Baptist, but is voting against one at Cedars.

INFORMATIONAL OR AN AD: Meyland-Smith and later Jon Benigas said that the sign was an advertisement when it listed Assisted Living, Nursing Care and Alzheimer Care. I totally disagree. It is telling what is there and that Cedars of Town and Country is not a motel. Is a sign that says Imos Pizza an ad? Under this typically illogical theory fronted by Meyland-Smith Missouri Baptist Medical Center should drop the "Medical Center" from its sign, because it is advertising medical services...hey isn't that what Cedars of Town and Country is doing?

On Clayton Road at Kehr's Mill Road the Charlotte's Rib sign should drop the "rib" because that is what they are selling. Per Fred it is an ad! At the last meeting in February the Board of Alderman including Meyland-Smith voted to give variance for Gold's Gym to install four signs on their building in the Manchester Meadows indicating what services the gym has to offer.

SAFETY: Let's be honest, a number of people who visit the elderly in nursing homes are often elderly themselves. A spouse, brothers, sisters and friends. Currently Cedars of Town and Country only has one sign. It cannot be seen from westbound I-64. It is a monument sign at the last entrance to the facility. It is easy to miss. For safety reasons

better signage is needed. When the BJC medical facility across I-64 from the Cedars is completed it is expected to add up to 15% more traffic to I-64 and Mason Road. If an elderly driver misses the entrance to The Cedars on the one-way EB 40-South Outer Road they will have to get into the soon to come heavier traffic to loop back to the outer road.



Mark Rogers of Cedars of Town and Country, who was somewhat taken back by the lack of help from his Ward-3 Alderman.

The Cedars abuts the Mason Ridge Elementary School facility parking lot on the east and a church to the west. This sign would not cause anyone in a residential area a concern.

The Problem: Before Meyland-Smith showed up to the meeting it appeared this sign variance would sail through. Once Meyland-Smith started lengthening the meeting by thanking everyone who showed up to a public meeting at a public building and then used 1,000 words to tell his position on the sign when 200 would have worked fine...Alderman Jon Benigas joined in and made a motion to continue the matter to the next meeting in three weeks.

Alderman Skip Mange asked what would a continuation accomplish. He added how the Planning and Zoning Commission is looking at overhauling the sign ordinance and the process will take three or four months more.

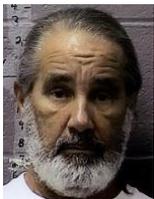
The vote to continue to the meeting on April 14 passed on a 4-3 vote. Alderman Phil Behnen was missing due to an illness in his family.

BOARD CONTINUES THE CEDARS SIGN REQUEST AND THEN APPROVES AN ADVERTISING SIGN: Next on the agenda was a sign request from Scottrade. They want to put up a large sign that says "Go Blues" as the Blues enter the NHL's Stanley Cup Playoffs on their headquarters along I-64.

Scottrade which has the naming rights where the Blues play hockey in downtown St. Louis clearly use the connection with the Blues as a marketing tool. Drawing a further connection with the Blues and Scottrade with motorists along I-64 is simply a continuation of that marketing scheme. Apparently the Board of Aldermen in Town and Country are either too dense to figure this out or don't have a problem playing favorites with it comes to what Fred Meyland-Smith calls advertising signs.



MEMBER OF GANGS OF TOWN AND COUNTRY MOVES TO WEBSTER GROVES...NO CURRENT TOWN AND COUNTRY RESIDENTS ON THE STATE'S SEX OFFENDER LIST: The Gangs of Town and Country lost a newer member at the first of year. Mark Alan Shklar a disbarred lawyer who did time for possession of child porn, moved out of a house at the rear of Wirth property at 13332 Clayton Road to 1402 S. Elm in Webster Groves. With Shklar moving to Webster Groves there are no longer any Town and Country residents still on the Sex Offender List. There is one person who was on the list for a rape in Michigan, but a Missouri court ruling removed people from the list whose convictions were before a certain date.



Mark Alan Shklar, is a new resident of Webster Groves at 1402 S. Elm.

POLICE AND CRIME 2013 IN REVIEW: Crime was up, but house burglaries were down, that was part of the report from Town and Country Police Chief Pat Kranz at a recent meeting of the Town and Country Police Commission. Many of the graphics used by Chief Kranz speak for themselves.



Chief Pat Kranz explaining crime stats on his power point presentation to the Police Commission.

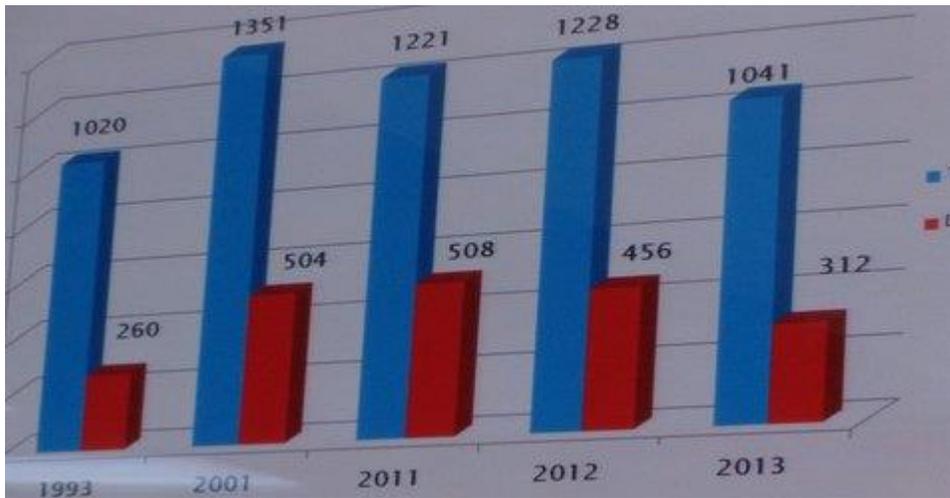
Residential Burglaries:



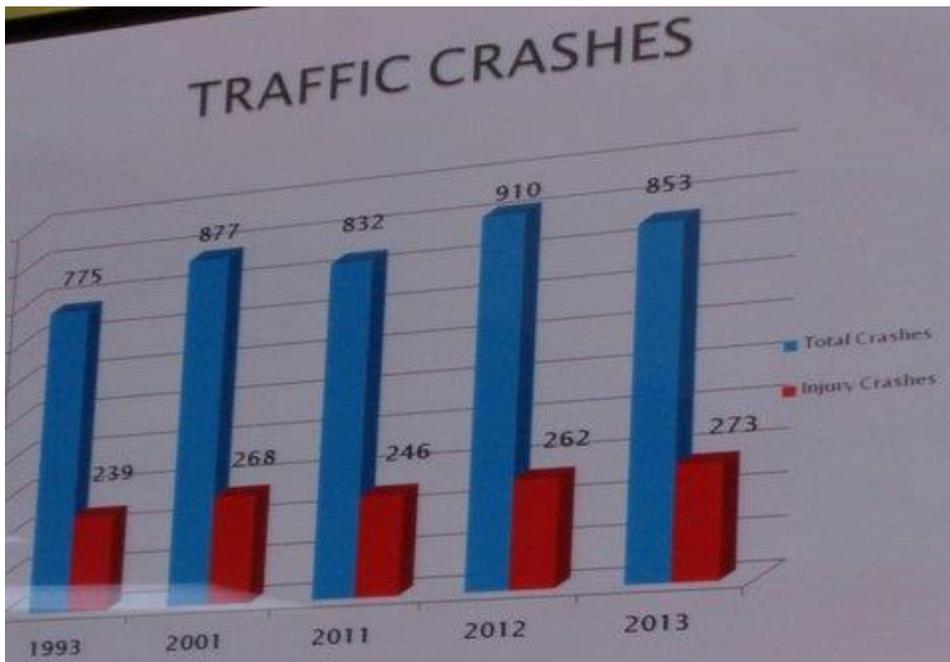
There are eight Part One crimes: Murder & manslaughter, rape, robbery, assault (felony and misdemeanor), arson, burglary, auto theft and larceny. Part Two crimes are all the others.



ARRESTS: Total arrests are in blue and DWI arrests are in red. Over all arrests are down 15% from 2012 and DWI arrests were down 32%.

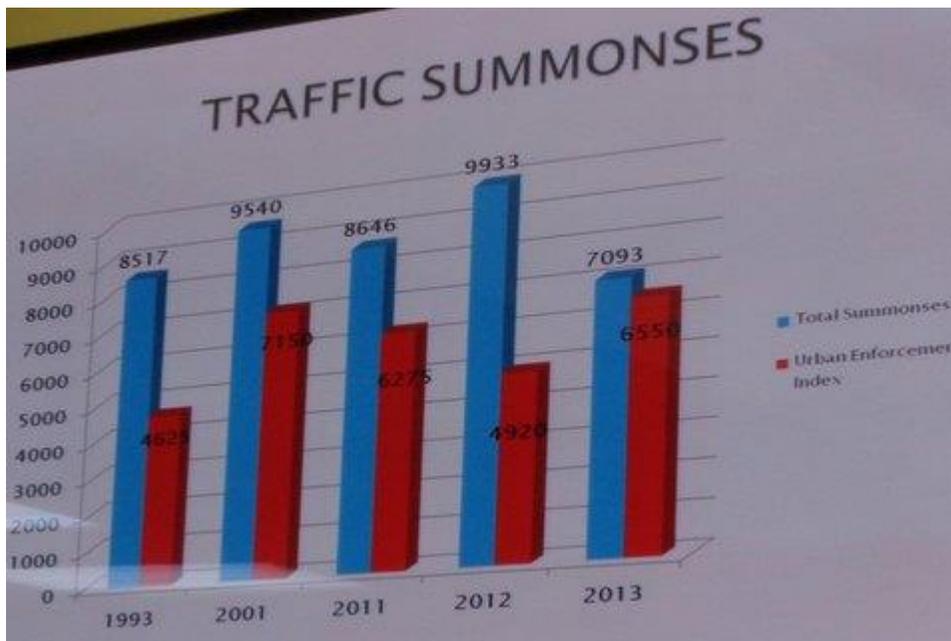


AUTO ACCIDENTS: Overall traffic accidents were down in 2013, but injury accidents were up. This is slightly out of whack with recent trends. Due to safer engineered cars, injury accidents have been going down nationally but thanks to continued high rates of DWI offenses, plus more and more cell phone and texting use by drivers the overall accident rates have been going up.



TRAFFIC CITATIONS: Traffic Citations were down by 2,840. However citations on the interstates soared by 1,630 citations. I would rather see an officer take 30 or 40 minutes to catch someone 15mph over the limit on Mason, Bopp or Topping more often than shooting fish in a barrel writing speeding citations on I-270 and I-64. The interstate enforcement is good, I'd just like to see it a little more balanced with enforcement on streets next to subdivisions.

I recently suggested that a traffic officer be required to drive 10 times on Mason Road between the Church of the Good Shepherd near Clayton Road and the Raintree School near Manchester and write every driver who crossed the center line while yakking on the phone. I was behind a "trophy" wife in a new black BMW at the stoplight at Mason and Manchester Roads last Wednesday. She was on the phone. The lights went green and we sit...after a 3-count I honked and she immediately responded with the middle finger before driving away. I then followed her east on Manchester Road watching as she weaved back and forth across the lane markers while talking on the phone. I'm sure the weaving was just as bad on Mason Road.



BOARD OF ALDERMAN LOOKING TO SPEND \$36,000 TO IMPROVE CITY'S WEBSITE: There is a bill that had a first reading on Monday night to spend \$36,651 with CivicPlus of Manhattan, Kansas. To maintain the new website on an annual basis will cost the city \$4,134 a year at this time.

Handing over this contract to a company out of the region and out of state bothers me, but I was told that CivicPlus was one of four bidders who made presentations.

The lead person on this is Parks Director Anne Nixon. Anne spoke the lingo while giving a presentation at the agenda meeting prior to the regular Board of Aldermen meeting. I'm still a little worried since Anne has had trouble keeping Honeysuckle once removed from coming back and strangling out space and other vegetation in our most popular park, does not inspect the three parks on a weekly basis for damage or overuse problems and has had other issues with management of parks land and property.

GOVERNMENT TRANSPANCY...COMPUTER NEEDS: Town and Country could lead the way in opening government to the public. The Municipal Court could (SHOULD) make its court cases open public records with cases entered into the Missouri "casenet" computer system or at least into the city's new \$36,000 computer system.

Missouri courts provides the "casenet" system to municipal courts. Only one court takes advantage of it in St. Louis County. Muni Court records are "public records" but for too long the system including the city court clerk, city prosecutor and city judge make it impossible for someone to randomly review case files to monitor the court.

As long as we have a lawyer as mayor whose kid has a habit of getting arrested for DWI, I don't see this happening. But it should.

Put the bills on the website: Over the years I have had problems with many things in Manchester, but in one area they are leading the way. The warrant list of bills for services and products that alderman normally approve at each meeting is technically a public document. Manchester puts their warrant list on their website. Town and Country sends it in a sealed envelope to each alderman delivered by the police and the public does not have a clue what is on it. Town and Country needs to put bills on the website and be as open and transparent as Manchester.

However, unless some alderpersons get tough and force a more open city hall, I don't see this happening either. Some alderpersons don't want you to see how much in legal fees the city is getting hit with every time they call the city attorney about minor items.

PROBLEMS WITH THE GROUP HOME ON CONWAY? Activity in the work to turn a former Town and Country residence into a group home for girls with eating disorders has slowed to a crawl.

The property is 18 acres at 13428 Conway Road, On the front half of the property is a house designed by William Bernoudy, a well know modern/contemporary mid 20th century architect. The rear of the property is in a flood plain.

According to city records a building permit was obtained and the last inspection was in December for the sprinklers. I was told the next inspection would likely be the final occupancy inspection.

McCallum has not yet obtained a business license.

I called McCallum Place's main office in Webster Groves and asked when the opening of the group home was expected on Conway Road. The receptionist said I needed to speak to Dr. McCallum's assistant. I was put though to "Shelly" who said there is "currently no date" for the opening. when I pressed her she said 'maybe late summer.'



Dr. Kim McCallum

I drove out to the house during the mid-day on Monday March 24. There was not a soul working nor was there any sign of recent work. There was an empty dumpster in a parking area near the garage. I continued to drive by the rest of the week and never saw any activity at the house or on the property.



Here is the vacant house planned to be turned into a group home. Activity at the site Has come to a stop.

SO MUCH FOR A TREE LINED STREET: The road to the new five home subdivision off of Mason Road being developed by Rehnquist Homes is going to be called Mason Heights Road. The Board of Aldermen are in the process of approving a fire hydrant for the road. However it appears that Rehnquist is not going to give homeowners a tree to hang a birdfeeder on outside the kitchen window or some trees lining the cul-de-sac street.

There was one 2.5 acre lot still for sale with a \$649,000 price tag... last week.



ELECTION 2014: Next week we will have campaign contributor lists of each candidate. However here are a few notes from this week activity.

The few times I ran for office I made it a point not to list supporters. Unless the person is a popular member of the St. Louis Cardinals the whole thing seems to be counterproductive. Any one person on your list of supporters is sure to have some voters who don't like them. So when I receive a postcard from Ward 2 candidate Amy Anderson listing residents who endorsed her I have to wonder if she had not shot herself in the foot.

A survey showed that 70% of the people in Ward-2 want lethal deer management to reduce the number of deer in their neighborhoods. So what does Anderson do? She sends out a postcard listing every deer whacko who used to yell and scream at Aldermanic meetings plus their friends as supporters.

Here are a few of the names:

Susan Feigenbaum (Loud proponent for costly and impractical deer birth control)

Dorothy Cooke (I really like Dorothy, but when it came to deer she was way out there)

Al Gerber (Wants \$1,200 deer hysterectomies)

Hera Gerber

Mariette Palmer (Organized the candlelight vigil for deer on Clayton and Mason) I have a feeling that that incumbent Chuck Lenz can use this post card from Anderson to his advantage by taking it around door to door and showing people all the crazies who are endorsing Anderson and how Anderson wants everyone to know it.



The heck with people these folks are praying for deer.

I noticed two different houses where Anderson had signs in the yard in the morning on March 26 and that the signs had disappeared in the evening after the mail arrived.

**Protect your property value and maintain the residential feel of Town & Country.
These residents endorse Amy Anderson:**

Marianne Ambler, Sturbridge Meadows Ln.	Richard & Louise Jensen, Starbuck Rd.
Larry & Trisha Bates, Kings Glen Dr.	Rusty & Pam Jones, Topping Rd.
Todd & Stephanie Boyman, Westmoor Pl.	Steven Krause, Royal Glen Dr.
Brian & Lindsey Butler, Kings Glen Dr.	Lucy van L. Maas, Country Meadow Ln.
Samantha (Felkner) Calvin, Pingry Pl.	Robert & Suellen Manning, South Mason Rd.
Jan Adair Woodward Clayton, S. Mason Rd.	Scott & Jeanne Martin, Bradburn Dr.
Ernie & Karen Coe, Woodlark Ln.	Richard & Mariette Palmer, Greenwich Green Ln.
Dorothy Cooke, Delvin Dr.	Ridley & Marcelle Pearson, Kings Glen Ct.
Susan Feigenbaum, Ph.D., Templeton Pl.	Nick & Linda Rallo, Conway Village Dr.
Jim & Karen Frankel, Kings Glen Dr.	Richard & Clare Salmon, Kings Glen Dr.
Ty & Tiffany Frautschi, South Mason Rd.	David & Penny Swank, South Mason Rd.
Bill & Karen Frederick, Kings Glen Dr.	Peter & Cushie Switzer, Rutherford Ln.
Hans & Adriane Fredrikson, South Mason Rd.	Tracy Switzer, Topping Estates Dr. S.
Al & Hera Gerber, Mason Village Ct.	James & Celia Toombs, Kings Glen Dr.
John & Amy Glascock, Brookwood Rd.	Ellwood & Robin Towle, Dry Ridge Rd.
Glenn & Shawn Grow, Glazeview Rd.	Ron & Janine Vandiver, Williamsburg Estates Dr.
Hank & Margie Hamlin, Country Meadow Ln.	Joe & Joan Walsh, Wood Creek Ct.
David & Mary Hans, Kings Glen Dr.	Stephen & Terri Wintermann, Cross Land Dr.

www.amyanderson4tc.com

VOTE FOR AMY ANDERSON FOR ALDERMAN WARD 2 ON APRIL 8TH!

SIGNS: In Ward 2 it is a sign war. I am proud that in 2008 I lost the sign war but won the election against Tim Welby. For the most part I'm seeing Anderson signs in front of homes of people who love deer or people associated with Principia or the Christian Science Church. Chuck Lenz will put a sign any where he can get permission for visibility regardless of who lives there. In my subdivision he has three signs up in front of homes of members of The Gangs of Town and Country.



I felt that these signs clutter up subdivisions at the start of spring. If I had a corner house, I would put up one sign at the corner, while Chuck and Amy and most others put one facing each intersecting street. Signs don't vote. but these two seem to be in a battle to see has the most signs.

A ROOKIE MISTAKE: Also on the postcard of endorsers of Anderson was the name of Linda Rallo, a candidate trying to unseat Phil Behnen from the Board of Alderman in Ward 4. Oddly Rallo in statements we have heard appears to agree with Behnen that lethal deer management is needed.

We asked her why she endorsed Anderson. She replied that she endorsed Anderson on the issue of protecting residential zoned property. She is now aware that a candidate running for office should not endorse another candidate, but simply state her position on issues.

"It was a rookie mistake," she wrote to us in an email.



Rallo had a few signs around Ward-4 and 10 days before the election. Behnen, who has never had an opponent, had no signs up.

GERBER FILES IN DEMOCRATIC PRIMARY TO RUN

AGAINST JOHN DIEHL: Oh MY GOD! For the first time since he ran for the state legislature it appears as if someone might be running against Million Dollar John Diehl. (In 5 years Diehl raised well over \$1,000,000 to run against no one.) I did not say Diehl had competition. Someone has filed on the Democratic ballot at the last minute for the 89th District house seat. Of course that person is timid, nervous, mousy, often confused and deceptive Al Gerber.



Al, unable to speak spontaneously, reads from notes.

Let's look at AI over the last few years.

2010 Tim Welby, who I beat in 2008, took AI door to door in Ward-2 telling people what a jerk I was (certainly true in the eyes of Welby especially after he was found to have committed campaign finance violations after my wife filed a complaint with the Ethics Commission) and how AI had a deer management plan. Welby and Gerber inferred Gerber supported a lethal deer management plan. In fact Gerber wanted to give deer hysterectomies to all the Does in Ward-2 at a cost of \$1,200 per deer. After getting me out of office, Welby worked against Gerber in 2012 as Chuck Lenz won in a landslide.

Gerber went out of his way to hide from voters his connection with the Democratic Party, that he was a Democratic Township president and he was the treasurer for a far left wing candidate back.

Gerber registered Principia High School seniors from all over the country and living in dorms to vote in April election for Gerber. On election day an army of kids in white shirts and khaki pants marched into the polling place at the Baptist Church on Municipal Drive to cast their first ballot for a Christian Scientist without having a clue about any of the issues. This was politically smart and ethically corrupt as all the new voters were graduating in 12 weeks and leaving Town and Country.

Gerber, with a degree in mathematics, claimed to have come up with a complicated formula that showed how surgically sterilizing deer at \$1,200 a deer was more cost effective than shooting a deer and giving the meat to a food bank for \$400. Basic math showed Gerber was wrong.

I hold Gerber in very low esteem in the area of ethics, however I believe he is well above Diehl in the "ethics" department."

As a Democrat in a Republican controlled house Gerber would never be able to get any squirrely law passed. However he would eliminate Diehl getting hundreds of thousands of dollars from special interest groups outside of Missouri and lobbyists to get laws passed that may not be the best interest of Missouri citizens. In other words Gerber could cause a lot less damage than Diehl.



John Diehl

However I doubt if Gerber gets more than 10% of the vote.

UANAPPROVED CHESTERFIELD NEWSLETTER 67



March 31, 2014

By John Hoffmann

CHESTERFIELD ADDRESSES ON SEX OFFENDERS LIST: While Town and Country just got rid of their lone member of the State's Sexual Offender website, Chesterfield has plenty...13 at current count. If you would like to check another area or get more details here is the link to the Missouri Highway Patrol Sexual Offender Registry:

<http://www.mshp.dps.mo.gov/CJ38/searchRegistry.jsp>

15557 Century Lake Drive Sodomy Joe Michael Bartlett, 59 Victim: 13-year-old Male



Bartlett

14072 Calcutta Deviate Sexual Assault Alan Anderson Bjerke, 25 Victim: 17 year-old female.



Bjerke

1482 Asterwood Ct. Child Pornography Joel J. Weinman, 49 Victims: Under 17 males



Weinman

15726 Hill House Rd. Sexual Misconduct Joseph E. Hendrickson, 72 Victim: 7 year-old female



14276 Forest Crest Dr. Sexual Assault Nathaniel Robert Lockwood, 25 Victim: 21-year-old female



Lockwood

14986 Claymont Estates Dr. Sexual Assault Mark Joseph Kabuss Victim 17-year-old female



kabuss

1255 Creve Coeur Crossing Lane #4 Attempt 2nd Degree Statutory Rape Brandon Anthony Lojacono, 30, VICTIM: 14-year-old female



Lojacono

13507 Coliseum Drive Sexual Exploitation of a Child Douglas Eugene Magac, 49, VICTIM: 13-year-old female



Magac

14449 Greencastle Drive #8 Sexual Assault 3rd Degree Jonathan E. Reyes, 26, VICTIM: 17-year-old female



Reyes

16015 Park Forest Court Child Molestation 2nd Degree Ryan Scott Stanfield, 34, VICTIM: 13-year-old female



Stanfield

17818 Wildhorse Creek Rd Possession of Child Pornography Lee F. Aguera, 24,
Victims 17-years-old Male and female



Aguera

1568 Highland Valley Circle Possession of Child Pornography Eric F. Orozco, 33,
VICTIMS: Females Under age of 17



Orozco

1300 Christmas Valley Drive Sexual Exploitation of a Child Tyler Andrew Walters,
29, VICTIMS: Male and Females Under 18



Walters

POLICE WITHHOLD RELEASING NEWS OF ROBBERY AND CARJACKING AT CHESTERFIELD MALL. On Wednesday evening the story appeared on TV and the next day on Thursday it was in the Post-Dispatch. The press first learned about a shoplifter spraying a store security officer with pepper spray and then car-jacking a shopper on the parking lot of Chesterfield Mall, forcing her to drive her to Richmond Heights where someone in another car picked her up.

The story was not given to the media for five days after the event. The shoplifting that turned into a robbery and then escalated to a carjacking and kidnapping happened on Friday March 21. Chesterfield Police didn't inform the public until March 26.

The police did develop one suspect quickly and Capt. Steve Lewis later said on a television interview that the department was familiar Cierra Baker, who used the pepper spray and kidnapped the shopper for past incidents. This is another example of how the Chesterfield municipal court system does little to actually protect law abiding citizens.



Cierra Baker,22 (left) and unknown suspect in the shoplifting at H&M Store in the Chesterfield Mall at 5pm on Friday March 21.

A regular reader of this newsletter and our website sent the following email to me on Wednesday:

Sent: Wednesday, March 26, 2014 8:09 PM

To: johnhoffmann@charter.net

Subject: Chesterfield Mall kidnapping

John,

I am sure you heard it took 5 days for the Chesterfield Police Dept to report the kidnapping/carjacking armed robbery to the press.

<http://www.ksdk.com/story/news/crime/2014/03/26/pair-wanted-for-armed-robbery-kidnapping-at-chesterfield-mall/6914013/>

The reader made a good point. Having been someone who investigated crimes, including robberies, the police may not want to give out possible suspect information until they have had a chance to investigate facts without tipping off a suspect that they are getting close to arresting them.

However, the police have a responsibility and duty to make the public aware of serious crimes. This one by Chesterfield standards is very serious. Back in the 60s and 70s early morning reporters for the Post-Dispatch and Globe-Democrat would call all the area police departments, usually talking to a dispatcher at municipalities in the County and ask if anything had happened in the last 24-years. Normally they would get an honest answer and often be transferred to an officer for more details. Those days are long gone.

But it is hard to ignore that area police departments are quick to notify the media if they have made an arrest or identified a suspect in a case and need the public's help. But the public has a right to know what is going on even if there is not an arrest.

I forwarded the reader's point to Capt. Steve Lewis of the Chesterfield Police, who handles media issues and received this reply:

From: Steve Lewis [mailto:SLewis@chesterfield.mo.us]
Sent: Thursday, March 27, 2014 7:56 AM
To: John Hoffmann
Subject: Re: question

John,

We were fairly confident we could identify the suspect, it took a couple days to do so. After identifying her we did not want to release the information in an attempt to arrest her. We had several leads as to her location, however these did not ultimately lead to her arrest.

While it is a very serious crime it is not something that posed an immediate danger to the public, the victim was not harmed and there is no "propensity" for violence that would lead us to fear she would commit another crime of this nature. We weigh the public's interest to know and danger to the public vs. the goal to arrest her in a reasonable time frame. Hope that helps answer the question.

Sent from my iPad

We did check with the Chesterfield Court clerk and learned that the known suspect in this case, Cierra Baker, has a case pending in Chesterfield Municipal Court, the most lenient court in all of St. Louis County. She has a charge of "Possession of a Theft Device" which is normally cutters to removed a security device from a garment, a booster jacket with deep inside pockets on a coat or a booster bag with places to conceal stolen items .

Cierra did not show for her first court date and the always easy Judge Rick "Let'em Loose" Brunk did not issue a warrant but had a letter sent to her about how she must have forgotten her court date and assigned a new one of April 15. I have a feeling she will not be making that court date as she will still be on the lam or in custody at the County Jail on felony charges.

In 2001 she was cited for Driving on A Revoked License in St. Peters. She failed to appear in court, a warrant was issued and in 2013 she was found guilty and paid a \$200 fine.

In 2012 she did 2-days in jail for a Driving While License Revoked and Failure to Have Insurance on Motor Vehicle on a Highway Patrol case filed in St. Louis County.

She currently has a Stealing Charge pending in the St. Charles County Circuit courts on a case from St. Peters.

CUNNINGHAM NOT RUNNING FOR SENATE: We originally reported last week in our newsletter that Jane Cunningham had ruled out running for County Executive and on the Jamie Allman Show said she was not running for the Missouri Senate. Jane sent me an e-mail saying she not had ruled out the Senate run.

However Jane did send out a press release last Tuesday just hours before the filing deadline saying:

From: Jane Cunningham [mailto:jane.cunningham7@gmail.com]

Sent: Tuesday, March 25, 2014 1:53 PM

To: Jane Cunningham

Subject: Former State Senator Jane Cunningham's Decision on Senate Re-Entry

Decision day is here for me to possibly have begun taking up where I left off in the Senate due to redistricting. I have done my due diligence by talking with constituents and donors.

Additionally, Republican Party leaders arranged for a meeting between Rep. Schatz and myself today.

My goal was to pick up in the Senate where I left off by contributing to key current legislation that is being considered in the areas of my expertise: education reform, labor/management issues and the federal health insurance exchange.

Relationships with major donors over the years have taught many of us that, even though they willingly fund proven candidates with conservative Republican records, they grow weary of primaries that unfortunately the Republican Party has specialized in of late. That weariness spills over to other Republican candidates who need and deserve support and is not healthy for the long-term good of the party nor for the state.

I have chosen not to seek my former Senate seat and to offer my legislative assistance to Rep. Schatz when he moves to the upper chamber.

With that said, the ongoing work and reforms I have initiated and been part of as a Director of the Monarch Fire Protection District have been satisfying, successful and much needed. I have been moved by the overwhelming concern recently expressed by firefighters and their union that I might be abandoning Monarch even though I assured the public I was not. Now Monarch and they will have my undivided attention.

Jane Cunningham - Monarch Fire Protection District Director and Former State Senator

Republican insiders say Jane was asked not to run by party committee members. One of the reasons was that since much of the district is now in Franklin County they thought Jane would have a problem, plus they wanted to avoid a primary battle. Of course it was the same party higher ups who took away Cunningham's existing district, a stronghold, to make it easy for Sen. John Lamping (R-Ladue) to run for reelection. Then Lamping announced that he was done after one-term. Basically the Republicans screwed Jane on redistricting and are now asking her to play nice.



That said, personally Jane scared me with all the far right wing stuff she would come up with on the state level. I mean when your bills are material for TV comics maybe you have drifted too far from the center. However, Jane is great on a local level where the issues are more dollars and cents and not political theory. I think the people in the Monarch Fire District are lucky that Jane is not running for the Missouri Senate.

AN IDIOT TAKES A SWIPE AT CUNNINGHAM: I found it interesting to read in the West Magazine where reporter Dan Fox quoted Ellisville Councilman and liar Matt Pirrello, who thinks he'd make a good candidate for County Executive on Jane Cunningham deciding not to enter the race.

"Her talents wouldn't be fully utilized at the County Executive level, " said Pirrello, the guy behind the phony-baloney unconstitutional impeachment of Ellisville mayor Adam

Paul.



Actually I think Jane's talents work best when she is closest to the local level and stays away from party politics. That is why she is having such an impact as a director of the Monarch Fire Protection District. The County Council or Executive's office would be one step further up, but still local enough where nickel squeezing can be appreciated. When she was in Jefferson City she was talking right wing dogma and ended up being the butt of Jay Leno jokes on the Tonight Show monologue.

However for some guy like Pirrello to take a shot at Jane I found to be amazing and typical of the idiot Pirrello, who promised while being interviewed on the radio to resign from the city council if Mayor Adam Paul was reinstated as mayor after the charade of an impeachment on trumped charges.

Paul was quickly reinstated as mayor by the courts and Pirrello refused to resign.

It will be fun to see if anyone interviews Pirrello prior to the election and how he handles the question, "Didn't you lie to the people of Ellisville when you promised to resign if Mayor Paul was reinstated and then you didn't when he was reinstated?"

MEDIA WATCH: Bill Beggs, Jr. strikes again with more misinformation In the March 19 issue of the Town and Style Magazine, eight days after the suicide of Kara Koriath at a house where she had been living in Town and Country, Beggs, Jr. reported on her arrest without naming her.

Well that is some journalism...informing readers that someone had tried to kill her children with a car bomb and then forget to mention her name. Then he tells his readers that the unnamed Koraith lives somewhere she didn't.

At the time of the event Koriath lived on Barrett Station Road in unincorporated St. Louis County, close to Des Peres. Beggs' Headline and story claimed she lived in Ballwin. If Beggs knew anything about where he was reporting he would know that none of Barrett Station Road is in Ballwin and is in fact miles from Ballwin.



Bill Beggs, Jr. a weekly fountain of misinformation.

ALSO Beggs finally reported on the Artists Guild moving to the Open Door Church on Big Bend at Grant Road from its location at Oak Knoll Park in Clayton. This is something we reported 3 1/2 months ago. Beggs also failed to mention that the Artists Guild was being evicted from the historic house in the Clayton Park for failing to live up to its \$1 a year lease. They didn't miss the \$1 annual payment but they had failed to maintain the house and have insurance coverage.

Here is some new NEWS. The City of Clayton had given the Artists Guild until the end of July instead of the end of March to vacate.

MORE GOOD NEWS... ST. LOUIS NEWS IN THE NY TIMES: Three times in the last year the St. Louis area has been featured in NY Times feature articles. The first was the phony-baloney impeachment of Ellisville Mayor Adam Paul. More recently was the KSDK caused locked down of Kirkwood High School. The most recent piece was in the New York Times Magazine in the Sunday Times. That piece was about investing in mobile home parks and making millions off the lower economic classes. The reporter lived for a week at a trailer park in Arnold and did interviews at a trailer park in Pontoon Beach, Illinois.

RIVERFRONT TIMES ONLINE BLOGGER AND FORMER PATCHER SHOWS SHE IS NOT FROM AROUND HERE: In a recent piece for the online edition of the Riverfront Times, writer and news blogger Lindsay Toler wrote the following about upcoming auction for the old Crestwood Plaza shopping center:

Bidding is open online for [Crestwood Court](#), originally Crestwood Mall, a successful open-air shopping destination in the '50s and became a neighborhood fixture until about ten years ago. The starting bid is \$1,000,000.



Lindsey is a kid who doesn't list her hometown on her web resume, but I'm pretty sure it is not from around here. (Actually she is from Texas) Her first jobs were in the Seattle and Dallas areas, plus one year in the Peace Corps. Before coming to St. Louis and working for the now defunct patch.com. She did graduate from the University of Missouri and posts her GPA on her online resume (it's 3.89). That is something you would not normally see from a hardcore city paper reporter.

However having long roots in St. Louis does not appear to be something that Lindsay has. Anyone from St. Louis knows that Crestwood Court was originally called Crestwood Plaza and for a couple of decades had an advertising slogan and jingle of "Crestwood Plaza...where the big stores are." Nobody called it Crestwood Mall. And nobody, other than the out-of-town owners ever called it Crestwood Court.

REAL ESTATE: Modest \$4,750,000 Chesterfield home: The highest price home listed in Town and Style magazine last week was right in Chesterfield's Ward-4. The home of Frederick and Tamarah Wagner at 144 S. Eatherton Road is yours for under \$5-million.

Last year the Wagners paid \$19,525 in real estate taxes on the 4-plus acre wooded lot.

Frederick W. Wagner is an anesthesiologist with offices in Creve Coeur and in Maryville, Illinois.

Court records show that Dr. Wagner, 42, had a 2-year long divorce court battle with Trista Nicole Wagner that was first filed on January 14, in 2003 and ended on December 10, 2004, only to be back in court in June 2005 and settled in June of 2006 over money issues.

Interestingly on June 14, 2012 tax rolls show Tamarah Wagner as the co-owner at 144 S. Eatherton Road but she received a traffic citation from a St. Charles County Deputy Sheriff and gave her address as 933 Terry Road Augusta, MO 63332, which according to St. Charles County records is owned by both Frederick and Tamarah Wagner.

Taxes on the St. Charles County abode were \$4,854 in 2013.



The French Provincial Mansion located nowhere near France.

The Chesterfield house built in 2008 is 11,486 square feet with seven bedrooms and a mother-n-laws suite. It comes with a four-car garage, but no pool. Really \$4,750,000 and no pool! Also it has eight full and four-half baths. A plumber on a clogged drain would have to love this place.



While the outside may look like an overgrown giant French Provincial estate home, the immediate interior looks like a cold English or Scottish Castle, including a suit of armor. Wasn't there a war in the United States in the late 1700s to get away from people in English castles?

If you want to see the rest of the house here is a link to more photos:

<http://www.trulia.com/property/1076184918-144-S-Eatherton-Rd-Chesterfield-MO-63005#photo-50>

Oddly enough the Augusta house is also for sale for just \$749,900. This house is a mere 6-bedroom home with only 4 1/2 baths and just a 3-car garage.





The August home is a crowded 15-room 4,193 square feet house.

Just a thought...these two places gives me a pause to think that perhaps medical costs are so high because medical professional have to maintain a housing with a total of 12 full and 5 half-baths covering 15,500 square feet and garage spaces for seven cars.

Dielmann/Sothebys has the listing on both homes.

I THOUGHT IT WAS A GOOD QUESTION: Here is the sign that is hanging at the Costco store in Manchester:



So I made it a point to find someone from the seafood department while there were a number of shoppers in the area and then used my best radio/PA announcer voice and asked the guy,

"Is this one of those road shows where I bring in my seafood and you have an appraiser tell me how much it is worth?"

He gave me an odd look and didn't say anything until all the shoppers around us broke out in laughter.

Actually it is where they will sell seafood in smaller portions and not the usual large Costco packages.

MUSIC:



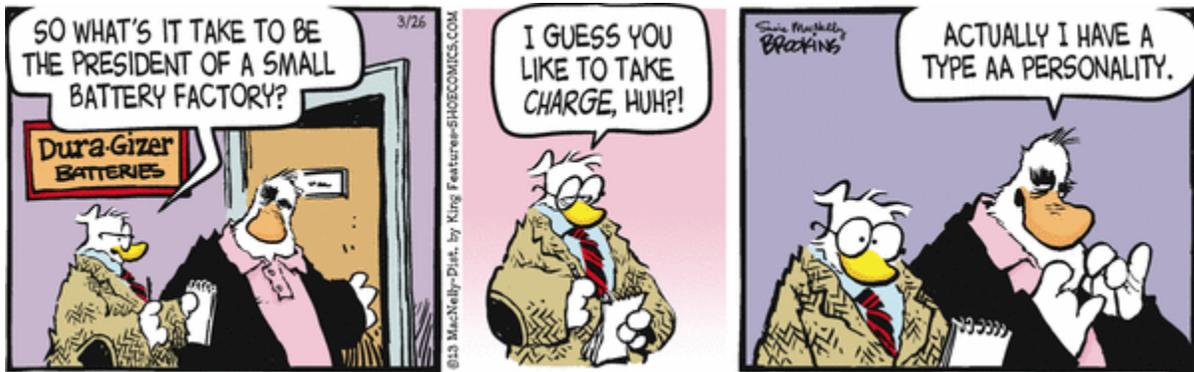
Randy Barr (left) Arthur Toney (center) and Jim Manley (right) putting out some Saturday night jazz at the One-19 North in Kirkwood.

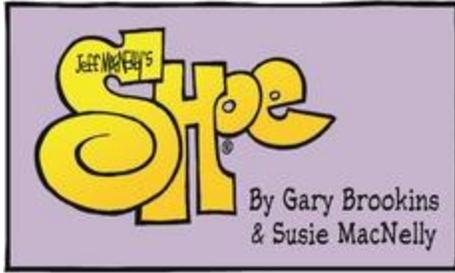
UPCOMING: After our very successful party at the One-19 on February 10 that featured vocalist Charlie B and Dean Christopher along with a group talented musicians having fun with some Rat Pack style songs...we hear that One-19 will be trying a "Rat Pack Monday" on the first Monday of the month from 7-9 with a trio featuring Dean Christopher on vocals. The fun is to start on the first Monday in May.



Dean Christopher having fun with the audience at the One-19 last February.

CARTOONS:

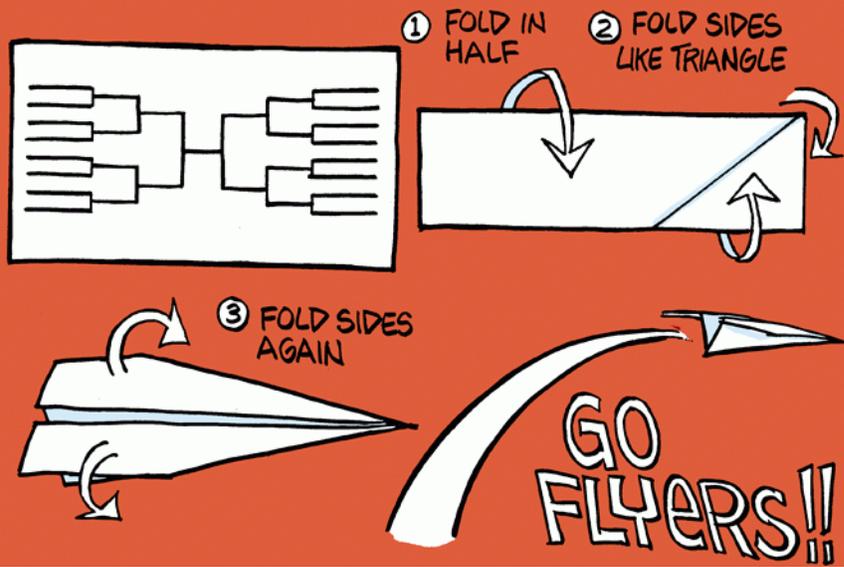




HOW TO TURN YOUR BUSTED BRACKET INTO AN AIRPLANE

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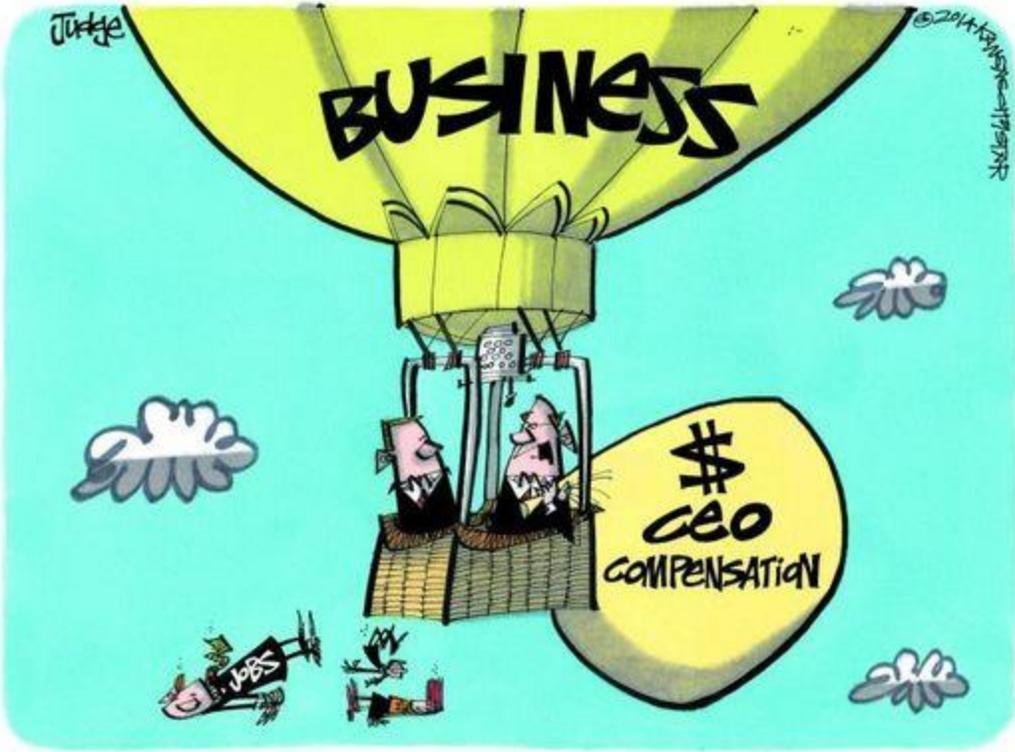




DERING ARKANSAS DEMOCRAT-GAZETTE
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"NOW WE KNOW WHY SECRET SERVICE AGENTS WEAR DARK GLASSES."



"How else could we lighten the load?"