

EX ALDERMAN NEWSLETTER 134 and Chesterfield 79



By John Hofmann

July 6, 2014

MISSOURI BAPTIST SPARTANS SHOULD CHANGE NAME TO LUMBERJACKS...WOODED AREA TO BE CLEARED FOR FOOTBALL FIELD...THREE ENTRANCES PLANNED TO COME FROM

PRESEAVATION PARK/CADET FIELD: We wrote earlier this year how Missouri Baptist University will be adding football as a varsity sport this fall. The first season in 2014 will feature just three home games, all to be played at CBC's football field in Town and Country. We wrote for the number of teams needing a field that the sharing of one field between CBC and Missouri Baptist was not going to work for long.

We received word from an insider that CBC was having some cash flow issues and currently can use the revenue from renting it football and stadium to Missouri Baptist. However, one football field cannot serve all the varsity, JV, Freshman football, lacrosse and soccer teams that CBC fields along with similar Missouri Baptist college teams.

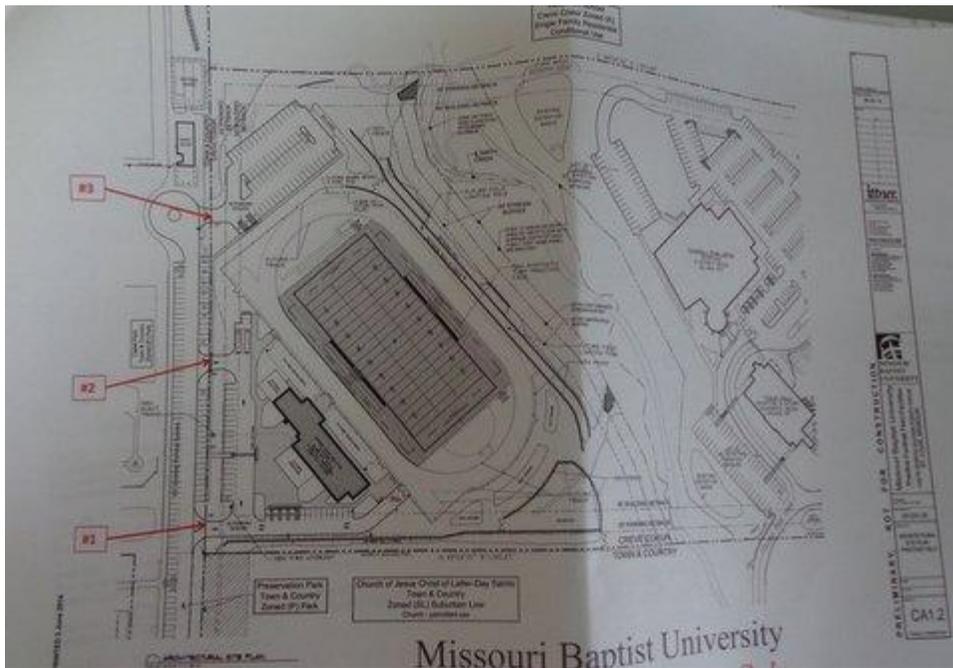
Missouri Baptist, with most of its campus in Creve Coeur has submitted plans with Creve Coeur and Town and Country for a new football field on their property where there is a large grove of trees now. Missouri Baptist claims the field and locker rooms would be a "practice field" for now, but the plans also show where a future stadium would be built.

Missouri Baptist wants to have three drives leading to the football field from Town and Country and the CBC parking lot at Cadet Park. Besides the road cuts Missouri Baptist also wants to add more parking spaces along the lot at Cadet Park. Keep in mind that CBC is having a fundraising effort

to raise money to build a stadium around the baseball field at Cadet Park and name it in honor of CBC alum, former Cardinal right fielder and third baseman and long time broadcaster Mike Shannon.



The area in blue is Missouri Baptist property in Creve Coeur. The area in red is in Town and Country and is owned by CBC. The athletic field to the west is part of the Priory School and is in Creve Coeur. The field to the south of the blue box is the CBC football field and is in Town and Country.



A LOOK AROUND PRESERVATION PARK:

TENNIS COURTS IN NEED OF ROUNDUP: Let's see the last time we took photos of the tennis courts at Town and Country's Preservation Park was early in the spring. There were large new cracks across the courts and the quick seal jobs on cracks last year were beginning to fail. The front portion of Preservation Park is owned by the city. However there is a contractual agreement with CBC High School that they have first use of the tennis courts but must maintain them. The rear portion of the park is owned by CBC and is where the baseball field is located.

Our early summer look at the tennis courts show there have been some changes. Weeds are now growing out of the cracks that have not been repaired. The city either needs to sell off this property or properly maintain it.



If you dive to try and save a ball at the beach volley court at Preservation Park you run the risk of an accidental hanging.

THE WILD, WILD WEST SIDE: The part of Preservation Park that most people forget about it is the West Entrance that leads to about eight parking spaces and the "John Diehl Pavilion." To the right side (east side) of the pavilion is a trail with a stone staircase. When I was an alderman in 2009 I took city attorney Steve Garrett to two places for him to see serious liability issues facing the city. The first was the rear patio at the Longview House, which Parks Director Anne Nixon was trying to rent out for events. The brick walkway was uneven and parts had collapsed, steps were crumbling, vines were growing through step railings. Garrett agreed with me and told Nixon to rope off the area until it could be repaired. \$35,000 later the repairs were made

The other area were the park steps. It is impossible to easily climb these steps and now it is almost impossible to use the steps due to the degree of difficulty. The individual stones are uneven and it is worse when there is a second uneven stone next to it. Many have mold and moss on them and now weeds and small trees are growing out of cracks in the stones. Garrett did not recommend that the stairs be removed or fixed. Instead he directed that a sign be erected that people should use caution and proceed at their own risk. In 5 more years it has just gotten more dangerous. This is great, the city admits something on their property is dangerous and it doing nothing to make it safe.



Who is using the Wild, Wild West side of Preservation Park? Linda Rallo reported at a BOA agenda meeting how she found empty beers cans. The cans were gone on the day I went there, but I noticed an empty pack of Swisher Sweets cigars. Swisher Sweets are popular with kids who smoke marijuana. They hallow out the cigar and stuff it with marijuana and then enjoy a slow long smoke that has the harshness covered in a sweetly sick cherry smell. The empty cigar package was in front of a wooden bench that it rotting away due to a lack of routine maintenance.



A HISTORY OF A LACK OF MAINTENANCE: After two years of removing honeysuckle in Longview Park the City stopped doing a maintenance program and the honeysuckle has taken over the park's interior again. Five years ago new trees purchased for Longview Park with donations as part of a program to plant a tree to honor someone, the city failed to protect young trees from deer rubbing antlers on them during the fall, removing all the bark and killing the trees.

We have been documenting how the roof to the restrooms at Drace Park was damaged in a storm on February 15. By the end of June the damage has not been repaired.

The lack of maintenance to parts of Preservation Park has been going on for years. Now the City of Town and Country which has a poor record of performing park maintenance will be adding a new log cabin to Drace Park and removing an addition to an existing cabin to the tune of \$130,000.

If the City cannot maintain what it has...why is it adding more?

TOWN AND COUNTRY RESIDENT WINS HIS SECOND TRIP TO FEDERAL PRISON: 14 months as a guest of the United States Bureau of Prisons in 2006 and 2007 apparently was much of a lesson for Richard Saddler. On July 1 the resident at 1616 Featherstone in Town and Country's Ward 2 (the ward with the most criminals in the city) was sentenced to 33 months back in the Bureau of Prisons, this time for bilking people around the country in a fraudulent loan scheme. Saddler was also ordered to pay back his victims \$335,650.

The victims might have a bit of a wait as Saddler also has State charges pending on three felony bad check charges in Town and Country and Clayton. Plus he has \$134,000 in judgments for back taxes from the Missouri Department of Revenue and another \$6,839 judgment against him from a credit union.



It's back to the Bureau of Prisons for Richard Saddler

The sign of a good con man. His Linked-in photo looks almost like his mug shot (right)

DRUG DEALER'S HIGH GRASS COSTS CITY OVER \$800: The city got the bill for harvesting the high grass and weeds at ex-convict Brian Marchant-Calsyn house at 1761 Topping Road. Last fall it cost \$600 for a city contractor to cut the 3-acre yard, This summer it was \$812.50



HARRY WEBER WANTS YOUR DOG AND FIVE FIGURES FOR A LIFETIME STATUTUE:

I attended the agenda meeting where Lynn Wright and well known regional artist/sculptor Harry Weber made a presentation concerning the horse and dog sculpture that Webber is suppose to do after his design won a contest held by the Arts Commission



They are looking to raise \$139,000 in private funds to create the sculpture that is planned to be placed in the green space next to the city's firehouse at Clayton Road and Mason Road (that Mayor Dalton and Lynn Wright like to call a "trailhead" but in reality is where a new extra wide sidewalk was recently built)

Payments: At first Weber said payments needed to be made in one-third increments, with a payment of about \$46,000 up front, followed by another \$46,000 when the art work is made into clay and another \$46,000 when the sculpture is installed. Although Weber backtracked later and said he could start with as little as \$10,000 up front.

Your Dog: Weber then said that the horse design was final, but the design of the dog was not. He added if someone wanted the sculpture of the dog to be based on their dog, he was sure that could be arranged if a large enough contribution was made toward the project.

UNAPPROVED CHESTERFIELD NEWSLETTER 79



July 7, 2014

By John Hoffmann

CHESTERFIELD ARTS IS BROKE...THEY WANT CITY TO BUY THE TWO HORSES IN FRONT OF CITY HALL FOR \$250,000...MAYORS SAYS IF COUNCIL APPROVES MONEY HE WILL VETO IT:

In May it was announced that Chesterfield Arts the civic non-profit organization after getting kicked out of their longtime home near Chesterfield Mall would be moving to the Taubman Outlet mall in between two art galleries. Over Memorial Day weekend we talked to some people at the galleries who were excited about the new neighbor. A day later it was announced that Chesterfield Arts would not be making the move.

On Monday night June 30 we found out why Chesterfield Arts was not moving to the Taubman Outlet Mall...they don't have any money, despite getting a \$100,000 annual grant from the City of Chesterfield.

The organization's leaders were at the city's Finance and Administration Committee meeting on June 30.

"By the end of August we will be out of funds and at the end of our credit line. We either need a cash infusion or close down," said Bud Hirsch speaking for the Chesterfield Arts Board of Directors.

Chesterfield Arts (CA) is doing its summer educational classes at the Westminster Christian Academy in Town and Country.

Hirsch said CA was lucky to have sculptures around town as assets. Here is how Hirsch wanted the city to save Chesterfield Arts.

There are two Chinese horses in front of City Hall. There are nine such horses from a mold of an Italian sculptor that had been in the lobby of the old Adams-Mark hotel in downtown St. Louis before being obtained by Chesterfield Arts.



\$250,000 FOR HORSES WITH NO RIDERS: Hirsch wants the city to buy the two horses in front of City Hall for \$250,000. Then also kick in the usual \$100,000 city grant.

Hirsch said with the \$350,000 infusion Chesterfield Arts could continue through 2015. He admitted they would need to find more funding to continue operation in 2016 and beyond.

This caused Councilman Dan Hurt and others to ask how CA had come up with the price of \$250,000 for the horses.

Mike Doster, well known local zoning attorney who is routinely trying to bend zoning laws for developers, is also a director with CA. He said he has not been able to determine the value of the horses through art auctioneers since permanent monument sculptures that size don't go up for individual sale.

The councilpersons and mayor who were present were told that the Italian artist who designed the horses is still alive and the final three castings from the mold of new horses are about to be made and sold for \$476,000 per horse.

Chesterfield Arts is down to three fulltime employees and two part timers. Their current annual payroll is \$300,000. Mike Doster stated that two contributors of \$35,000 annual donations will not be making any donations this year. He also said it is impossible to seek donations if the organization is likely to go out of business. CA also receives some

funding from the Missouri Arts Commission and the St. Louis Regional Arts Commission.

"What if the worst would happen and we said no, asked Councilman Barry Flachsbart.

"We would cease operating on August 31," replied Doster.

"You are a 501c organization. can you file for bankruptcy," asked Councilman Mike Casey.

"You have to have money to file for bankruptcy and we don't have any money," said Doster.



Bud Hirsch in the blue shirt and Mike Doster in the white shirt almost begging the council people to fork over \$250,000 for the horses Chesterfield Arts had already "given" the city.

ONLY THE HORSES FOR SALE: Chesterfield Arts has other sculptures in Chesterfield and is not offering any of them for sale. Mike Doster said some are encumbered with Sachs Properties.

He listed some of the others including:

One at the Post Office

The very weird "Awakening"

Another at Justus Post

One at HOKI

"The Bather" in the Hilltown Village

COMMENTS BY THE ELECTED OFFICIALS:

Connie Fults: "I would support whatever we need to keep you."
Later in the meeting..."We need to keep them going."



Barry Flachsbart: "All the facts include that arts are a key to development of a city."

To Mike Doster and Bud Hirsch..."I want to see a plan what you are going to do to go forward."

"You come back to the same problem in 2016!"

"I'm not thrilled with paying for horses at \$250,000, but I'll make a motion to pass this along to the full council."...there was a long pause and the matter would have died without a second...Bruce DeGroot then seconded the motion.

Dan Hurt: "The regular residents are not worried about the horses. They are worried about the streets and police protection."

"The Arts Commission and then Chesterfield Arts started with all volunteers."

Derek Grier, Finance and Administration Committee Chair:

"I don't think it is appropriate to discuss funding an organization in next year's budget before we start the budget process."

"The horses...it has morphed into simply...is this the only way to save this organization? I'd be hard pressed to justify a commitment of this magnitude."

"Is the city in the business in investing in art? I don't think it is."



Boy councilman Derek Grier is making sense, while Bruce DeGroot (far right) takes a defensive pose.

Mike Casey: "The first check to the Chesterfield Arts was \$5000. You want \$250,000 plus \$1000,000. I'm not comfortable in buying the horses."

After Connie Fults exclaimed "WE need to keep them going."...Casey said: "At the same time Mrs. Fults we have no guarantee they will be a viable organization. I don't see where they have a plan that makes sense. They have gone from \$5,000 a year grants from the city to \$100,000."

MAYOR BOB NATION: "Don't forget the city paid to have them (horses) installed."...in response to Chesterfield Arts claiming how the owned the horses outright.

"You have gone out to your donors and they say no. Now you come to the city and expect the city to do this. Your donors are part of the city."

"If this come forward I'll veto it!"

City Administrator not winning friends in high places: City Administrator Mike Herring leaning back in his chair with his hands behind his head spoke up and said to Mayor Nation, "You can't veto that."

Frankly despite Herring being the city administrator for 25 years it seemed to me that would have been a good time to keep his mouth shut and allow the city attorney at a later time to provide the legal advice.

\$250,000 HORSES VOTED OUT OF COMMITTEE: At first it appeared as if this would die in committee as listening to the comments of the four committee members it appeared to be a 2-2 vote and for legislation to leave this committee there needs to be a majority. But boy councilman, Derek Grier, despite stating his opposition to buying two

horses that the city had already paid years ago to have permanently installed in front of city hall for a quarter-of-a-million dollars...voted to send the matter on to the full council.

Derek Grier, Barry Flachsbart and Bruce DeGroot voted to send the resolution on to the Council. Mike Casey voted to kill it at the committee level.

Upcoming vote: The next City Council meeting is not until July 21. If I had to guess I would say Connie Fults, Bruce DeGroot and maybe Barry Flachsbart would vote to buy the second-hand Chinese horses. While Councilwoman Nancy Greenwood is a big supporter of the arts she also squeezes a nickel harder than anyone on the council. I'd say that she, Dan Hurt, Mike Casey and Derek Grier would likely vote against the purchase. I have no idea where Elliot Grissom would vote. If there was a tie vote, Mayor Nation would surely vote no.

Irony: At the same meeting Barry Flachsbart had an agenda item to instruct the city hall staff to prepare a resolution not to support a St. Louis City-St. Louis County merger or as City Administrator Mike Herring calls it a "St. Louis City Re-entry to St. Louis County." Part of Flachsbart's reason for the opposition is St. Louis County's position on keeping Chesterfield in Sale Tax Pool where Chesterfield only sees 46% of the general sales tax it generates. In other words Flachsbart is crying poor about the Sales Tax Pool distribution, but is willing to move forward on a last minute resolution to spend \$250,000 for two Chinese horses.

More Irony: Also at this meeting Mayor Nation asked about reviewing the 3-percent raise giving city employees for the 2014-2015 budget year and consider a 2-percent raise. The mayor is seriously concerned about the budget but there is a chance the city council could vote to drop \$250,000 for two second-hand Chinese horses.

OUR TAKE: I guess I think like Councilman Dan Hurt's "regular people." City government's main job is to provide police protection, safe streets, plowed streets after snows, zoning to protect property values then park services. Buying very expensive works of art is great, but only if you have plenty of money to provide the major services.

Basically Chesterfield Arts gave the city two Chinese horses and now years later they want \$250,000. The horses were originally second-hand coming from a defunct downtown hotel. When I was a kid we called giving something then wanting it back a term that is now politically incorrect. But a phrase like "the old switcheroo" would seem appropriate.



In the City of St. Louis a statue of King Louis (Saint. Louis) is on a horse in front of the Art Museum. In Chesterfield it is two empty Chinese horses. Really Chinese Horses? I mean there are not even very many Chinese restaurants in Chesterfield.

If the council is silly enough to pay for the horses that are already sitting in front of city hall, they should have no problem in adding a couple of other statues. My first suggestion would be sculptures of Parley Baer and Dennis Weaver on top of each horse.

Parley Baer played CHESTER Wesley Proudfoot on the radio version of Gunsmoke that ran from 1952-to-1961, He is probably best known in his role of Mayor Stoner on the Andy Griffith Show.

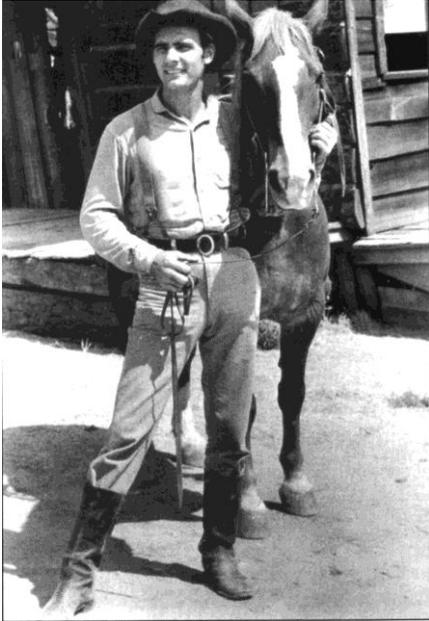


Baer as Mayor Stoner.



The cast of Gunsmoke on the radio...Howard McNear (Floyd the barber on the Andy Griffith Show) as Doc, William Conrad (Cannon) as Marshal Matt Dillon, Georgia Ellis as Kitty and at the far right Parley Baer as deputy Chester Wesley Proudfoot.

Dennis Weaver perhaps better known as playing Deputy Marshal Sam McCloud was the original deputy on Gunsmoke's TV version playing the character Chester Goode.



Dennis Weaver with a horse...

If TV characters with the name of CHESTER aren't good enough...how about sculptures of famous Americans. Maybe President Chester Arthur holding one horse and Admiral Chester Nimitz holding the other?



TOUGH MONTH FOR ARTS IN CHESTERFIELD: Sculptor and artist Don Wiegand had a November court order go against him and ordered that his studio at One Wiegand Drive at Baxter Road just north of Chesterfield Airport Road belonged to the Bremen Bank and Trust. Wiegand did not vacate the premises but appealed the court's decision. He also countered sued Bremen Bank, but withdrew that suit. However Bremen Bank filed a new suit on May 16 over a promissory note.

According to court documents on June 19 a process server went to Wiegand Studio at One Wiegand Drive and found the studio vacant. It look empty when we drove out there a week ago.



The very quiet and mostly empty Wiegand studios on June 29.

JUST A THOUGHT: While the City of Chesterfield is using its money from the Chesterfield Valley TDD (Traffic Development District sales tax) to install bus stops in and around Chesterfield Valley, maybe the city should consider this style that is located in Montreal:



This is a bus stop in Montreal

FIRE DISTRICTS: MONARCH TO EAT FIRE TRUCK DAMAGE WHILE BACKING INTO ENGINE HOUSE: At the June 26th Board of Directors meeting of the Monarch FPD it was announced the district would not submit an insurance claim and pay for the damages that occurred when a fire truck was backed into the front of engine House 2. It was felt the possible increase in insurance premiums could be more than the \$3,423 repair bill.



Jane Cunningham wasted no time asking if the driver of the truck had been alcohol and drug tested. She was assured he had.

VACATION PHOTOS: I know who cares! But here are some of what I thought were more interesting pics from our late spring New England, Canadian and Iceland vacation:

Rhode Island



Two story high begonias in bloom along the coast road about 45 minutes south of Newport, RI.



Forget about the mansions in Newport head to Narragansett, RI and Monahan's Crab Shack.

Maine



A restaurant review in the NY Times claimed Cappy's Chowder House in Camden Maine had great clam chowder. It was worth the drive from Bar Harbor and the review was right...plus the onion rings were worth the drive alone. We looked at it this way...we were not eating a lot of fattening food...instead we were fact checking the NY Times.

Nova Scotia

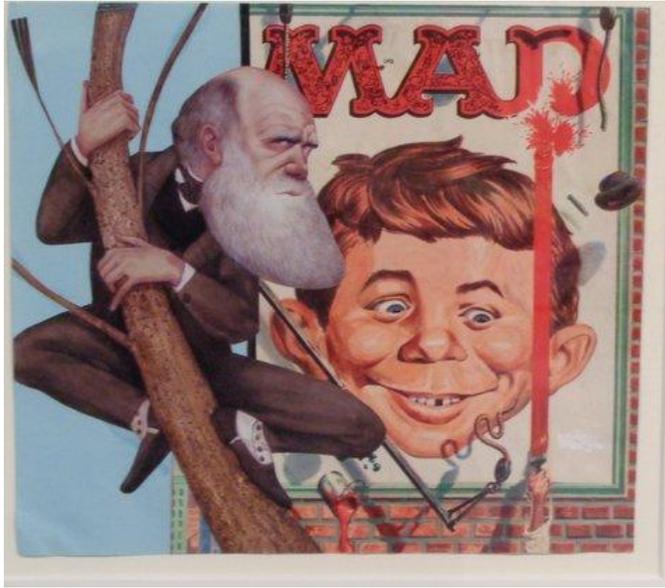


The wooden lighthouse in Walton, Nova Scotia is maintained by volunteers. The lighthouse, parking lot and bathrooms were spotless. Clearly volunteers were doing something right. Donation cans and books for sale with a money box on a table were simply on the honor system.

ICELAND:



This photo tells it all about Iceland, overcast skies but the sun is peeking through hitting the white sails, lush greenery, brown mountains of lava topped with glaciers.



A clock in an open downtown square in Reykjavik advertising the Icelandic Penis Museum. We didn't make it there, but we did make it to the Iceland Museum of Modern Art, where my favorite piece was titled "Son of Freud" featuring the American Icon, Mr. .A.E. Newman.



Street repaving can be complicated in Reykjavik when you have to be sure to install the tubes for the thermo water which melts the snow off the streets.

If you want to read the long version of our vacation here is a link to Cruise Critic review...which was chosen as "Review of the Week." I can wait to see what the prize will be.

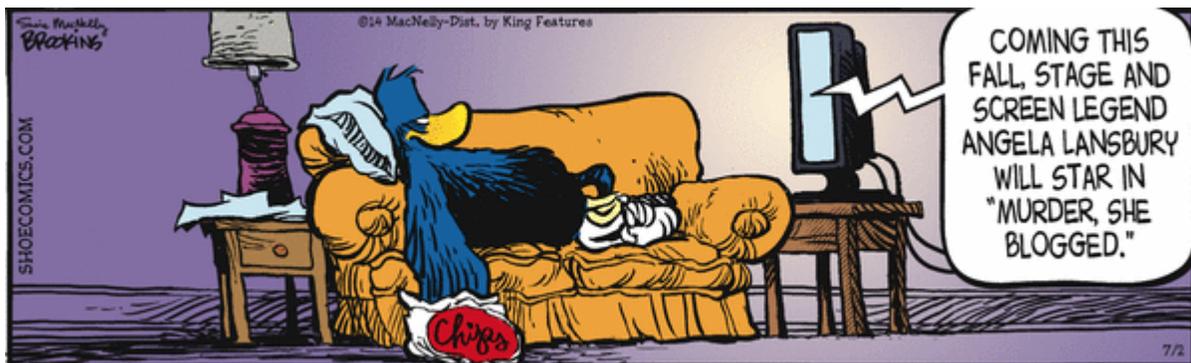
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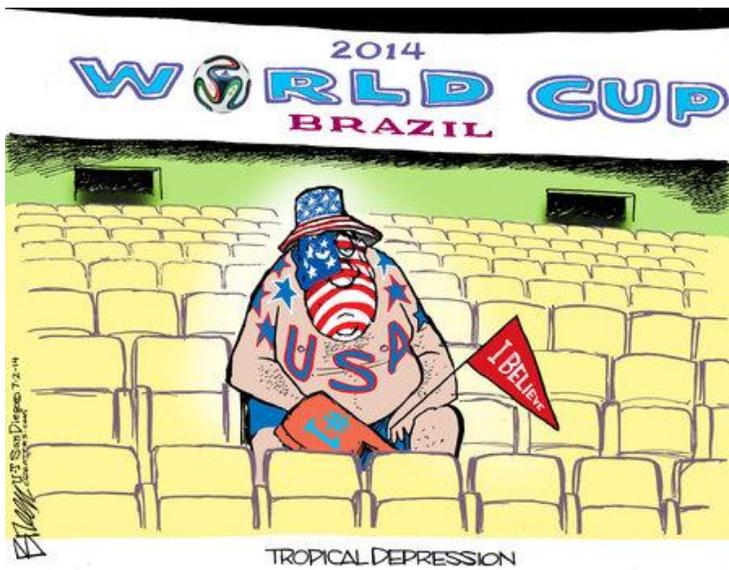
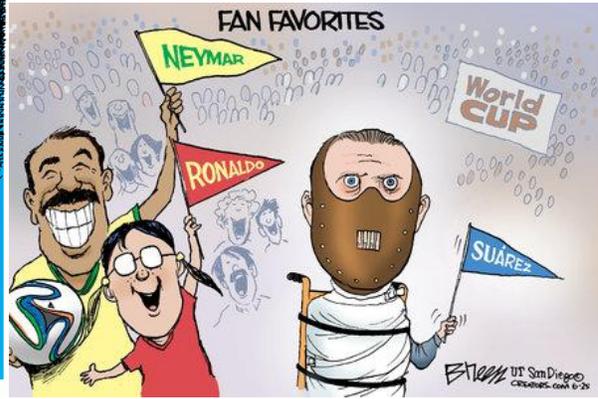
MUSIC: Sasha's on DeMun in Clayton pays for two musicians on Wednesday nights. Here is the group of five that closed out the entertainment on July 2 with 15 minutes of extra music.

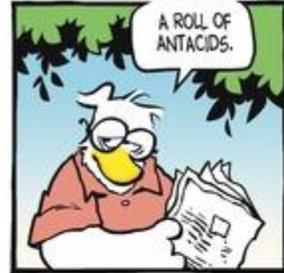
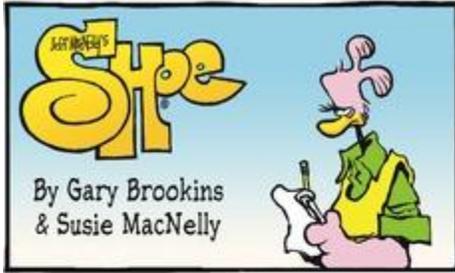


Left to right: Larry Johnson on saxophone, Master Sgt. Kerry Moffit, with the USAF Band of the West stationed in San Antonio, in town as a replacement on trumpet for the USAF Band of Mid-America for July 4th weekend concerts at Jefferson Barracks, Jim Manley on trumpet, Arthur Toney on the keyboard and Snarl'n Arlen on the drums.

CARTOONS:







"LATELY WE'VE BEEN USING MORE WHITEWASH."

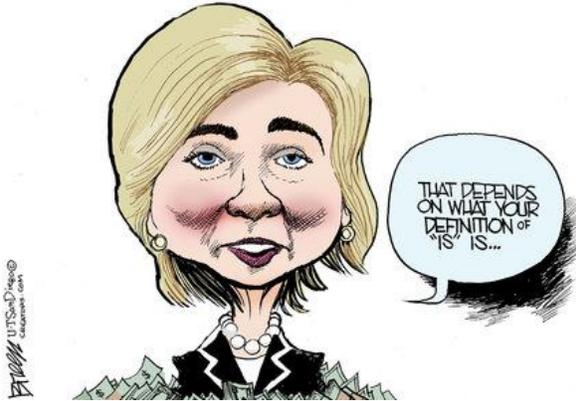


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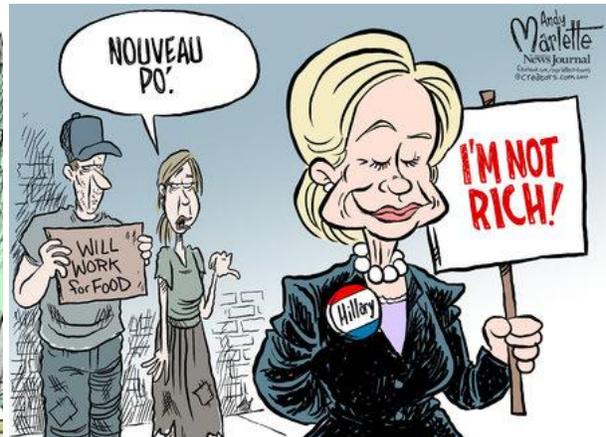
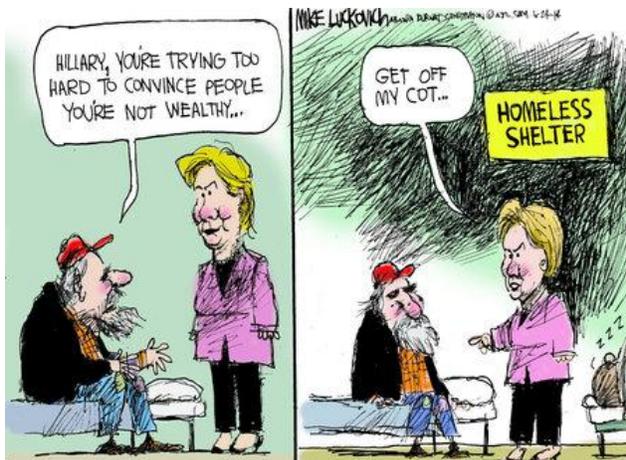
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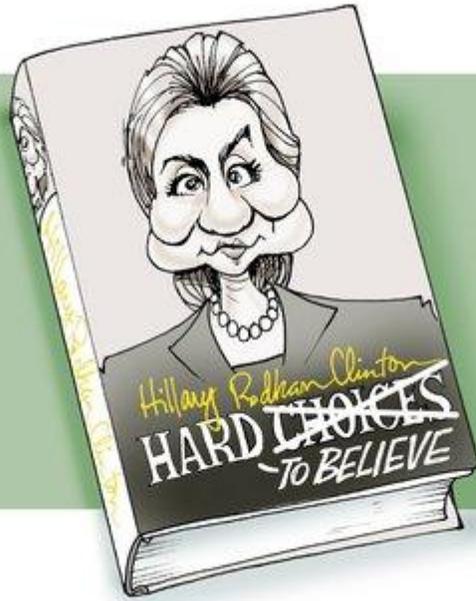
Q: Is your family truly well off?



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