

EX ALDERMAN NEWSLETTER 207 AND CHESTERFIELD 152



By John Hoffmann

December 16, 2015

TOWN AND COUNTRY JUVENILE CERTIFIED TO STAND TRIAL AS ADULT IN PRINCIPIA FOOTBALL CAMP SODOMY AND ASSAULT CASE: This will not go away and someone at the Christian Science School now knows what it is like for the guy who did media relations and PR for the Catholic Church in Boston and Kansas City.

16-year-old Jason Bemis of 13259 Pinetree Lane in Town and Country joins three others charged in the assaults on middle-school aged boys at a Principia Summer football camp.



Ricardo Loma pled guilty to seven counts of misdemeanor assault on January 26, 2015 for punching campers. Loma who lived in Kirkwood transferred to Kirkwood HS after being expelled from Principia. He graduated last spring.

Joshua Brewer who lives across the street from Principia at 6 Rutherford Lane and Maverick Holmsley of Wright City were charged with four counts of Sodomy for forcing objects into campers' rectums. Their lawyers have blanketed Principia with subpoenas wanting records from sports camps and names of coaches and parents who acted as supervisors at the camps.

The offenses happened on August 10, 2014. The Holmsley case has been continued to June 13, 2016. It will likely be two years old once it is resolved. According to Holmsley's

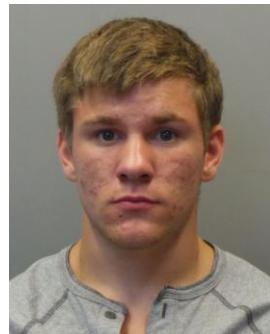
facebook page he is now attending San Diego State University. His lawyers have filed a motion to dismiss that has yet to be heard.

The Brewer case next court appearance is for February 11, 2016. His facebook page claims he had gone to the University of West Florida and is now married.

All four defendants have photos of them playing football for Principia still posted on their facebook sites.



Joshua Brewer



Maverick Holmsley



Ricardo Loma



Jason Bemis

This story is bad enough for Principia as it won't go away. Even if some charges are dismissed it will mean more articles about sodomy and assaults on middle school kids at summer football camp.

Plus there are the recent charges of Statutory Rape and a lawsuit filed by a 16-year-old female student's parents alleging that their daughter was repeatedly raped by an employee of the Principia IT Department. The girl has dropped out of school and the parents don't know where she or the former school employee are. They allege the school knew the employee who is related to a top administrator and former trustee of the school had group sex with underage female students. A copy of the lawsuit is on our website's homepage.

It is a tough PR job representing the National High School for the dwindling Christian Science Religion, when someone Google's the school and mug shots are some of the first images that pop up on your screen.

TOWN AND COUNTRY TO RENEW FIRE/EMS CONTRACT WITHOUT BIDS OR WITHOUT SEEKING PROPOSALS: Okay, since the large expansion by annexation of Town and Country in 1983 when the City contracted out fire service, it has always been with West County EMS & Fire Protection Service (Originally Manchester FPD). The fact

that the city refuses to ask for bids before renewing the biggest contract (representing close to 40% of the city budget) is an example of BAD GOVERNMENT. Keep in mind that Mayor Jon Dalton was once a lobbyist for the fire district and Alderwoman Linda Rolla's business partner at the Missouri Wonk ran the Fire District's tax increase campaign last year. A new contract is set to be approved at the December meeeting of the Baord of Aldermen.

Apparently citizens of Town and Country should thank the Monarch fire Protection District for a lower contract price. When the Monarch FPD had one of their trucks entered in the first ever Town and Country Parade, it got the attention of the West County EMS&FPD firefighter/paramedics, the command staff and the board of directors. WCEMS&FPD responded by putting every piece of rolling equipment in the parade leaving parts of the district uncovered. The lone Monarch fire truck also sent a message that Monarch might put in a bid for the Town and Country Fire & EMS contract. That didn't happen because the city never asked for bids.



This truck got the attention of a lot of people.

TOWN AND COUNTRY POLICE ACTIVITY FOR NOVEMBER:

Officers responded to a total of 1635 calls for service and wrote a total of 229 reports, including:

112 Vehicle Crashes
36 Criminal Reports

14 DWI's (0 Fel, 1 Misd, 13 Ord)
26 Misc Arrests (traffic, Fugitive, FTA, etc)
337 Traffic citations issued (207 speeding)

Misd DWI

Alex Ortiz sent state due to 1 prior Conviction, 1 prior pending, and 1 prior amended to CNI

YEAR TO DATE:

2015 Police Activity Town and Country YTD Jan-November

979 Vehicle Crashes

532 Criminal Reports*

189 Driving While Intoxicated arrests (11 Felony, 11 Misd, 167 Ord)

363 Misc Arrests (Traffic charges, Fugitive charges, Failure to Appear charges, etc)

4,711 total traffic citations issued

3,202 speeding

* the majority of the criminal reports involved fraudulent Income Tax Filings



NOVEMBER HAS HIGHEST NUMBER OF

DEER-VEHICLE ENCOUNTERS IN 2015. The Town and Country Police logged 18 Deer-Vehicle events for November of 2015 which has been the largest number so far in the year. November 2014 saw one less at 17 deer-vehicle crashes. However with the month of December still to go, the 78 deer-vehicle crashes are more than all in 2014, a year that saw 74 collisions.

One night in November I was driving home on Thornhill Drive doing about 25 mph with my bright lights on the lookout for the many deer in the subdivision. A buck hidden by a hedge row perpendicular to the road made a running leap in front of my car, just missing being branded by a Honda "H" in my car's grill by inches. I am surprised there have not been more deer strikes in the middle of subdivisions. I see where there was one in November.

In January the city hopes to kill 175 deer in bait and shoot operations with the city's regular contractor, White Buffalo. Meanwhile The City of Des Peres is hiring White Buffalo not to shoot deer (yet) but to do a deer census.

Here is where the accidents occurred in November.

11/01/15	9:31 am	12300 Blk of South Outer Forty Drive	Ward 1
11/07/15	10:03 pm	SB I-270 south of I-64	Ward 1
11/10/15	2:22 pm	1000 blk of Tidewater Place	Ward 3
11/11/15	2:37 am	NB I-270 n of City Limits	Ward 1
11/11/15	2:17 pm	NB Hwy 141 s of I-64	Ward 4
11/12/15	12:27 pm	NB I-270 at Clayton Rd	Ward 1
11/12/15	8:10 pm	12900 blk of Ladue Road	Ward 4
11/13/15	6:00 pm	13200 blk of Clayton Rd	Ward 2
11/13/15	6:28 pm	Mason Road near Clayton Road	Ward 2
11/13/15	9:37 pm	EB I-64 e of Hwy 141	Ward 4
11/14/15	6:39 am	EB I-64 e of Maryville Centre	Ward 4
11/14/15	10:03 am	EB I-64 at Mason Road	Ward 3
11/15/15	12:53 am	SB I-270 ramp to WB I-64	Ward 1
11/15/15	12:57 pm	EB I-64 at Maryville Centre	Ward 4
11/18/15	12:45 am	WB I-64 at hwy 141	Ward 4
11/21/15	5:42 pm	Topping Road at Topping Acres	Ward 1
11/22/15	8:05 pm	SB I-270 south of Clayton Rd	Ward 1
11/23/15	6:44 pm	SB Hwy 141 south of Conway Road	Ward 4



2015 Deer Accident Locations thru November

I-270 **14** Ward 1

I-64 Ballas to Mason **11** Ward 1 & Ward 2

I-64 Mason Road to W City Limits **9** Wards 3 & 4

North Forty Drive **1** Ward 1

South Outer 40 Drive I-270 to Mason **3** Wards 1 & 2

South Outer 40 Mason to Hwy 141 **2** Wards 3 & 4

Clayton Road Topping to Bopp **1** Ward 1
Clayton Road Mason to Topping **8** Ward 2
Topping Road **1** Wards 1 & 2
Clayton Road Mason to Woods Mill **6** Ward 3
Weidman Road **2** Ward 3
Tidewater Place **1** Ward 3
Conway Road **1** Ward 4
Ladue Road **4** Ward 4
Highway 141 **7** Ward 3 and Ward 4
Mason Road **3** Ward 2
Mason Road **3** Ward 4
Municipal Center **1** Ward 1

DEER PROBLEMS IN CHESTERFIELD TO GO BE DISCUSSED BY THE PUBLIC

HEALTH AND SAFETY COMMITTEE : At the end of the December 7 Chesterfield City Council meeting Councilman Barry Flachsbart announced that he is getting calls from residents in Ward 1 about the increasing problems of too many deer. In the past the largest concentration of deer in Chesterfield has been in western Ward 4 in the open areas along the Missouri River and where subdivisions are on 3/4 to 2 acre lots.

Flachsbart asked that the deer issue be placed on the next agenda of the Public Health and Safety Committee meeting. Chairman Elliot Grissom stated he would put it on the next agenda, although there is currently no scheduled meeting of the committee. Ward 1 is the most heavily developed section of Chesterfield and includes subdivisions with small lots, and busy Olive Blvd and Wood Mill Road.



Barry Flachsbart moving deer control to

UNAPPROVED CHESTERFIELD NEWSLETTER 152



December 16 2015

CHESTERFIELD CITY ADMINISTRATOR ANNOUNCES RETIREMENT AT PACK CITY COUNCIL MEETING WITH CITIZENS READY TO ASK FOR HIM TO RESIGN:

At the beginning of the 6:30 2016 Budget Public Hearing. Chesterfield City Administrator Mike Herring, 63, announced that it would be his 29th and final budget presentation as he had just announced he was retiring as the only city administrator the City of Chesterfield ever had. Herring commented that he planned to move to Madison, Wisconsin.



For the last time Herring makes a budget presentation. Herring may have lost in failing to get mayor Nation impeached and even the censure caused enough public outcry that the Herring retirement should go in the "win" column for Nation.

The Council Chambers filled to Standing Room Only by the time the regular meeting got started at 7:15. During the Budget presentation a number of residents were seen turning in speaker forms with City Clerk Vickie Hass. At that time the regular meeting began Herring announced again that he was retiring effective March 31, 2016.



The public comments section at the beginning of the meeting was tempered just a bit by Herring's retirement announcement. It appeared as if at least two speakers were going to speak in opposition of Herring's recent leadership. It was hard not see trouble on the horizon for Herring if he stayed.

In the last months after spearheading the attempt recall of Mayor Bob Nation, where it was determined there was no evidence to warrant a recall and then being behind getting the Council to censure Nation, it looked like Herring was going to have some rough sailing.

There was a group led by Chesterfield resident and former State Senator Jane Cunningham to sue the city over violating State Law dealing with legislative process and especially if the city attempted to pay lawyer Kevin O'Keefe who was hired by the Council to go after Mayor Nation without having a contract issued by the city.

Next Herring was sure to face political opposition with local Republican leaders putting together a slate to run for three of four Ward races in April. Two wins would give Nation a majority on most issues.

Rumor has it that while Mayor Nation attempted to hold a meeting with Herring and senior staff to "bury the hatchet" and move forward after his censure, Herring refused to schedule the meeting or even schedule a meeting between himself and Mayor Nation.

SPECIAL PAY TO LAWYER IS AN ISSUE NOT GOING AWAY: Bob Clausen of Chesterfield and associated with the local Republican Township was the second speaker to state he would withhold some of his remarks due to the announcement of the retirement of Herring. He then wanted answers about the \$17,000 the Council had agreed to pay Attorney Kevin O'Keefe for investigating and presenting evidence in the

censure of Mayor Bob Nation for swearing without a contract as some have argued is required by Missouri Law. The following exchange occurred:

Clausen: Does this not mean that the individual councilpersons have paid for a lawyer who agreed to work without a contract?

Interim City Attorney Harry O'Rourke: No invoice has been submitted to the city for that so no fees have been paid out.

Clausen: Who in your judgment will be responsible (for O'Keefe's bill)?

O'Rourke: That has not been decided. No liability has been occurred.

Shouted from the audience: Will that invoice be made public before it is paid?



Bob Clausen and Harry O'Rourke go back and forth on the lawyer fees from Kevin O'Keefe in the censure of Mayor Bob Nation. Mayor Nation had a good poker face but he seemed to be enjoying the banter which he could have stopped and choose not to. That was especially true when Jane Cunningham spoke.

Former Councilman and half-term mayor Bruce Geiger spoke and clearly was not with the majority of the people in the room. He praised Herring's work over the years.

Next it was more fireworks when former Missouri senator and current Monarch Fire District Director Jane Cunningham stepped to the podium.

"The crowd keeps growing for these meetings and I hope you noticed that people are concerned," Cunningham opened her remark with. The crowd had been partisan and cheered and clapped at remarks made by several speakers.

Cunningham had four points to make. 1) Gift cards to employees were against state law (O'Rourke had given an opinion they were not against the law). 2) Employees need to be retrained so they are aware that the city administrator works for the mayor. (This goes back to when Herring's secretary refused to tell Mayor Nation what Herring's work schedule was, which caused him to swear in a closed office to another department head.) 3) Following a state law and not having city policy that goes against State law and finally 4) the \$17,000 lawyer bill.

"You are giving \$200 to over 200 well paid employees with excellent benefits. Let's refocus on the taxpayer," she said. At this time Herring tried to stop her as her three minutes to speak had expired, however, Mayor Nation allowed her to continued.

Cunningham then announced that she had a Christmas present for the City. She said a lawyer who specializes in Missouri State Law regarding municipalities in Jefferson City has agreed to compared Chesterfield ordinances and policy against State Law. She credited State Representative Sue Allen with helping to get the free legal consultation.

Cunningham then went a little overboard by saying that Allen was not present, but introduced her husband who is running for her seat (she is term limited) in 2016 against former Chesterfield Councilman Derek Geier. Mike Allen got a nice partisan round of applause.

Barry Flachsbart, who is the elected official with the most years of service, stated that he would put the matter of reviewing ordinances and policies to make sure they are in compliance with State Law on the agenda of the Finance and Administration Committee meeting.



If you look closely behind Jane Cunningham there are four chesterfield Department heads and West Magazine reporter Jim Erikson paying close attention to the give and take with Cunningham and some councilpersons.

"Over time we have forgotten what our policies are and we should review them," said Mayor Nation.

The Councilman Bruce DeGroot spoke. "My question is don't we already have an attorney paid to do this?" I think DeGroot was making a comment about O'Rourke's lack of review since taking over more than a shot at Cunningham as DeGroot objected to O'Rourke's open ended appointment in the spring.

However Councilwomen Connie Fultz and Bridget Nations were doing a slow burn.

"We are talking about retraining employees. It all goes back to the city administrator being the assistant to the mayor. Our government is set up for a strong city administrator government and a weak mayor," said Fults.



Fultz appeared to biting her lip (left) and then gave the Elvis like snarl when talking. She is always fun to watch.

Barry Flachsbart then repeated himself.

"I think the appropriate thing to do is make sure our ordinances and policies are in alignment with State law."

Then Bridget Nations who has been a foe of Bob Nation since she was elected tried to argue with Cunningham. She was told twice to direct her comments to Mayor Nation. She just either could not figure this out and simply refused to.

She could have attacked Cunningham, but she simply had to start the verbal attack by saying, "Mr. Mayor I believe..." But she was refused to do so. She was ruled out of order. She was then given a third chance to speak her mind but got so flustered she simply said, "Never mind."



It was either a confused Bridget Nations or a woman who refused to direct her comments to Mayor Bob Nation.

COUNCILMAN ELLIOT GRISSOM MOVING OUT OF TOWN: When Elliot Grissom ran for reelection in 2014 against a person who was not even registered to vote in St. Louis County, he won with 79% of the vote. At the time his residence was at 928 Chesterfield Villas. He has since sold his condo to Ellington Telephone and is apparently leasing the residence until his house is finished in Wildwood.

Before the regular December 7 Council meeting I asked Grissom directly if he was building a new home outside of the city (Wildwood), saying I had gotten some phone calls and emails saying he was moving out of town.

"You never know," he replied.

"So we can't get a straight answer from an elected official in what is claimed to be a transparent government," I replied.

"I would not deny that," Grissom said referring to my statement about him building a new home in Wildwood not the lack of a straight answer. He then admitted that construction is under way on the home.

Grissom is up for reelection this April so it appears as if there would be an open set in Ward-2.

CASEY ANNOUNCES HE IS STEPPING DOWN: On Friday Chesterfield Councilman Mike Casey announced he would not be running for reelection in April. Casey has held the Ward 3 Council seat for parts of the last three decades.



COUNCIL VOTES 8-0 TO SHUTDOWN RIVER VALLEY ROAD! Part of the large crowd in attendance for the only City Council meeting in December cheered loudly when the Council voted unanimously to close down River Valley Road which cuts through the River Bend subdivision from Olive Blvd. to an area in Maryland Heights where a large scale residential, retail and commercial development has just been approved. The portion of the crowd from River Bend let out a cheer and newly appointed Councilwoman Barb McGuinness who lives in River Bend had a huge smile on her face.



If you are wondering how much it costs to close a city street when you don't have to buy the property as land owners donate it to you, here is the breakdown: (comes out to a total of \$154,962.

River Valley Drive Closure Cost Estimate Project # 2015-PW-14

November 4, 2015

Item #

Description

General Items

	Quantity	Unit Price	Extended Price
Clearing and Grubbing S	\$15000		\$15000
Mobilization	\$10,000		\$10,000
Traffic Control	\$2,000		\$2,000
Erosion & Sediment Control	\$1,000		\$1,000
Restoration	\$10		\$3,500
Tree Protection	\$1,000		\$1,000
Cul-de-Sac Construction			
Subgrade Fill 561Cubic Yards	\$35		\$19,635
Geotextile Fabric 470 SY	\$4		\$1,880
4" Rock Base 470 Sq Yds	\$8		\$3,760
Concrete Pavement			
(7" Non-Reinforced) 470 SY	\$40		\$18,800
Integral Curb (6" Height) 100 LF	\$15		\$1,500
Colored Concrete Pavement			
(5" Non-Reinforced) 133 Sq Yd	\$50		\$6,650
Rip-Rap Rock ditch 240 IF	\$24		\$5,760
Street Reconstruction			
Removal of Pavement 480 Sq Yd	\$28		\$13,440
Geotextile Fabric 480 Sq Yd	\$4		\$1,920
4" Rock Base 480 sq yd	\$8		\$3,840
Concrete Pavement			
(7" Non-Reinforced) 480 sq yd	\$40		\$19,200
Permanent Yellow Pavement			
Striping, Paint 180 Linear ft	\$1.25		\$225
Permanent White Pavement			
Striping, Paint 180 Linear foot	\$1.25		\$225
Street Closure			
Gate with installation	\$3,000		\$3,000
Knox Box and Lock	\$500		\$500
Additional Asphalt Pavement			
around Gate 8 sq yds	\$80		\$640
Pedestrian Fence 40 linear feet	\$155		\$6,200
3 Road Closed Permanent Signage	\$400		\$1,200
Sub Total			\$140,875.
10% Contingency	\$14,087.50		
Total Estimate			\$154,962.50

THE PUBLIC HEARING WHERE THEY LEFT ONE THING OUT. THE PUBLIC!

Take a look at the below posted announcement and see if anything is missing.

AGENDA

CHESTERFIELD CITY COUNCIL MEETING

Chesterfield City Hall
690 Chesterfield Parkway West
Monday, December 7, 2015
6:30 PM

PUBLIC HEARING: Proposed FY201 Budget

I. CALL TO ORDER Mayor Bob Nation

II. PRESENTATION Proposed FY2016 Budget
City Administrator Michael Herring

III. DISCUSSION Mayor Bob Nation

IV. ADJOURNMENT Mayor Bob Nation

It was a public hearing and before it was adjourned there was no opportunity for the public to speak. Having attended these for the last seven years it is rare to see anyone speak at the Public Hearing involving the Budget. However there was no offer or asking if anyone had a comment. Here is the definition of the "Public Hearing":

Definition

A public hearing is a type of public meeting, and much literature refers to it as such, however there are some distinctive aspects that make a hearing different. Abigail Williamson and Archon Fung define a public hearing as "an open gathering of officials and citizens, in which citizens are permitted to offer comments, but officials are not obliged to act on them or, typically, even to respond publicly."^[2] The main purpose of a public hearing is to allow citizens the chance to voice opinions and concerns over a decision facing a legislature, agency, or organization.

This public hearing was adjourned without the mayor, city administrator or city attorney asking if anyone wished to speak. It is unfair to make people fill out comment request cards before the presentation since they probably have no idea what the presentation will be.

It is hard to imagine that you can hold a public hearing without asking if anyone from the public has anything to say. Otherwise it is a mere presentation.

At the October 7th Council meeting Mayor Bob Nation stated that he wanted policies changed to ensure citizens could be heard, especially at committee meetings.

At the lone December meeting Nation commented, "Over time we have forgotten what our policies are."

This might be a perfect example of that when the city advertises a "PUBLIC HEARING" without "Public Comments" being on the agenda and no one even asking if anyone from the "public" has a comment to make.

HERE IS A WAY FOR CHESTERFIELD TO SAVE \$140,000 A YEAR AND GET A GOOD REPLACEMENT FOR HERRING: **Mike Geisel** was the city's engineer and Director of Public Works, but over time he knew so much about the day to day operations of the city, costs of the operations and the science behind what makes things tick, that he was promoted to a new position of Director of Services. Geisel was basically over everything but the police department.

While Geisel is an engineer he has something that many engineers don't have. A personality! He seems to get along with staff and elected officials in a good natured way even when he makes some humorous pokes.

If you promote Geisel into Herring's job without doing a national search you can save about \$20,000 -to-\$50,000. Next you eliminate Geisel's old job and save \$110,000.

Herring is making about \$192,000. You bring Geisel in as a new city administrator at \$155,000 and you save \$37,000.

Over the years I have seen cities all over the country do nationwide searches to replace police chiefs and fire chiefs, when they already know who they were going to hire will be an insider. It is a waste of time and money for the city and for the people interviewing. I would say to hire Geisel and then promise not to do one important thing. Do not try to change him.

Here is a guy who doesn't care about having expensive clothes and would rather have someone see his tie and smile. Don't change that. Here are some fashion examples.



Here is Mike in a tie featuring Daffy Duck. Also one with the 3-Stooges and one weird blue tie. Last Thursday he has a Christmas tie of The Grinch Who Stole Christmas.

EMPLOYEE HOLIDAY GIFT CARDS ARE REMOVED FROM 2016 BUDGET: In 2015 226 Chesterfield employees received \$200 gift cards good at Schnuck's, Dierberg's or Aldi's supermarkets located in Chesterfield. That is a total of \$45,200.

Councilman Barry Flachsbart is not against giving the cards, but he is against having them as a budget item.

"If they are in the budget they are an entitlement. If we decide to give them at the end of the year if there are reserve funds available it is more of a gift," said Flachsbart.

There is a group led by Jane Cunningham who believes the gift cards for employees of third class cities are illegal. The interim city attorney disagrees.

The measure to remove them from the budget for 2016 was passed on a voice vote with no "nays."

The gift cards were added to the budget in 2010 when due to the recession no employee pay raises were given.

COMMUNITY ACTION GROUP LEADER IS ARRESTED FOR TRESPASSING AT CHESTERFIELD LAW FIRM. JURY FINDS MAN GUILTY A YEAR LATER This was

a case we selected randomly to follow but did not meet the definition of our "Drunks and Thieves" special newsletters so I decided to use it in one of our regular newsletters.

Zach Chasnoff, 36, works for the Community Action Group, Missourians Organizing For Reform and Empowerment (MORE). They are located in St. Louis. A number of issues they are protesting is Justice for Mike Brown (to hell with Justice for the store keeper Brown shoved around during a strong arm robbery by Brown and whose store was looted and burned), Justice for Peabody Coal Employees, they are for Green Power and against Corporate Power and for Justice for People Whose Houses are Being Foreclosed.



It is that last issue that brought protesters to Chesterfield on July 22, 2014 around 1:20 in the afternoon. The protesters were at the law firm of Millsap and Singer at 612 Spirit Drive in Chesterfield Valley.

At the law firm that day was off-duty Chesterfield Police Sgt. David Weiss, who was working security in uniform. Weiss in January of 2014 had given Chasnoff a trespassing warning not to come on the property of Millsap and Singer and how he would be arrested if he did. In January the protesters left the property.

On his return on July 22, 2014 Chasnoff and his group was denied entry to the building and told to leave the property. Chasnoff then circled around the building and tried to gain entry at a backdoor. At that time he was arrested by Sgt. Weiss.



Millsap and Singer building at 612 Spirit Drive

Officer Shumate had responded to the scene and took Chasnoff to the Chesterfield Police Station and released on a summons at 7 o'clock.



Chasnoff of 5740 Holly Hills in St. Louis, being a good lefty anti-establishment kind of a guy demanded a jury trial. The trial was held on June 15, 2015. The jury was not out long before returning a guilty verdict.

Chasnoff, first filed motions for acquittal and or a new trial. The motions were denied. He was sentenced by Judge Joseph Dueker on July 24, 2015 fined \$1,000 and immediately placed on a 2-year Suspended Execution of Sentence with Judge Dueker staying \$600 of the fine and ordering \$400 be paid.

I'm not sure what Chasnoff and his City of St. Louis attorney Joseph P. Welsh of 3115 S. Grand thought was going to happen with a St. Louis County judge and the victim being a St. Louis County law firm represented by a St. Louis County Law firm.

REAL ESTATE: Scandal tarnished former speaker of the Missouri House and sex texter of teenage interns John Diehl had listed his house at the corner of White Stable (2404 White Stable) and Clayton Road for sale this summer for \$1.45 million. It seemed like a grossly high price. Estimates for the house online have ranged from \$900,000 to \$1.38 million. The house with 5-bedrooms and 7-baths is 5,916 square feet.

The house is now off the market.



PRICE CUTS CONTINUE FOR HOME OF FORMER CARDINAL STAR ANDY VAN SLYKE. Andy Van Slyke and his wife Laura built the house in 2001 at 710 S. Price in Ladue. They listed it for sale in May of 2013 for \$3,975,000. It sold in August of 2013 for \$3,200,000 to Ronald and Lillian Cameron.

The Camerons listed the house for sale with Kim Carney, who has several overpriced homes on the market in the area, for \$4,195,000 in May of 2015. That price dropped to \$3,895,000 less than a month later in June. In September the price dropped to \$3,595,000. In October the price was down to \$3,500,000. Then in November Carney announced another price drop, this time to \$3,499,900. Yes it dropped a whole \$100!



Cameron, the president of a software company was featured in a January 2015 Post-Dispatch article on how he hired a former Navy Seal to produce a knock-off of Michael Angelo's David. I don't know if David comes with the house.

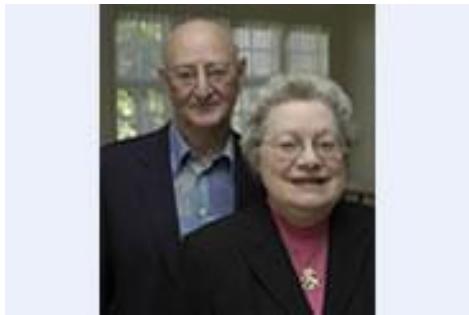


In our May 31 newsletter I mentioned that the odd chimney at the end of the house appears as if a crematorium is located in the house.

21 Somerset Downs Ladue: The home of Alyn and Marlyn Essman just went on the market around Thanksgiving for \$3,200,000. The house has 4 bedrooms, 5 full baths and 3 half baths on a 3-acre lot but only a 3-car garage. 2015 taxes are \$39,879.



Alyn Essman, now 84, is the former president of Photo Processing giant CPI, that had store fronts and drive up booths on parking lots, back digital cameras when Kodak and Fuji film had to be developed.



The Essman's are noted for their charity work and Marilyn has been or still is on Board of Trustees for the Zoo, Jewish Community Center, Art Museum and Symphony.

EX-CON DRUG DEALER'S HOUSE FINALLY IS SOLD! 1761 Topping Road is no longer in the name of Brian Marchant-Calsyn, the ex-con drug dealer with a number of fraud civil judgments against him over internet sales schemes. (He added his wife maiden name after serving time in the Lewisburg Federal Prison and began to sale franchises to recruit doctors on the internet.

In 2012 Marchant-Calsyn listed the house and grounds for sale for \$1,599,000. The front 1.7 acres where only a lighter tennis court existed was foreclosed on by a bank and then sold to a developer and remained undeveloped. The rear lot, of 3.2 acres, was in and out of foreclosure long after Marchant-Calsyn moved out in 2012.

It was listed three weeks ago by Golden Realty a firm that specializes in foreclosures at \$1,299,000. It then went on an internet auction and sold on Tuesday December 8 for \$1,210,000. The house that has had no operating utilities for three years reportedly had a case of "black mold."



MEDIA: Of course Town and Country Living is not really media, journalism or a magazine. It is an advertising mailer that tries to disguise itself as something else. Dana Young from Chesterfield appears to be doing well as there are more and more ads in the publication that goes to every home in Town and Country.

In publisher Dana Young's December issue a house from far away was featured as the house of the month. Once again it was another home in the publication that was not even located in Town and Country. It is at 119 Grand Meridien Forest. The house isn't even in Chesterfield, but it is in WILDWOOD. It is not even close to Town and Country.

It is of course a house For Sale in Wildwood. In other words Town and Country Living is trying to get people to stop living in Town and Country and move to Wildwood.

The photo in Town and Country Living isn't even original. It is the stock photo being used on real estate advertising websites. The three bedroom house was listed at \$1,128,194.



MARIS

However a few days after receiving Town and Country Living the house from Wildwood was taken off the market.

Mayor Continues to allow himself to upstage best known resident of Town and Country: Several years ago they reduced the number of city newsletter publications from four to three a year to save money. That meant there was one-quarter in a year where Mayor/Cigarette Lobbyist/Stealer of a Widow's Property and Business by Eminent Domain for an Underfunded Nightclub District Jon Dalton needed to desperately find another way to get someone to pay to have 1000 words written by him

telling everyone how great he is along with a number of his photos delivered to every home in town.

Eureka! He found a way thanks to Town and Country Living. In the December 2015 issue they gave Dalton three pages and four photos, including two photos of Dalton in the Town and Country Parade. Six weeks earlier a postcard was mailed from city hall with photos of the parade featuring one of Dalton, but none of Red Schoendienst, Baseball Hall of Famer, player, coach and manager of the Cardinals, who was the GRAND MARSHAL. Because by now, we all know that Dalton is far more important than the Old Red-Head, #2.



Dalton



The woman he cheated and her lawyer



The Saint he sued

CHANNEL FOUR, KMOV CONTINUES TO BE GEOGRAPHICALLY CHALLENGED:

Last week I wrote how a KMOV anchor who grew up in St. Louis introduced a story about a fatal car accident at Watson and Gravois Road and how the reporter twice

claimed the accident was at Watson (Rt 366) and Gravois (Rt 30), which was impossible since they don't intersect (they are not even close).

This last week KMOV did it again. This time morning anchor Emily Rau went out and did a story on the Webster Groves School District 's Hudson School in THE CITY OF ROCK HILL on how they have one classroom that is called a "garage classroom" as students don't set at desks, but rather on upholstered chairs, bean bag chairs or at tables. Rau signed off saying she was in Webster Groves...she wasn't even close to Webster Groves. Here is the email I sent:

From: John Hoffmann [mailto:johnhoffmann@charter.net]
Sent: Wednesday, December 9, 2015 5:34 PM
To: 'news@kmov.com'
Subject: when did Hudson School move?

I just watched Emily Rau's report on the garage school at Hudson School in Rock Hill. MO. It is a WGSD district.

But Emily signed off, "From the garage in Webster Groves."

The school is on the north side of Rock Hill. It is closer to Ladue (four blocks away), Warson Woods (five blocks away) and Glendale (10 blocks away) than it is to Webster Groves.

If your reporters don't know where they are why should I believe what they report?

John Hoffmann

I never got a reply!

AROUND TOWN: Nice Addition and good idea: I noticed that the Phillip 66 Petro Mart and Convenience Stores have added hand sanitizers next to the gas pumps.



DIERBERGS IS BLOCKING MY LANE WITH BOOZE: A couple of weeks before Thanksgiving the folks at the giant 75,000 square foot Dierbergs store in Des Peres force me to swerve my shopping cart to avoid a collision with numerous fixed objects. As the holiday season approached Dierbergs moved booze displays in the area where shoppers used to push their carts. They also expanded liquor into the packaged meat areas. No longer are there end rack coolers with specials on sausages, bacon and chicken products. It is all booze all the time. I think the mark up might be a little higher on a bottle of rum than a package of Jimmy Dean's Breakfast links. But I'm not crazy about them forcing to drive my cart through the expanded liquor department.



The formerly wide main street street area across the back of the Super Dierbergs is not obstructed with liquor bottles.



This area used to be more open and had open coolers for packaged meats and sample booths.

THE CHRISTMAS HOUSE 2015: The house in the 400 block of W. Jackson Road two doors from Lockwood Avenue is back this year and remains our favorite decorated house in the area. There are no movies, no pulsating lights to music on a radio station you can only receive within 500 feet of the house. Just some really pretty Christmas decorations.





The front steps and porch.

MUSIC THE CHRISTMAS CONDUCTOR: This has gotten a lot of play, but I thought perhaps if you haven't seen it you would enjoy watching a train conductor of Christmas take charge. Then all three network evening news programs ran with it. In case you missed it, here it is:

<https://www.facebook.com/bob.mcdonough.56/videos/10206629696635431/>



ROUTE 66 TAKES A DETOUR TO WEBSTER GROVES AND SOME SONGS AWAY FROM THE HOLIDAYS: It was billed as a "Holiday Concert" but what big band directors are known to do they pick some of their favorite charts which often have nothing to do with the Holidays. That was the case last Wednesday at the old Ozark Theater in Webster Groves where the Route 66 Jazz Orchestra performed to a full house and reportedly the largest crowd since the Ozark reopened as a music venue.

The second song of the night was Michel Legrand's "Summer of 42" from the movie about the statutory rape of a 15 year old by a young married woman played by Jennifer O'Neil, whose husband had gone to fight in WW II. Nothing says Christmas like the statutory rape of a 15 year old, even if it was the high point in this life.

In the second set the band played a tune by Brett Spainhour called Den of Iniquity. It was a fast paced jazz number, but at our table we named it "Santa Goes to Hell" trying to stay in the Christmas spirit.

However all the vocals were of Christmas songs performed by Valerie Tichacek and Ron Wilkerson. I would have a photo of them, but the lighting was so bad only one photo turned out and that was of the brass section.



Meredith Hammer at the end was a replacement for a member who couldn't make the concert. I felt a little sad because Meredith is such a good trumpet player and she was sitting in the fifth chair often just playing a couple notes. It reminded me of the Pete Barbutti comedy routine of the Fourth Trumpet in a big band. Meredith was the smallest person with maybe the loudest horn.

Barbutti was a favorite of Johnny Carson and had one of the highest number of guest appearances on the Tonight Show. In case you don't remember him here is a link to "The Fourth Trumpet" from the Tonight Show.



<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=FnsEZ9q2hOc>

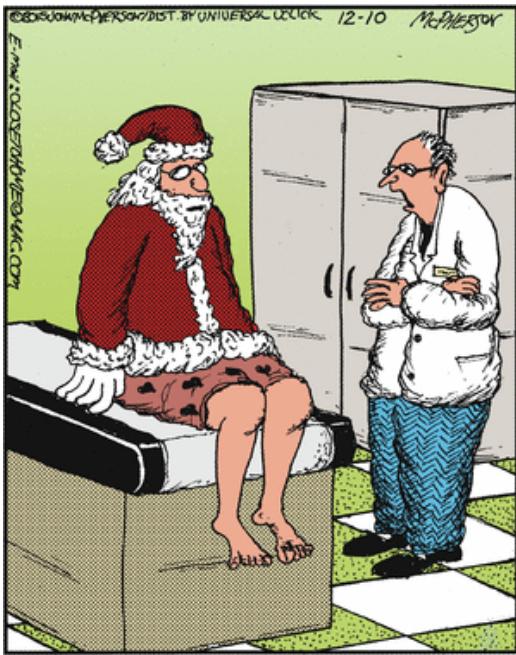
I'm happy to say that at one point Meredith left the chair at the end of the horn section and took the lead trumpet position and was great on a tune called The Jazz Police, another holiday favorite (not).

SPECIAL APPEARANCE BY CHARLEY B: The guy who replaced Walter Scott with Bob Kuban and the In-Men and replaced Arvel Keithly with Fanasty, who is a former Riverfront Times Saloon Signer of the Year and the voice of Wild, Cool and Swinging, showed up at Sasha's on DeMun after a three hour gig at Natalie's on Lindell.



CARTOONS:



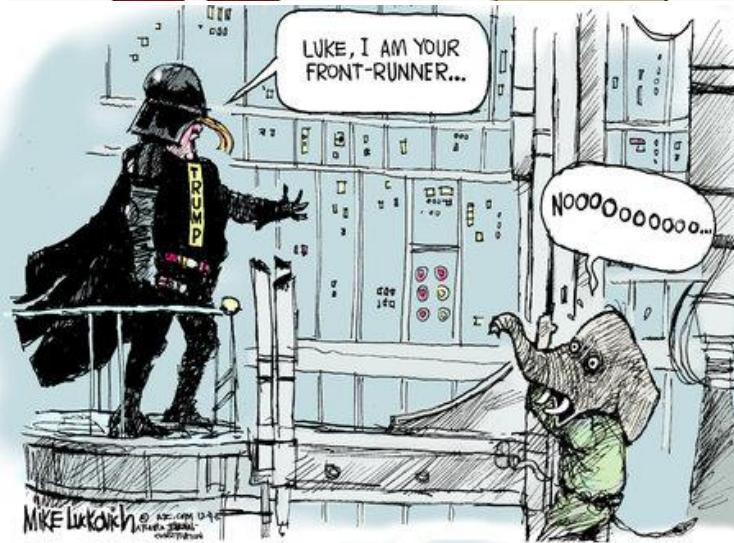


"You really need to scale back this year. Do you know how many calories are in 175 million cookies and 19 million glasses of milk?"

"I've decided to retire from the NFL in order to spend more time squandering the millions I've been paid."





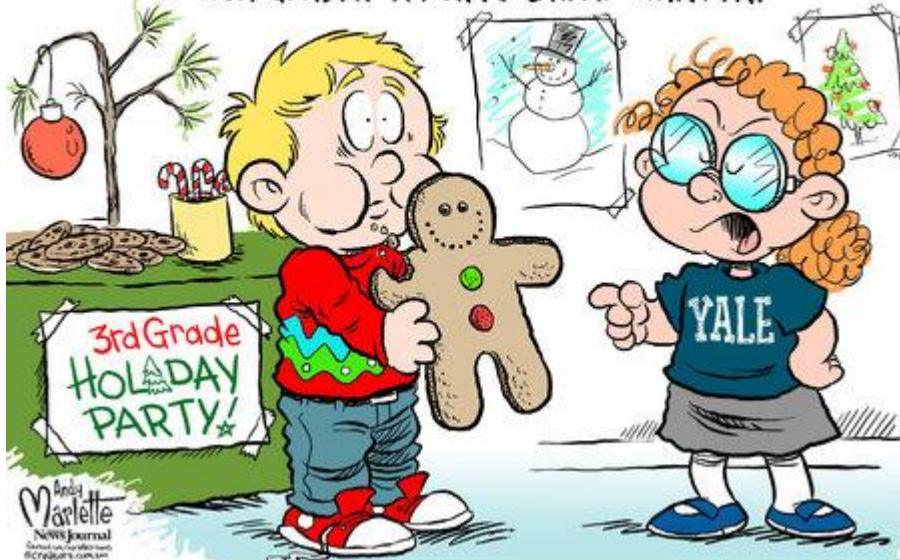




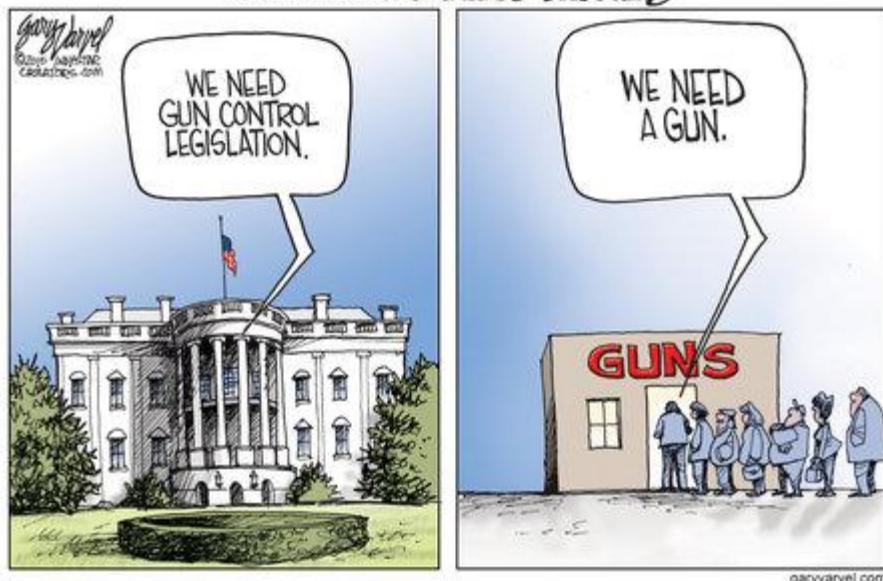
"THIS YEAR'S ORDERS ARE BACKED UP AND THE BOSS IS STILL CHECKING HIS LIST TWICE FOR POTENTIAL TERRORISTS..."



"UM, HELLOOOO?!! THIS IS 2015...THE PROPERLY INCLUSIVE TERM IS "NON-GENDER-SPECIFIC-BREAD CAITLYN."



Reactions to a Mass Shooting







"It keeps me from looking at my phone every two seconds."