

EX ALDERMAN NEWSLETTER 76

February 11, 2013

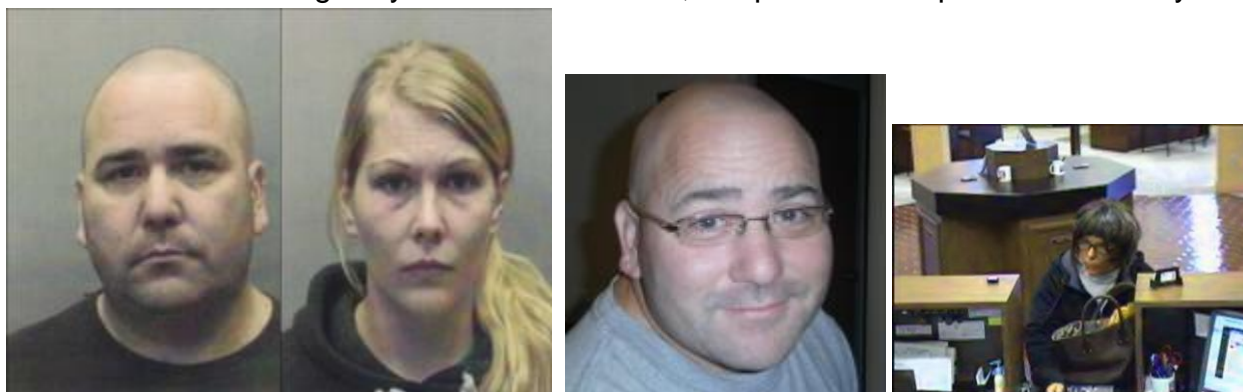
By John Hoffmann

CHESTERFIELD PAIR WHO ROBBED TOWN AND COUNTRY BANK HAD HISTORY OF MONEY PROBLEMS IN CHESTERFIELD AND BROKE A WELL KNOWN RULE OF CRIME:

You don't want to speed or illegally park on a college campus or at a Federal installation with its own police force. Your chances of getting caught breaking minor laws where the cops don't have much to do is much greater than somewhere the cops are busy dealing with serious crimes.

The same holds true for bank robbers. The one place where you really don't want to commit a felony is in a town like Town and Country. The crime rate is so low in Town and Country the three man detective bureau happily will drop what it is doing and spend all their time investigating the crime you committed. That's exactly what happened here. The entire Town and Country Police detective unit staked out the suspects' apartment in Chesterfield and arrested them without incident.

Darren Everett, 42, and **Mackenzie Leonard**, 26, of the 1100 block of Matador, just south of Olive near Highway 141 in Chesterfield, are perfect examples of this theory.



Mugshot Darren Everett and Mackenzie Leonard and a smiling facebook photo of Everett. Everett in drag at work robbing The First Bank.

The pair was arrested by Town and Country Police Friday February 8, nine days after they robbed the First Bank in the Lamp and Lantern Village on Clayton Road at Woods Mill Road. The duo is also suspected in bank robberies in Arnold, unincorporated St. Louis County and in Columbia, Illinois. Everett would dress in drag when committing the robberies.

Here is how the case was cracked. An alert customer service rep at the First Bank remembered someone suspicious in the bank four days before the robbery. Detectives worked with her and went back over security video until they found the image that turned out to be Everett.



Here is the surveillance image of Everett that was taken four days before the robbery when he was casing the bank. An alert employee remembered being suspicious of him. Town and Country Police detectives used this photo to find Everett casing a Columbia, Illinois bank before robbing it.

Next they took that image over to the Columbia, Illinois police where there was a similar robbery. Again Columbia is a town with a low crime rate so those detectives had time to review their bank's security video and found Everett in the bank casing the place a few days before it was robbed. It turns out that Everett had relatives living in Columbia.

When the Town and County detectives arrested Everett and Leonard driving up to their apartment, they had two small children in the car with them.

We checked and found that **Everett** used to live right behind the bank in the Village Green Apartments, just inside Chesterfield. On June 8, 2010 Everett was sued for back rent and eviction from his apartment at 2250 Village Green Parkway (Apt1). He was ordered to pay \$2,936.88 in back rent.

In 2008 Everett was hit with a \$4,466 judgment in a lawsuit filed by Founders Mortgage, LLC. According to online court records neither judgment has been satisfied.

On Everett's Facebook page he lists his relationship status as "it's complicated." Under the title "About" Everett has the following:

"Better to live one day as a lion than 100 years of a lamb."

He lists the horror movie “Saw” as his favorite movie and the band Disturbed was his favorite musical group. We are surprised his favorite movie isn’t Tootsie or Priscilla Queen of the Desert.

I know I’m old fashion, but I still have to ask...What the hell is a bank robber doing with a Facebook page? Isn’t it time to take down the Facebook page before you start robbing banks?

Mackenzie Leonard had lived at 14507 Bantry Lane Apartment 4 in Chesterfield also in the Village Green apartment complex when she was sued by Mills Group for non-payment of rent on November 1, 2012. 26 days later the court entered a judgment against Leonard for \$2,992 and ordered her eviction.

WHAT’S \$56,000 AMONG FRIENDS? The Log Cabin saga continues...At first Alderman Skip Mange wanted \$12,000 to move a long cabin, that was inside a house slated for demolition on Conway Road, to Drace Park. Mange guessed it would be another \$80,000 to rebuild the log cabin at Drace.

The Board of Alderman, facing a \$2.45 million deficit for 2013, passed on funding the project. However Mange raised the \$12,000 from private funds that went to the city, which then gave the illegal “no-bid” job to Monterey Custom Homes, accompany that was building the new home on Conway Road. Monterey then subbed out the work to Tuepker Brothers Construction, which raises the question...Could the work been done cheaper had the city code been followed and the work had gone to bid?

Originally Skip Mange talked about \$80,000 to reconstruct the log cabin. He used this number based on the smaller log cabin at Drace that was moved and rebuild a decade ago when mange was mayor and the city coffers were overflowing. In that case the log cabin wasn’t really rebuilt...but built. Mange admits that most of the logs were rotten and had to be replaced with “new logs.”

Now Mange estimates the latest log cabin will cost \$136,000 to be put back together again. Call me silly or a bad resident of Snoburbia, but really in the current economic times don’t you think \$136,000 could be better used to help people than putting an obsolete log cabin back together?



Here are the logs at Drace Park, where they will sit until \$136,000 is raised. Do you write a check for \$1,000 for a log cabin or to the Salvation Army to help people?

OUR TAX AND SPEND REPUBLICAN IS FOR PROP P: Skip Mange as chair of the city's Conservation Commission put Prop P on the agenda for their February meeting. Yes Skip wants us to vote for another parks tax where some of the money will go to the Feds to maintain the Arch grounds.

YIKES! Skip has never seen a sales tax he doesn't like! We are currently paying special sales taxes for the Greenway Parks Fund and the city sales tax for parks and storm water projects. Out in neighboring Chesterfield they too have a Parks sales tax. We are also paying a special property tax for the Zoo, Art Museum, History Museum and Science Museum...all located in Forest Park. Not to mention that part of our St. Louis County property taxes go to the County Parks. I'm currently paying four different taxes that fund parks and Skip things it would be a good idea to add a fifth!

CLAYTON ROAD UPDATE FROM PUBLIC WORKS DIRECTOR: Here is the latest from Craig Wilde on the Clayton Road project. Craig is always good about providing information about projects...but he is bad about paragraphing...

All,
We have had a busy couple of weeks. Ameren UE and the Missouri American Water Company are in full swing with the relocation of their facilities. Gershenson Construction has been given the notice to proceed with the contract for the construction of the trail and the resurfacing of Clayton Road. Over the next few days, we are going to be completing some additional exploratory work to determine the exact nature of conflicts with various utilities. You will see the presence of the contractor increase steadily over the next couple of weeks. You will also see some potential traffic restrictions on a daily basis. Please be cautious when travelling through the work zone and we ask you in advance for your patience. Delays and inconvenience are a part of any project of this magnitude. I also ask you to contact me if you encounter any issues which are out of the ordinary. Please feel free to forward this on to anyone you may believe is interested in receiving information regarding the project.

Don't forget to check us out on Facebook. I will put more frequent but less detailed updates on our wall.

www.facebook.com/claytonresurfacing

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City of Town and Country, MO
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DANCING BEARS AT MASON RIDGE SCHOOL: I'm always amazed how people who are supposed to be observant miss obvious things. From July 1 through the July 8th including the Fourth of July holiday in 2011 the people who are suppose to watch our highway system missed the fact that the very large Missouri flag in front of the MoDOT Transportation Management building was upside down.

Of course we ask if the circus is in town when people fly the Missouri Flag upside down since you have bears dancing on their heads while holding the seal of Missouri

Now it is the smart people at the Mason Ridge Elementary School who are very good at watching over kids, but not so much for paying attention to their flagpole. The circus was only in town for a day at Mason Ridge, before the bears stopped dancing on their heads.



The Missouri flag upside down at Mason Ridge School on Feb 4.



The flag was upside down for a week at the MoDot building in 2011.

75,000 SQUARE FOOT STORE AND ONE CHECKER: On Groundhog Day at about 7pm I was at the new supersized Dierberg's store in Des Peres. Dierberg's wasn't going to allow Schnucks to have the biggest supermarket in town with their 74,000 square foot

store in Des Peres. They came in and build one down the street on Manchester Road that comes in at 75,000 square feet.

So it seemed a little odd to be in the largest grocery store in St. Louis on Super Bowl eve and find only one checkout lane open. I have to think that maybe Schnucks is winning the battle on Manchester Road with its mere 74,000 square foot store.



Only checkout lane 13 was open on a Saturday evening at the supersized Dierbergs.

ONE LESS CARD FOR MY WALLET: I see where both remaining Blockbusters store in West County are closing. The Manchester and Ellisville stores will both close on March 24. This follows the closing the Des Peres Store, Rock Hill store on Manchester plus the Kirkwood Store and two in Chesterfield two years ago.



Now the closest stores to West County will be at Yorkshire Plaza in Webster Groves or Dorset Road in Maryland Heights.

MEDIA WATCH:

Welcome Back Larry: Thank God Larry Connors is back! Hopefully Larry is in good enough shape to tell new anchor Sharon Reed how to pronounce local leaders' names such as the chief of police and many major streets.

Once again a St. Louis station hired someone with zero institutional knowledge of St. Louis or Missouri. Reed has worked in Baltimore, Philadelphia, Miami and in Cleveland, where for a long time she was rumored on websites to be the girlfriend of basketball star LeBron James. She is perhaps best known for stripping and participating in a story about people posing nude for a photo by a local artist.



Sharon Reed preparing to pose nude for a 2004 event in Cleveland. Ever wonder why Reed always have deeply cut tops on while delivering the news? She was fired in January of 2012 from WOIO. At least we know she will do almost anything for Sweeps ratings.

Here is a link to a Clevelanleader.com story of Reed's lawyer sending out threatening letters to websites and regular media outlets who reported on part of the rumored Reed and James relationship.

<http://www.clevelandleader.com/node/18560>

HOW COME STEVE TEMPLETON AND THE GAMG AT THE KMOV WEATHER CENTER ARE NOT PAYING \$10,000 FOR NOT CORRECTLY FORECASTING SNOW?

Channel 4 is bragging how accurate their weather team is. They are donating a whole \$50 to a charity each time they accurately forecast the next day's temperature within 4-degrees. But they don't give a thing if they are wrong. Nor do they give anything if they predict a "dusting a snow" only to have the area hit with 4-to-5 inches of snow. Really wouldn't the charity get a lot more if Steve and friends missed a snowfall by more than 3 inches and paid up a \$10,000 penalty instead of forking over a measly \$50 when they got it right?

Last Thursday the weather forecasts on Channel 4 called for Friday and Saturday to be sunny and mild. They weren't...it was cloudy and cold. That should be another \$2,500 for a blown forecast.



Steve should pay big for missed forecasts instead of pay little for correct forecasts.

APRIL SIMPSON COULD REPLACE “HI BOB” AS COLLEGE DRINKING GAME, IF ONLY SHE WAS ON DURING THE EVENING: Perhaps you either remember or have heard of the college drinking game from the 1970s, called, “Hi Bob.” It was based on the dialogue from the Bob Newhart Show where Newhart played psychologist Dr. Robert Hartley. Every time his wife, Emily, his receptionist Carol, his friend Jerry or neighbor Howard would utter the words, “Hi Bob” you took a drink. On most half-hour shows even the most hard-core college boozier could get a pretty good buzz on.



Anytime one of these four actors would say “Hi Bob” to Newhart, college kids would take a drink.

I think a similar game base on local TV would have even more dramatic effects and higher BAC levels. The game would involve local TV anchor woman April Simpson on Channel 2 at 11am and Channel 11 at 4pm. Every time April can't say a complete sentence without making an error, you take a swig. The problem with this game is that Simpson makes so many mispronunciations during a newscasts college kids would be facing the dire effects of alcohol poisoning.



April Simpson on air about to mispronounce a word.

IN THE OBITs: GOODBYE CLARA BOW...THE ANDREWS SISTERS LOOK MAY BE COMING TO AN END:

The older you get the more you read the obits. Of course since many (maybe most) people under 40 no longer read a newspaper they are likely not to know what an obit is.

Often you see where a family submitted a photo of their loved ones from when they were much younger. You see men in early WWII era military uniforms, especially wearing the long forgotten “blue” sailor’s hat. The women often had the style of the day. It has been a little over a year since I saw an obit photo that resembled silent film legend Clara Bow, “The It Girl.” The woman portrayed in that style was over 100 years-old when she died.

Now that Patty Andrews, the last of the Andrew sisters recently died at the age of 94. I am afraid soon we will not longer see any obit photos of ladies with “40’s style big hair.”



Clara Bow



The Andrews Sisters



Pre WWII Sailor in Blue Cap

MUSIC AND FOOD:

They Say It's Your Birthday: My wife and I for the last 15 years have tried to wrap up all annual gift occasions into one fairly expensive vacation.

This means no Christmas presents, no anniversary presents and NO BIRTHDAY EXPENSES. The first week of February I should have known something was up as my birthday approached. I was told my wife was going to take me out to dinner. I explained I had a basketball game on my schedule to work as a table ref and official scorer.

The day of my 60th birthday she informed me not to come home with Taco Bell, after the game, instead to meet her at the 9-1-1 in Kirkwood. I knew she meant the One-19 Restaurant on Kirkwood Road. She continued that she had 9pm dinner reservations. 9 o'clock reservations on a Monday Night! That should have been the tip off. You don't need reservations at any restaurant in St. Louis for 9 o'clock on a Monday.

I showed up having changed out of my referee's shirt at 9:05 only to walk into an almost deserted restaurant with one of my favorite jazz trios playing. In the next half hour four more musicians showed up plus some friend and neighbors. There was a nice private concert until 11 o'clock.

By the way the food is great at the One-19 with smaller portions. I recommend the sautéed roasted potatoes and the slices of filet mignon. My wife prefers their seafood.



Dean Christopher, Randy Bahr, Arthur Toney and Manley with a birthday performance for me at the One-19 at 119 N. Kirkwood Road.



Jim Owens, Dean Christopher, Chris Swan, Kurt Silver, Jim Manley, Randy Bahr and Arthur Toney, were the surprise musicians.

BIG BAND AT BARN OF LUCERNE: The Route 66 Jazz Orchestra is back at the Sky Music Room on Kehrs Mill Road just south of Clayton Road on Wednesday night February 20 from 8 to 10 (they usually go until about 10:20). Ron Wilkerson and Valerie Tichacek will be on the vocals with a special guest appearance by Dean Christopher.



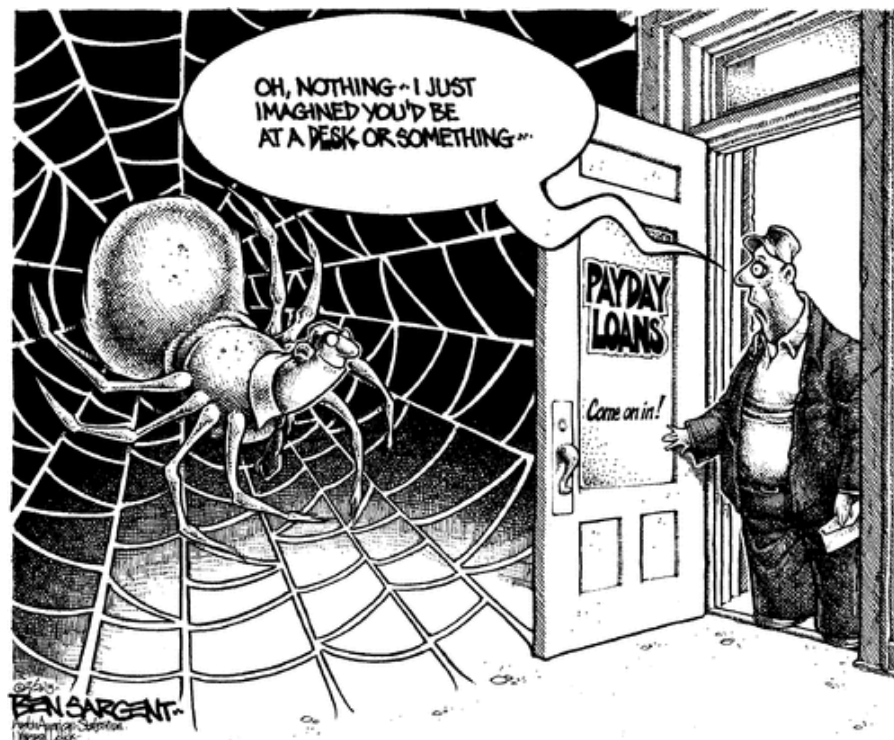
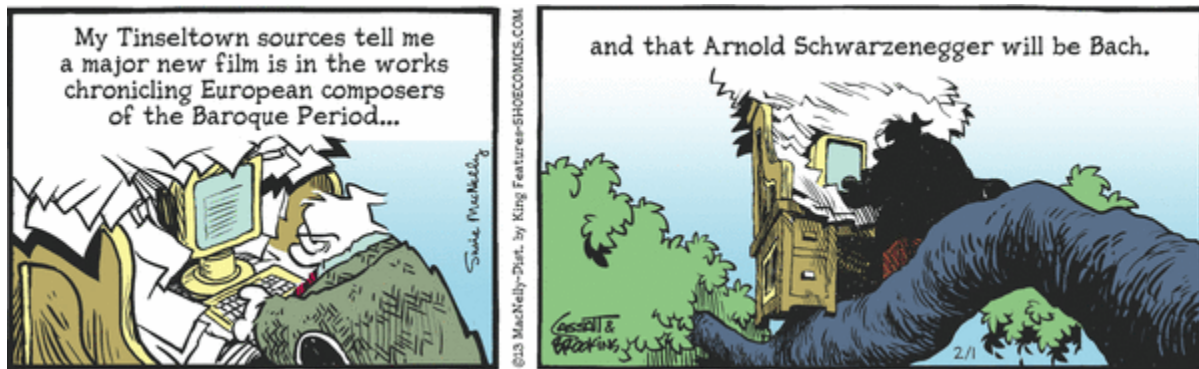
BOARD OF ALDERMEN MEETING FEB 11: We saved for last this because nothing happened. Three bills we wrote about in our last newsletter were past. Besides myself there were only three people in attendance at the meeting. A field rep for congresswoman Ann Wagner, the owner of an engineering company that was awarded a contract to work on a storm water issue and Adam Baer, a resident who was just appointed to a new commission formed by Mayor Dalton so he can make more appointments just before a Municipal election.

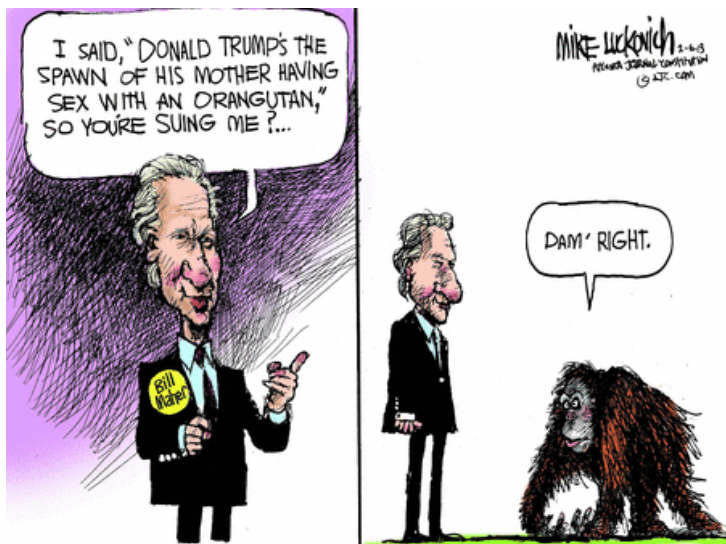
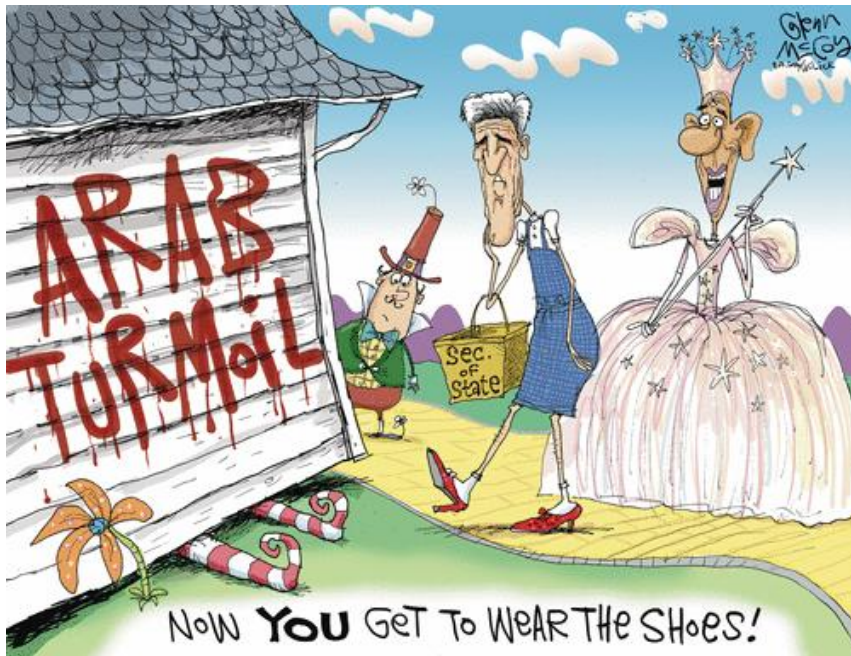
Mayor/Cigarette Lobbyist Dalton did go into secret session at the end of the 18 minute long meeting.



Here is the overflow crowd at Monday's Board of Aldermen meeting.

CARTOONS:







Chris Cassatt and Gary Brookins took over drawing Shoe after the death of creator Jeff McNally. Now Cassatt has died.

HE MAY BE A FAT CAT BANKER,
BUT HE'S MY FAT CAT BANKER.



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