

## UNAPPROVED CHESTERFIELD NEWSLETTER 52



December 03, 2013

By John Hoffmann

### APPEALS COURT UPHOLDS SOLAR PANEL CASE AGAINST

**CLARKSON VALLEY:** Here is the ruling of the Cole County Court in favor of James and Frances Babb against the City of Clarkson Valley. The Babbs wanted to install solar panels on their house and Clarkson Valley suddenly began passing ordinances that would not allow them to do so. They sued and won. (see below) Then Clarkson Valley appealed.

**06/29/2012 Exhibit Filed**

Joint Exhibit 1, admitted. tg

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#### **Judgment Entered**

Findings of Fact, Conclusions of Law, Judgment and Order. The Court hereby enters Judgment in favor of Petitioners on Counts I and III. Respondent-City of Clarkson Valley is ordered to issue to Petitioners-James Babb and Frances Babb a building permit and special use permit in accordance with their application for same. Further, based on the equitable considerations, in the event Respondent-City of Clarkson Valley fails to issue said permits within one (1) business day of the entry of this Judgment and Order, Petitioners-James and Frances Babb are authorized to construct the solar energy system at their own property in accordance with all applicable regulatory requirements as if such permits were issued. DRG/tg

Since Cole County is under the Missouri Western Appeals Court, the case was heard in Kansas City. Here is the ruling of the appeals court on Tuesday November 26.

**11/26/2013 Opinion- Affirmed**

**Associated Entries: 11/26/2013 - Signed Majority Opinion**

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**Signed Majority Opinion**

**Associated Entries: 11/26/2013 - Opinion- Affirmed**

**How much did it cost the City of Clarkson Valley:** Answer: \$117,702.

Now it is easy to understand why Clarkson Valley has been looking to Wildwood or Chesterfield to considering merging with them.



Here's a photo of the Babb's house taken on Thanksgiving Day from the street. Can you spot the solar panels? The controversy cost \$117,702.

**JEAN'S NIGHT AT THE FIRE DISTRICT NEGOTIATIONS :** In 2006 when I moved back to St. Louis I contacted Webster University looking to continue what I had been doing in Maryland working as the table official at college basketball games and the official scorer and PA announcer for a college baseball team. They had an opening for both and since 2006 I have not missed a single men's or women's basketball game and have missed only two baseball games. That was the case on Tuesday November 26. I had two basketball games to work.

Luckily I got former Patch.com Chesterfield editor Jean Whitney to go the Monarch Fire District contract negotiations session for me. It will probably be one of the last times I can talk Jean into covering a meeting for me as she is getting ready to move to Arizona. Part of the deal was she would attend the meeting and take notes. Instead of writing an article she would call me and tell me what happened. I would act as a rewrite guy. The following dialogue presented is taken from Jean's notes and not a transcript and may have some word usage errors.



**NO PICKETS:** At the last meeting after fire Board President Robin Harris referred to picketers associated with the Local 2665 as creating “shenanigans” such as blocking the driveway to the district building, standing in the street, taking up all the parking spaces for the public at the building, Keith Goldstein of Local 2665 gave a passionate speech.

“We are going to be here. We don’t get hungry. We don’t get cold and we don’t quit,” said Goldstein of the union picket line.

I don’t know...maybe they were lonesome and wanted to be home on Tuesday, because there was no picket line, regardless of cold or hunger.

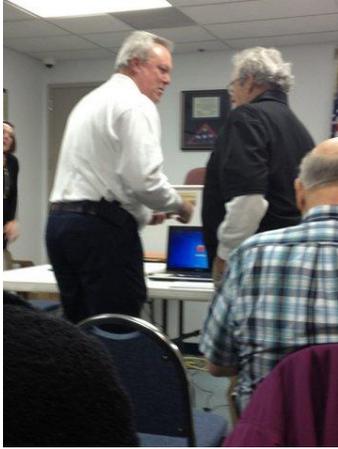
Frankly having seen the first two groups of picketers and people packing in the meeting room, I have to be suspicious that Local 2665 is hiring some people at \$10 an hour to carry a sign and stand in a meeting room. While I did recognize some firefighters, there were several people carrying signs that my 30 years experience as a police officer and arson investigator tell me were not firefighters.



There are a couple people in this photo that I have to wonder if they are really firefighters or paid picketers.

Jean reported there was plenty of parking on November 26.

**DELAY OF GAME:** The negotiations session was delayed over an hour because the closed circuit TV system was not set up for the overflow late arriving crowd to watch in the old engine bays. You have to wonder about the command staff on this one. After the prior overflow meetings where the system was set up and ready, how did this go unnoticed?



Deputy Chief Nick Harper and an IT guy start working on something that should have been done several hours earlier, causing an hour delay in the negotiation session.

**A theme develops:** Jean reports that after the meeting started a theme quickly developed that reminded me of the Herman's Hermits hit "Henry the Eighth I Am, I Am" which included in the lyrics, "Second verse is same as the first."



The start of the session put us in the mind of a Herman's Hermits hit.

Jean reports that Local 2665 official Keith Goldstein asked what the Board of Directors thought of their proposal they submitted at the last session.

Robin Harris said this was the first time the board as a whole has meet since the last meeting so they have not had a chance to review or discuss the proposal. (The proposal included pay raises that were not in the union's first proposal, the demand to establish new committees that would include union members, changing from a 24-shift to a 48-hour shift and firefighters getting 1 ½ hours off work to attend union contract information meetings, plus in some cases thriple-time..

**Brett Coleman**, a fire captain and the head of the union negotiations team jumped in.

**Coleman:** I thought you said you'd discuss it?

This forced Harris to restate what he had just said.

**Harris:** I told you this is the first time we have been together.

Coleman also asked at the beginning of the session for the district to hold the negotiation sessions in a large room rather than the chambers at headquarters so more people could attend.

Jean reported that for the first 45 minutes Harris and Coleman went back and forth trading barbs and posturing.



Left to right MFPD President Robin Harris, Board members Jane Cunningham and Steve Swyers, Keith Goldstein of Local 2665, MFPD District Capt. Brett Coleman, Local 2665 attorney Rick Berry.

**\$1.5 Million:** Apparently Robin Harris did take some time to personally review the proposals submitted by Coleman and said they would cost taxpayers \$1.5 million.

**CURRENT CONTRACT'S SPECIAL CLAUSE AND THE CUNNINGHAM POLL:** The current labor agreement that expires at the end of the year has a clause that if there is not a new contract in place the current one would continue with no expiration date. This caused Jane Cunningham to ask a survey like question. It has been brought up twice by

Harris that the union appears to be bargaining in bad faith just trying to keep the current contract in place.

**Cunningham:** Who would sign a contract that wouldn't end?

**Coleman:** Well, the district did.

**Berry:** Are you talking about not honoring that contract?

**Cunningham:** No, I asked because I want to know who signed it. Steve (board member Swyers considered by many to be pro-union) did you sign it?

**Swyers:** Yes! That is a good contract.

**Harris:** I didn't sign it.

**Berry:** You are grandstanding (Jean's notes then just had "blah, blah, blah.")

**Harris:** I see that the firefighters think this is a great contract. (apparently taking a shot at fellow board member Swyers)

**Swyers:** I want to say something. I feel like a lobster being boiled here.

**Coleman:** The Board made such drastic changes that what we came back with (new proposals) something to balance things out.

**Goldstein:** What is your response? (reference the latest union proposal) (Second verse same as the first)

**Harris:** I'm telling you we haven't met to discuss it.

**Swyers:** Come on Robin! Since I'm going to do whatever the union wants me to do (being sarcastic)...I find that preposterous! Let's get a time frame.

**Cunningham:** I agree with Steve. Let's get a time frame.

**MORE MONEY:** When firefighters work holidays they are paid double time. Of course a fire department or district can't shut down for holiday. However the union now wants firefighters to get triple time if they have to stay over while fighting a fire or covering a manpower shortage.

**Cunningham:** What other professions get triple time?

**Coleman:** Unions do! (without actually naming a profession.)

**GRIEVANCES:** The union now wants a seven step grievance procedure without the board of directors being involved until the end. The board wants a streamlined 4-step procedure with the board being informed early on.

**Coleman:** We included the chief in step 2.

**Harris:** What you did was keep the board out of it.

**Coleman:** We just wanted to keep the board out of it at that stage to keep you from being prejudiced.

**Harris:** We want to be involved and to know about it.

**PART TIME FIREFIGHTERS:** Somehow the subject of part time firefighters being hired was brought up. Jean wasn't sure who said the following:

**Union team:** No subcontracting people to fight fires (hiring part time employees)

**Goldstein:** That's UNION BUSTING! (It isn't an official negotiations session until Goldstein accuses someone on the Board of Directors of "Union Busting")

**DISTRICT TEAM:** Who does that?

**Coleman:** Normandy (Now the Northeast FPD) does it.

**Goldstein:** That causes problems. It is union busting!

**Fire District Labor lawyer:** That horse is dead (there is no current consideration of hiring any part time firefighters or paramedics).

**UNIFORM ALLOWANCES:** Years ago police and fire agencies gave employees a set annual uniform allowance. The money was to buy uniforms and have them cleaned. Firefighters had an advantage of cops as many police uniforms had to be dry cleaned. Now many police uniforms are also machine washable.

The uniform allowances used to favor the employer. In 1974 when I became a police officer I received a \$300 a year uniform allowance paid in two \$150 payments. I was expected to buy three trousers, three winter shirts, ties, three summer shirts, a summer hat and a winter hat, duty belt, holster and handcuff case.

There was no way you could buy all that stuff for \$300 even in 1974. You were also expected to pay to have it cleaned. By the second year if you did not have to replace any pants and just used the allowance for dry cleaning, you could break even but still were behind from the loss the year before. By your third year if you replaced two shirts and one pair of pants and paid for cleaning...you broke even for the year.

In the 1980s when I worked at the Liberty Missouri Police Department the department supplied all uniforms and paid for your dry cleaning. In the 1990s when I worked in Maryland the police department paid for all uniforms and cleaning. You did not have to drop off the clothes at the cleaners. A truck from the cleaners came to the station and picked up and dropped uniforms twice a week.

### **Uniform allowances are a thing of the past!**

Local 2665 wants the allowance back. They want the firefighters to get \$1,000 a year for uniforms and cleaning. Firefighter uniforms are now machine washable and relatively inexpensive. The district has a low-bid uniform vendor. While a cop might wear a uniform for two 8-hour or 12-hour shifts if they are pushing it, many times they have to put on a clean uniform every day. A firefighter will wear a uniform for a 24-hour shift the equivalent to three shifts for a cop.

In other words a \$1,000 annual uniform allowance for over 100 firefighters/EMTs and paramedics is a complete rip off of the taxpayer. The district currently has the most cost effective method of supplying uniforms. The union wants to change that.

**TRAINING:** The union wants entire shifts to receive the same training at the same time. The district will at times take one firefighter from an engine company and send them to a required training session and repeat the process until everyone gets the training.

What the union is demanding for training will cost the district tens of thousands of dollars in overtime pay to cover the absence of entire engine companies.

**Goldstein:** We want everyone to train with their shifts. It's safer when they train together.

**Harris:** Are you trying to say that if they don't train together with the same people they are unqualified to do their job?

Remember that Harris is a senior airline pilot flying large passenger aircraft. There are not the same crews from day-to-day in the airline industry. Training is based on individual needs and government requirements. Airplane crews often are made up of different people every day. The idea that the union claims that their members will be ineffective if they don't train together is ridiculous and again shows that Local 2665 is constantly trying to pull a fast one.

The years I was a police officer, members on my shift were often sent to the same training but on different days so the department would not have to pay overtime to cover shifts.

The next Monarch Labor Session that is open to the public is on Monday December 16. I will try and be there.

### **FIRE UNION SHOP STEWARD ATTACKS CUNNINGHAM ON KMOV AND KTVI WITH A LIE:**

When KMOV and KTVI ran stories how firefighters local 2665 claimed Jane Cunningham said at a recent open public contract negotiations meeting that the district was considering closing a fire station. The basis for this story was far less than truthful and neither news organizations were at the meeting. The fact that Cunningham and the Union are not getting along... is true. But the TV reports were planted to discredit Cunningham.

In a debate about which groups had a right to use a firehouse since the fire union has an office in a fire station, Cunningham was making the point other public groups have a right to use the same space.

While the debate rolled on, Cunningham said the union did not have a right to tell the district who gets to use its property or even what station to close if that was an issue.

Cunningham did not ever threaten to close a fire house. She was talking in theory about the rights or lack of rights the union had in telling the fire district how to run the fire service operations.

Keith Goldstein, the hardcore member of local 2665 began baiting Cunningham demanding to know if she was going to close a fire station.

Next the equally hardcore fire captain Andy Stecko gave the story to KMOV and KTVI.

The thing that amazed me was that I was the only “reporter” present during the two-hour labor negotiations. KMOV and KTVI were never there. Their report was literally the worst case of grandstanding I have ever seen by St. Louis news outlets. Now a story on how Cunningham and the Union are at odds would have been fair.

Jane should be careful of what she says even when using an example in making a point.

<http://www.kmov.com/news/local/Firefighters-skeptical-fire-house-in-Monarch-Fire-District-may-close-232990141.html>

<http://fox2now.com/2013/11/21/firefighters-union-claims-lawmaker-threatened-to-shut-down-fire-house/>

Monarch board president Robin Harris sent out this email after the KMOV piece appeared:

**From:** Robin Harris [mailto:RLHarris\_1@charter.net]  
**Sent:** Friday, November 22, 2013 3:44 PM  
**To:** Undisclosed-Recipient;  
**Subject:** Fw: DIRECTORS NEVER CONSIDERED CLOSING STATIONS

**From:** [Ray Antonacci](#)  
**Sent:** Friday, November 22, 2013 1:12 PM  
**To:**  
**Cc:** [Tom Vineyard](#) ; [Robin Harris](#)  
**Subject:** DIRECTORS NEVER CONSIDERED CLOSING STATIONS

#### **DIRECTORS NEVER CONSIDERED CLOSING STATIONS**

Monarch Directors Have Never Suggested Nor Discussed Any Reduction In The Number Of Engine Houses: Monarch residents became the victims of misinformation by union vice president and Monarch employee, Andy Stecko, who reported the Directors were threatening to close an engine house. That is blatantly false as evidenced by the minutes of the meeting in question. There was not, nor has there ever been a Board discussion about closing a fire station.

It was, apparently, an effort by the union to malign one of the directors in what appears to be an ongoing attack by the union to gain control over the District after their candidate failed to be elected earlier this year. Sadly, this frightened many residents as Stecko’s incorrect information led them to believe their service would be negatively impacted.

Earlier this year, as part of a budget discussion, the Board and staff briefly touched on the possibility of retiring the current headquarters house, which has not been an active fire station for years, and relocating the offices and storage currently there. That idea was first discussed several years ago before any of the current Directors joined Monarch. The Monarch Headquarters is a facility which is requiring repairs at a cost that is being closely monitored.

Your Board is committed to serve and will maintain the same outstanding level of service and safety, irrespective of attacks by the union.

It is one thing if someone working for Local 2665 makes an untrue statement that frightens residents...it is quite another if it is an employee of the fire district. Just because Stecko is a shop steward doesn't give him the right to make misleading statements. He is still an employee of the fire district.

**STECKO'S CROSS TO BEAR:** It appears as if Any Stecko is more interested in being a union shop steward than a captain with the Monarch Fire Protection District. I have seen people like Stecko over the years. They act first without thinking when they don't have to or more correctly stated, they act first when they really should consider the consequences. I have to think this will lead to Stecko making a mistake in judgment on the job. If that mistake reaches the level of the Board of Directors for disciplinary review I have a feeling the vote will not be going in Stecko's favor. Even with a union contract you can only poke the boss so many times.



Stecko criticizing the Board of Directors at a recent meeting.

### **CITY COUNCIL: The 2014 Budget:**

The Council did a good job of keeping the public from hearing discussions about the 2014 budget when they failed to post the meeting of the Finance and Administration

committee meeting on the city's web. On Monday December 2, there were almost no questions from council members during a 30-minute "public hearing" presentation where the public was never asked if they had comments or questions.

The one amazing thing during the presentation by City Administrator Mike Herring was the entire amount of the budget was never mentioned. Most cities' budgets have four or five components. For instance in Town and Country there are five parts of the budget. The mayor in T&C likes to fool people and say how the "General Fund" has a \$19,000 surplus when the entire budget was in a \$6,000,000 deficit.

In the case of the Chesterfield budget, it was not in Herring's presentation or in the hand out material. I asked the city's budget director and he said he thought it was about \$35,000,000 in revenue and in expenditures.

Our math actually showed a decent surplus of \$1,776,099 (plus \$8,452,095 of the 40% required reserve) or 4.5-percent in the projected 2014 budget. The overall General Fund reserves for the city are \$11,799,860, of which \$3,347,765 can be used during the 2014 year for non-budgeted expenses. A 40% reserve of the total budget remains in the event of dire emergencies. However there are no reserves for Parks or Capital Improvements due to debt service and past fund transfers.

**The largest department in the city** budget was is the police department with an \$8,990,003 budget in 2014.

**HYPE:** Mike Herring tried to puff parts of the 2013 budget year.

"We replaced 1.5 miles of sidewalks in 2013. Think about that," proclaimed Herring. For a city that is 33.5 square miles, putting in or replacing a lousy 1.5 miles of sidewalk is not that big of a deal.

**GREAT SHAPE:** However any way you look at it Chesterfield financially is in great shape. If it was a point of sale "sales tax" city it have another \$2-million to spend, but it does have separate capital improvements and parks sale taxes that allows it a lot of breathing room. Herring pointed out that the biggest revenue maker for the city is not sales tax, but the utility taxes...\$7,533,503 utility tax versus \$6,411,832 sales tax.

Herring added that with more and more people dropping landline telephone service it is important to get as much cell phone utility tax as possible.

**The Municipal Court:** The projected revenue from the municipal court is \$1,323,253.

This goes to show you how the Chesterfield police are not conducting traffic enforcement for revenue. In Town and Country, a city with 75% fewer residents and a 66% smaller area and 70% fewer cops they anticipate collecting \$1,400,000 in court fines. Drive Carefully!

**SO MUCH FOR THE PUBLIC PART OF THE PUBLIC HEARING:** After Michael Herring's presentation there were a couple of softball questions from the council and a couple pats of the back to Herring who had just presented his 27<sup>th</sup> budget. Mayor Bob Nation then stated, "I declare this public hearing closed."



Mayor Nation calling the Public Hearing to a close without asking if the public had anything to say.

There was just one thing, Mayor Nation forget to ask if any members of the public had any comments or questions concerning the budget. Rarely does anyone have anything to say, but the mayor took the public right out of the equation. The 2014 budget passed during the regular meeting on a unanimous voice vote.

**AWARDS...ONE FOR ELIMINATING CHEMICAL WEAPONS AND ANOTHER FOR BEING RELATED TO SOMEONE FAMOUS:** Before the start of the very short regular meeting, Mayor Nation presented a proclamation naming December 2, 2013 Will Carpenter Day. Back in 1958 when he was working as an executive with Monsanto, Carpenter was one of the founders of the international watch dog group, the Organization for the Prohibition of Chemical Weapons (OPCW), which as a group won the Nobel Peace Prize this year. Carpenter, was not salaried or received expenses traveled the world trying to reduce chemical weapon stockpiles. Some reports claim that the OPCW has reduced chemical weapon stockpiles from 200,000 tons in 1958 to 20,000 tons today.

The other proclamation made December 3, 2013 Helen Carpenter Day. Mrs. Carpenter is the great granddaughter of James Naismith, the person who invented basketball to give football and baseball players exercise during the winter. The proclamation also read how Mrs. Carpenter is the co-author of the book, *The Man Who Invented Basketball*.



Helen Carpenter looking like she is about to call a foul on Will as Mayor Nation reads a proclamation.



The other Carpenters!

Actually the other co-author of the book, published in 2011 by Temple Press is Rob Rains, former sportswriter at the *Globe Democrat* and *USA Today*. Rains has written 28 other books. This is Mrs. Carpenter's first book.

Here is a description of the authors from the publisher:

## About the Author(s)

**Rob Rains** is a former National League beat writer for *USA Today's Baseball Weekly* and for three years covered the St. Louis Cardinals for the *St. Louis Globe-Democrat*. He is the author or co-author of autobiographies or biographies of Tony La Russa, Ozzie Smith, Mark McGwire, Jack Buck, Red Schoendienst and many other sports celebrities.

**Helen Carpenter** is the granddaughter of James Naismith. For more than forty years she had in her possession more than 300 documents from Naismith's files which were instrumental in crafting this biography.

Mr. Carpenter was responsible for saving hundreds of thousands of people dying a terrible painful death. Meanwhile Mrs. Carpenter saved her grandfather's journals and

went over them with a sports book writer. Maybe the second proclamation should have an asterisk.

**\$163 DAY IN COLUMBIA FOR STATE REP:** You probably think I'm about to bash John Diehl for taking some NEW tickets or meals from a sleazy lobbyist. But you would be wrong. I'm going to bash Town and Country State Rep. Sue Allen. While Diehl accepts around \$100,000 in contributions from cigarette makers, casinos, railroads and the pork industry every quarter, Allen rarely gets big contributions. However on September 28 Sue got \$110 in free tickets to the University of Missouri football game plus \$53 in free food all compliments from the lobbyist for your favorite electric company (actually your only electric company) Ameren Union Electric. It is nice to see that Sue doesn't have to go deal with all the hassles that regular folks do when it comes to getting football tickets and food.

Next summer when you get what you think is an extremely high electric bill think about that \$163 football game for Sue and that someone had to pay for.



Big Missouri Tiger fan who attends games thanks to people who pay electric bills.

**DARWIN AWARD NOMINEE:** Perhaps there is an unusual circumstance but until I hear one Manchester resident Kara Koriath, 43, might be up for a nomination for a 2013 Darwin Award. The mother was driving at 6am on November 20 with her two teenage boys, Andrew Drester, 16, and Matthew Drester, 13 in the backseat of her 2008 GMC Acadia large size SUV.

Somehow at 6am fireworks in the vehicle got ignited and then set off more fireworks. We are only guessing Kara and the boys like to celebrate Thanksgiving with a bang.

The detonations caused Kara to lose control and crash the vehicle off the road on I-270 at Clayton Road. The SUV then burned. After State Troopers and T&C cops arrived on the scene it appeared as if Kara was driving under the influence of drugs or alcohol and she was arrested after everyone was transported to Mercy Hospital for "serious" injuries.

Kara is a Financial Advisor with PNC Investments.



Kara is on the far left of this photo taken in 2011 at a St. Patrick's Day Party.

If nothing else there should have been plenty to talk about around the table this Thanksgiving.

[http://www.mshp.dps.mo.gov/HP68/AccidentDetailsAction?ACC\\_RPT\\_NUM=130732914](http://www.mshp.dps.mo.gov/HP68/AccidentDetailsAction?ACC_RPT_NUM=130732914)

**MEDIA WATCH: KMOX...apparently not making enough money!** When we moved to Washington, DC in 1990, there was a radio station there that reminded me a lot of KMOX. It was WMAL, AM 630. The station was a DC area institution. It had the same popular morning duo of Frank Harding and Jackson Weaver for over 30 years. For 20 years it was the same afternoon show of Bill Trumbull and Chris Core. Both the morning and afternoon shows had hosts playing different characters. They reminded me of the productions and skits that Jack Carney used to put on KMOX. In the 1950s and 60s DC had the Joy Boys of Radio, Willard Scott and Ed Walker at WRC doing the same thing.

Watch a video air check of the Joy Boys of Radio's last broadcast on WRC

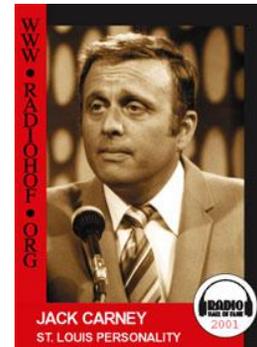
<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=q9lxNqYIbUE>



Frank Harind & Jackson Weaver



Chris Core left and Bill Trumbull



The King of St L ratings

The midnight guy was Bill Mayhugh, he reminded me a lot of John McCormick on KMOX. WMAL for years had the Washington Redskins on the air as KMOX had most sports locked up in St. Louis.

Every Christmas for 19 years WMAL would give a gift to their listeners and do a live broadcast from a theater in The Kennedy Center. It was a radio show with local musicians and celebrities that used to go from 10am to 6pm and then from 10am to 2pm. It was FREE. They asked listeners to stop by be entertained with Christmas music and stay as long as they could for FREE. My wife and I went a couple of times. We enjoyed the shows on WMAL and despite hating the drive into DC from Maryland, spending time at the Kennedy Center was always a treat.



Times have changed. WMAL switched to loud mouth right wing political talk and was no longer really a radio station for the whole DC metropolitan region. All the local hosts are long gone. There hasn't been a Christmas Show at the Kennedy Center since about 2000.

I see where KMOX had a Holiday Show at the Sheldon on Washington Avenue near Grand on December 2. Unlike the old WMAL Christmas show, which was a FREE present to the listeners, the KMOX appears to be a profit operation. The seats were for sale from between **\$15 and \$50 plus a ticket handling surcharge**. There is no mention that the proceeds are going to a charity.

Apparently KMOX is not making a big enough profit anymore to actually give something nice to the listeners.

**The vanishing news obit!** A lot of things have disappeared from the Post-Dispatch such as, TV listings, a local editorial cartoonist, small college sports coverage, job ads in the classified section not to mention realtor ads. But the one thing besides the lack of

an editorial cartoonist that I have really missed are local news obits. These are different from the obits paid for by the funeral homes and are actually written by a PD staff writer.

This came to mind when Emil Wilde died on November 12. There was only a funeral home paid obit at the time of his death. Wilde was a radio newsman back when radio stations had their own street reporters and news operations. He worked for a number of years at KSD when KSD was the number 2 station in town behind KMOX and later he was on the air at KMOX until the late 1980s. He was on the air at St. Louis radio stations for 47 years. He was also the voice of the Lutheran Hour for 10 years when it was broadcast over the Mutual Broadcasting System.



Emil Wilde

After leaving KMOX in 1986 he was a journalism professor at Lindenwood and ran the college radio station.

How a guy who tens of thousands of people listened to in St. Louis on a daily basis could not get a “news obit” is beyond me. After his funeral there was a blurb about his death in Joe Hollerman’s column that appears on Saturdays, but that isn’t much. When my 90-year-old mother died in 2005 the PD had cut back on news obits but ran one on her because she met a requirement that is no longer in use. She had been a high school teacher. Of course she was a high school teacher from 1938 to 1941 and I have to guess over half of her students were probably dead...but the PD did run a news obit. Teachers and many other noted St. Louisians are no longer accorded that acknowledgement by the PD.

**ST. LOUIS BEACON AND KWMU MERGER:** Is this is really a government function? The St. Louis Beacon started in 2008. The Beacon was made up of people who took buyouts from the Post-Dispatch or were laid off in staff cuts. A year later the St. Louis Globe-Democrat online edition was launched. Neither made any money. The Globe-Democrat folded 14 months later. The Beacon continued on through donations and grants. It seemed to be pushed by editor Margaret Freivogel, who dates back to the

1970s as a reporter for the PD and former PD political reporter Jo Mannies. Frankly the Beacon has always been a rather dull read with very little breaking news.

Now the curators at The University of Missouri-St. Louis have approved the meager of the long time University owned and operated NPR outlet, KWMU and the Beacon.

I have to wonder if our tax dollars should be supporting a news operation such as the Beacon. I understand why the University of Missouri operates a daily newspaper and a TV station in Columbia in conjunction with its School of Journalism. But the Beacon is different. When it was clear that the Beacon could not make it selling ads it became a non-profit. But really if local reporting is so important why isn't the State giving me money to produce this newsletter (which costs about \$2,500 a year in payments to the domain name, to my webmaster and for records obtained from courts, police departments and city halls for articles) or the folks at West Magazine or the Webster-Kirkwood Times?

**ST. LOUIS SPORTS TALKER RANKED 32ND IN THE COUNTRY:** I remember back in the late 1960 and early 1970s KMOX was one of the most listened to stations by sports fans. The Sports Open Line was from 6:15 to 7pm or later if there wasn't a Cardinals Baseball game or a Blues Hockey game. Perhaps one of the most listened to segments was on Friday nights when Jack Buck had on Dick Young, the New York Daily News' extremely outspoken sports columnist (at least by the standards of the day).

In the current listing of the Top 100 sport talk shows in the country KMOX is not mentioned, but WXOS-FM's show featuring Randy Karraker and D'Marco Farr is rated the number 32 in the country.



**TALKERS MAGAZINE 2013 SPORTS TALK HEAVY HUNDRED**

**32**

TALKERS MAGAZINE  
SPORTS TALK  
HEAVY HUNDRED  
2013



**Randy Karraker & D'Marco Farr**  
*WXOS-FM, St. Louis*

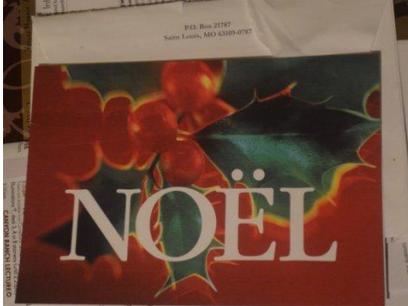
[www.talkers.com/sportstalkheavyhundred2013](http://www.talkers.com/sportstalkheavyhundred2013)

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The top two sport talks shows in the country are on WFAN in New York.

<http://www.talkers.com/2013-talkers-heavy-hundred-sports-talk/>

**FIRST CHRISTMAS CARD OF THE YEAR:** It arrived on November 4.



It was from the Salvation Army. Thanks to the Red Cross I have made the Salvation Army my main charity for small donations throughout the year.

The reason I quit giving money to the Red Cross was simple. They put a tobacco lobbyist, who also was behind using eminent domain to steal property of a widow and her grandchildren for \$800,000 less than it was worth.



If they think it is a good idea to have someone who helped spread lung disease and cheat people on the board of directors of the St. Louis Regional Red Cross, they certainly don't need my money. You add in how Gov. Christie lambasted the Red Cross while praising the Salvation Army's response to the victims of Super Storm Sandy...I'm happy with my decision.



When I was in St. Andrews, New Brunswick this fall I stopped at this store and wanted to make sure that T&C Mayor Jon Dalton was not a co-owner before I bought a piece of fudge. It was two Christmas time columns by Bill McClellan in 2009 that painted Dalton as an ultimate Scrooge by firing three lower level women employees at city hall and the police department without considering budget cuts first.

**SEEN IN A WEST COUNTY PARKING LOT:**



**FOOD:**

**FOOD:** If you remember I recently gave a rather lackluster review of the chicken tenders at Raising Canes new location in Des Peres on Manchester where they sell just chicken tenders. About two weeks later I had lunch with Jean Whitney at Smitty's on Clayton Road at Baxter. I found out that Smitty's dropped the frozen chicken tenders

and replaced them with hand breaded chicken tenders. They were delicious and worth the trip to Smitty's and the wait for them to be prepared per order.



These from Raising canes were okay.



These at Smitty's were great!

**SECRET LOCATION:** I was never a big fan of the huge box stores that also sell groceries like Sam's Club or Costco. My opinion has changed on Costco. They have certain items that cannot be match by any other local supermarket. I'm not talking price...I'm talking **TASTE**. There 30-piece ready to eat shrimp are the best in St. Louis. The same goes for the slider size pretzel rolls. Both are prepared at the stores. The pretzel rolls are shipped frozen and then thawed. Both the shrimp and pretzel rolls cannot be beat in taste at any other area store. The Costco Clam Chowder is also an above average product.



**THE BEST THANKSGIVING IN A NUMBER OF YEARS...OR THE THANKSGIVING MIRACLE:** When I was the assistant police chief in Chevy Chase, Maryland it was a blessing when the holidays would roll around.

The police chief would always have taken Thanksgiving week off and two weeks at the end of the year, leaving me in charge. This meant I could not return to Missouri for dinners with either my family or my wife's. I never complained.

Instead we would usually have a nice dinner at home for Thanksgiving and on Christmas Day we would go to the Watergate Hotel and eat at the Jean Louis restaurant, walk around the Mall and then end the day at the Round Robin Bar at the Willard Hotel where every year the staff would bring in Christmas cookies made at home. It was stress free and relative free.



The former Watergate Hotel on the right.



The late Jean Louis Palladin on the left.



The Round Robin Bar at the Willard Hotel. The Willard lobby at Christmas time. The ceiling has the seal of every state.

Both of my parents were dead and my two sisters live way out of town when we moved back to Missouri in 2006. However, my wife has five sisters, whom I refer to all six as

the Six Sisters of the Apocalypse, meaning I give them full respect to avoid any sudden disaster. Four of the six sisters live in Missouri.

In recent years my wife has invited sisters for Thanksgiving dinner. It is always a big production. One year we had four of the sisters' dogs join my two for a total of six dogs for Thanksgiving dinner. The one thing that is a constant hosting a large group for Thanksgiving is that as the hosts when we sat down to eat our food was COLD.

My wife again invited everyone this year. For a change I stepped in. I made a reservation for eight at the Cheshire Inn. I figured, that while the turkey and potatoes were not all that expensive, by the time you left Dierbergs or Schnucks you had spent \$150-to-\$175, counting wine bottles, deserts and other stuff. I was willing to pay 40% more to avoid the occupation of our kitchen and cold food for dinner.

On Thanksgiving Day two didn't show, leaving us with six. However, with the two absent a bottle of wine was ordered and so were cocktails. The meals themselves only added up to \$176. The wine and cocktails were another \$76. (The most popular cocktail was called "The Dysfunctional Family" which was an Old Fashion with cranberry bitters.) Plus the tip, we were over \$300.

However it was the best Thanksgiving dinner in memory. The Cheshire staff was amazingly friendly and the food was great. There was plenty on the plate. No one wanted more and everyone was full. Plus there was no bickering in the kitchen or the dining room and no dishes to wash. This was maybe the most important part of the afternoon dinner. The food was hot! 15 minutes after the food arrived I put a fork into the mash potatoes and they were still warm. I congratulated the chef on what I considered a Thanksgiving Day miracle.



**ODD COMBINATION:** I have seen coffee coming after the beer, but last week might have been the first time I have seen coffee and beer at the same time.



**MUSIC:**

**Wednesday December 11, Logan College 7pm:** This year the Air Force Band of Mid-America will be performing on Wednesday December 11 at Logan College and no tickets are needed for that concert, admission is free.



**WEDNESDAY NOVEMBER 27 AT SASHA'S:** The night before Thanksgiving the place was crowded until about 10:30. As is tradition, the headliner jazz trumpeter Jim Manley draws a number of local musicians who show up just to talk, while others play, as Jim takes a break.



Joe Bayer and Larry Johnson on saxes with Arthur Toney on keyboards go to town on Cherokee. For the next number, the Rev. Scott Stanifir sat in on trumpet.

Here is a link to Harry James and Buddy Rich doing Cherokee  
<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=1-Zvep7F-YA>

**IL BEL LAGO November 29:** It was the Anita Rosamond show in the bar of the Creve Coeur Italian restaurant at 11631 Olive Blvd.



Anita with some backup at Il Bel Lago.



Anita's regular male vocalist, Jerry Moser get a smile from the diva.

**UPCOMING ANITA:**

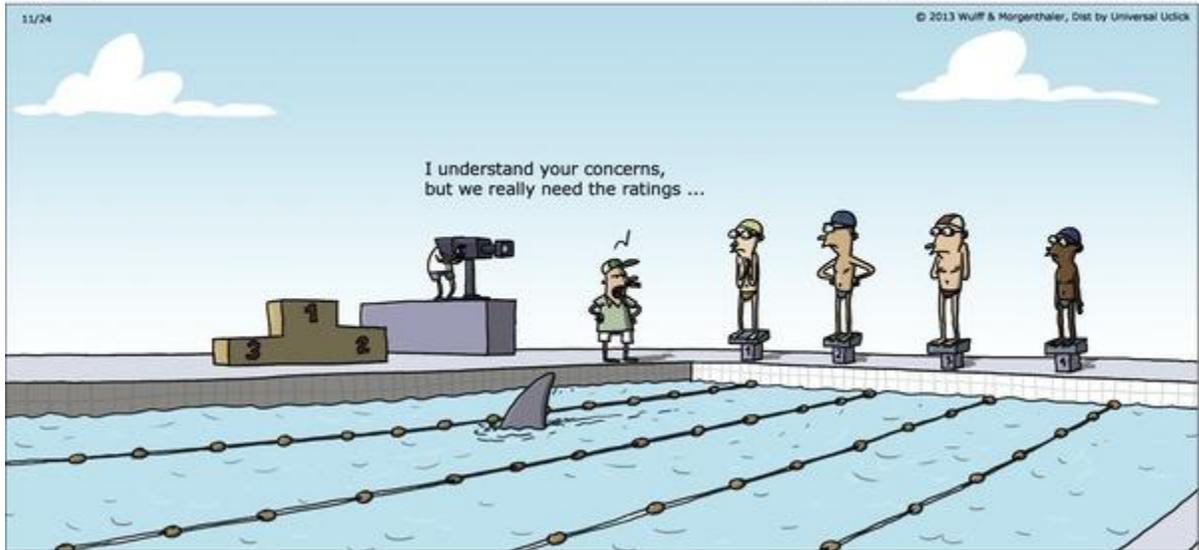
Anita is back at Il Bel Lago this Friday December 6th 7-to-10. The next day Saturday, December 7 it will be a matinee performance from 3-to-6 at Smitty's on Clayton at Baxter. She will be doing New Year's Eve back at Il Bel Lago from 8 o'clock-to-late.

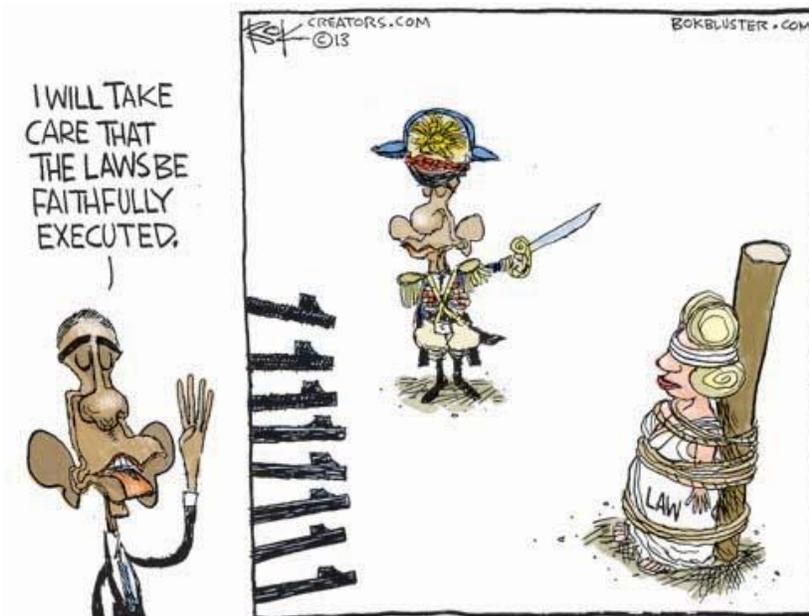
**CARTOONS:**



**WUMU**

**BY WULFF & MORGENTHAUER**







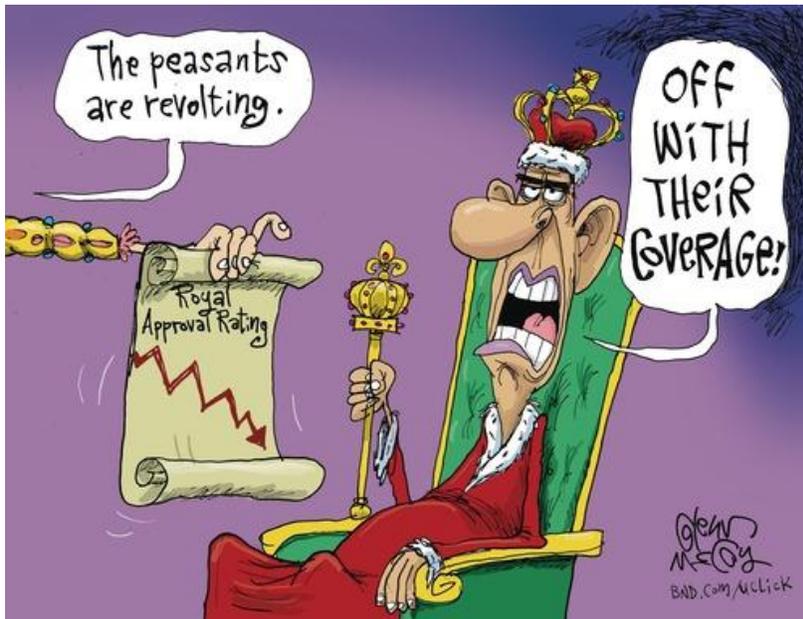
**"I don't CARE how bored you are in class, you CANNOT shoot spitwads at people or put tacks on chairs! You are a teacher, for crying out loud!"**

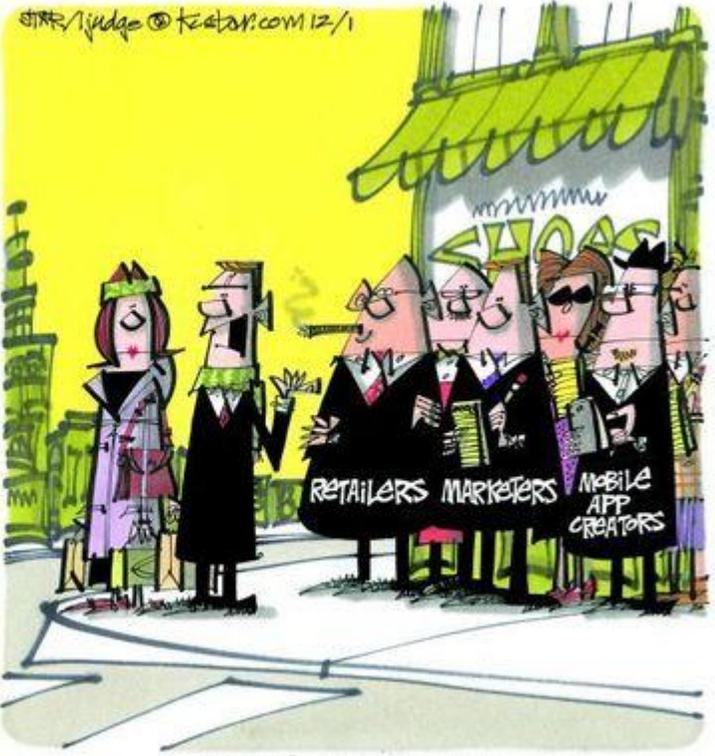
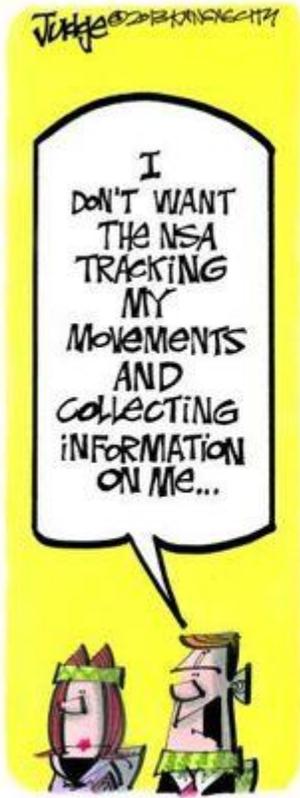


**"You took a hard blow to the head. I'll tell coach you're OK to go back in the game if you can answer these three simple questions correctly."**

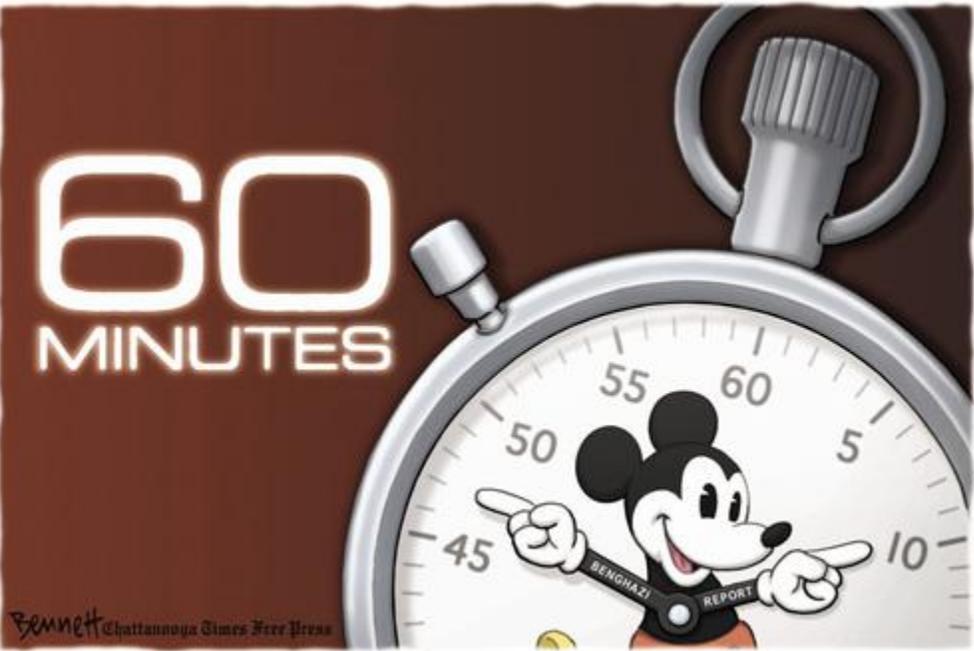


“... Now just pull the pin thingy, then wind up and chuck the sucker.”





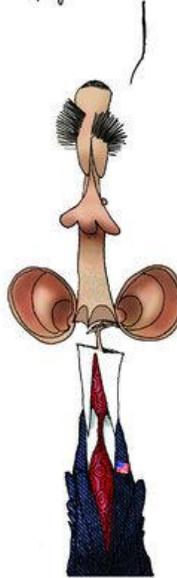
"THAT'S THEIR JOB."



FOUR SCORE AND SEVEN YEARS AGO  
OUR FATHERS BROUGHT FORTH ON THIS  
CONTINENT, A NEW NATION CONCEIVED  
IN LIBERTY, AND DEDICATED TO THE  
PROPOSITION THAT ALL MEN ARE CREATED  
EQUAL...



FOUR SCORE *and* SEVEN  
PEOPLE *have* SUCCESSFULLY  
*signed up for* OBAMACARE...



[www.investors.com/cartoons](http://www.investors.com/cartoons)



"Game's nearly sold out. The only seats  
left are directly in front of drunken boobs  
who will torment you for the entire game."



"BECAUSE THE OLD SYSTEM WAS A MESS."