

EX ALDERMAN NEWSLETTER 216 AND CHESTERFIELD 161



By John Hoffmann

February 23, 2016



DEER-VEHICLE CRASHES PLUMMET FOR JANUARY: Of course sharpshooters shot and killed 210 deer during the month. It is unusual to have just one dead deer by the side of the road for an entire month. The one deer-collision occurred in Ward 2.

01/23/16 06:53 AM Mason Road and Mason Grove Ward 2

In January of 2015 there were four deer-vehicle crashes with a total of 90 by the end of the year.



Despite the city killing 210 deer in January, there are still plenty around. in February.

2016 DEER REPORT The areas with the largest deer populations appear to still be in Ward 2. The White Buffalo 2016 survey report indicated heavy populations of deer along Topping Road and also in the area of Manor Hill and Woodmark in the Thornhill subdivision. That is the location where the above photo was taken.

"Deer appeared to be fairly evenly distributed in the area sampled with the exception of the Topping Road area and Woodmark/Manor Hill in which densities are higher than the rest of town."



February 17, 2016 at 5 pm on Manor Hill near Woodmark.

We have posted both the White Buffalo Deer Harvest Report that gives the general location of every deer killed and the survey report that has maps showing where the majority of the deer are located in town on our homepage or use the links below.

http://johnhoffmann.net/Final_Distance_Sampling_Report_12Feb2016_Town__Country.pdf

http://johnhoffmann.net/Final_Report_12_Feb_2016_Town__Country.pdf

Here is a breakdown of deer killed by ward and closest street.

Table 3. Deer harvest by Ward

Ward # Harvested

1	36 (17%)
2	85 (40%)
3	60 (29%)
4	29 (14%)

Ward One 36

Des Peres Road	3
Town & Country Est	11
Sellenreik	15
Horton Place	7

Ward Two 85

Dry Ridge	12
Thornfield	14
Barrett Station Rd	14
Old Colony	15
Featherstone	13
S. Mason	7
South Outer	40

Ward Three 60

Mason Woods	14
Glaize View	20
Weidman Rd	15
Brookmill	7
Alsace	4

Ward Four 29

Conway Hill	10
Muirfield	19

There were 42 deer killed in areas directly next to Queeny Park. Until the County Park Department finally does what Park Departments do in Johnson County Kansas and throughout the upper Midwest, Mid-Atlantic and East Coast areas and close the park for two days a year to harvest deer, this problem will not go away. I'm guessing the County Parks Department will continue to have blinders on until park users start coming down with Lyme disease.

RAINTREE SCHOOL EXPANSION APPROVED ON FEBRUARY 22: Originally when plans were brought forward to build a pre-K and Kindergarten School off South Mason Road just inside the city limits the NIMBYs showed up to meetings.

The school was planned to be built in a subdivision where architects from Washington University wanted to build houses that looked like space ships. They went broke and abandoned a street and storm water sewers that began to break apart over the years. The school would fix all these problems and stop water runoff into the Laurel Lakes subdivision located below the school.

Neighbors along Mason Road came out and spoke at meetings and spoke about how the school would create unreasonable traffic congestion to an already busy Mason Road at rush hours. The school officials claimed due to staggered drop off hours from 7:30 to 9 AM they did not foresee any noticeable traffic increases.

The school was approved and built. The complainers were pissed because it turned out the school leaders were right. There was no noticeable increase to traffic or an increase in vehicle crashes. The one complaint the school receive was about outside lights being seen by Laurel Lakes residents. The school addressed that complaint which included having no flood lights and turning off lights facing Laurel Lakes by 9 pm.

The school with 6,812 square feet wants to add 5,100 square feet more for three new classrooms and a multi-purpose activity room. They also projected an increase in enrollment from 66 students to 114 and the staff increasing from nine to 16.

The school that sits on 10.96 acres holds some classes outdoors when weather permits. They also plan to add 10 more parking spaces.

There was no one to speak in opposition to the plans at the Planning and Zoning meeting. The P&Z Commission approved the plans. At the Board of Alderman meeting for the first reading of the bill for the expansion there was a presentation but no one speaking in opposition. There was no request for a LED sign so Fred Meyland-Smith was relatively quiet. The BOA voted to approve the project on February 22.



ONE CHARGE DROPPED AND THREE NEW CHARGES FILED ON TOWN AND COUNTRY FELON: Kalaun Gray who lives in the gated Cedar Springs subdivision off of Wood Mill Road still has the 1st Degree Robbery charge and Armed Criminal Action charge pending from a October 13, 2015 overnight holdup of a Bridgeton MO gas station convenience store, when he shoved a gun into the ribs of the victim

However a December 2015 2nd Degree Robbery Charge where he allegedly choked a female and stole her cell phone has been dropped.



But wait there is more.

The Florissant Police Department on January 28, 2016 filed two counts of Felony Possession of Narcotics and one count of Possession of a Firearm While in Possession of Felony Controlled Substance against him. The crimes occurred on September 9, 2015, but the delay is common waiting for drug lab reports to be obtained.

But wait there is more.

A probation violation warrant was issued for Gray by the Johnson County Missouri Circuit Court in Warrensburg on February 03, 2016. Gray is on probation for Fraudulent Use of a Credit Card.

Gray's, father Anthony Gray, a former lawyer for Michael Brown's family and the current city attorney of scandal plagued Pine Lawn MO bought the house at 14361 Cedar Springs three years ago.

REAL ESTATE: Say BYE BYE: I always liked this ranch house on the Northwest corner of Williamsburg Estates and Mason Road. The yard is huge and backs up to Clayton Road. It recently sold. The house (2,704 sq ft) has only 3 bedrooms with 2 1/2 baths and no basement. 12 Williamsburg was originally listed at \$550,000. I don't know the sale price as closing has not occurred yet. There were no interior photos on any

websites listing the house, leading me to believe a major remodel would be in store for anyone buying the place.

However, I hear a builder bought the house which can only mean one thing. The arrival of a bulldozer is not far away.



9 TERRACE GARDENS FRONTENAC : THE BIG SPLIT: A three year old house at 9 Terrace Gardens in Frontenac is on the market listed by Melinda Johnson and Debi Miller for a bargain price of \$3,300,000. Why would such a new house be on the market?



MARIS



MARIS

Maybe this is telling sign. A wine cellar with no wine.



MARIS

This is a much bigger telling sign. A staged woman's master bedroom closet. Let's face it; this closet has no clothes in it.

Which brings us to the following:

Sherri A. Marshall v Daniel G. Marshall

The divorce papers were filed on September 10, 2015.

The house is listed as a "ranch" house. Right!

It has 8,157 sq ft with 11,382 square feet when you add in the basement area.

This "ranch" house has 24 rooms with 5 bedrooms, seven full baths and two 1/2-baths.

It is apparently dropping in value. In 2013 the real estate taxes were \$44,243. In 2014 they increased to \$44,841, but in 2015 they plummeted \$38,103.

What kind of cars are do people living in a \$3.3 million ranch drive? A 2008 Bentley GTC with an annual personal property tax of \$1,968 to start with. They also have a 2013 Honda Accord under the company name, plus a Ford pickup truck. The company owes \$787 in back personal property vehicle taxes.

The Marshalls are listed as the president (him) and vice president (her) of Marshall Wireless with corporate headquarters off of Des Peres Road in Town and Country and 14 Sprint Cell Phone stores in the St. Louis area.



Sherri's address in the legal separation and financial maintenance lawsuit list her current address as a post office box at the Creve Coeur Post Office. Daniel's address is still 9 Terrace Gardens.

The Marshalls are two years behind paying \$551 in personal property taxes owed on two boats and three motors.

THEY CALL IT A LINEAL PARK, NORMAL PEOPLE CALL THEM SIDEWALKS. At the Monday February 22 Board of Aldermen Work Session before the regular meeting there was a presentation by the Parks and Trials People of the Lineal Park plan to connect more people to Queeny Park through the use of sidewalks.



The yellow dotted line is existing or planned Lineal Park (Extra Wide Sidewalk) for the near future. It is interesting to note the blue dotted line is for proposed sidewalks (trails as the Park Commission likes to call them). One goes down Topping Road. There is legislation in the work now to apply for grant money to make those happen.

The other two include a sidewalk through the Thornhill Subdivision. The streets are private and are narrow. The utility easements are very small compared to those on public streets. This means property would have to be purchased from homeowners or the subdivision. Blue Dots are called Priority 3 trails.

The other trail (sidewalk) that is interesting is from Clayton Road to Thornhill along power line property that cuts through several subdivisions and connects with Thornhill.

30-years as a cop and police detective tells me putting areas off the street and behind houses near the woods were people can walk is a good way to increase burglaries and thefts.

UNAPPROVED CHESTERFIELD NEWSLETTER 161



February 24, 2016

CITY COUNCIL CANDIDATE AGAINST BARRY FLACHSBART WITHDRAWS

SAYING HE MIGHT BE MOVING OUT OF TOWN: Mark Von Donsel, formerly known as Mark Peterson before a name change in 2013, sent an email to City Clerk Vickie Hass on Monday February 15 (City Hall was closed for President's Day). In the email Von Donsel said he and his family may be moving out of town. Unfortunately after filing candidates' names with the Board of Elections the City Clerk cannot remove a name from the ballot without a court order.

Here is the email and the response from the City Clerk.

From: Mark Van Donsel [<mailto:markp11645@gmail.com>]

Sent: Monday, February 15, 2016 11:30 PM

To: Vickie Hass <VHass@chesterfield.mo.us>

Subject: Re: Planning and Public Works Committee Meeting Agenda

Vickie,

It is with regret that I must withdraw my name from the ballot for Ward 1. My family and I are planning to leave the area and I don't believe that I can be considered a viable candidate at this point. Thank you for your time and consideration.

Best Regards,

Mark Van Donsel

From: Vickie Hass [<mailto:VHass@chesterfield.mo.us>]

Sent: Tuesday, February 16, 2016 1:17 PM

To: Mark Van Donsel

Subject: RE: Planning and Public Works Committee Meeting Agenda

Mr. Van Donsel,

It is unfortunately too late to have your name removed from the ballot. Once I certify the candidates at the end of the candidate filing period, the only way to have your name removed from the ballot is with a court order. If you wish to pursue this, you will need to contact the Election Board directly.

Vickie Hass

City Clerk

690 Chesterfield Pkwy W

Chesterfield, MO 63017-0760

So now incumbent Barry Flachsbart will have to campaign against a "ghost" candidate who has his name on the ballot, but doesn't want to run.

THE WIFE RESPONDED: On February 3 I received an email from Mark's wife. It was interesting because in the header it showed "Adel Van Donsel" but her email address of adelaidapeterson@yahoo.com uses her old first and last names.

She was upset at why I used her name and that she supported Bernie Sanders and a photo of her husband, her and the kids off of facebook.

She didn't understand that when she filed to run against a former mayor and former councilwoman (Nancy Greenwood) in Chesterfield in 2013 she became a public figure. When I learned that she and her husband had filed papers in Circuit Court to change their names a month after she used another name in a political campaign it makes that fact a news event. The same goes for her husband.

For me, a person that spent 30-years in law enforcement when someone changes their name the first things I think of is that it was done to hide a criminal past, lawsuits or a bankruptcy. After checking I found none of those concerning Peterson/Van Donsel. It appeared that he was mad at his family and wanted a different name.

AN UNUSUAL WARD 1 PROBLEM: Voters used to having just one city council race on the ballot might be confused with two on the ballot in Chesterfield's Ward 1. Barry Flachsbart is running to reelection to his 2-year term. Barb McGuinness is running for a one-year term to replace the late Nancy Greenwood.

There is some fear of that residents who don't pay close attention might think that Flachsbart and McGuinness are running against each other. It appears as if they will to some degree run as a team. It doesn't look like they will buy new signs, but perhaps have a shared mailer. Clearly these two are the most independent of all the city council members.



CHESTERFIELD POLICE BREAK UP TWO OUT OF STATE THEFT RINGS:



Constance A. Helms, 40, of Griffin, Georgia was arrested on 12/23/16 trying to pass four forged checks at the U.S. Bank in Hilltown Village. Read the police department's statement of the event below.

Forgery Arrest/National Forgery Ring - Warrants were issued charging a 40-year old woman from Georgia with four counts of forgery in connection with her attempt to cash a \$1900.00 check at the U.S. Bank in Hilltown Village. Investigation revealed that the check was stolen along with a purse and identification cards from Maryland Heights. The suspect also fraudulently cashed several other checks at other US Bank locations throughout the St. Louis. Several wigs were found in her vehicle which she had used to make her look like her victim's photos on their ID cards. She is believed to be part of a larger group or ring of people, known to law enforcement as the Felony Lane Gang, who systematically commit such offenses across the country.

FAKE CREDIT CARD RING MEMBER ARRESTED: Darrell Chapman, 35, a Trinidad-Tobago native living at 8406 Avenue J in Brooklyn NY was arrested on December 10, 2015 at the Best Buy Store. Chapman had flown to St. Louis with the cloned credit cards. Police recovered \$15,000 in stolen items.



Darrell Chapman

Cloning Credit Cards - Warrants were issued charging a 35-year old Trinidad and Tobago man with Felony Fraudulent Use of a Credit Device. The suspect, who had flown in to St. Louis from New York, cloned credit cards which were then used at Best Buy Stores throughout the St. Louis area. The suspect's arrest by Chesterfield police officers resulted in the recovery of more than \$15,000.00 worth of stolen merchandise.

Date: December 11, 2015

I, Trevor McBride, DSN 0274, Chesterfield Police Department, knowing that false statements on this form are punishable by law, state that the facts contained herein are true. I have probable cause to believe that on December 10, 2015, at 178 THF Boulevard, Darrell Chapman, Black, Male, DOB [REDACTED]/1980, [REDACTED], [REDACTED] lbs, committed one or more criminal offense(s).

Count: 01 FORGERY - CLASS C FELONY

The facts supporting this belief are as follows: Chesterfield police responded to a report of a suspicious person at the Best Buy store. Upon arrival, they were directed to defendant, who was in the parking lot after having unsuccessfully attempted to use an American Express card to buy an Apple MacBook.

Defendant had an expired New York driver's license in his name and also what purported to be a North Carolina driver's license in his name. He also had what appeared to be several American Express cards, all embossed with defendant's name on the front; the account numbers on the cards, although they were ~~legitimate American Express account numbers,~~ were all issued to individuals other than defendant. Defendant confessed to police that he had purchased the credit cards, knowing that they were fraudulent, from an unnamed individual in New York, then flown to St. Louis with the intention of using the cards to purchase laptop computers, which he then intended to sell on Craigslist. Police located three MacBook computers and an Apple Watch inside defendant's car.

FLORISSANT MAN CHARGED WITH CHESTERFIELD THEFT: Ray Anthony Farmer, 43, of Florissant was arrested for a November 19, 2015 offense of Stealing Over \$500 (\$48,000) from a Chesterfield home. He was indicted on February 3, 2016. He was also indicted for Stealing Over \$500 in Ladue that occurred on 11/23/15.



Ray Anthony Farmer

Felony Stealing – Warrants were issued charging a 43-year old Florissant man with Felony Stealing after he stole jewelry and lawn equipment from a Chesterfield resident totaling \$48,850.00 dollars. The suspect’s parole has since been revoked due to these charges.

While Farmer had lawsuits prior to 2010 involving credit, unemployment claims, paternity and protection order over stalking, his criminal record did not start until 2010.

<u>Offense Date</u>	<u>Charge</u>	<u>Police Dept.</u>
11/23/15	Stealing O/\$500	Ladue PD
11/19/15	Stealing O/\$500	Chesterfield PD
06/30/14	Stealing O/\$500	St. John PD PG 3 years prison early release
06/23/14	Stealing O/\$500	Rock Hill PD 3 years prison early release
11/12/13	Stealing O/\$500	Warren Co. Sheriff 5 year probation
	Probation Revoked 11/6/14	Warren CO Circuit Court 5 years prison
01/28/11	Stealing U/\$500	St. Peters PD 2 years probation
	Probation revoked 3/17/14	St. Charles Circuit Court 120 Days jail
12/20/10	Stealing O/\$500	Hazelwood 5 years probation
	Probation revoked 4/29/14	St. Louis CO Circuit Court 4 years jail early rel

FIREFIGHTERS UNION, MONARCH FIRE CAPTAIN AND FIRE TRUCK ENGINEER FOUND GUILTY OF ETHICS VIOLATIONS IN FLIERS PRINTED AGAINST FIRE BOARD PRESIDENT ROBIN HARRIS IN 2015 ELECTION

On February 8 the Missouri Ethics Commission (MEC) found against The Professional Firefighters of West County (an arm of Firefighters Local 2665), Monarch Fire District Capt. Chris Gelven and Engineer Craig Charleville.

The ruling was in connection with the election eve flier put on voter's doors with a Monarch Logo making it seem like it came from the Fire District telling residents to watch Elliott Davis' "You Paid For It" on KTVI that night for an exposé on Board President Robin Harris.

URGENT!



PLEASE WATCH FOX CHANNEL 2 NEWS TONIGHT
AT 9:00PM. ELLIOTT DAVIS WILL BE DOING A
"YOU PAID FOR IT"
EXPOSING MONARCH FIRE PROTECTION DISTRICT
INCUMBENT BOARD OF DIRECTOR ROBIN HARRIS
CAMPAIGNING WITH YOUR TAX DOLLARS!

There were two problems about the flier. First there was no exposé on Harris by Elliott Davis. Secondly the flier did not show who paid for it. In this case it was paid for by The Professional Firefighters of West County, plus Gelven and Charleville union officers of Professional Firefighters of West County who were anything but professional.

The Ethics Commission fined the Professional Firefighters of West County, Gelvin and Charleville each \$100. We think they should be able to afford to pay the fines. Charville made \$99,268 in 2015. Gelvin pulled in \$92,819.

The entire ruling of the Ethics Commission is on the homepage of our website.

CHESTERFIELD CITY COUNCIL MEMBERS APPEAR TO HAVE TRIED TO STRIP MORE POWERS AWAY FROM MAYOR NATION BUT THEN BACKED DOWN AT THE LAST MINUTE:

Bob Nation wants to appoint City Services Director Mike Geisel as the Interim City Administrator to replace Michael Herring who retires on March 30. A majority on the city council want to hire Geisel as the replacement. Nation wants to do a search and interview other candidates.

Currently by ordinance and state law the City Council picks the city administrator and their selection is approved by the mayor. For City Attorney the Mayor picks a candidate and the selection has to be approved by the council.

At the Wednesday February 17 City Council meeting a bill was to be first read to change the rules and allow the city council to appoint and enter into a contract with signed by "City Administrator Pro Tem." This would violate existing law that requires the mayor to enter into contracts. Instead of the mayor, the bill would have Council President Pro Tem and opponent of Mayor Nation, Connie Fults enter into the contract.



Another bill would hire Chesterfield Service Director Mike Geisel as the "City Administrator Pro Tem" at \$160,000 a year. It could be renewed by the Council every six months again leaving the mayor out of the picture.

Finally under new legislation there was a resolution from Mayor Nation to hire an outside attorney to review the bills written by Interim City Attorney Harry O'Rourke.

In the end there was no motion to even have a first reading of the two bills and with the bills being off the table the resolution for outside review was mute.

Part of a statement by Mayor Nation during the Council meeting included the following:

The legislative action contemplated by these bills is inconsistent, contrary, and repugnant to existing state statutes as well as city ordinances and city code. The reasoning and justification provided for these bills by interim city attorney is convoluted and does not hold water.

*When you go to read and understand the statutes that Mr. O'Rourke refers to as his justification for the amendment to ordinance 8, section 17, i.e. RsMo 77.370, 77.330, and 77.590, I find that he has failed to read or state the entire portions that are applicable. Specifically, 77.590 (although it seems to be addressing fines and penalties) states that council may "enact and make all such ordinances and rules, **not inconsistent with the laws of the state**"...*

*He also refers to 77.370 which pertains to **elective officers** and the option to appoint certain officers and terms. **The City Administrator position never was an elected position and the appointed positions referred to do not include that of city administrator.***

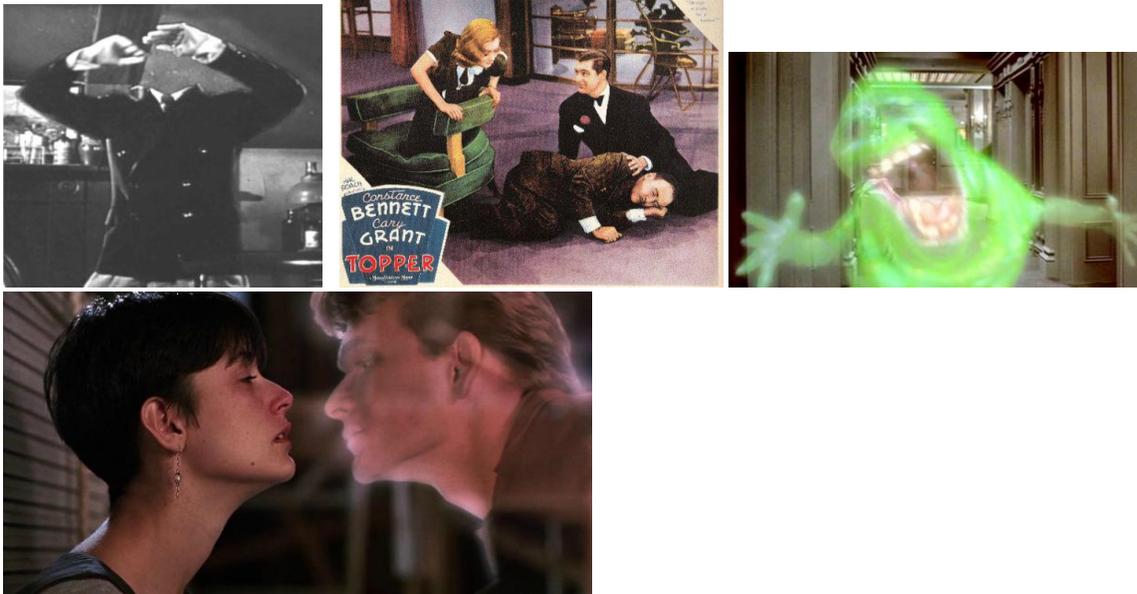
LAW, WE DON'T NEED TO FOLLOW NO STINK'N LAW: The next three items would indicate the lack of desire by some of the Council and the current city attorney to follow the law.



SECRET MEETING HELD BY INVISIBLE COUNCIL MEMBERS: The two bills were brought up by the "Committee as a Whole." However there was no announced meeting as required by law and no public announcement of a vote by "Committee as the Whole" to put the bills on the agenda.

This caused Bob Nation to ask in the agenda review meeting before the February 17 Council Meeting when the "Committee as a Whole" met, where they met, where the meeting notice was posted and what was the vote. No one could answer those questions.

Apparently Council President Pro-Tem Connie Fults has created her own rules and has failed to inform the mayor or the public.



Maybe the Claude Rains from the Invisible Man, Constance Bennett and Cary Grant from Topper and Slimer from Ghost Busters plus Patrick Swayze from Ghost filled in for some councilpersons for a Committee of of the Whole that no one could see, since they are all ghosts.

THE ICE CREAM LADY VERSUS THE ATTORNEY: In the agenda review meeting, Councilwoman Barb McGuinness brought into question how the bills were written by Harry O'Rourke. McGuinness and her husband produce product and operated the last store selling the classic St. Louis Velvet Freeze Ice Cream in North St. Louis County. She is also very good at doing legal research having pointed out how O'Rourke would in one sentence would state law or local ordinance to support the bills but ignored the next sentence that prohibited what O'Rourke's bills were attempting to accomplish, which was leaving the mayor out of the process.

90-minutes later McGuinness positions were confirmed by attorney Gary Cunningham, the husband of former senator and current Monarch Director Jane Cunningham and a former Presidential appointee to the U.S. Justice Department in Washington, DC and a later as the Deputy Assistant Secretary of the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Affairs, basically repeated much of what McGuinness had said earlier.

"...it's obvious to me that these proposed ordinances are an attempt to avoid the clear requirements of state statute (77.042) **AND** the City Code

(2-67), both of which **require** that the City Administrator be appointed by the Council **WITH THE APPROVAL OF THE MAYOR.**"

AT WHAT POINT will the Council comply with State law and its own Code?

Under Bill 3074, the Council would appoint a named individual as City Administrator Pro Tem and authorize the President Pro Tem of the Council - not the Mayor who is specifically **REQUIRED** by ordinance and the City Code (2-29) to execute **all** contractual and legal documents approved by the Council - to enter into an employment agreement with the selected individual.

It's interesting that the draft employment agreement - and evidence of what might be considered the bad faith of the Council in this instance - provides for an annual performance review of the Pro Tem to take effect on January 1, **2017 AND** for a minimum salary increase also on January 1, **2017** to \$165,000 from the initial \$160,000.

It gratuitously provides for future reviews and adjustments thereafter. This sure doesn't sound like a temporary arrangement.

Irony and Vindictiveness : What is crazy here is that Mayor Nation wants to make Mike Geisel Interim City Administrator. He could make that happen with a simple resolution. The majority of the council wants to strip Nation of the ability to approve their appointments and make Mike Geisel the next city administrator.

While Geisel is certainly qualified and at times refreshingly direct, the idea of having interviews just in case you find someone even better is sound in principal.

I find it hard for me to argue with either approach. Save the money of a search and just hire Geisel or spend two months getting a list of qualified candidates to interview to make sure you are not missing a gem. Both make sense.

Nation wants to put Geisel in an Interim Position the day after Herring leaves office on March 30. The council led by Fults and opposed by Councilwoman Barb McGuinness and Mayor Nation, want to change the rules.

On this I don't understand why they can't comprise and go along with the mayor and announce Geisel as the Interim City Administrator.

"They are trying to do anything and everything they can to undermine my authority. They don't understand the balance of power," said Bob Nation of the council's attempted to remove duties of the mayor and turn him into a master of ceremonies.

THE PEOPLE SPEAK: While Gary Cunningham's statement was both insightful and damning of the bills that were on the agenda but never introduced. But maybe the most assuming exchange of the night was the following between resident Wade Luther and councilwoman Barb McGuinness:

"We cleaned house in the Monarch Fire District and we are going to clean house in Chesterfield too," exclaimed Luther.

This caused the following response from McGuinness:

"Hey Wade! Tell you what I just got here. I have only been here three months. If you could give me some slack I'd appreciate it."

GOSEN SEX SCANDAL: If you did not read my breaking news items posted on 02/18/16 on our website, take a look as we provided the whole story on the Gosen resignation. It is too bad that Post-Dispatch Columnist Tony Messenger didn't read it before interviewing Gosen at his Wildwood State Farm Insurance Office. Messenger wrote the following:

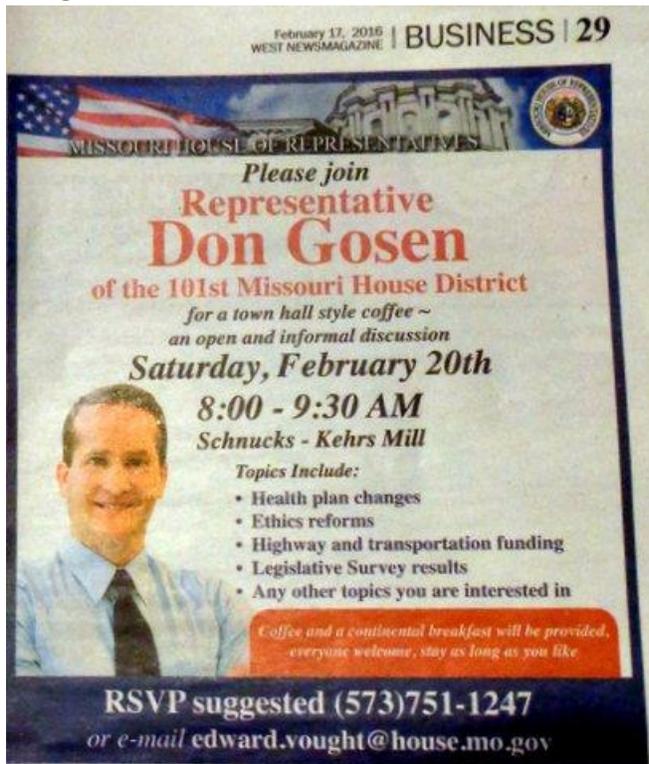
It's the sexts and video — or at least the rumor of their existence — that led to his rapid fall from grace. Those rumors made their way to Speaker of the House Todd Richardson on Monday. He called Gosen into his office and asked for his resignation.

Gosen said he had already made that decision, after telling his wife and daughters what had happened.

Gosen didn't break the news to his wife. His girlfriend already had. We confirmed from still another source that our information was correct. Gosen had convinced his latest girlfriend that he was divorced. When she was pushing for a date for their "destination wedding" so she could print invitations, he broke up with her.

She then drove to his home in Ballwin on the weekend to surprise him, rang the doorbell and met Mrs. Gosen instead of the divorced Don. The latest information we received is that Mrs. Gosen invited her in and they waited in the kitchen for Don to return home from running errands. SURPRISE!

Then there was this ad that appeared in the West Magazine the day after Gosen resigned.



Yes, Don planned a coffee discussion with the voters at the Schnuck's Supermarket in Ballwin on Kehr's Mill Road. If he showed up think of the questions you could ask.

- 1) What area in the Capital do you get the best lighting for a sex video?
- 2) If you are taking a "Donald Ducking" selfie, do you hold the camera out in front of you to get the bottom of your shirt and your pubic area or do you hold the camera up and get a downward shot?

- 3) When you convince your girlfriend you are divorced how do you explain the ring mark left on your finger from the wedding ring?
- 4) Have you ever heard of Wilber Mills and Fannie Fox or Wayne Hayes and Elizabeth Ray or John and Rita Jenrette or Gary Hart and Donna Rice, how about former Speaker of the House John Diehl or former Senator Paul Levota?
- 5) Really? I needed a RSVP to go to a Schnuck's supermarket?

If you missed our Breaking News Report on the Gosen sex scandal here is the link to it:

http://johnhoffmann.net/gosen_scandal.pdf

Here are a few comments from our readers on the Gosen affair:

Donald duck had a hat [as well] (In reference to Donald Ducking where we wrote it was just wearing a shirt and nothing else)

Hey good reporting here!!

Maybe men are seeking election to state posts simply to join that party club you mention

every country has "bright" politicians like this guy???!!! (This comment was from one of our European readers. Yes we have readers in Europe and Australia.)

A LINK TO GOSEN BEING LESS THAN HONEST: Taped on Friday and aired on Sunday the lightweight This Week in Missouri Politics talk show started last week with Gosen apologizing but not really giving any details. Here is a link to the show:

<https://thisweekinmissouripolitics.com/2016/02/21/this-week-in-missouri-politics-february-21-2016/>

CURRENT SALES TAX LEADERS IN CHESTERFIELD: How much sales tax a store generates is closed information and city finance directors don't even share that information with elected officials. However the ranking of sales tax generators is another story. Here are the city leaders in sales tax from the latest numbers.

TOP TEN SALES TAX GENERATORS – CITYWIDE (BRICKS/MORTAR)

CURRENT REPORT

1. SAM'S CLUB

LAST REPORT

SAM'S CLUB

- | | |
|-------------------------------|-------------------------|
| 2. WAL-MART | WAL-MART |
| 3. DIERBERG'S – CLARKSON ROAD | DIERBERG'S- CLARKSON RD |
| 4. TARGET | TARGET |
| 5. MACY'S | MACY'S |
| 6. HOME DEPOT | HOME DEPOT |
| 7. SCHNUCKS | SCHNUCK'S |
| 8. LOWES | LOEWS |
| 9. BEST BUY | BEST BUY |
| 10. DIERBERGS – FOUR SEASONS | DILLARD'S |

If you didn't notice Dierberg's knocked Dillards out of the 10th place.

TOP TEN SALES TAX GENERATING RESTAURANTS – CITYWIDE (INCLUDING FOOD TRUCKS, THERE ARE 175 RESTAURANTS CURRENTLY LICENSED IN CHESTERFIELD!)

CURRENT REPORT

LAST REPORT

- | | |
|----------------------------------|---------------------|
| 1. ANNIE GUNN'S | ANNIE GUNN'S |
| 2. CHEESECAKE FACTORY | CHEESECAKE FACTORY |
| 3. CHICK FIL A | CHICK FIL A |
| 4. EDGEWILD | EDGEWILD |
| 5. PF CHANG'S | P.F. CHANG'S |
| 6. RED LOBSTER | RED LOBSTER |
| 7. OLIVE GARDEN | OLIVE GARDEN |
| 8. 54 TH STREET GRILL | 54th STREET GRILL |
| 9. BREAD CO. – AIRPORT ROAD | BREAD CO AIRPORT RD |
| 10. YIA YIA'S | YIA YIA'S |

FYI, MCDONALD'S, LOCATED ON CLARKSON ROAD, JUST SOUTH OF THE MALL, IS RANKED #17 AND THE MCDONALDS', ON LONG ROAD IS 18.

I find it interesting that Chick Fil-A that is closed on Sunday has generated the third most revenue of all restaurants. Also Chick-Fil-A and Bread Co. are in the top ten without selling any alcoholic products.

WE HAVE QUESTIONS FOR THE NUTRITION COMMITTEE:



We understand the "Nutrition Committee" at the Chesterfield City Hall chooses what goes in the vending machine. With the exception of the Doritos the chips don't look unhealthy. Of course from that group the only ones I would buy are the Doritos and the Chex Mix.

The third row has Animal Crackers and Oreos plus Pop Tarts. Pop Tarts! A package of two Pop tarts contains 440 calories.

From the bottom two rows I can understand the cheese and crackers, bag of peanuts, but a Snicker's bar? Here is a breakdown on that Snicker's Bar.

Nutrition Facts

Calories 250

(1045 kJ)

Calories from fat 108		
		% Daily Value ¹
Total Fat	12g	18%
Sat. Fat	4.5g	23%
Trans Fat	0g	
Cholesterol	5mg	2%
Sodium	120mg	5%
Total Carbs.	33g	11%
Dietary Fiber	1g	4%
Sugars	27g	
Protein	4g	
Calcium	40mg	

I mentioned to a high ranking woman in Chesterfield city government and asked how the Nutrition Committee could pick a Snickers bar. "Snickers bars are very good for one's mental health," was the answer.

CHESTERFIELD POLICE BLOTTER



CHESTERFIELD POLICE DEPARTMENT Media Report February 10, 2016 - February 16, 2016

02/16/2016, 1330

1XX CHESTERFIELD MALL Dillard's Larceny under \$500 Shoplifting (Retail Store)

Brief Narrative Description: Unknown subject concealed clothing and left store without paying.

02/15/2016 1900 to 02/16/2016, 1200

17XXX NORTH OUTER 40 RD Taubmann Outlet Mall Fraud Credit Card

Brief Narrative Description: Unknown subject used victim's debit card information to make purchases.

02/16/2016, 0900 to 02/16/2016, 1700

17XXX NORTH OUTER 40 RD Taubmann Outlet Mall Larceny under \$500 from Auto

Brief Narrative Description: Unknown subject took license plate off of vehicle.

02/16/2016,2204

5XX TRADE CENTER BLVD Machine Laboratory Resisting Arrest

Brief Narrative Description: 29 yo male ran from officer on routine traffic stop into place of employment to avoid arrest for outstanding warrants.

02/07/2016, 1500

17XXX NORTH OUTER 40 RD Sunglass Hut Larceny under \$500

Shoplifting (Retail Store)

Brief Narrative Description: Unknown subject concealed sunglasses and left store without paying.

02/15/2016, 0151

13XXX OLIVE BLVD 7-11 Fraud Counterfeit Bills

Brief Narrative Description: Unknown subject passed counterfeit currency to business.

02/13/2016, 1300 to 02/15/2016, 0900

20XX BAXTER RD Property Damage to Mailbox

Brief Narrative Description: Unknown subject knocked over victim's mailbox.

12/15/2015, 1200

2XX CHESTERFIELD MALL 4 Ever Men Larceny under \$500 Employer

Brief Narrative Description: 19 yo male used an improper employee discount to purchase clothes from employer.

02/14/2016, 1330

16XXX NORTH OUTER 40 RD Hardee's Ice Complex Larceny under \$500 from Auto

Brief Narrative Description: Unknown subject broke out window on victim's vehicle and took a purse.

Purse later recovered in another jurisdiction.

02/13/2016, 1035

CHESTERFIELD AIRPORT RD & CHESTERFIELD COMMONS XING & BOONES XING

Drugs Possession -Misdemeanor

Brief Narrative Description: 24 yo female in possession of marijuana and paraphernalia after being stopped for a traffic violation.

01/27/2016, 1846 to 01/29/2016 1522

18XXX OUTLET BLVD Burlington Coat Factory Larceny over \$500 Employer

Brief Narrative Description: 21 yo female conducted fraudulent return and used the merchandise credit to buy clothing.

01/27/2016, 2159 to 01/30/2016 2041

18XXX OUTLET BLVD Burlington Coat Factory Larceny under \$500 Employer

Brief Narrative Description: 18 yo female conducted fraudulent return and used the merchandise credit to purchase clothing.

02/13/2016, 2156

OLIVE BLVD & RIVER BEND DR Liquor Violation Minor In Possession

Brief Narrative Description: 20 yo male in possession of alcohol after being stopped for a traffic violation.

02/12/2016, 0310

HWY 64 EAST & TIMBERLAKE Drugs Possession - Felony

Brief Narrative Description: 31 yo male and 39 yo female in possession of Amphetamines and paraphernalia after being stopped for a traffic violation.

02/12/2016, 0715

18XXX EDISON AVE The Sound Room Possession of Stolen Property Other

Brief Narrative Description: 26 yo male in possession of stolen stereo equipment.

02/12/2016, 0630 to 02/12/2016, 1130

14XXX NORTH OUTER 40 RD Mercy Rehab Stolen Vehicle Automobile

Brief Narrative Description: 47 yo female took victim's car off of parking lot after originally returning it for a test drive. Vehicle later recovered in Jefferson County

02/12/2016, 1605

11XX CABINVIEW CT Assault Common - Actual Assault

Brief Narrative Description: 75 yo male and 75 yo female pushed each other after argument causing no injuries.

02/12/2016, 1846

1XX LONG RD BP Liquor Violation Minor In Possession

Brief Narrative Description: 18 yo male in possession of alcohol and fake ID after suspicious person check.

02/12/2016, 2035

2XX CHESTERFIELD MALL Claire's Larceny under \$500 Shoplifting (Retail Store)

Brief Narrative Description: 33 yo female concealed jewelry and cosmetics and left store without paying. Also in

possession of stolen property from nearby store.

02/07/2016, 1600 to 02/12/2016, 1700

15XX AMISK CT Fraud Identity Theft

Brief Narrative Description: Unknown subject used victim's information to change passwords in her banking and phone accounts

12/01/2015, 1200 to 02/12/2016 0655

13XXX OLIVE BLVD 7-11 Larceny over \$500 Employer

Brief Narrative Description: 23 yo male took money from cash register while working for employer.

02/12/2016, 1416

2XX HEATHER CREST DR Fraud Identity Theft

Brief Narrative Description: Unknown subject used victim's information to open up credit account.

02/09/2016, 1800 to 02/10/2016, 0815

1XX LONG RD Unique Home Audio Property Damage to Business

Brief Narrative Description: Unknown subject broke front window of business and a window on company vehicle.

02/10/2016, 1150

1XX HILLTOWN VILLAGE CTR Schnucks Larceny under \$500 Shoplifting (Retail Store)

Brief Narrative Description: 25 yo female concealed liquor and left store without paying.

02/10/2016, 0930

19XX YORK RIDGE CT Fraud Credit Card

Brief Narrative Description: Unknown subject used victim's credit card information to make purchases.

02/10/2016, 1623

1XX THF BLVD Walmart Larceny under \$500 Shoplifting (Retail Store)

Brief Narrative Description: 18 yo male concealed charging cord and left store without paying.

02/10/2016, 2100 02/10/2016, 2100

13XXX RIVERWAY DR D Assault Common - Actual Assault

Brief Narrative Description: 25 yo female scratched and threatened victim with a knife after argument causing minor injuries. After arrest, officer was injured by concealed knife on subject.



THE HOT STOVE LEAGUE: These are updated stories about baseball players who I wrote about in daily newspaper and website stories and weekly columns on minor league baseball on the East Coast. This week's topic is a few of the players I wrote about who made it to the big leagues.

Making the big leagues isn't the first hurdle for baseball players in the minor leagues. Making it to Double-A is the first big jump. The number of players in the full season Class-A level is cut in half in Double-A, Major League teams have two Class-A full season teams but only one Double-A team and one Triple-A team. So, most minor league players don't even make it to Double-A let along the big leagues. Here are a few stories of players who made it for a long career, a few years career or a few games career in the big leagues.

Coo-Coo Freeman: I interviewed Raphael Freeman when he was playing A-Ball for the Colorado Rockies' affiliate the Asheville Tourists. Concerning his nickname Freeman said it was not baseball related.

"My grandmother's house backed up to train tracks. When I was little I'd ask when the Coo-Coo was coming and ever since they called me Choo-Choo," said Freeman who was 19-years-old in 1999.

Despite having the nick name of Choo-Choo, Freeman got upset in 2000 when the Frederick Keys in Carolina League would play a train horn over the PA system every time he came up and he asked them to stop.

Freeman at the time held the Texas high school football record of catching 50 touchdown passes. He was on three teams (football, basketball and baseball) for Dallas Christian High School in Mesquite Texas that won six state titles. Freeman was offered a football scholarship to Texas A&M, but turned it down to play baseball.

"With football there are always injury risks. In college if you don't produce right away, you don't play. In pro-baseball they give you a chance to play. A young player has to play a lot to improve," said Freeman.

Coo-Coo made it to the big leagues with brief stays with the Rockies in 2004, 2005 and 2006. He played 151 games and hit just .225 when he was released.



Choo's last year was playing Triple-A for the Dodgers in Las Vegas . After that season he had to get a hip replacement which affectively ended his sports career.

Matt Holiday: Matt was on the same team as Freeman. He was a 6-foot-4 215-pound 19-year-old. In 1998 Holiday was thinking he'd stay at home in Stillwater, Oklahoma and play for his dad, Tom Holliday, who was the head coach of Oklahoma State's baseball team. But in June Holiday was drafted in seventh round of the baseball draft and decided to sign with the Rockies.

"My dad wanted me to do what I thought was best for me. I like the Rockies organization and they gave me a fair deal," said Holliday, who played three years at the Class-A level despite later becoming a huge big league star.

Matt's brother Josh Holliday, a catcher, did play for his father at OSU before signing with the Toronto Blue Jays. Josh's highest level was Low-A full season with the Hagerstown Suns where he hit .220. Josh is now the head baseball coach at Oklahoma State.



Matt Holiday



Josh Holliday

Dustan Mohr: Dustan played seven years in the big leagues, spending three seasons as an outfielder with the Minnesota Twins. His best year at the plate was in 2004 for the San Francisco Giants. In 1998 he was playing in the Maryland Fall Instructional League for the Delmarva Rockfish.

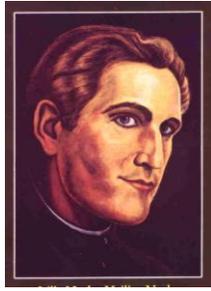
I happened to have a neighbor who was the White House/Presidential physician with the same last name who was a very distant relative of Joseph Mohr, the Austrian priest who wrote the words to Silent Night (music by Franz Gruber) in 1818.

Dustan Mohr is from Hattiesburg, Mississippi. My neighbor was from Staten Island New York City. But I decided I'd ask Mohr if he was related to the famous Christmas song writer. It was in the clubhouse and he looked down as if he was about to discuss a national security issue and admitted his family are very distinct relatives to the priest.

He then whispered, "I never mention it because around a baseball clubhouse nobody is going to believe it."



Dustan Mohr



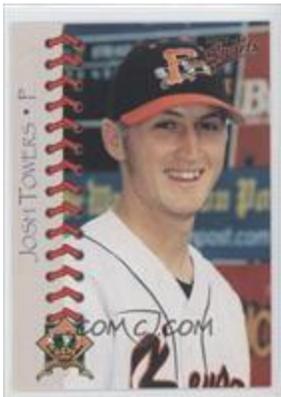
Distant relative Fr. Joseph Mohr

Mohr is now living in Fort Wayne, Indiana. He had been working for an insurance brokerage firm, but recently became director of baseball operations for AWP Sports Performance.

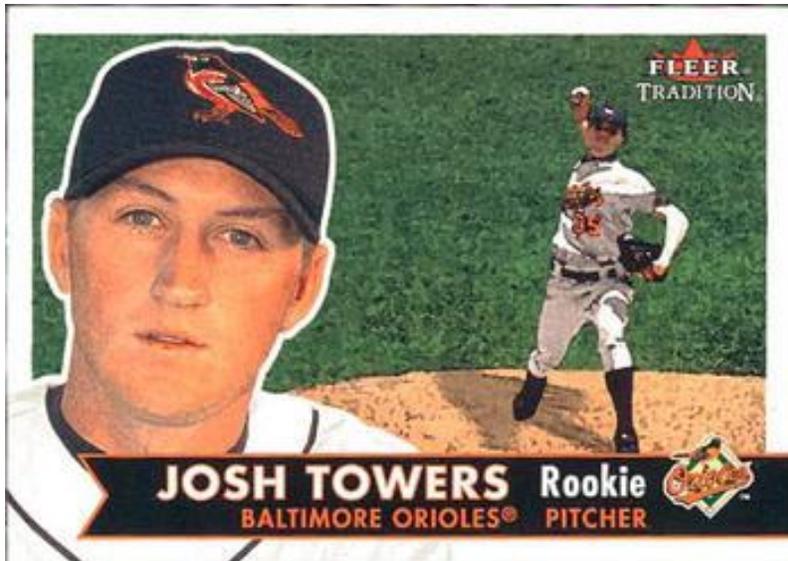
Josh 'CONTROL' Towers: To me he was "Pitcher Dude" because he was from Southern California and talked like he was a surfer dude. Other baseball writers nicknamed him "Control Towers" because he rarely walked anyone which might have been a reason for his downfall. I knew Josh when he pitched for Class-A Frederick and Class-AA Bowie, Baltimore Orioles farm clubs.

He used to tell me, "Be a man throw strikes. That's my motto."

One time I pointed out to him how his record was better in games where he walked two or more batters than it was in games with one or no walks.



The Orioles wanted him to throw more pitches outside of the strike zone so batters would not be expecting something over the plate on every delivery. The Orioles' minor league pitching coaches and farm director wanted him to keep batters off balance. None of this kept Josh from making the big leagues. Before we go further let us say that for a baseball player to sign a profession contract makes him an elite person among all those who had played the game. To make it to the big leagues whether for a week or 15 years is a major accomplishment.



All that said Josh was in the big leagues for all or part of eight seasons.

Perhaps what holds Josh in high regard to all of us lifetime "Yankee Haters" is what he did in 2007 on August 7 when pitching for the Toronto Blue Jays against the Yankees. A month earlier in a game at Toronto Alex Rodriguez was on the bases and yelled "Mine, Mine, Mine" when Blue Jay infielder Howie Clark was under a popup. Clark, who had been Towers' teammate since their days in the Orioles farm system thought the shortstop or an outfielder was racing in to catch the ball and moved out of the way only to have the ball drop and the Yankees win to avoid a sweep. Towers was not soon to forget this.

On August 7 in the middle of the game with the Towers on the mound and Blue Jays holding a lead, Rodriguez was up. Towers drilled him in the ribs with a fast ball as a payback for what he had done to Clark. Rodriguez headed to the mound and the benches emptied. Calm was restored and Rodriguez was on first base and Towers was still in the game when Yankee first base coach and former Cardinal catcher Tony Pena began yelling at Towers. Josh fired back at Pena yelling that he was a quitter (a year earlier Pena resigned as the Kansas City Royals manager in the middle of the season).



Towers facing Rodriguez.



Howie Clark missing a pop up a month earlier

This time Pena charged the mound, both benches emptied and Towers was tossed. The Blue Jays also removed him from the starting rotation to mop up duty in the bullpen.

Pitcher Dude's best season with the Orioles was in 2001 when he posted an 8-10 mark with a 4.49 ERA. He went to the Blue Jays in 2003 after being declared a free agent by the Orioles. His best record ever in the big leagues was in 2003 when he was 8-1 with a 4.48 ERA in just 14 games. In 2004 he was 9-9. He was 13-12 with a very respectable 3.81 ERA in 2005. In 2006 he was 2-10 with a 8.42 ERA

The 2007 season was his last with the Blue Jays. He finished with a 5-10 record and a 5.38 ERA.



In 2008 Towers was with the Rockies Triple-A farm club with a 6-7 with a 6.72 ERA. In 2009 he was pitching for the Yankee farm clubs in Syracuse and Scranton PA. He did get called up the Yankees joining Alex Rodriguez. He finished two games in relief pitching 5.1 innings with a 0-0 record and a 3.38 ERA.

In 2010 Josh pitched in 10 games for the Dodgers Triple-A team with a 2-5 mark and an 8.05 ERA in eight games. 2011 was his last season in pro ball pitching in both the Mexican League and for the non-affiliated Atlantic League Camden River Sharks.



Josh married since 2001 with a 12-year-old son and an 8-year-old daughter has lived in Las Vegas for some time. We spoke with him after he just finished coaching a 12-13 year old baseball game on a February Saturday afternoon.

Josh had operated a baseball instructional camp until November of 2015 when he closed it after taking a full time job as a mortgage lender in the depressed Las Vegas housing market. Josh admitted that some of the real estate investments he had made during the 2009 recession, which hit Las Vegas harder than most places, tanked.

For the last three years he has been on the radio broadcast team doing UNLV Rebel baseball games.

In 2013 he was the pitching coach for the Gulf Coast Mets the lowest of all rookie leagues. The Gulf Coast League is a short season where younger players signed out of high school or from the Dominican Republic get their first taste of pro baseball. They normally play their games at 12 noon before the afternoon rains hits in front of crowds often no more than 10 or 20.

"I missed the Gulf Coast League as a player being drafted out of college. So it was a new experience and a transition for me," said Towers. "I was breaking up fights at the team's motel, telling players they couldn't have ear buds in listening to tunes when shagging fly balls during batting practice. But at the end of the season we had some success. Not in the wins and losses but having individual players get promoted to the next level.

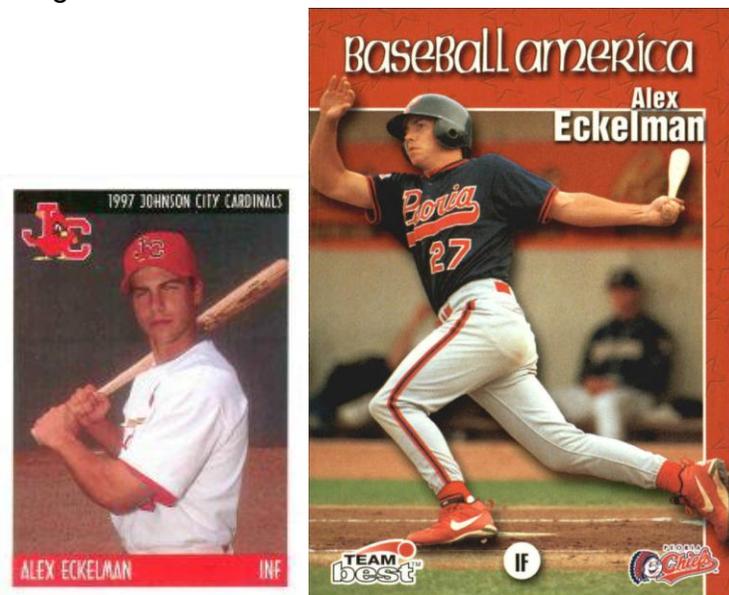
Towers did not return to coaching in 2014 due to family commitments, but is ready to now. He said he made overtures to the Mets and the Orioles for minor league coaching jobs.

"When I'm in a baseball uniform, I'm comfortable, he said.

Alex Eckelman: Alex was the captain of the 1992 **Chaminade** baseball team that won the state championship with a 26-0 season. He went to Ohio State where he graduated with an English degree, something you don't often see on the bio of a professional baseball player.

Eckelman was not drafted by any team in the 1997 player draft. He did sign a contract with the Richmond, Indiana Frontier League independent baseball team where he was 6-for-12 hitting .500 when the Cardinals signed him.

In 1997 he hit .327 for Johnson City (Tenn.) in the short season rookie Appalachian League.



In 1998 he started with the Cardinals' full-season Peoria farm club in the low-A Midwest League where he hit .327 in 16 games and was promoted to High-A Potomac Cannons in the Carolina League where he finished the season with just 89 at bats but hit .292.

In 1999 he struggled playing at both Potomac and AA Little Rock. He only hit .241 for Little Rock and just .191 for Potomac. It was while he was with Potomac that I interviewed him. (I always talked to players from the St. Louis area as I could break the ice making St. Louis references.)

Eckelman played all over the diamond for Potomac at shortstop, second base, third base and left field.

In 2000 he played in 85 games at Double-A Arkansas hitting .311 and six games at Triple-A Memphis where he hit .375.

2001 was his last year with the Cardinals. The Cards Double-A farm club had moved to New Haven in the Eastern League. Alex played all three outfield positions, third base, shortstop, second base and pitched twice in blowouts losses where the team ran out of pitchers. In those two games he pitched two scoreless innings. However he only hit .212 for the season.

The next two seasons it was back to the East Coast and back to non-affiliated Independent minor league baseball teams for Eckelman. He played for the Camden (NJ) River Sharks of the Atlantic League at shortstop and second base. In 2002 he hit .269 and in 2003 he hit .321 and got the attention of the Houston Astros.



Alex as a River Shark

In 2004 and 2005 he played for both Double-A and Triple-A Astros farm clubs. He hit .250 for Round Rock in the Pacific Coast League. It was his last season playing baseball.

So why is Eckelman included in these others who made it to the big leagues? Well he did make in a sense. He is now working for the front office of the Cleveland Indians as the assistant director of player development.



Alex Eckelman now appears in a Cleveland uniform during spring training

MUSIC: On Grammy night I left my wife in the den with the large screen TV watching the Grammys. I went into the living room and watched the January 5, 1964 Judy Garland Show with Steve Allen and Mel Torme as guests plus Mort Lindsey directing a studio orchestra on GetTV. I feel that I won the best music on TV contest for the night.



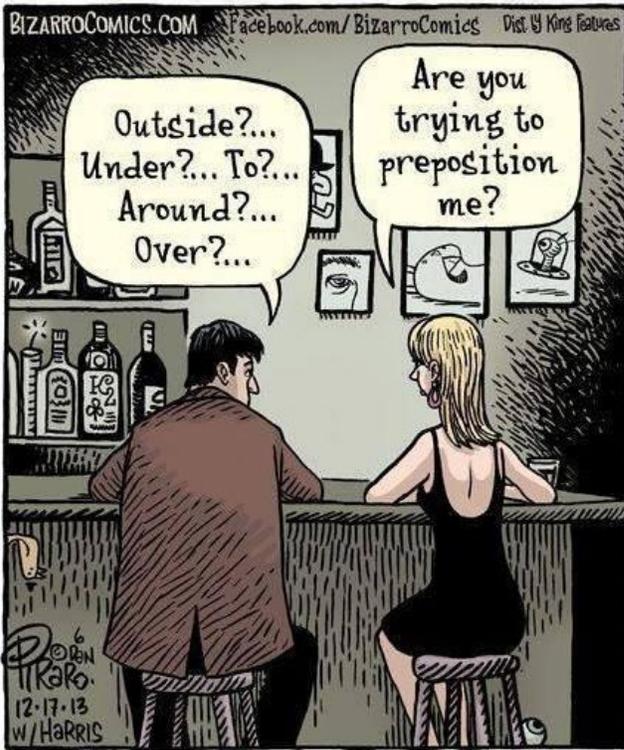
HAPPY BIRTHDAY TO THE GHOSTESS WITH THE MOSTEST: February 22 isn't just George Washington's birthday. It is also Marni Nixon's birthday. She turned 86. It wasn't Deborah Kerr you heard singing in the movie the King and I. It was Marni. It wasn't Natalie Wood you heard singing in movie version of West Side Story, it was Marni. In My Fair Lady you did not hear Audrey Hepburn sing Wouldn't it be Lovely or the Rain in Spain, it was all Marni. Time Magazine called her "The Ghostess with the Mostest."

She asked for royalties for her work in West Side Story but was turned down. Leonard Bernstein then gave her 1/4 of 1-percent of his royalties.

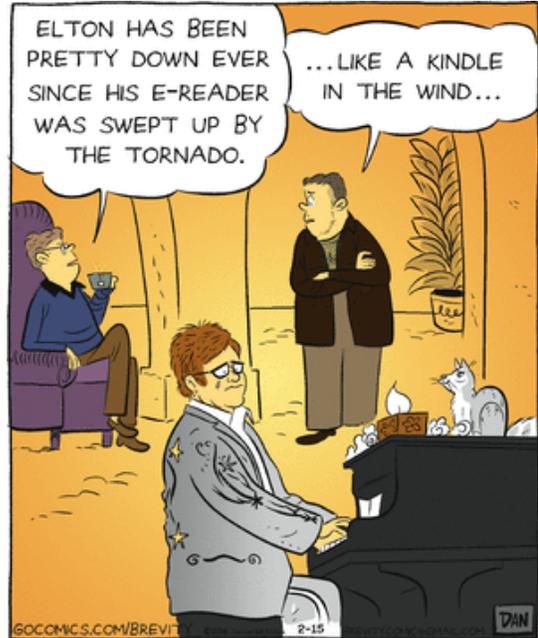


Deborah Kerr danced all night, but Marni Nixon sang it. Natalie Wood may have Felt Pretty but Marni sang it.

CARTOONS: Some of our favorites from last week and one from 2013.



shared by www.thebarefootwriter.com

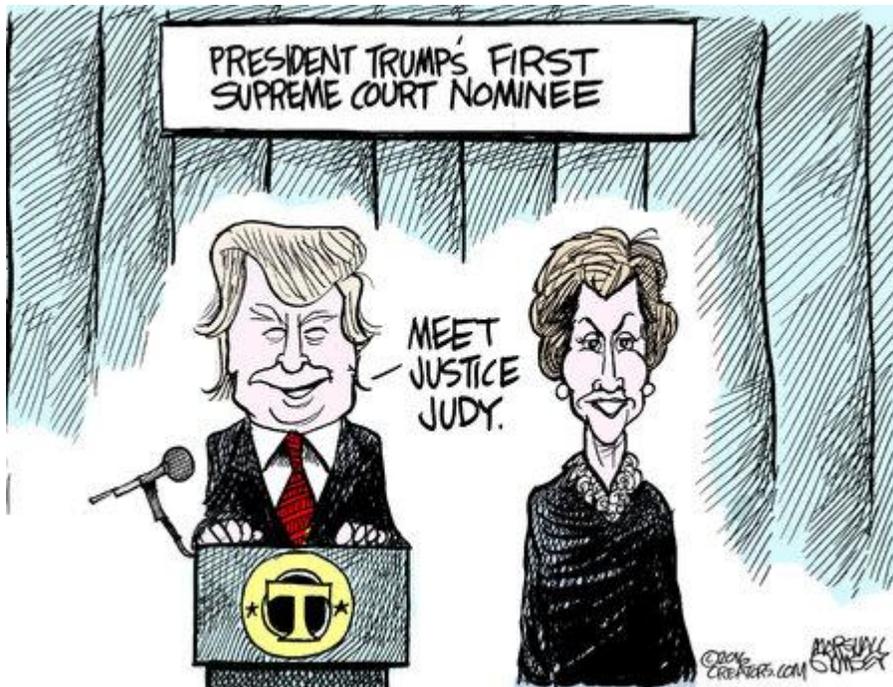




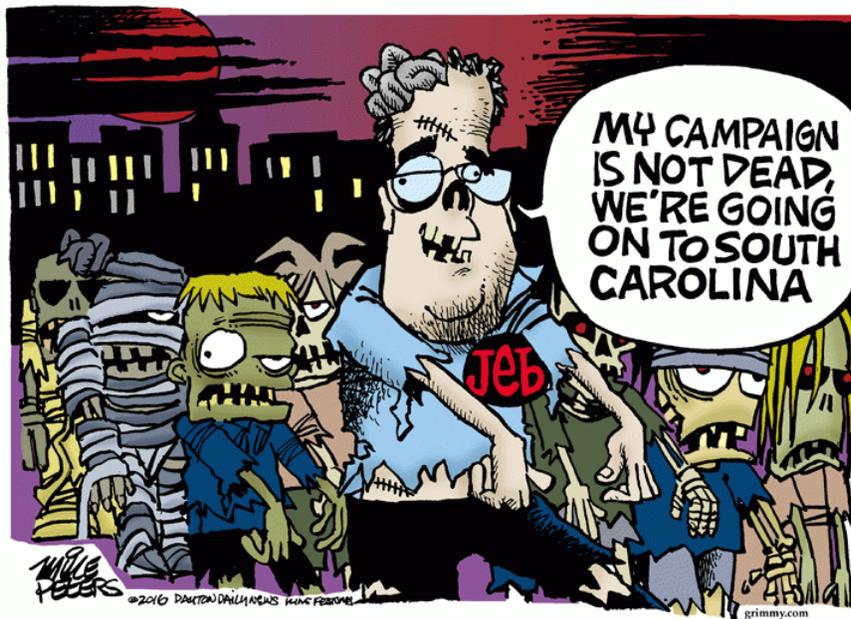
HOW HILLARY LEARNED TO BARK LIKE A DOG...











The campaign did die in South Carolina.