

EX ALDERMAN NEWSLETTER 175 AND CHESTERFIELD 120



By John Hoffmann

April 26, 2015

TOWN AND COUNTRY PROVISIONAL JUDGE IS DEFENSE ATTORNEY FOR DWI SUSPECT ARRESTED BY TOWN AND COUNTRY POLICE.

Someone asked me a very good question a couple of weeks ago that I could not answer. They asked me who the Provisional Judge for the Town and Country Municipal court is. I didn't know.

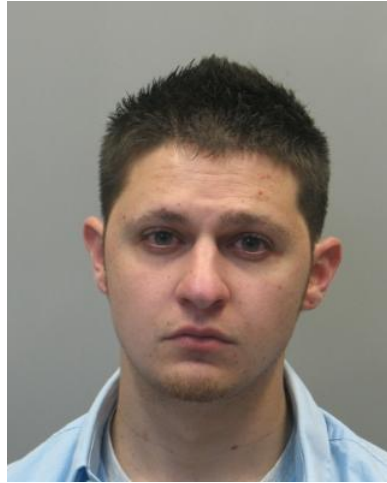
Provisional judges fill-in for the regular judge, if he/she is sick or otherwise can't attend court or if the regular judge has an ethical conflict of interest.

I asked several high ranking city officials, including the City Attorney and received the same answer when asked who the provisional judge was..."I don't know."

Finally I went to city hall during regular hours and asked the City Court Clerk Sharon Orlando who the provisional judge was. She knew and immediately said it was Rick Brunk and added, "We rarely ever use him."

This all brought the question of ethics or lack of ethics on the part of Brunk, dating back to a DWI arrest made by Cpl. Wolfe of the Town and Country Police Department of Samuel D. Phillips back on 02/27/12 when he clocked Samuel Phillips doing 85 mph on westbound I-64. He didn't get him stopped until Phillips had driven into Chesterfield. Wolfe arrested Phillips and took him back to Town and Country. However, Phillips was observed driving drunk in Chesterfield and could be prosecuted for up to one year in Chesterfield. His defense attorney was Rick Brunk, Chesterfield Judge.

Now we find out that Brunk was also the Town and Country Provisional Judge. He had no business representing a defendant who was arrested in Chesterfield, where Brunk is the judge and that was charged in Town and Country where Brunk was the provisional judge.



This information is provided as a service and is not considered an official court record.

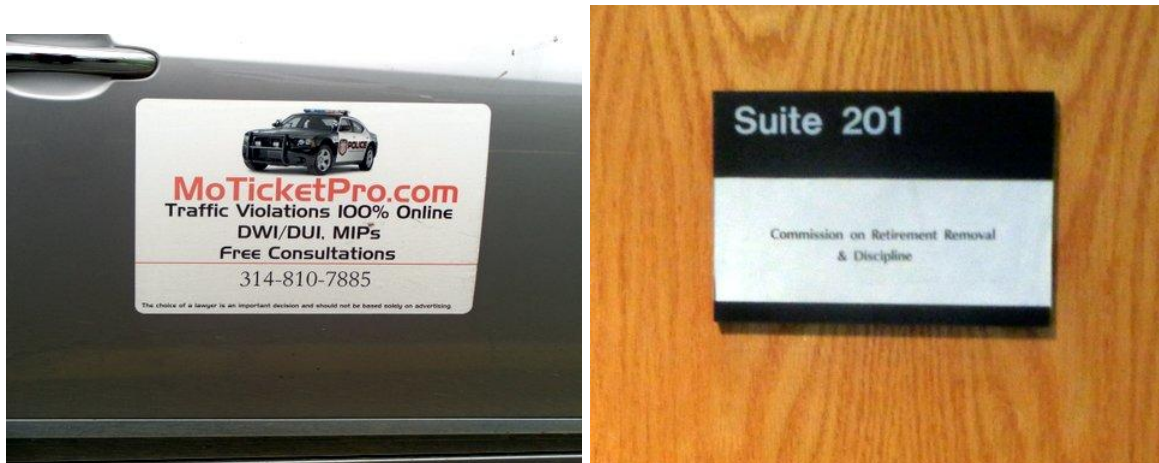
PHILLIPS , SAMUEL D , Defendant	represented by	BRUNK , RICHARD K JR , Attorney
1048 JOHANNA DRIVE BALLWIN, MO 63021		SUITE 700 13321 NORTH OUTER 40 ROAD CHESTERFIELD, MO 63017 Business: (636) 532-4244
Year of Birth: 1989		
CITY OF TOWN AND COUNTRY , Plaintiff		
1011 MUNICIPAL CENTER DR SAINT LOUIS, MO 63131-1101		

If you read our twice annual reports on the municipal courts in Town and Country and Chesterfield, you know that we have labeled Rick Brunk "The Judge Whisperer" from an article we wrote for Patch.com on the Chesterfield Municipal Court and one of the two most dangerous men (along with city prosecutor Tim Engelmeyer) in Chesterfield for the lack of convictions given in his court. As long as you have a lawyer you get a great deal. If you are poor and cannot afford a lawyer you get no deal.

You have to wonder how bad this guy needs defense attorney revenue to allow common sense ethics to be a thing of the past.

The State of Missouri Commission on Retirement, Removal and Discipline of judges is located very nearby to all the masses in St. Louis County. It is located in the office building at 2190 S.Mason Road right at Manchester Road. On a recent weekday I tried and stop by the office to only find the door locked.

Irony: It was interesting to note that a commission to make sure that justice is served is in the same building with a company of lawyers keenly interested in making sure that justice is not served.



MISSOURI SUPREME COURT IS ACCEPTING COMMENTS OF MUNICIPAL COURT OPERATIONS UNTIL MAY 1: Here is a copy of a letter I sent to the Missouri Supreme Court with my comments:

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13309 Manor Hill Road
Town and Country, Missouri 63131
(314) 835-0751
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April 18, 2015

Clerk of the Missouri Supreme Court
P.O. Box 150
Jefferson City, MO 65102

re: Complaints about Municipal Court operations

Dear Madam and Sirs:

For three years I have randomly reviewed municipal courts from West St. Louis County for several news websites including one I write. <http://johnhoffmann.net>

1) I have been dismayed to find that city prosecutors and judges have stripped the effectiveness of the Missouri Points system to the point where it only affects people you cannot afford lawyers. In case after case that I have reviewed with drunk drivers causing injury accident with BAC levels, two, three and four times above the legal limits, they leave courtrooms with no point on their driving records. The DWI charge is handled with a "no-record" SIS probation term and the serious moving violation citations are reduced to "Parking Violations" with \$500 to \$750 fines, leaving dangerous drivers with no points on their driving record.

It is a two step procedure to identify dangerous drivers in Missouri. The police have to find them and document their actions and the courts have to confirm the police evidence. The police seem to be doing their job with more video recordings but the courts have elected not to do their job at all other than collect money for municipalities.

By reducing serious moving violations to Parking Violations the courts have two sets of people underwriting lower insurance rates for dangerous drivers. First good drivers are paying more because the dangerous drivers' rates are not going up because their driving records do not show they are high risk drivers. Secondly lower income people who cannot afford a lawyer and simply pay speeding and stop sign violations tickets are suddenly cast as the high risk drivers.

Court rules should make it illegal to reduce charges beyond lesser include offenses to offenses the defendant never did to avoid driver license points.

This is unfair and it is caused by municipal judges and prosecutors, many who are also defense attorneys and expect similar NO POINT deals when they appear in other municipal court with clients.

2) Having worked in law enforcement both in the St. Louis area, then the Kansas City area and finally for 12 years in Maryland, I know there is a way to stop Failure to Appear Warrants from being issued and decrease costs and fines to lower income citizens.

In Maryland FTA warrants were only issued in serious traffic cases, such as DWI, Driving on Suspended License, Careless and Reckless Driving resulting in an accident or speeding 30 mph over the limit. Otherwise the court would send notification to the State Drivers License Office and the person's license would be suspended. They could later be arrested for Driving on a Suspended License but not for FTA.

To get the license reinstated they would have to go to the court and either pay the fine or post a bail to have the case docketed again. They would then go to the License Office with documentation from the court, pay a \$25 or \$30 admin fee to get their license reinstated.

Not only did this reduce FTA cases and cut down on court workloads, police officers were not arresting people as fugitives on FTA warrants or driving 20-to-50 miles to pick up someone held in another jail on a local FTA warrant.

Missouri could decrease court expenses, increase police coverage and not overburden lower income citizens if it would adopt such a system.

3) Many municipal courts in St. Louis County are not aware that court files are open public records. These records should be open to public during normal business hours. In recent years, I have been told by the Velda City Court Clerk that she would not allow me to review court records without approval of the city attorney who was on vacation. In Clayton, Missouri the court clerk refused to provide information on an active case, until I filed a Sunshine request with the City Clerk in a different building. Then at first they refused to provide the information because the person charged, while an adult was under the age of 21.

There should be an easy method for citizens to complain about these abuses of hiding open court records from public view.

4) Finally, judges must cease conducting court in whispers at the dais. Too many judges do this making it impossible for the public to be aware of reductions in charges and sentences being issued in what should be an open courtroom.

John Hoffmann

TOWN AND COUNTRY FOOT DOCTOR GET ONE YEAR AND A DAY IN FEDERAL PRISON FOR MEDICARE FRAUD. Dr. Lawrence K. Iken of 14331 Manderleigh Dr. in Town and Country apparently did not win "Who Wants to be a Millionaire" after stealing close to \$1-million from Medicare by falsely charging for medical care at nursing homes. Now he has to pay it all back.

Here is part of the allegations laid out by U.S. Attorney's Office:

Dr. Iken admitted that on thousands of occasions, he billed Medicare, Medicaid and private insurance companies for the incision and drainage of abscesses and hematomas, when he actually only clipped the toenails of the patients.

Iken pled guilty in January and was sentence on April 16 to one year and a day in Federal Prison and then two years parole. He and his company Iken, LLC have to pay \$1,750,000 in fines and restitution.

The fraudulent billing had been going on for at least eight years according to the U.S. Attorney's Office.



With wife Elaine at a charity fundraiser.



Town and Country home.

Even with the extra income from Medicare in the last four years Iken was late paying his property taxes twice.



FOLLOW THE MONEY...Town and Country Speaker of the House using campaign funds for trips to New Orleans and other non-campaign expenses: In the first quarter of 2015 State Rep. and speaker of the Missouri House John Diehl raked in \$49,400. He is termed limited in his final term in the Missouri House. He has said he is not interested in running for a statewide office and the Senate District he lives in just saw Jill Schupp sworn in for four years in

January.

Diehl's biggest money came from the likes of Rex Sinquefield's PACs and from China through Chinese owned Smithfield Farms that want to keep their pollution producing super large Missouri hog farm operating at full tilt.

Here is the list of Diehl's biggest contributors on his 2015 first Quarter report:

- \$9,500 Grow Missouri (A Rex Sinquefield financed PAC) Jefferson City, MO
- \$5,000 Smithfield Foods Smithfield, VA (Chinese owned)
- \$5,000 Kum & Go (yes it sounds like an illegal massage parlor) a chain of gas station convenience stores headquartered in Iowa.
- \$5,000 Stone, Leyton and Gershman Clayton, MO
- \$2,500 Isle of Capri Casinos Creve Coeur, MO
- \$2,500 Missouri Assessor 's Association

\$2,500 Brightergy LLC Kansas City, MO (National energy and solar group)
 \$2,500 American Legal Finance Association Washington, DC
 \$2,500 Right Choice managed Care Cincinnati, Ohio
 \$2,500 Emerson Ferguson, MO
 \$2,000 Sprint Phoenix, AZ (HQ in Kansas City)
 \$1,000 Associated Industries Of Missouri PAC
 \$1,000 Missouri realtor's PAC Columbia, MO
 \$1,000 Caremark, RX Lincoln, Rhode Island

An interesting contribution came from a firefighter group. \$250 was given by the Missouri State Council of Firefighters in Blue Springs, MO despite Diehl joining most current and former Republican office holders in endorsing Robin Harris for reelection to the Monarch Fire Protection District. Harris has been the "pro-taxpayer" and "anti-union" member of the fire board for six years.

Diehl used campaign funds in a non-election cycle to pay \$32,776 in credit card bills for the first three months of 2015.

Some of his expenses included six roundtrip flights on Southwest Airlines. Hotel rooms in New Orleans and Kansas City, \$3,046 for framing at Michael's in Des Peres, \$2,104 for catering in Columbia, MO and \$5,350 to Steve Shankman's Contemporary Productions for a band.



Senator Jill Schupp: Schupp as a Democratic only took in \$16,156 in the first quarter. While she got plenty of money from labor unions prior to the November election, she has gotten no labor money in 2015. Here are her larger contributors:

\$5,000 Ameren Missouri PAC Jefferson City, MO
 \$2,500 Burns and McDonnell Engineering Company Kansas City, MO
 \$1,500 Citizens for Insurance Reform Jefferson City, MO
 \$1,000 Polsinelli Law Firm Kansas City, MO
 \$1,000 Credit Union PAC Jefferson City, MO
 \$1,000 Laclede Gas PAC St. Louis, MO

Rep. Sue Allen: Sue Allen's largest group of contributors has been health care groups since she was in the business. However for the first three months of 2015 she only got one contribution. It was \$1,000 from the Burlington Northern & San Francisco Railroad in Fort Worth, Texas.

Rep. Don Gosen: Gosen, an insurance agent, whose district covers the western end of Chesterfield. He like Sue Allen only got \$1,000 in contributions, but Gosen's money came from two sources.

\$500 Cigna Political Action Committee Philadelphia, PA

\$500 Schnucks Supermarkets Maryland Heights, MO

IN THE CLEANING MOOD: Glenn Miller was "In the Mood" and the Temptations may have been in a Mellow Mood, but Alderwoman Linda Rallo announced that it is spring and she was "In a Cleaning Mood."



Rallo wanted city staff service to be provided to residents who wanted to help clean up the shoulder area along Conway Road. Rallo wanted the city to provide staff services on Earth Day April 25 from 9 am to 11 am.

She made the request as a last minute resolution at the April 13 meeting. Unfortunately good ideas need more time in today's world. Since Conway Road is a St. Louis County owned and maintained road the city has to get the County's permission for this activity.

The other road block is that the city's liability insurance carrier has to sign off on the special use. The resolution was continued to the April 27 meeting, five days after Earth Day.

LEAVING SOON AND COMING SOON: We have written about this cute traditional ranch house on an acre lot on Topping Road that is soon to be no more. We now have the plans of the house to replace it.



FROZEN YOGURT BY THE OUNCE GETS APPROVAL: Menchie's Frozen Yogurt got the go ahead from the Board of Alderman for a sign variance and should open this summer in the Town and Country Crossing Shopping Center. Menchie's will be similar to the frozen yogurt business on Clayton Road near Baxter, where you do most of the work. You pick a dish, choose your flavor, pull down the handle on the dispenser and then you add the toppings. The store's staff will weigh what you created and charge you accordingly.

Mary Anne Matchett stated that she and others have had experience in the business. This is in contrast to the owner of Eugene's Frozen Custard who opened in Town and Country Crossing with no experience in the ice cream or restaurant business, but said it had always been of dream. He was bankrupt and walked away from the business in 16 months.



Mary Anne Matchett



Proposed sign for Menchie's.

ONE ETHICS VIOLATOR GIVES AWARD TO SECOND ETHICS VIOLATOR

VIOLATOR: Out of nine people sitting on the dais at the April 13th Board of Aldermen meeting only two had signed consent orders with the Missouri Ethics Commission admitting to years of Campaign Ethic Law violations. They are Mayor Jon Dalton and Alderman Tim Welby. April 13 was Welby's last meeting before being replaced by newly elected Tiffany Frautschi. I found it ironic that at the start of the meeting one Ethics Violator (Dalton) was reading a framed proclamation to the other ethics violator (Tim Welby).



UNAPPROVED CHESTERFIELD NEWSLETTER 120



April 26, 2015

THINGS TURN UGLY IN CHESTERFIELD AFTER SWEARING IN: Mayor Bob Nation took a beating on Wednesday night after four councilpersons were sworn in for two-year terms and everyone enjoyed cookies. Nation was taking heat to his right side and then it shifted to his left side as three councilpersons went on the attack.



Fults and DeGroot on attack to the Mayor's right and Grissom to his left.

In the most contentious matter councilwoman Connie Fults opened fire on Nation in a five minute or longer verbal attack that included name calling.

Nation followed both city law and city policy as mayor and announced the committees and committee chairs for the next year. In past years mayors have not followed the law or policy and allowed the president pro tem of the council to talk it over with the councilpersons and and come up with the committee assignments. Here is the ordinance under Section 2-29 of the City Code.

Cross references — Mayor to make appointment to fill vacancy in City Council, § [2-53](#); Mayor to appoint members of standing committees of the City Council,

Nation made the following committee appointments:

Planning & Public Works Committee: Connie Fults Chair (Ward 4)
Nancy Greenwood (Ward 1)
Bridget Nations (Ward 2)
Dan Hurt (Ward 3)

Finance and Administration: Barry Flachsbart Chair (Ward 1)
Elliott Grissom (Ward 2)
Dan Hurt (Ward 3)
Bruce DeGroot (Ward 4)

Parks and Recreation: Mike Casey Chair (Ward 3)
Bridget Nations (Ward 2)
Bruce DeGroot (Ward 4)
Barry Flachsbart (Ward 1)

Public Health and Safety (Police): Elliott Grissom Chair (Ward 2)
Nancy Greenwood (Ward 1)
Mike Casey (Ward 3)
Connie Fults (Ward 4)

After announcing these appointments Fults went ballistic. She also used almost every catch phrase in the book. We highlighted them.



"You have kept us from voting. Historically the mayor has allowed the council to decide who would be on the committees. I find this very **heavy handed**. You have **stacked the deck against us**. I'm used to mayors who did not **strong arm** their committee appointments, said Fults.

"Right now I feel there is a **big red flag**. Stacking the F&A Committee to get a **hidden agenda** here! Not only did we take Mr. Casey off as Chairman of the F&A but he did

not get appointed," said Fults who claimed that Finance and Administration and the Planning and Public Works and F&A Committees were the only important committees that meet regularly.

Former mayor and current Ward 1 Councilperson Nancy Greenwood backed Mayor Nation's actions directing her remarks to Fults.

"The original process was the mayor did this and not the council. When I was mayor (1997-2001) I did the appointments," said Greenwood.



Then **Mayor Nation addressed Fults' attack** with these remarks.

"First of all there is only a slight difference to the committee assignments. The written policies and laws were not being fulfilled by past mayors. The state statute states the mayor shall appoint, the city ordinance says the mayor will appoint and city policy also says the mayor makes appointments. When there is any dissension we need to follow the rules," said Nation.

Long time councilman Dan Hurt with over 20 years on the council weighed in. First he said he was not consulted by Mayor Nation about the appointments until they were done. But he added that he did not have a problem with the mayor making the appointments or the councilperson picked as president pro tem of the council making the committee assignments. Then he addressed Mrs. Fults comments about the Mayor Nation assignments given to Councilman Mike Casey.

"Mr. Casey is a tough hombre. If he felt slighted I'm surprised he didn't say anything," said Hurt.



Dan Hurt

Before he could get another word out **Fults loudly interjected**, "The mayor has **overstepped the process.**"

Interestingly Mike Casey and newly elected Bridget Nations were the only councilpersons who had nothing to say on the matter.

During the beginning of this debate **Councilman Elliot Grissom** made a motion to order the city attorney to immediately prepare a bill that makes the president pro tem of the council the person who makes appointments.

Mayor Nation ruled the motion out of order as it was not on the agenda and should be either sent to committee for consideration or placed on the next council agenda.

This brought on another spirited debate about whether the mayor could do this or not. Barry Flachsbart, who has been around since the city was incorporated and was an interim mayor, backed Mayor Nation.

So the first vote taken on these issues was whether to override the mayor's decision that Grissom's motion was out of order.

A Yes vote would be for Grissom and a No would be for Mayor Nation.

YES | **NO**

Grissom	Casey
Fults	Flachsbart
Nations	Greenwood
DeGroot	Hurt

Mayor Nation then broke the tie by voting against the motion.

Next there was a motion to put the item for first and second readings over the next two meetings and maybe even a vote to send it to committee on the agenda for the May 4 City Council meeting. This passed on a voice vote with no "nays."

The last dramatics of the evening was the election of president pro tem, who by ordinance is basically the fill-in master of ceremonies if the mayor is absent or takes over as mayor if the mayor is incapacitated or dies. It is the role that the David Letterman, Joan Rivers and Jay Leno all had on Monday nights for Johnny Carson.

Oddly this is done by secret ballot and the citizens do not know who their councilperson voted for.



City Clerk Vickie Hass hands our secret ballots for the council to use to vote for president pro tem.

Elliott Grissom nominated Connie Fults and Barry Flachsbart nominated Mike Casey. The secret ballot vote was 5-3 for Fults. Now just minutes earlier Fults was dragging Mike Casey's name into the debate stating how he was dissed and slighted by Mayor Nation. If Fults felt so strongly about Casey, I have to wonder why she did not refuse to accept her nomination and allow Casey to be president pro tem.

At the end of the meeting Casey left the dais and headed directly to a backdoor without talking to any of the other councilpersons or putting up with any questions from myself or reporter Jim Erikson of the West Magazine.



Mike Casey

The evening started after the swearing-in ceremonies and a break for cookies and refreshments and then Councilman Bruce DeGroot going on the attack of Mayor Nation.

This was the last City Council meeting for City Attorney Rob Heggie who is being appointed to the Associate Circuit Court Family Court Division as a judge.

Mayor Nation moved to appoint Harry O'Rourke as the interim city attorney, an appointment that could run as long as November 16, 2016 when Heggie's term would have expired. O'Rourke is a member of Heggie's law firm and has filled in for Heggie in the past and worked on City of Chesterfield issues for eight years. DeGroot wanted time to vet O'Rourke before voting on his interim status. This would leave the second largest city in St. Louis County without a city attorney. (DeGroot is an insurance lawyer.)

With O'Rourke now sitting on the Dais, DeGroot attacked Nation and O'Rourke. It was great theater but a little creepy.



"No one here has had a chance to look at his resume. I Google'ed him and his specialty is family law. It is borderline reckless not to vet him," said DeGroot.



DeGroot wanted to look at other possible candidates.

Dan Hurt is the only councilperson who said anything supporting DeGroot.

"When Bruce talks about due diligence he has a good point," said Hurt.

Mayor Nation then spoke. "It is my appointment. The suggestion of the city going without a city attorney is unconscionable and not a good practice."

A vote of 7-1 to with DeGroot voting no, approved O'Rourke.

I found it interesting that neither DeGroot or Hurt attempted to make a motion to have O'Rourke's term for just eight weeks giving them time to vet him. But that thought never came up. Ironically O'Rourke was called on for procedural opinions in the heated committee appointment section of the meeting. He did not do a good job and Rob Heggie who had just stepped down was still in the chambers and came forward to give his opinion as the "former city attorney."



OUR TAKE: It appeared as if Mayor Bob Nation is trying to actually be the mayor and do the job that is required by city law. Some members of the council don't like it and want to do that job for him. Many of those councilpersons also endorsed and supported Nation's opponent Matt Segal in the 2013 election. Segal at the time and still is tied to developers.

Grissom's desire to take away the appointment power from the mayor and give it to the president pro tem is interesting. It would take the power away from the person elected by all the people and give it to someone who was just elected by eight people.

If there is a 5-3 vote to take away the mayor's powers in making appointments I would not be surprised to see Nation veto the bill.

LONE PRO-UNION MEMBER OF MONARCH FIRE BOARD RESIGNS 13 DAYS AFTER REELECTION OF ROBIN HARRIS: The resignation of Monarch Board Member Steve Swyers did not come as a surprise as he had missed the last three Fire Board meetings.

Swyers, who lives in Wildwood and drives a \$100,000-plus Mercedes Benz sports coupe does not fit the normal profile of a Union supporter, but with a son who is a union member and a firefighter in a nearby fire district, he has voted along union lines for years.



Swyer's car

Swyers was elected in 2011 when he got 53-percent of the vote to defeat Board President Rick Gans. Gans had originally been a pro-union person but switched to pro-taxpayer after seeing what he considered attempts to waste money by the union.



Former Board president Rick Gans



Steve Swyers showing a thick skin as he is being verbally during a citizen comment portion of a past meeting.

Below is the resignation email Swyers sent to fellow board members.

From: steven swyers <stevenswyers@icloud.com>
Date: April 20, 2015 at 10:20:29 AM CDT
To: Robin Harris <RLHarris_1@charter.net>, Jane Cunningham <jane.cunningham7@gmail.com>,
"Closed file (closedfile@monarchfpd.org)" <closedfile@monarchfpd.org>
Subject: Resignation

Effective immediately, I resign as a member of the Monarch Fire Protection District Board of Directors. My decision to resign today is rooted in the falsehoods, half truths, misinformation, creation of an unhealthy work environment, and what I believe to be misuse of public funds by my fellow Directors. I no longer wish to be associated with this style of business and political rhetoric, as it only creates an environment of distrust and negativity.

At the same time another much longer and much more abrasive letter was sent to the media. If there was any question that Swyers was connected to the firefighters Local 2665 this letter should answer that question. It was sent out by Jeff Dunlap, not Steve Swyers. Dunlap handles media relations for Local 2665.

From: Jeff Dunlap <jmdpr2@gmail.com>
To:
Sent: Monday, April 20, 2015 10:24 AM
Subject: Steve Swyers resigns as a member of the Monarch Fire Protection District

By Steve Swyers – Chesterfield, Missouri - April 20, 2015 - Telephone: [314 616 7865](tel:3146167865)

Effective immediately, I resign as a member of the Monarch Fire Protection District Board of Directors, a position to which I was elected in April 2011.

My decision to resign today is rooted in the falsehoods, half truths, misinformation, creation of an unhealthy work environment, and what I believe to be misuse of public funds by Monarch Board President Robin Harris and Board Secretary Jane Cunningham.

For these reasons, I have considered resigning from the Board for more than a year. Recently, I read the Monarch district newsletter distributed by U.S. mail on April 3, 2015. It was essentially a campaign promotion for Robin Harris, who was running for re-election to the Board in the April 7 election. That same day I read a newspaper advertisement placed by Monarch Fire Chief Chuck Marsonette that berated Monarch firefighters and paramedics. It was the last straw.

I had no hand in preparing these communications as a member of the Board. I heard Robin Harris admit on KMOX Radio that the newsletter cost taxpayers \$20,000. Later, I learned that the newspaper advertisement cost nearly \$1,900. This is just wrong!

I no longer wish to be associated with their business style and their political rhetoric, as it has only created an environment of distrust and negativity.

For example, in print and website communications paid for with taxpayer dollars, Harris and Cunningham lied to or spoke half truths to Monarch citizens by claiming that Monarch firefighters and paramedics are calling for a \$33 million bond issue.

As a member of the Monarch Board since April 2011 until my resignation today, I can assert with assurance that this claim is false. There is no movement for a \$33 million bond issue by the firefighters or anybody else at Monarch -- and there never was such a movement in my Board tenure. Harris also said, "The Monarch budget is balanced, as required by state law. We...are maintaining a 40 percent reserve."

That statement does not represent all the facts. It is correct that budgets must be balanced, but when expenses exceed revenues a budget is balanced by making "budget adjustments," which means borrowing from reserves created by prior generations of taxpayers.

Since 2012 the Monarch Board has tapped reserves by \$851,000, causing reserves to decline to their current level of 40 percent. This is not sustainable!

Harris also said that Monarch firefighters and paramedics are:

- "Already among the highest paid in the country"
- "(Filed lawsuits) in an attempt to control the operations" and that "The District has been successful in most cases"
- "Use tactics to frighten people"

Those statements by Mr. Harris are simply not true.

Harris' and Cunningham's falsehoods and constant degradation and ridicule of Monarch firefighters and paramedics are damaging morale. It is impossible to maintain trust in such an environment.

In my opinion, Harris and Cunningham are using Monarch firefighters and paramedics as reasons for all the problems that exist in the Monarch fire protection district. I believe that Harris and Cunningham need only to look in a mirror to see the root cause for many of the existing problems.

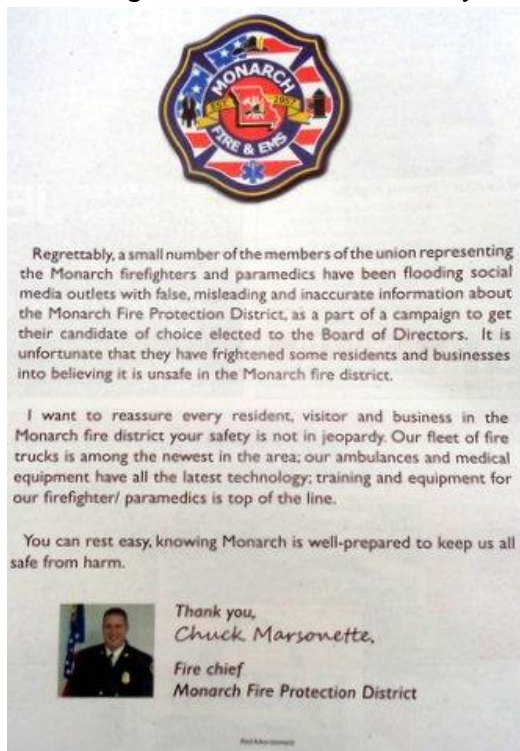
The environment of false claims, misinformation, misuse of public funds and negativity perpetuated by Harris and Cunningham throughout the fire department is counter-productive for the Monarch Fire Protection District.

Steve Swyers – Chesterfield, Missouri - April 20, 2015 - Telephone: [314 616 7865](tel:3146167865)

In a way it is too bad that Swyers refuses to complete his elected term. It is always nice to have an opposition voice on an elected body.

However in March when Swyers decided not to attend meetings while the Monarch Firefighters for Public Awareness mailed out postcards and fliers with blatant lies about Robin Harris and votes he had taken in past years, it was sad. Swyers knew these were lies and even though he was supporting Harris' opponent he should have had the balls to set the record straight.

Swyers complaining about \$1,800 Monarch spent for the fire chief to answer information mailed out to residents by the firefighters PAC claiming citizens were not safe due to a lack of equipment was grossly unreasonable. Citizens had been calling the fire headquarters asking about the allegations. The \$1,800 for the ad was a lot cheaper than making a mass mailing to 55,000 people in the fire district since the newspaper, West Magazine is mailed to every house in the district.



The replacement: Since both Robin Harris and Jane Cunningham are elected to the three member board, they can appoint Swyers replacement.



I would be surprised if Rick Gans wasn't back on the board. He has experience both as a former member and former board president. However, Jane Cunningham certainly knows a number of fiscally conservative members of the community with strong business or government backgrounds.

Cunningham said the next member appointed would clearly be in the "pro-taxpayer" camp and not in the "middle of the road."

"The voters sent us a message as to what they wanted in the last election," said Cunningham of Harris' 63-percent victory over the union's candidate.

Perhaps Local 2665 over the next four years could stop the attack on Fire Board. Stop the phony press releases. Stop getting upset when the command staff and Fire Board expect them to wear their regulation uniforms and not t-shirts in October. They could try and reduce spending their members' dues and and simply try and get their members a modest raise and offer a level of representation in personnel issues.

PERHAPS THE WRITING IS ON THE WALL: On Tuesday April 21 Harris was sworn in for a second term. The person who gave the oath was former Monarch President Rick Gans.



SRO: The Monarch Board meeting two days after the election had just me and the loser Kelley Miller in attendance.

On Tuesday April 21, Miller did not attend, but the room was full with supporters of Robin Harris, including fellow pilot Chesterfield Mayor Bob Nation.

The crowd was what you would have to describe as "mature." Of course it is this group of people who are most active in local politics, as they are no longer raising a family and have the time and an interest to make sure taxes are not going up without good reason.



After swearing in there was a recess and the attendees were invited to have cake and refreshments in the lobby.

I was being a snarky jerk when I joked that I was not sure if I was at a Fire District meeting or an event at the Gatesworth, referring to the average age of the crowd. But the turnout actually showed the support and appreciation that Harris and Jane Cunningham have with longtime homeowners and taxpayers. In many political subdivisions you would not get this kind of turnout unless there was a huge controversy.

NOT WASTING ANYTIME: Board acceptance of the resignation of Steve Swyers was listed fourth on the agenda after the swearing in of Robin Harris. However Robin Harris moved it up to the top of agenda. Harris moved to accept the resignation and Jane Cunningham seconded the motion. The vote was 2-0.



Robin Harris is making the motion to accept the resignation of Steve Swyers and Jane Cunningham is waiting for him to finish so she can second the motion.

THE MONEY AT THE END: Monarch Firefighters for Public Awareness did not claim any new contributions on April 15 when they filed the quarterly report for new money in the last few days of March. There is still the 30-day after election due in May. In the prior report they claimed just under \$50,000 from the Professional Firefighters of West County (Chesterfield) Flower Fund.

Kelley Miller claimed she spent \$250 for social media work and \$750 for robo calls with a firm in Iowa. Her quarterly report claims her campaign is \$12,000 in debt. She still has to file the 30-day after election report.

Robin Harris' quarterly report did not show any new funds that were not on his 8-day before election report. He accepted \$3,333 from the Jane Cunningham Election Committee.

THE TREE SLAUGHTER HAS BEGUN: Back in August Brinkman Holdings, the developer for the 31-home Schoettler Grove subdivision at the corner of Clayton Road and Schoettler Road got approval to violate the city' tree ordinance that required keeping 30-percent of the trees on the site. Brinkman plans to leave just 17-percent.

Only Councilwoman Nancy Greenwood voted against the proposal calling it a "tree massacre." Greenwood's position was if the city forced the developer to follow the ordinance there would only be 25 homes built but a green area would be preserved.



View of the project from April 20, 2015.

80,000 DUPLICATE TAX LETTERS GO OUT AND HE WANTS TO BE STATE ATTORNEY GENERAL: I always kind of liked Jake Zimmerman. He was a Missouri State Representative from Olivette who managed to live on the part time \$40,000 salary, plus per diem plus his wife's income. Despite being a lawyer Zimmerman appeared to be content being a state rep.

He clearly looks and talks like a nerd.



Many did not think there was a need for an elected County assessor. . But Zimmerman (Democratic) was gung ho and told the voters he would try and make assessments fair. He seemed to to that. Prior to the November elections Zimmerman told voters how much he enjoyed being assessor. He was reelected in November of 2014 with 59% of the vote.

Within 24 hours after winning a full four-year term, Zimmerman announced he was interested in running for State attorney General. What happened to that stuff about how much he loved being assessor? I just cannot picture this guy as the AG. Apparently not too many others can either unless their name is Zimmerman. Ethics Commission quarterly report for contributors show **the following for contributors over \$2,000:**

\$200,000	03/31/15	Jake and Megan Zimmerman Olivette, MO
\$ 25,000	03/30/15	Stuart Zimmerman Clayton, MO
\$ 25,000	03/30/15	Susan Zimmerman Clayton, MO
\$ 10,000	03/17/15	Thompson Coburn St. Louis, MO
\$ 5,000	02/24/15	Bandwidth Exchange St. Louis, MO
\$ 5,000	02/24/15	MSGOLD, LLC Creve Coeur, MO
\$ 5,000	02/27/15	Jack Croughan Psychiatrist Richmond Heights, MO
\$ 5,000	03/07/15	Patricia Wolkowitz Creve Coeur, MO
\$ 5,000	03/11/15	Kristen Edgreen Kaufman New York, NY
\$ 5,000	03/18/15	Cathy Steele Attorney Clayton, MO
\$ 5,000	03/30/15	Sharon Tucker and Eric Marquardt Clayton, MO
\$ 5,000	03/30/15	1st Community Bank Popular Bluff, MO
\$ 5,000	03/31/15	Ivan Zinn New York, NY
\$ 5,000	03/30/15	Zac Brandenburg Santa Monica, CA
\$ 3,500	03/30/15	Paula Segal Northbrook, IL
\$ 3,000	03/18/15	Kenneth Kranzberg Ladue, MO
\$ 2,700	03/30/15	Jeffrey S. Gershman Clayton, MO
\$ 2,500	01/14/15	Matthew Fischer (Tampsco Enterprises) Richmond Heights, MO
\$ 2,500	02/02/15	Terry Bloomberg Frontenac, MO
\$ 2,500	02/02/15	Hugh Scott (Stiefel) Clayton, MO
\$ 2,500	02/10/15	Lynn Chipperfield St. Louis County 63146
\$ 2,500	02/12/15	Ed Balk (Solon Gersham Realtors) Clayton, MO
\$ 2,500	02/24/15	Joseph and Lynda Castellano (A-B VP) Oakville, MO
\$ 2,500	02/24/15	Andrew and Amy Douglas (Attorney) Park Ridge, IL
\$ 2,500	03/02/15	Thomas Stern (Pres. Solon Gersham) Clayton, MO
\$ 2,500	03/04/15	Peerless Development LLC 15 Squires Lane Frontenac, MO
\$ 2,500	03/12/15	Leland Shurin (attorney) Kansas City, MO
\$ 2,500	03/12/15	McCormack Baron Salazar Inc. St. Louis, MO
\$ 2,500	03/13/15	Susan Fox Harris San Antonio, TX
\$ 2,500	03/16/15	Charles Deutsch University City, MO
\$ 2,500	03/16/15	Commercial Bank Maryland Heights, MO
\$ 2,500	03/17/15	Lawrence Chapman Brentwood, MO
\$ 2,500	03/23/15	Paul Cahn Clayton, MO
\$ 2,500	03/30/15	Advantage Prime Brentwood, MO
\$ 2,500	03/03/15	Civic Service Inc. Clayton, MO
\$ 2,000	03/02/15	Martin and Jill Sneider Clayton, MO
\$ 2,000	03/20/15	Paramount Apparel International Inc. Bourbon, MO

Out of STATE Contributors Under \$2,000:

\$ 1,500	03/07/15	David Kaplan (Attorney) Minneapolis MN
\$ 1,300	03/16/15	Rusty Bias (Century Link) Franklin, TN
\$ 1,000	03/15/15	Ben Glassman (US Atty's Office) Cincinnati OH
\$ 1,000	03/23/15	Neil Kraetsch Lawyer San Francisco, CA
\$ 1,000	03/26/15	Jason Vigna New York, NY
\$ 1,000	03/30/15	Richard Becker (Becker Steel) Venice, IL
\$ 1,000	03/30/15	David Sachs Longboat Key, FL
\$ 1,000	03/30/15	Shayne Stevenson Seattle, WA
\$ 1,000	03/31/15	Leonard Aragon (Attorney) Phoenix, AZ
\$ 750	03/30/15	Aaron Mohrman (Oracle) Seattle, WA
\$ 750	03/30/15	Michelle Wallin (Attorney) Mountain View, CA
\$ 600	03/30/15	John Faranda Claremont, CA
\$ 500	01/27/15	Michael Seitz (Attorney) Los Angeles, CA
\$ 500	01/27/15	Florence Meyer Washington, DC
\$ 500	02/05/15	Jonathan Rose (Lawyer) Nashville, TN
\$ 500	02/18/15	Ward Elliott Claremont, CA
\$ 500	03/02/15	Justin Braun Denver, CO
\$ 500	03/19/15	Jay Angoff (Lawyer) Chevy Chase Village, MD
\$ 500	03/22/15	Patrick Toft (Lawyer Miller-Coors) Brookfield, WI
\$ 500	03/30/15	Donald Calloway Lobbyist Washington, DC
\$ 500	03/31/15	Jonathan Kilman (Attorney) Orlando, FL
\$ 500	03/31/15	Bonnie Snortum Claremont, CA
\$ 500	03/31/15	Jason Zweig New York, NY
\$ 500	03/31/15	John Cranley Cincinnati OH
\$ 350	03/02/15	Clifton Yen New York, NY
\$ 300	03/02/15	Ryder Smith Tustin, CA
\$ 300	03/30/15	Andrew Zimmerman Seattle, WA
\$ 250	02/04/15	Stephanie Peterson Charlottesville, VA
\$ 250	02/04/15	Jennifer Weddle (Attorney) Denver, CO
\$ 250	02/06/15	David Thorpe (Attorney) Beverly Hills, CA
\$ 250	02/24/15	Sean Elsbernd Staff Director Sen. Feinstein San Francisco CA
\$ 250	03/07/15	Micah Berman (Ohio State University) Columbus, OH
\$ 250	03/30/15	Linsley Kinkade Little Rock, AR
\$ 200	02/08/15	Justin Levitt (Law Professor) Los Angeles, CA
\$ 200	02/24/15	Matt Siben (Attorney) West Palm Beach Florida
\$ 200	03/31/15	Aaron McMurtray Laguna Niguel CA
\$ 150	03/27/15	Bryon Farnsworth (Attorney) Denver, CO
\$ 150	03/03/15	Christian Correa Broker Short Hills, NJ
\$ 100	03/04/15	Russell and Viola Iungerich Rancho Palos Verdes CA 90275

Chesterfield and Town and Country Contributors Under \$2,000:

\$ 1,000	01/29/15	Paul Cerame 167 New Holland Chesterfield, MO
\$ 1,000	02/24/15	Susan Mlynarczyk 14734 Westerly PL Chesterfield, MO
\$ 1,000	03/25/15	Andrew Leonard Lawyer 825 Maryville Center Town and Country
\$ 1,000	03/25/15	McBride & Son Management Co. Swingley Ridge Chesterfield

Zimmerman raised \$440,976 in the first quarter. Of course well over half of the money came from himself and his parents. He had \$797,924 in the bank on April 1.

Of note is that of all contributors, 29-percent were from out of state.

For a guy who in 2011 when he ran for the first term (a 2-year term that is now 4-years) for County Assessor that saw Zimmerman's salary more than double, the amount of people who do not live Missouri and sent Zimmerman checks is pretty amazing.

Zimmerman was so busy raising money from all over the country that he failed to notice his staff had mailed out 80,000 duplicate tax declaration forms to car owners to declare personal property tax for 2015. The 80,000 duplicate letters and forms confused citizens who received the originals six weeks earlier and cost the taxpayers \$15,000.

I think the assessors' office is what Jake should be concentrating on and not running for State Attorney General in 2016, an office that he seems to be totally unqualified for other than he happens to have a law degree.

MUSIC: Monday night was the final performance of the 2014-15 year of the Webster University Jazz Singers, backed up by the Jazz Collective big band made up by a combination of professional musicians and students. The singers are all students.

Adjunct Professor Debbie Lennon, who is also a longtime music/choir director at St. Clement Church on Bopp Road, year after year has these college students sounding great.



Meanwhile several times a year a group of adults claiming to be longtime vocalists called Java Jive put on concerts. They like to think they are the local version of the Manhattan Transfer. However they are not. WHAT THEY ARE IS AWFUL!

Debbie's college group should be performing at the Sheldon and not Java Jive. The Webster University Jazz Singers have fresh arrangements and don't repeat music. I'll try and be sure to mention the dates for their Christmas concert.

The group will miss senior Music major Paige Hegwood (first row second from the right) who graduates in May. She would make an outstanding lead female vocalist in any of the military service music groups.

WEDNESDAY NIGHT: It was familiar faces and good music at Sasha's in Clayton.



RESTAURANTS: We hear that Joyia in the Grove will be closing in the next couple of weeks.



If you had not heard it appears that the Village Bar on Manchester in Des Peres, a local institution since 1948 that third shift workers used to go to in the days of third shifts because it opened at 7am...is rumored to be closing at the end of May.



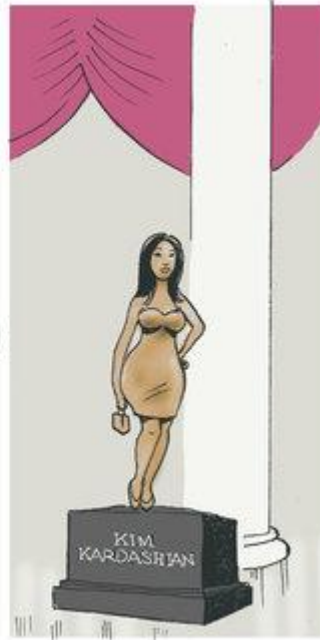
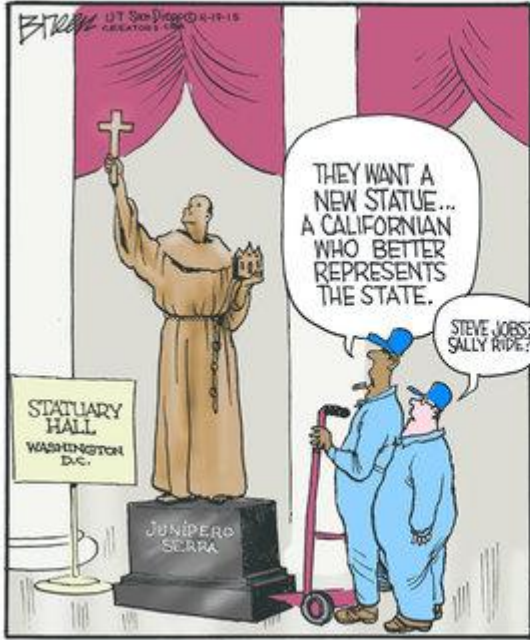
RETAIL: The Miriam Switching Post Shop on Big Bend in Maplewood, an upscale resale shop benefitting the Miriam School in Webster Groves for learning disability students, is supposed to be moving in November to Brentwood.

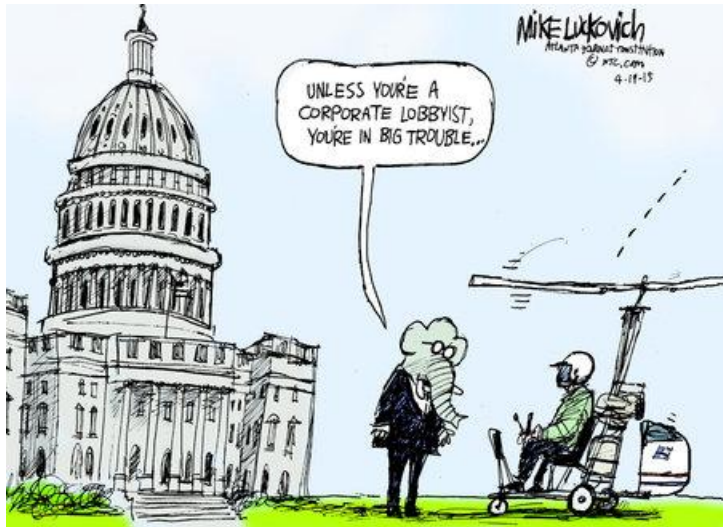


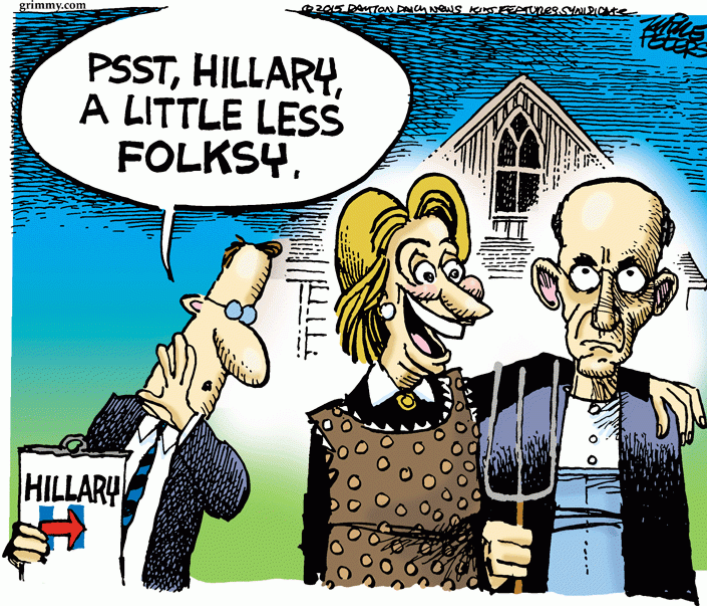
CARTOONS: They just won't stop. Hillary cartoons take up 50% of the space for cartoons again this week. Just like last week this cartoons are by both conservative and liberal editorial cartoonists around the country.



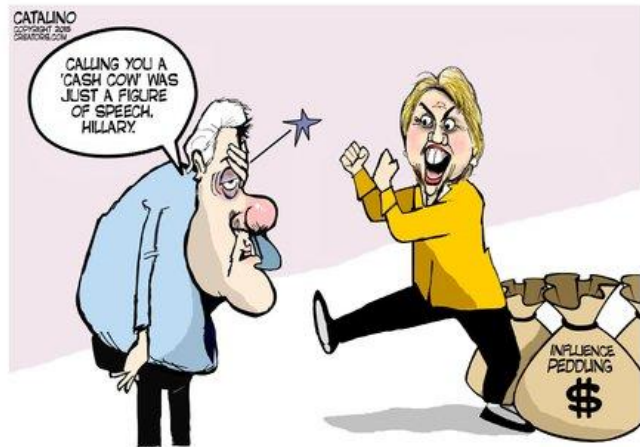
Ok, so you have to be at least 55 to remember Prince Valiant in the Sunday Comics.

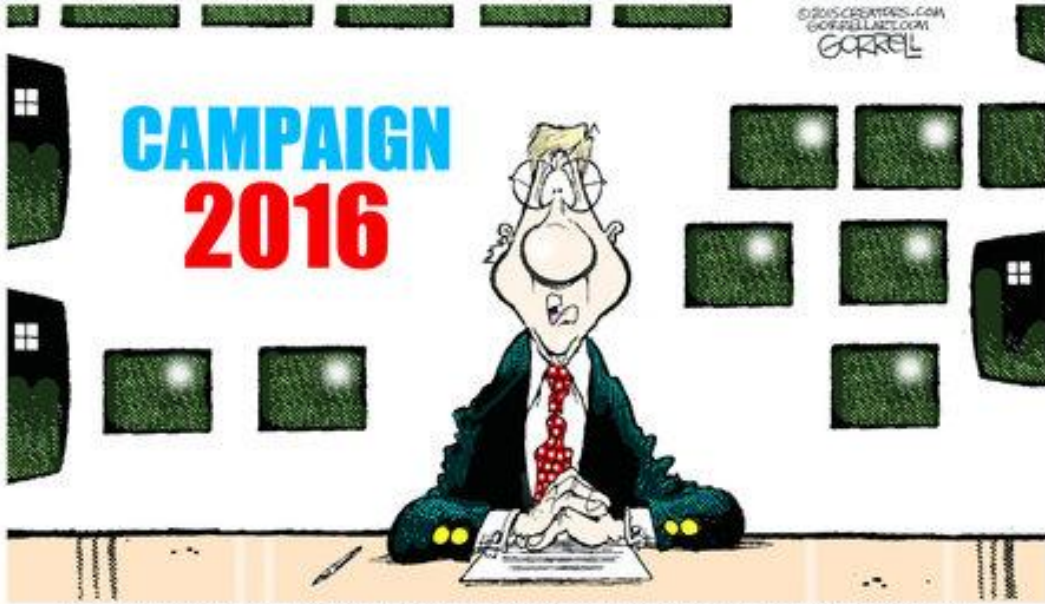






STATE OF THE UNION SPEECH 2017





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"A DEAD BROKE HILLARY CLINTON DODGED SNIPER FIRE IN BOSNIA TODAY WHILE DELETING STATE DEPARTMENT EMAILS ABOUT AN OFFENSIVE VIDEO IN BENGHAZI BEFORE MEETING WITH A GROUP OF CAREFULLY-VETTED EVERYDAY AMERICANS."



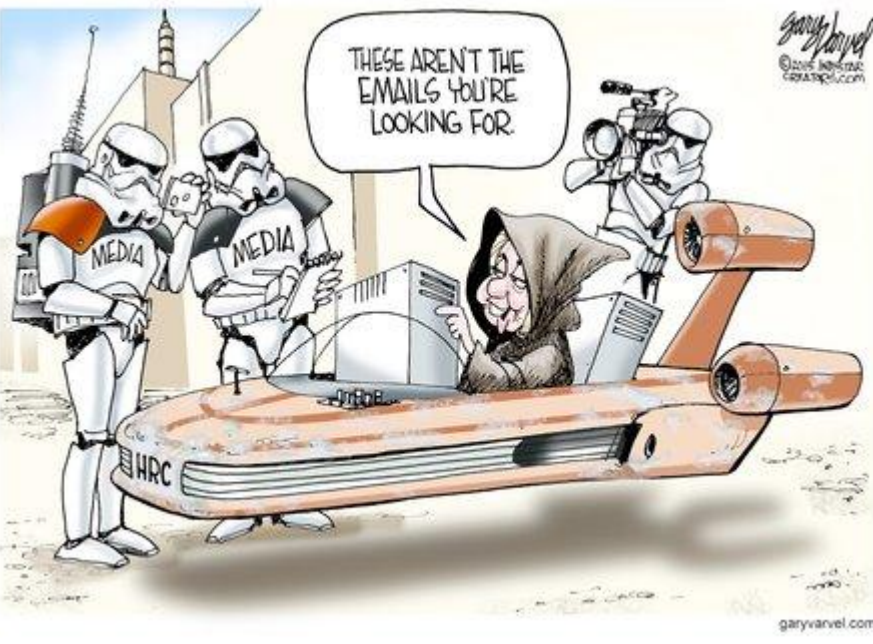
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