

## EX ALDERMAN NEWSLETTER 194 AND CHESTERFIELD 139



**By John Hoffmann**

**September 18, 2015**

**THE NIGHT THE LIGHTS WENT OUT ON WESTMINSTER. LET THE LAWSUIT BEGIN:** 17 people spoke in favor of approving 80 foot light towers on the Westminster Christian Academy football field and next to several subdivisions.

The speakers all had two things in common. They all lived in Town and Country, meaning they were all voters. Also they stated what ward they lived in and either looked at their alderpersons or mentioned them by name, with one funny exception.

This was to be expected after three alderperson who had originally favored the Reliance Bank and Tim Horton's Restaurant proposal changed their mind after angry NIMBY people started showing up to meetings despite overwhelming support received in writing.

It didn't work on Monday night. The lights were put out on a 0-7 voted.



**SURPRISES:** The best of all the speakers for Westminster was Lindsey Highmark of Mason Knoll in the Mason Valley Subdivision. She made me laugh out loud when she tried to impress on her alderwomen, Tiffany Frautschi and Amy Anderson that she was a voter. She urged TERRY Frautschi and Amy EMERSON to vote for the lights.

**Kiss any other election run goodbye:** All the pro lights folks were filling out speaker cards with both the husband and wife's name as to point out there are two voters involved. When Mayor Dalton read out David and Mary Steward, only David Steward walked forward saying his wife was home with their children. Mary ran for alderman in April against Fred Meyland-Smith.

David came out for the lights at Westminster. This immediately meant two large subdivisions and parts of a third would never vote for Mary. In fact many would support and work for her opponent just because of this if she ever tried to run again. I'm sure it also created a sigh of relief for anyone either Brookmill or Arlington Oaks who decided to vote for Meyland-Smith even if they didn't like him knowing he would vote no on this issue.



David Steward, II son of David Steward the CEO of Worldwide Technologies who is considered by many to be the wealthiest man in St. Louis.

**The opponents** The people against the lights were all there as usual, but this time only three spoke. This was good. It meant this would not be a repeat of the Planning and Zoning meeting that was not over until 1:30.

**The alderpersons:**

**Jon Benigas:** Benigas said he was in favor of lights for Friday night football. He was 100% in favor of the sound system. But he would vote against the proposal as it does not meet the zoning requirements of not creating a hardship on residents.

"I'm forced to vote against it. The bottom line is the standards are the standards," said Benigas.

**Skip "Vacant Lot" Mange:** Mange stayed with the "bottom line" theme. It was almost as if they were briefed on what to include in their statements in the event of the likely lawsuit from WCA.

"The bottom line is the Town and Country ordinance requirements are pretty strict," said Mange.

**Linda Rallo:** The Ward-4 alderwoman spoke up for a large quiet group of residents. The people living in apartments and in nursing care units at Delmar Gardens which is directly to the north of the football field, with no trees or any other buffer. A statement was read at the P&Z meeting from an official of Delmar Gardens saying they don't take positions in political matters.

"I have not heard from anyone living at Delmar Gardens talk. They are residents and voters too," said Rallo. "Think about their quality of life and how the sounds would affect their lives. Many of them go to bed before or while the football games are being played."

**Fred Meyland-Smith:** For the "Official Windbag" of the Board of Aldermen, Fred did a nice job of making his point and shutting up.

"It is a time of day issue. It is simply a time of day issue with no other issues to consider," Meyland-Smith said.

"Every resident has a right to peace and quiet in their home and yard," he said.

**Tiffany Frautschi:** Our responsibility is to strip out the emotional issues and look at the facts. This proposal is failing to meet our requirements. Several standards have not been met," she said.

**Amy Anderson:** "We have to look at this logically, not emotionally. I have carefully looked at the evidence presented. But when I look at the eight conditions that have to be met, I can't support it."

**Gussie Crawford:** I wasn't going to say anything, but since everyone else did, I guess I will too. I have more experience with athletics than anyone in this room. I have been on the board of directors and have been the president of the AAU (Amateur Athletes Union) for over 40 years. I have served as an ambassador to President Reagan for athletic events in Europe. I cannot support this proposal.

**LAWSUIT IN THE FUTURE?** Westminster's lawyer was at the meeting. Everyone had assumed that WCA knew that the Board of Aldermen would not overturn the unanimous no-vote given the project by the Planning and Zoning Commission. For WCA to sue hoping to get a court order for the lights the proposal had to be defeated by the Board of Aldermen.

However, we have heard that there is a vocal minority at the school that is totally against the school proceeding with a lawsuit.

Here is a letter sent out by Headmaster Tom Stoner the day after the WCA defeat.

The aldermen of Town & Country voted down our proposal for the conditional use permit needed for us to [install stadium lights and a permanent sound system](#).

We are disappointed by this decision but at the same time are grateful for the process established by the city of Town & Country, which allowed us to present our case before them and reach this point. This has been and remains a great example of civic engagement, which is a mark of our democratic society.

On behalf of the Board of Directors and the extended Westminster Christian Academy community, I want to express my deep gratitude for the time that so many of you have taken to express your support for this project in writing, personal meetings, and at the town hall meetings. I am especially proud of the manner in which you have communicated and the evidence of Christian grace in your interpersonal interactions. Our school community is a treasure, and its value was never more evident than through this process.

In light of the vote yesterday evening, school leaders will soon meet to consult with experts and then, together with the Board of Directors, reflect upon the options available to us at this stage. To this point, our experience with this proposal in Town & Country closely resembles our experience in Creve Coeur when we proposed expansion of the Ladue Road campus in 1998.

We strongly believe that this project extends beyond student and fan safety and even beyond the program we envision for our students. Rather, this proposal is a reflection of our vision and specifically our core value of learning and living in Christian community – an integral part of the comprehensive educational experience we long to provide our students.

Please join us in asking God for wisdom and ultimately favor as we seek to lead our beloved school forward.

Love to you all in Christ,  
Tom Stoner, EdD  
Head of School

**AMY ANDERSON ADMITS SHE DID NOT KNOW WHAT SHE WAS VOTING ON:**

The night after the Board of Aldermen Meeting the Police Commission meeting was held at city hall.

At the start of the meeting Chair Amy Anderson (who has zero background or experience in law or law enforcement) gave the Commissioners an update. She started out by saying it had been a busy summer. I'm not sure how she would know this since she moved to Beaver Island, Michigan for nine weeks.

When she was discussing the defeat of the Reliance Bank-Tim Horton Restraint she did not mention that she was living on Beaver island at the time of the vote, but said "they" were trying to put too much on too small of a piece of property. It will be interesting to see where she stands of Mayor Dalton's Assisted Living Facility proposal that is trying to cram too much on too small piece of land behind the Schunks' store on Woods Mill Road reaches the aldermen.

But the saddest comment came when after she explained to the commission that the football lights and sound system proposal at Westminster Academy did not meet three requirements and was voted down unanimously. One of the commissioners asked what the three requirements were. Amy got a sick look on her face and then told the commissioner that she didn't remember the reasons and she would have to get back to her. This is 23 hours after she mentioned (apparently parroting other alderpersons) the proposal did not meet all the eight conditions. 23 hours later she could not say what conditions were not met.

Here is the list of conditions

The Board of Aldermen shall not approve any conditional use permit application, or any amendment to an existing conditional use permit, which they determine will:

1. Substantially increase traffic hazards or congestion;
2. Substantially increase fire, health or any other public safety hazards;
- 3.

Adversely affect the visual coherence, predominant usage or development character of adjacent neighborhoods;

4.

Adversely affect the general welfare of the community;

5.

Overtax public utilities, service or other municipal facilities;

6.

Be developed and operated in a manner that is physically and/or visually incompatible with the permitted uses in the surrounding areas;

7.

Substantially increase stormwater drainage on other lots; or

8.

Create a nuisance.



There are actually four reasons someone could cite in voting against the football light and sound proposal. What is embarrassing is that Anderson didn't even know one of the reason's she voted against the Conditional Use Permit when asked.



## **TOWN & COUNTRY AUGUST POLICE ACTIVITY:**

Here is the police activity for the month of August in Town and Country:

The following activity was reported by the police department during the month of August:

Officers responded to a total of 1750 calls for service and wrote a total of 215 reports, Including:

- 108 Vehicle Crashes
- 34 Criminal Reports
- 20 Driving While Intoxicated arrests (3 Felony, 0 Misdemeanor, 17 Ordinance)
- 24 Misc Arrests (Traffic charges, Fugitive charges, etc)
- 452 Traffic citations issued (272 speeding)

The Felony DWI's are:

- Donald Roden RPAW
- Bobby Barnes Warrants issued
- Sarah Sanguinet RPAW

## **2015 Police Activity Town and Country YTD Jan-August**

- 671 Vehicle Crashes
- 423 Criminal Reports\*
- 137 Driving While Intoxicated arrests (7 Felony, 7 Misd, 123 Ord)
- 299 Misc Arrests (Traffic charges, Fugitive charges, Failure to Appear charges, etc)
- 3,619 total traffic citations issued
- 2,555 speeding

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

**DEER ACCIDENT RATE LOW FOR AUGUST BUT IS EXPECTED TO BE HIGH FOR THE NEXT THREE MONTHS:** There were only two deer-vehicle crashes in August of 2015, which is actually up 100-percent from 2014. 2015 YTD deer-crashes is at 44 compared to 25 YTD in 2014. The last four months of the year, when the rutting starts, has the most deer-vehicle accidents. In 2014 there were 49 over the last four months.

Here is where the deer-vehicle crashes occurred in August.

08/05/15 12:50 am SB I-270 at I-64 Ward 1  
 08/07/15 10:22 pm Mason Road Ward 4



2015 Deer Accident Locations thru August

I-270 **7** Ward 1  
 I-64 Ballas to Mason **7** Ward 1 & Ward 2  
 I-64 Mason Road to W City Limits **5** Wards 3 & 4  
 North Forty Drive **1** Ward 1  
 South Outer 40 Drive I-270 to Mason **2** Wards 1 & 2  
 South Outer 40 Mason to Hwy 141 **2** Wards 3 & 4  
 Clayton Road Mason to Topping **5** Ward 2  
 Clayton Road Mason to Woods Mill **4** Ward 3  
 Weidman Road **1** Ward 3  
 Conway Road **1** Ward 4  
 Ladue Road **3** Ward 4  
 Highway 141 **3** Ward 3 and Ward 4  
 Mason Road **1** Ward 2  
 Mason Road **2** Ward 4

**NEW PLANS FOR 2017 DEER CONTROL TO BE SUBMITTED:** The city staff currently hopes to propose bringing back White Buffalo to remove (kill) 100 more deer in January of 2016. While the Missouri Department of Conservation recommends between 12 and 20 deer per square mile, the city's goal is to reach 30 deer per square mile. Right now it is at 36 and there were lots of twins and triplets born this summer.

However, there are so many deer in Ward 2, the city is considering having contractor White Buffalo train two police officers and a public works employee in the proper way to bait and shoot deer. The city employees would then be used to address "hot-spot" areas with excessive numbers of deer and accidents in the next year at a savings to the city.



City Administrator Gary Hoelzer has overseen the city's deer reduction since 2009 when he was the police operations commander, thinks the heavy over population of deer in Ward 2 with fewer deer-vehicle crashes this year can be contributed to lower speed limits in Ward 2. But he admits the Ward-2 deer population is still the biggest in the city.

When I lived in and worked in law enforcement in Montgomery County Maryland White Buffalo did a lot of work in the area reducing the deer population for Federal Agency campuses and for Montgomery County. In the mid-1990s white Buffalo trained Maryland National Capital Park police officers in harvest techniques and the police took over the job. The County was trying to keep deer-car crashes at about 2,000 a year.

Gary Hoelzer points out law enforcement agencies that receive the training from White Buffalo are normally Park Police or Park Rangers.

**DALTON NOMINATES CAROLYNNE HUETHER FOR BOARD OF ADJUSTMENT:**

At least that is what I thought he said. I was stuck after he said he was nominating Huether of Mason Valley for anything. In 2008 when I was an alderman I recommended that she and another member of the police commission be replaced because they didn't show up for meetings. The other person did resign after an ugly incident when he attempted to lie that he had been at a meeting when he clearly had not. Huether did not resign, instead she started showing up.

But by 2012 and 2013 Huether, an employee with Boeing, was not showing up again and resigned due to business and family commitments. She was approved as an alternative member of the Board of Adjustment at Sept. 14 Board of Aldermen meeting.

**GREEN TEAM IS THE COMMISSION PEOPLE DON'T SHOW UP FOR AND REMAIN ON THE COMMISSION:** Jon Benigas as the vegetarian Chairman of the Green Team stated in 2014 there was no reason to have a Green Team Commission if the board of aldermen did not approved a carbon gas study of the city. The aldermen did not allot the money but someone forget to disband the Green Team.



There is not much left to Benigas's lefty green team.

Counting Benigas there should be 11 members of the Green Team. There are eight. However realtor Chris Andrews (Ward 1) who might be the most knowledgeable member has said he won't be coming to meetings anymore and has not been to one for all 2015. His last meeting was in November of 2014.

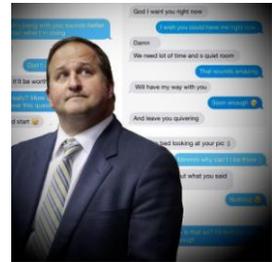
Raymond Popp hasn't shown up for a meeting in over two years, but since there is no demand for his seat they just leave him name on the roster. Doug Rushing, a biologist with Monsanto who joined the Green Team after it put on an Anti-Monsanto public lecture/movie against GMOs. Doug travels a lot and is sometimes is a no show.

**WARD-2 DOMINATES THE GANGS OF TOWN AND COUNTRY:** There are currently 38 members of the Gangs of Town and Country which has a link to it on our website. Ward 2 is far away the most popular place for criminals to live in Town and Country. Here are the numbers:

<u>Ward 1</u>	<u>Ward 2</u>	<u>Ward 3</u>	<u>Ward 4</u>
8	19	5	6

**NO SURPRISE ABOUT THIS ONE BEING LISTED FOR SALE:** We heard from several sources three weeks ago that the house of former Speaker of the House and Sex Texter of Teenage Interns John Diehl would soon be on the market. The sign went

up on Monday with a realtor Mary Beth Benes Coldwell Banker For Sale sign and a "Coming Soon" sign on top in his yard. The asking price will be around \$1.4 million. The house is on the corner of White Stable and Clayton Road one block west of I-270. Diehl resigned from the House in May when the Sex Texting scandal broke. In June he was connected to an extra-marital affair with a staff member of Gov. Jay Nixon's staff in 2014.



**WHAT DID MY LITTLE EYE SPY:** Speaking of Diehl, driving past his house recently I couldn't help but notice what looked like a Tesla in his garage. That would not be a big deal if he had not accepted \$1,000 on 09/8/14 and another \$1,000 on 10/29/13 from "Dealers Interested in Government." That is not drug dealers slinging dope on a corner, but car dealers who were wanting legislation to keep Tesla's non-dealership company-owned showrooms from opening in Missouri. They were unsuccessful.



**ARE YOU READY FOR SOME COLLEGE FOOTBALL?** Here is a pictorial of the progress of the "practice" football field at Missouri Baptist University from June to Labor Day. MBU is playing its home games at CBC this year, but this facility will likely have bleachers by 2016 and no longer be a practice field and be the home field.



June 6, 2015 the goal posts are up.



August 9, 2015

These are from Labor Day weekend





Remember, the field and building are in Creve Coeur. The parking lot and road to the field are in Town and Country. Please note there are no field lights.

### **WHAT COULD POSSIBLY BE LURKING AHEAD IN THE BUSHES?**

Driving up Mason Woods toward the busy Mason Ridge Road what might you see?



From about 80 feet away



From 25 to 30 feet away



At the intersection...well, by golly it's a stop sign!

You would think that the Public Works Department might check for this during the summer, but I would think that police officers on patrol would be leaving notes or voice mails or texts or emails to Public Works that the bushes need to be trimmed back. But perhaps the police have not driven down Mason Woods in the last three months!

**TREES NOW FALLING DOWN AT ABANDONED HOUSE:** First Brian Marchant-Calsyn moved out of his house at 1761 Topping Rd in 2012 after he stopped making mortgage payments. Then he quit cutting the grass causing the city to have to harvest the grass and weeds on the three acre lot.

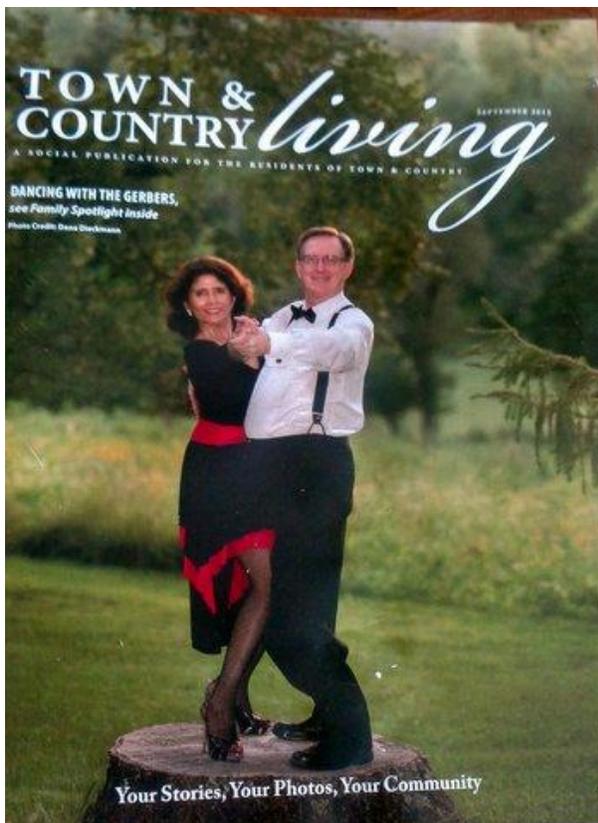
Now the trees are dying and falling in the backyard. Before the city pays someone to cut the grass again, they might have to remove the dead trees.



The ex-convict drug dealer's mortgage holder was going to put the property up for sale on the courthouse steps in January of 2015, but Marchant-Calsyn declared bankruptcy which stopped the sale. So far in 2015 the city has only had to cut the grass on the abandoned property once.

**DANCING AL GETS FREE PUBLICITY BUT I HAVE A FEELING IT WILL HURT AS MUCH AS IT HELPS.** The Republicans have selected the Municipal Judge of Pine Lawn to run for the vacant 89th District Seat vacated by sex addict John Diehl in midterm. Dean Plocher, a guy working for a mayor who was extorting money from businesses who is serving time in a Federal Prison and hearing testimony from police officers under a former supervisor who is under Federal Indictment for assisting the crooked mayor in his shakedowns. Here is the time for the Democrats to actually run a moderate and have a chance.

AND Here is the Democratic candidate: (drum roll please)



Yes it is the return of the super liberal geek Al Gerber (who beat me in my reelection bid in 2010 with the help of the entire BOA and who then lost in a landslide in 2012). Town and Country Living is hardly a "REAL" magazine that follows ethical journalistic

guidelines. I would not be holding my breath waiting for the Pine Lawn Judge Dean Plocher's equal time of a cover shot dancing in a field since Plocher lives in Des Peres.

If you open the "magazine" up you find Al background and beliefs. This is stuff he managed to hide when he ran against me. It is not going to do him any good running against the Municipal Judge of Pine Lawn.

Favorite Food: Organic and Non-GMO vegetarian dishes. (How did Al get that gut from eating vegetables?)

Professions: Al continues to write that he worked for the Sultan of Brunei's family airline. (Do you really want to tie yourself to a Middle Eastern dictator?)

Favorite Vacation Destination: The jungle of Borneo. Interesting, but I don't think it rings a lot of bells with the 80-percent of Republicans in the 89th District.

Keep in mind last November John Diehl had 13 mailers go out to voters. Gerber had ONE. The one mailer arrived on Election Day after many people had already voted.



Al and wife Hera dance among the ticks chiggers.



People in Pine Lawn dancing to keep their feet from falling asleep standing in line to get their pocket's picked by Dean Plocher.

Where is the candidate with the slogan, "I Don't Text Let Alone SexText"? Where is the person with the campaign song of "I Won't Text, Don't Ask Me!"?

**WARD TWO FORUM DISAPPOINTING: ARE WE SAFE?** Amy "The Belle of Beaver Island Michigan" Anderson has inferred that Longview Park is no longer safe or centrally located when recapping what residents want at the Wirth Property.

"They want walkability of the area, a friendly, safe place to gather in the middle of town," said Anderson.

When she said this I looked around at a gathering of 20 or more people in a city owned structure in the middle of town surrounded by paved trails and sidewalks with no apparent crimes in progress. Yes I was at the Longview Park, a location less than 1/2 mile from the Wirth property boondoggle. It was a place with walkability, seems to be friendly and a safe place to gather and in the middle of town. Apparently we need such a place every 1/2 mile along Clayton Road.

**APPARENTLY NO NEW WARNING SIGNS:** I was very disappointed when Tiffany Frautschi told the group that there would be no signs warning bicyclists on how dangerous Mason Road is south of Clayton Road, since Mason is a County Road. Of course we knew that when we suggested the following be put up on Clayton Road, a city street, before Mason Road:

**Danger!**  
**Bicycling on**  
**Mason Rd**  
**S of Clayton Rd**  
**HAZARDOUS**

**CROWD UP FOR FORUM.** At the first Ward-2 Forum there were nine people attending. For the September meeting there were 17 not counting staff and politicians. Several people were from outside of Ward-2.

**I'LL SEE YOU IN DECEMBER UNTIL THEN IT IS MANCHESTER ROAD OR OLIVE FOR A BIG MAC** The tear down and rebuild of the Town and Country McDonalds has been on the books for almost a year. The land and building are owned by McDonalds and the franchise owner is Colleen Schoendienst. It has been delayed twice waiting for an all new kitchen plan from McDonalds. Colleen also owns the McDonalds in Chesterfield Valley on Chesterfield Airport Road at Long Road.



**DOG POOP! THE OTHER SIDE OF THE STORY:** If you remember we wrote last week how Parks Commission Chair Lynn Wright and Parks Director Anne Nixon complained about people not picking up their dog's poop at the park.

How about showing some respect for all the dog owners who pick up their dogs' poop in the park by emptying the trash cans they throw the dog poop into?

For over a month a large trash bin in Drace Park just as you walk in by the sidewalk (Trail or Linear Park in the park speak of Nixon and Wright) has not been emptied. It is full of bags of dog poop and swarms of flies. I have recently watched Lynn Wright walk past this trash can of over flowing dog poop, while she was walking her dog and apparently took no notice. It is interesting while being ignored for most of August the city staff failed to empty this trash can for the the Labor Day weekend. If we cannot maintain Drace Park or Preservation Park why is the city about to turn the Wirth property into a park?



September 14



September 16



September 13



September 10

## UNAPPROVED CHESTERFIELD NEWSLETTER 139



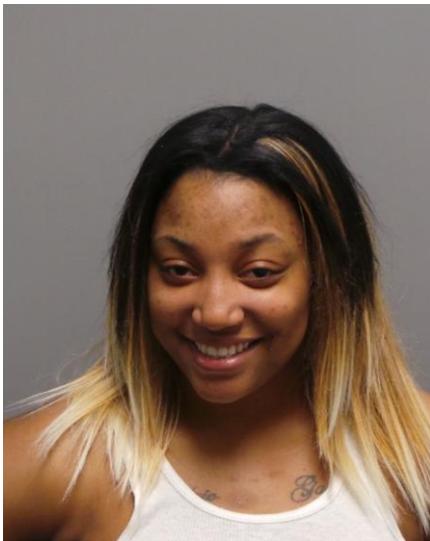
**September 20, 2015**

**FROM SHOPLIFTING TO ASSAULT AND ROBBERY TO CARJACKING TO KIDNAPPING TO PRISON.** It was just another day for Cierra Baker. She and friend Antwinette Johnson went to Chesterfield Mall at 5pm Friday on March 21, 2014 to shoplift. When they were confronted by a security officer Baker pulled out a can of

pepper spray and let him have it. That moved the crime from shoplifting/stealing to assault/robbery. But Baker was not done yet.

She ran across the parking lot and found Varsha Doggala, who had just finished a cell phone call and was about to get out of her car to do some shopping. Baker jumped in the car. She first said she been assaulted and robbed and needed a ride to St. Louis.

Doggala suggested they call the police and Baker said they couldn't do that because she was on a parole and didn't want to contact the police. Doggala told Baker to get out of her car at which time Baker threatened to assault her. Baker then told her to drive her half way to St. Louis. This constituted the carjacking and kidnapping.



Baker



Johnson

Here is how the events unfolded:

The H&M store security officer Mark Berry watched on video as Baker and Johnson entered the store carrying large Dillard bags lined with aluminum foil to keep security sensors from sounding. He watched as they put the following children items into the "shoplifting bags"

- \$4.95 plaid hat
- \$4.95 denim hat
- \$6.95 blue hat
- \$25.90 long sleeve shirt
- \$12.95 blue denim shirt
- \$24.95 tan jacket

\$17.95 blue jacket  
\$9.95 Bruce Springsteen t-shirt  
\$12.95 Angry Birds t-shirt  
\$17.95 blue shorts  
\$14.95 plaid shorts  
\$9.95 blue jeans  
\$14.95 blue jeans  
\$17.95 blue jeans  
\$9.95 red pants  
\$17.95 red pants  
\$19.90 blue pants  
\$17.95 grey pants  
\$9.95 yellow pants  
\$17.95 green cargo pants  
\$14.95 size 7.5 boys' shoes

This is from the police report:

**Berry stated that female #1 began selecting items from the racks and concealing them into the large Dillard's bag. Female #2 walked around the store looking at items, selecting items, and concealing them inside the large Dillard's bag she was carrying. Berry contacted Chesterfield police for assistance at that time. At approximately 1710 hours, the 2 females walked towards the front of the store and passed all points of sale without paying for the merchandise and left the store. Berry stated that he left the store and contacted them, stating to them that he was H&M Loss Prevention, and observed one of the suspects take an object out of her purse, and spray him in the face with MACE. He followed the subject out of the mall, and he contacted Chesterfield police and Monarch Fire Protection.**

By 7:15 the kidnapping victim arrived at the Chesterfield Police station. Here is the police report as to what happened to Varsha Doggala:



The victim (Varsha Doggala) arrived at the station at 1915 hours and she was escorted to an interview room where I obtained the following verbal statement. Doggala stated she arrived on the west parking lot of Chesterfield Mall between Macy's and Dillard's around 1700 hours and was sitting in her car talking to a friend on the phone. She finished up her conversation and was about to get out of her car when a black female came up to the passenger side of her car and started banging on the window. Before she could do anything the black female opened the car door and sat down in her front passenger seat.

The female then stated that she had been robbed and needed a ride to the city. Doggala said to her that security was out here and the police were around but the female stated she was on parole and could not get involved with the police. The female then grabbed Doggala's cell phone from her hand and began making multiple calls. Doggala demanded her cell phone back and told the female to get out of her car. The female then told Doggala she was going to take her to the city and when Doggala refused, the female held up her right fist and threatened to punch her, if she did not take her to the city.

Doggala then started the car and headed to east bound IS 64. While they were on the highway the black female was arguing with her boyfriend on the phone about where they could meet and Doggala again stated she was not driving to the city, but she would take her half way there. The female then had Doggala get off at Big Bend Rd and stop at a gas station just north of IS 64. When they arrived at the gas station, Doggala told the female to get out of her car and give her phone back, but the female refused to get out. They waited on the parking lot for five to seven minutes until a white car (make and model unknown) pulled up to the gas pumps and the female jumped out, and ran to the car.

Doggala's description of the suspect was the same as the one given of shoplifter/robber by Mr. Berry at H&M.

If this plus the store video tape wasn't enough evidence, Baker's 17 phone calls on Doggala's phone were to her boyfriend and mother. That identified her as the suspect.

The other suspect Antwinette Johnson was not capture and her identity was unknown to the police.

Chesterfield Police detectives actively were attempting to find Baker, going to her neighborhood in St. Louis and calling her mother.

Capt. Steve Lewis, the Chesterfield press liaison person released photos of the suspects taken from store video to newspapers and TV stations. Calls in response to the photo release further identified Baker as the main suspect.

On March 26, five days after the event, Detective Ovca received a tip that the other person with Baker was Antwinette Johnson.

Police went to Johnson's home and contacted her mother, who admitted seeing her daughter's photo on TV newscasts. Her mother called Johnson who spoke to Detective Ovca. That is when police learned that Baker who had blinded Mark Berry with her pepper spray did not need to carjack Varsha Doggala. Baker had driven her car to Chesterfield Mall. Johnson ended up taking the car to escape when Baker decided to go into the carjacking business. Johnson later met Baker and returned her car.

From the police report:

We then responded to [REDACTED] Bertha. Upon arrival, we made contact with [REDACTED] who advised she saw her daughter on television, and had been trying to get her to turn herself in with her attorney. She then called Antwinette and let me speak to her. I advised Antwinette I knew she was not involved in the assault on the loss prevention agent, or the kidnapping, as the video showed she did not leave the store until after the loss prevention agent did. Johnson said when she was about to walk out she saw loss prevention go after Baker, so she dumped all the stuff she had concealed prior to leaving. Johnson advised she then left the mall in Baker's silver Charger. Johnson said Baker called her later that night and they met at a Lee's Chicken for her to give Baker her car back. Johnson said she attempted to call Baker over the past few days, but her phone was turned off. She said she would contact her attorney and come in at 1100 hours.

On March 28 Johnson and her attorney arrived at the Chesterfield PD. She was arrested and charged with misdemeanor stealing. The entire case involving Baker and Johnson was presented to a grand jury. Once certified copies of three other stealing convictions were obtained the charge was upgraded to a felony. Johnson was indicted for Felony Shoplifting.

The trail for Baker went cold until May 6, 2014 when Det. Ovca developed information that Baker was staying with her mother on Shaw Avenue in St. Louis. Five Chesterfield detectives went to the mother's house in St. Louis. Here is what happened:

Upon arrival, I made contact with a female through the front door who refused to open the door.

Det. Wittman then observed a black female, whom he recognized as Baker, yelling at him through an upstairs bedroom window. A short time later at 1545 hours, the homeowner, Baker's mother, [REDACTED] arrived at the residence. She granted consent to enter the residence and take Baker into custody and unlocked the front door.

Det. Lt. Thompson and I entered the residence and took her into custody in the upstairs bedroom. She was transported to the Chesterfield station for processing and interview.

Baker refused to make a statement.

#### **OUTCOMES:**

**Antwinette Johnson:** The felony stealing was reduced to a misdemeanor. She pled guilty before Judge Gloria Reno on July 17, 2015. Reno sentenced her to one year in jail and immediately put her on a 2-year probation term.

Since the Chesterfield Mall caper Johnson has has been cited by the St. Ann police for Driving on a Revoked License and No Insurance. There is currently a warrant for her arrest when she did not appear in court.

**Cierra Baker:** On March 21, 2015 Baker pled guilty to felony stealing, having the robbery charge reduced. The kidnapping charge was reduced to Unlawful Restraint. Judge Joseph Walsh sentenced her to seven years in the Missouri Department of Corrections, where she is currently located.

**68-YEAR-OLD CLARKSON VALLEY MAN ARRESTED FOR FELONY THEFT:** James Brubaker, 68, of 2238 Samuel Stuart lane in Clarkson Valley was arrested on a warrant on August 28 resulting from a Felony Stealing case from University City.



**ANOTHER CHESTERFIELD MAN PLEADS GUILTY TO FELONY MAIL FRAUD AND ALTERING PARTS TO JET FIGHTERS:** James M. Alexander, 45, the president of Matthews Manufacturing pled guilty to Mail Fraud and Defrauding the U.S. Government. Matthews manufacturing had a contract to provide containers to ship parts to F/A-18 Super Hornet fighter jets. Old parts were used instead of new parts with dates on the parts being buffed out and re-stamped.

The fraud was for \$120,536.

Sentencing for Alexander of 16219 Forest Meadows is set for December 10.

In July of 2010 Matthews Manufacturing was hit with \$260,000 in OSHA fines for unsafe working conditions at their manufacturing facility at 41 Branch St. in St. Louis.



16219 Forest Meadows.

**POINT COUNTER POINT THE HIGH GRASS IN LADUE TRAILS NO ONE WILL CUT ON LADUE ROAD:** If you remember last week I ran a photo of the high grass in the median in front of 14191 Ladue Road making it impossible to see EB oncoming traffic if a motorist was making a left turn or a U-Turn.



I was told that the city would not cut the grass even if they acknowledged it is a safety hazard saying it is the job of the subdivision trustees. My position was cities are suppose to watch out for the safety, health and welfare of the public. Chesterfield is not willing to take a couple of minutes to remove a view obstruction and possibly allow a T-Bone accident. It is pigheaded, even if the HOA is suppose to cut the grass.

Here is an email I got from another reader who lives in the Ladue Trails subdivision and has one opinion of their trustee.

**Sent:** Friday, September 11, 2015 11:30 AM

**To:** [johnhoffmann@charter.net](mailto:johnhoffmann@charter.net)

**Subject:** LADUE ROAD ISLANDS

Hi Mr. Hoffmann,

One of your biggest fans here. Want to provide some details about the Ladue Road islands in Chesterfield:

Area homeowner's have already paid Ladue Trails Association (in yearly assessments) to mow the grass; it has been part of the Ladue Trails annual assessment since day one. (Ladue Trails maintains islands and light fixtures on islands in Ladue Trails.) Mike Horton, who runs the association, has collected assessment money but now chooses not do the work that he is required to do and he has the community's money to do. Horton is the individual causing the growing safety problems and eye sore.

Unfortunately Horton claims to be appointed for life and is not elected. So no one can vote him out.

Conflict also stems from Horton arguing with the City for an asphalt overlay on Ladue Road instead of the new concrete road they constructed earlier this year.

Mike Horton, does not represent the community in his attitude, his decisions and actions. He is known to be a mean-spirited and dishonest bully.

Some suggest that Chesterfield might be able to sue Horton for the costs. Residents say Ladue Trails needs to do the job, resign, or give assessment money back. Many residents feel Chesterfield needs to act against him because that is their job.

Recently the City forced Horton to trim back bushes on islands that were overgrown and a safety issue. Instead of trimming, Horton yanked the bushes out.

There is an open Chesterfield police file; residents in the area want protection because of his actions. The police visited him to warn him about his crazy behavior putting people in fear for their safety and property.

I prefer to not have my name mentioned because of repercussions.

**COUNTER POINT:** From Mr. Mike Holden, a letter to Mayor Bob Nation that was forwarded from a reader who described Mr. Holden as nonthreatening. While not knowing the facts, after reading the letter it seems to be reasonable.

TO: Our Mayor,

*Ordinance*  
*203*

12 Sept. 2015

Bob, per our most recent phone conversation (yesterday late morning) I am submitting what you ask of me. You ask if I had gone to the county for records and such. Attached you will find a parcel of the documents showing my evidence, which I pasted to the folder with the attachment. The attachment covers the end of one page and the beginning of the next page of the county records. The attachment is a bit grainy (sorry), and you may have to zoom in a bit for clarity, but it says: The Petition of, for the development of The Village of Green Trails, under the Density Development Procedure, containing 839 acres (that would be all 6 subdivision and the common ground), on Feb. 9th 1965. So in my view the development was a legal agreement with The Village of Green Trails Plat 1, not a section of. There are many "sections of" the Village of Green Trails. Ladue Trails is but one section. This agreement I assume is the legal avenue which allowed for Ladue Rd to be established through the whole Village of Green Trails domain. It therefore points to either The Village of Green Trails or the city to maintain the islands.

In our conversations you have inquired a couple of times; how many Ladue Trails homes are on the South side of Ladue. I have told you, zero. In fact when I purchased my home 33 years ago, the South side of Ladue Rd was a golf course. It was not owned by Ladue Trails, but yes, it most likely was a section of the Village of Green Trails Plat 1? That golf course needed Ladue Rd to be established as well as The Village of Green Trails needed Ladue Rd to be established prior to the development of the various sections. **That golf course is now a part of The Village of, Green Trails Country Club Grounds.**

I can only assume these above facts is the reason two entities have cut the islands in question this year? Someone directed these three cuts and more than likely that direction came from the above facts, most likely directed by the city. The two entities that cut them were The Village of Green Trails and The city of Chesterfield.

These facts along with the many emails from 3 different city officials stating that Ladue Trails is not responsible for the upkeep of these islands in question are the only legal evidence I can give you. Remember, Chesterfield officials have been stating that Ladue Trails is not responsible for over a period of 5 months, the latest of such statement coming as recently as 4 days ago... The Ladue Trails Trustees also agree with the city, these islands are not our responsibility.

The Ladue Trails Trustees cannot (within their fiduciary responsibility) sanction expenditures outside the guidelines of our sub indenture.

I hope I have provided you with what you ask of me. I also hope the city will enforce the code before someone has an accident. The weeds are now 4 foot high in places and are becoming a line of site violation at an intersection. Thank You

**CHESTERFIELD PLANNING AND PUBLIC WORKS COMMITTEE VOTED TO ADD \$100,000 FOR FOURTH QUARTER TREE REMOVAL:**

The lone agenda item on the September 10 Planning and Public Works Commission meeting was to allocate more money for the Public Works department to remove diseased and nuisance trees.

The city's arborist, Mindy Mohrmann was at the meeting along with Public Works Director Jim Eckrich and Public Services Director Mike Geisel.



City Arborist Mindy Mohrmann

In the first eight months of the year the city has spent \$110,000 in replacing 137 dead or hazardous trees. Currently there is approval to remove and replace 36 nuisance sweet gum trees at a cost of \$27,000 and the need for \$17,000 to replace already identified dead or dangerous oak trees. The request was for a total of \$62,000 to cover additional unforeseen tree removal in the final quarter of the year.



Horned Oak Gall



Emerald Ash Borer

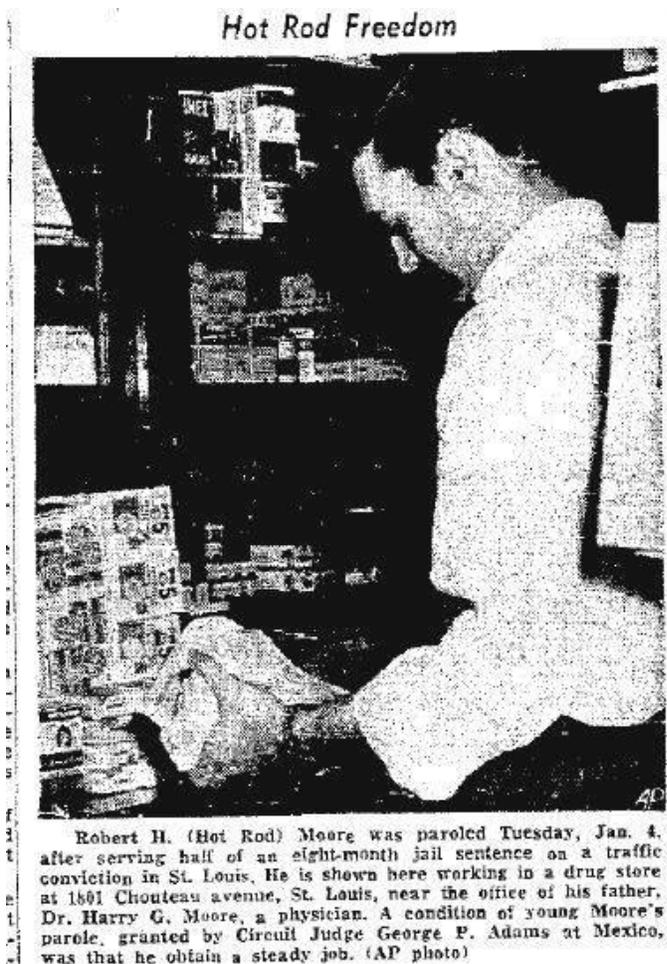
With the city still having \$2.4 million in reserves above the required 40-percent reserve, the committee voted to sent to the full city council a request not for \$63,000 as requested but \$100,000 for tree removal for the remaining of 2015. Emerald ash tree borer has been reported in Creve Coeur. City staff is expecting as many as 30-to-40 percent of Chesterfield Ash trees to be affected.

**A ST. LOUIS COUNTY LEGEND FADING FROM MEMORY:** When I became a police officer in 1974 I worked with older officers with more than 20-years on the job who would talk about Robert "Hot Rod" Moore of Creve Coeur (Portland Place) who was famous for leading police on long car chases while driving soup'ed up cars. .

He was 18 when he got his first traffic ticket in 1948. He would accumulate many, many more over the years.

One candidate for County prosecuting attorney ran on a platform of putting Hot Rod Moore in jail. Moore did receive an eight month prison term, which he served four months. As part of his probation he needed a job. His father, a well known physician got him one in a drug store on Chouteau.

Moore's police chases and citations got front page coverage and he was for a time a common name around St. Louis.



After reading some of my pieces on how municipal courts have turned into a joke a reader sent me this missive about Hot Rod Moore that made me laugh:

I don't think the pope will beatify a Methodist  
but as candidate for the patron saint of traffic lawyers  
the fellow who started it all in Missouri, Hot Rod Moore  
by calling attention to the need for a uniform tracking of traffic scofflaws

Moore died in 2010.

**REAL ESTATE: Big Thankful You Live Here:** Occasionally I like to check housing prices where I used to live and work in Maryland. It provides another reason I'm happy to be in St. Louis.



Kirkside Drive in Chevy Chase Village, MD \$1,499,000 for a 1,542 sq feet home.

**TOWN AND COUNTRY REAL ESTATE:** The claim is that it will be a major renovation. It looks like it is going to be a new house to me at 13607 Peacock Farm Rd in the Mason Valley subdivision:



Now



Coming soon

**HERE:** 18 Brookwood Road off of Topping is one of my wife's favorite houses in Town and Country. It is all stone and is on the market along with 3.3 acres of land.



Only \$1,495,000.

Here one in my subdivision at 13337 Manor Hill Road with a 1.5 acre yard. It is for sale by the owner and there is a price on Zillow of \$825,000. Other websites list the value of the property between \$623,000 and \$1,000,000.



**FOOD: GUNS AND HOSES AT THE TABLE.** At the Budweiser Taste of St. Louis on Saturday September 19 there will be a Backstop Palooza "Cook-Off" with two rotund representatives from fire and police. It will be Ast. Chief Nick Harper of the Monarch Fire Prevention District going spatula and spoon against Capt. Steve Lewis of the Chesterfield Police Department.

**Budweiser TASTE OF ST. LOUIS**  
**Backstop Palooza Charity Cook-off**  
Saturday, September 19, 2015, 1:45 PM

[www.tastestl.com/chef-battle](http://www.tastestl.com/chef-battle)

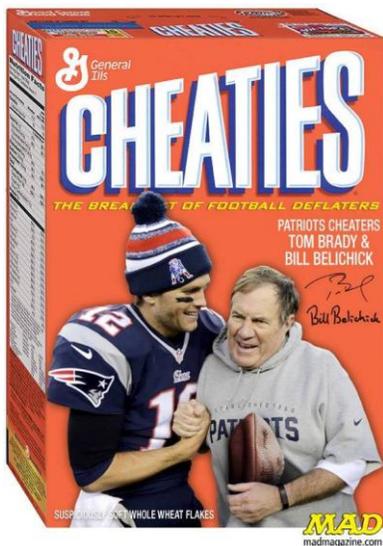
Come out this Saturday and see the Backstoppalooza Charity Cook-off, pitting Chesterfield Police Captain Steve Lewis against Monarch Assistant Fire Chief Nick Harper at 1:45 at the Taste of St. Louis in Chesterfield. Budweiser Taste of St. Louis will be making a cash contribution toward the October 3rd Backstoppalooza concert in support of BackStoppers and will be collecting additional contributions from the crowd for the cause. Obviously the cop will be the better cook, don't you think? Come see this variation on the Guns and Hoses theme!

This says it is a "COOK-OFF" so there better being some cooking and not any grilling. Steve Lewis told me confidently that we was going to win. I did not have a chance to see if Nick Harper was also trash-talking. Considering suburban firefighters cook a lot of dinners at the firehouse, unless Lewis made extra money as a young cop in St. Louis working off duty in the kitchen of a restaurant, I have to go with Harper. Of course a number of fine restaurants in St. Louis years ago used to feed beat police officers at tables in the kitchen. So there is a chance Lewis might have paid attention and learned something while getting a free meal. We will check and see what they COOKED let you know next week who won.

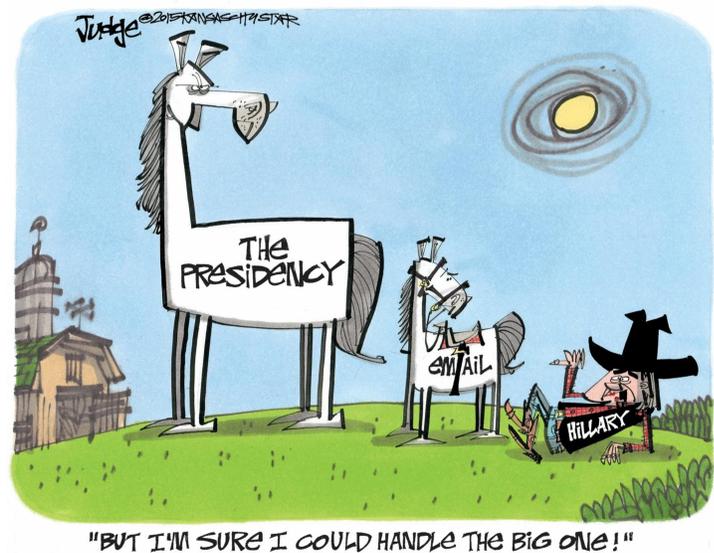
**MUSIC:** In August Sasha's in Clayton had been packed on Wednesday nights with musicians wanting to sit in with Jim Manley and Chris Swan. But come September it has been just the duo on Wednesdays.

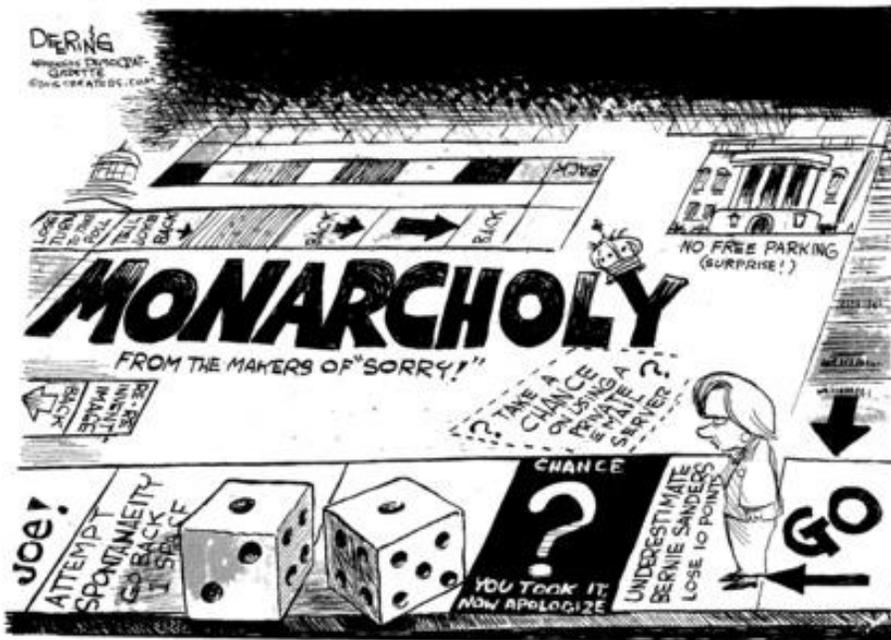
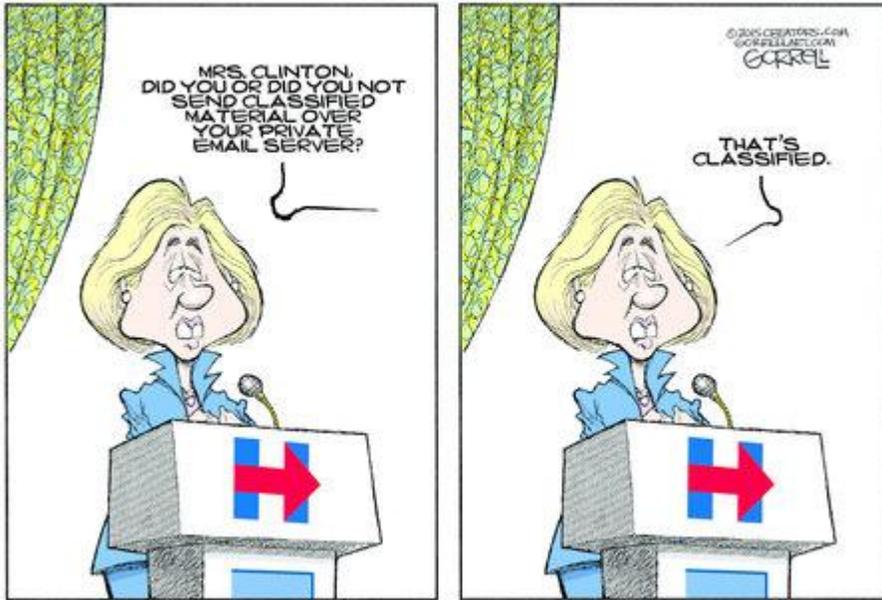


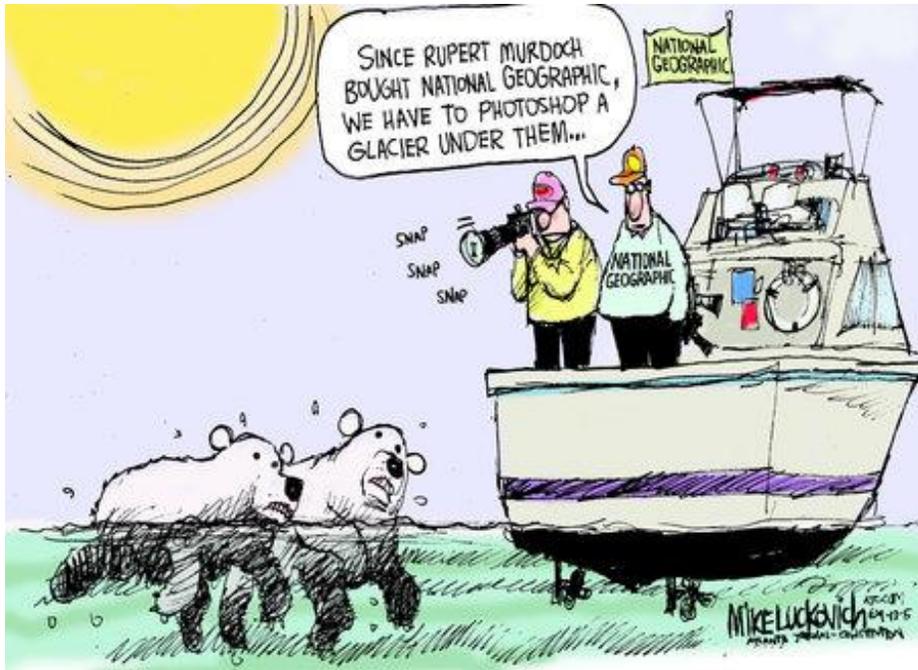
**CARTOONS:**



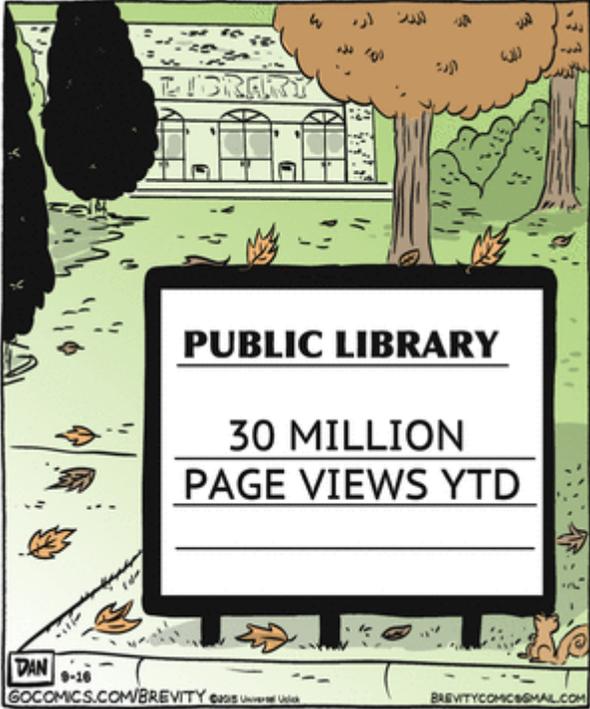
Estee Lauder debuts its most alluring perfume ever.







Future GOP Debates



DAN

9-16

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