



# TALK OF THE [TOWNS]

by bill beggs jr.



Brentwood is mulling over consolidating its emergency dispatch services within the East Central Dispatch Center (ECDC), which encompasses the cities of Clayton, Maplewood, Olivette, Richmond Heights, Shrewsbury and Webster Groves. While cities combine such services to cut costs and increase efficiency, some people worry it could also negatively affect response time. This does not seem to have been the case for Creve Coeur, Frontenac, and Town & Country, which a few years ago combined dispatch operations as West Central Dispatch Center. Nor have we seen reports of such problems at ECDC. But the issue is top-of-mind for many in our area since a recent address mixup after a 911 call to Central County Dispatch may have caused additional damage to a home in Florissant: firefighters first were sent to the wrong home, with a similar address, in Ferguson. More than 10 minutes elapsed before they were dispatched to the correct address. Officials hope that system alarms to alert dispatchers of possible duplicate addresses in their area may be forthcoming.



More than 100 names of church workers accused of sexual abuse over the last 20 years must be released to the female plaintiff in a civil lawsuit against the Archdiocese of St. Louis, the Missouri Supreme Court has ruled. The suit has been dragging on since 2011, when a woman, 19, accused a priest at a St. Louis parish of abuse that allegedly began when she was 5. The suit claims that the priest, who had been convicted of abusing an 11-year-old boy at another parish many years before, was then transferred to the parish in the city (he has since been defrocked). The archdiocese had held that release of the names also would expose victims and others who wanted to remain anonymous, but the list is to be released only to the woman and her attorneys in this case. In a statement, the archdiocese states it will release the names, "Although we share the disappointment of the many innocent individuals who will be affected by it."



A three-legged dog is teaching kids how to be whole. The yellow lab was rescued from an animal hoarder in Marshall, Mo., with a front left leg so infected it had to be amputated. Cyndi Willenbrock of Clayton adopted Marshall, who has helped the inveterate runner slow down a little, at least to walking two dogs instead of running with one. The rewards have been profound. Willenbrock was there when an Alzheimer's sufferer, mute for two

years, spoke to the dog. She's witnessed withdrawn autistic children laugh and interact with him. Meanwhile, Marshall (The Miracle Dog) has become somewhat of a spokesperson against bullying in area schools. Once terrified of other dogs after having been penned together with 60-some other canines in awful conditions, Marshall is now a certified therapy dog. He works his magic at schools and The Humane Society in programs to prevent bullying and animal cruelty. (Marshall also has a deep scar on his face.) Willenbrock has hooked up with Girls In The Know, a program to help mothers and their pre-teen girls through the tough years leading up to (gasp) middle school. She's also written a book and created a video featuring Marshall with help from Ladue and Lindbergh school kids. (Have issues



ready if you search YouTube or scan the QR code at right). Does Marshall look familiar to you? You may have seen the celebrity canine on area billboards. Morphine mixed with water—and mouthwash? County prosecutors have charged a former nurse



CLAYTON

approached three men in the restaurant's parking lot and relieved them of their cash and cell phones. Then, it must have looked like a couple of cops-and-robbers shows spliced together, because two of the suspects wound up taking off for St. Louis in one getaway car, the other pair highailing it all the way out to High Ridge, where some cash and one stolen phone were recovered. The women and men, none named either Bonnie or Clyde, are adjusting to a new wardrobe, perhaps cheery bright orange jumpsuits just in time for spring, at our county jail. Bond for each is \$100,000. That would buy a whole mess of sliders, although at least one of the alleged crooks might not be able to stomach those anymore.



Rejoice, citizens of the Show-Me and Prairie states—the 'Stan the Man Span' officially has opened ... although not by that name. Legislators and the other powers-who-be haggled over and finally worked out the toll issue (there won't be any charge to use the bridge), but the one thing Missouri and our neighbor on the eastern bank of the Big Muddy couldn't agree on was a legal name. So, it's a mouthful: The Stan Musial Veterans Memorial Bridge.

They didn't ask you, and they didn't ask me, but I think a better compromise would have been to pause and look a few miles south toward renaming the 'J.B. Bridge' the Jefferson Barracks Veterans Memorial Bridge; after all, one of the nation's finest veterans cemeteries is minutes away from the western end. Then, Stan could have stood on his own, just as he did for the Cardinals from 1941 to 1963, with some time off to serve in World War II. Well, to be sure, the mighty Musial, forever No. 6, was a veteran himself. So there, I guess.

From the start, Missouri and Illinois had squabbled over how to pay their respective parts of the nearly \$1 billion bridge (\$700 million, actually, including federal Department of Transportation funding). At times, it looked as though they wouldn't agree on anything. And they didn't, really, right down to the one ephemeral detail that didn't cost

at an Ellisville nursing home with felony stealing of a controlled substance after she was caught administering the diluted doses. Her coworkers had noticed the liquid looked and smelled odd, and some patients had complained. Fortunately, no one was seriously harmed, although elderly patients whose pain was not being managed properly must have suffered needlessly. Authorities believe the nurse, 27, already was addicted to a similar opiate and was stealing partial doses of the powerful painkiller for herself.

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## [ TT TRIVIA ] WHAT IS THE OLDEST BRIDGE CROSSING THE MISSISSIPPI RIVER AT ST. LOUIS?

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