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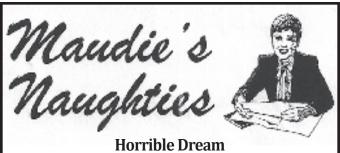
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"Doc," says the young man lying down on the couch, "You've got to help me! Every night I have the same horrible dream. I'm lying in bed when all of a sudden five women rush in and start tearing off my

The psychiatrist nods, "And what do you do?"

"I push them away."

"I see. What do you want me to do?"

The patient implores, "Break my arms."

Lame Golf Joke

A golf club walks into a local bar and asks the barman for a pint of beer. The barman refuses to serve him. "Why not," asks the golf club.

"You'll be driving later," replies the bartender

**Suspicious Couple** 

A policeman passes a parking lot around midnight and notices a couple inside a parked car. He stops to investigate and sees a man in the driver's seat and a young lady sitting in the backseat, quietly reading a magazine.

The officer knocks on the driver's window and

asks, "What's going on?

"Listening to music," the guy says.

Pointing toward the young lady in the backseat, the officer asks, "And what's she doing?"

"Reading a magazine, of course."

"How old are you?" asks the officer.

"I'm 22."

"And how old is she?"

The guy looks at his watch and says, "Well, in 11 minutes she'll be 18."

**Praying for Cash** 

Several years ago, a little boy wanted \$100.00 very badly and prayed for weeks, but nothing happened. Then he decided to write God a letter requesting the \$100.00. When the postal authorities received the letter to God, USA, they decided to send it to the President. The president was so amused that he instructed his secretary to send the little boy a \$5.00 bill. The president thought this would appear to be a lot of money to the little boy. The little boy was delighted with the \$5.00 bill and sat down to write a thank-you note to God, which

**Dear God:** Thank you very much for sending the money. however, I noticed that for some reason you sent it through Washington, D.C., and those jerks deducted \$95.00 in taxes.

**Medical Report** 

A man came home from work one day to find his wife standing nude in front of a full length mirror. He said "What are you doing?"

The wife said, "I saw my doctor today and he told me I had the bust of a twenty-year-old."

"Oh yeah," snarled her husband. "What'd he say about your forty-year-old rump?"

"Actually, your name never came up."

**The Silent Monastery** 

Friar Brown entered the Monastery of Silence. The Priest said, "Brother, this is a silent monastery. You are welcome here as long as you like, but you may not speak until I direct you to do so".

Friar Brown lived in the monastery for five years before the Priest said to him, "Friar Brown, you have been here for five years. You can speak two words."

Friar Brown said, "Hard bed."

"I'm sorry to hear that," the Priest said, "We will

get you a better bed."

After another 5 years, Friar Brown was called by the Priest. "You may say another two words, Friar

"Cold food," said Friar Brown, and the Priest assured him that the food would be better in the future.

On his 15th anniversary at the monastery, the Priest again called Friar Brown into his office. "You may say two words today."

"I quit," said Friar Brown.

"It's probably best," said the Priest, "You've done nothing but gripe since you got here."



This Week at the State Capitol - January 11-15, 2021

## State budget work moving forward

FRANKFORT -- This year, for the first time since the this week was essentially a continuation budget put Kentucky General Assembly began holding annual sessions in 2001, lawmakers continued their work into a second week of an odd-numbered year session before starting a recess that will last until early February.

Legislative leaders said working the extra days gave them a chance to move priority bills through the process. It also allowed them to jumpstart budget deliberations.

It's unusual for lawmakers to create a state budget during an odd-numbered year. State budgets that cover two-year cycles are typically created during evennumbered years, when the legislature holds longer 60-day sessions. However, the COVID-19 pandemic was spreading at the peak of budget-making season last year. Policy experts were wary of planning two years' worth of spending at a time when no one knew the toll the pandemic would take on the economy and state revenues. They decided to pass a one-year budget then, setting the stage to return to the negotiating table this year to plan a budget for the upcoming fiscal year, which begins July 1.

Lawmakers head into this year's budget deliberations with the state in better financial shape than many feared at the start of the pandemic. The Consensus Forecasting Group – economists who make the revenue forecasts that budgets are built around – projected in December that state revenue would increase \$53 million in the next fiscal year. Still, some policymakers urge caution in spending, saying that state revenue has been boosted by federal aid to Kentucky that won't be available on an ongoing basis.

Faced with a deadline to complete budget work before this year's legislative session ends in late March, lawmakers have moved quickly. Versions of the next state budget were approved by both the House and Senate this week, leading to the formation of a budget committee tasked with creating a plan that both chambers can ultimately agree on.

As the budget plan advanced, lawmakers stressed that the quick action was largely procedural in nature. There are still plenty of big decisions to be made before there's a clear view of what the final budget will look like. The plan that advanced through chambers

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together to move the process to a point where the indepth budget work can begin. The same goes for three other spending plans that

advanced this week. In addition to the state budget, conference committees have also been formed to hammer out the details of proposed budgets for the Transportation Cabinet, the Judicial Branch, and the Legislative Branch. In other business, lawmakers approved legislation

this week that would allow Kentuckians to file lawsuits against state government in the county of their residence. Currently, such cases must be filed in Franklin Circuit Court. House Bill was approved 28-6 in the Senate on Wednesday. The bill passed the House 69-24 the previous week. The bill has been delivered to the office of the governor, who has ten days to sign the bill into, allow it to go into law without his signature,

Lawmakers have now returned to their home districts for a recess period required by the state constitution. They will come back to the Capitol on Feb. 2 to resume the session.

That makes this an important time for lawmakers to hear from their constituents on the issues confronting Kentucky. If you'd like to offer feedback, please call the General Assembly's toll-free Message Line at 800-372-7181.

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