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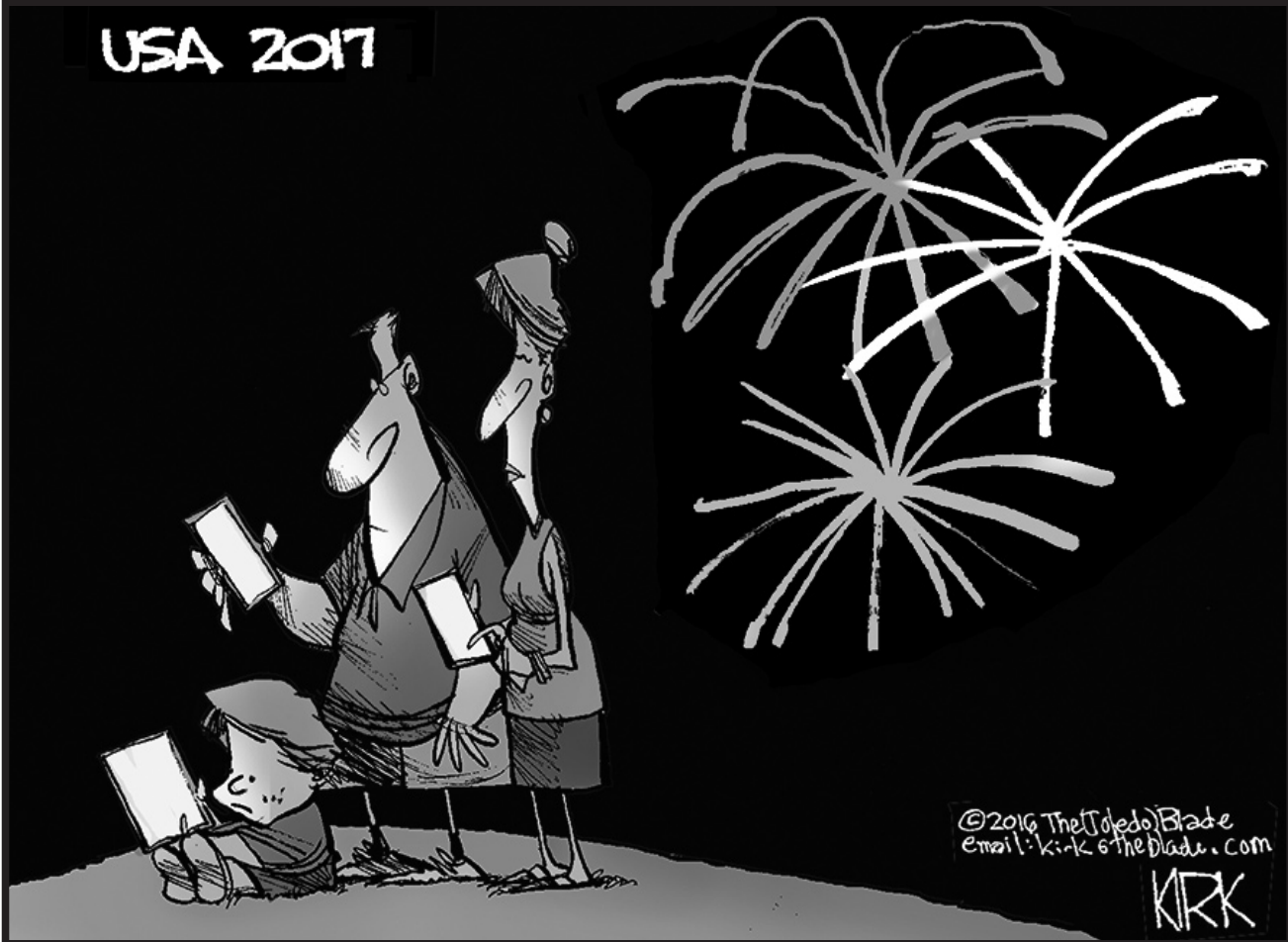
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Maudie's Naughties



Redneck Trucker

Amos is driving home one night when he spots a man half submerged in water in a ditch. He helps the man out of the ditch and gives him a dry outfit of clothes he has in the back of his pickup.

"I'm Redneck Trucker," says the man. (You don't really believe in genies, do you?) "And I will give you three wishes."

"Well," says Amos. "I'd like some of the best Kentucky bourbon in a bottle that never runs dry."

"Your wish is granted," says Redneck Trucker. "What are your next two wishes?"

Amos takes a long drink out of the bottle, and when he brings it down it is just as full as before he started.

"Just give me two more of these," says Amos.

Good Citizen

A man is trying to pull out of a parking place but bashes the bumper of the parked car in front of him. Witnessed by a handful of pedestrians waiting for a bus, the driver gets out, inspects the damage, and proceeds to write a note to leave on the windshield of the car he had hit.

The note reads: "Hello. I have just hit your car, and there are some people here watching me who think that I am writing this note to leave you my name, phone number, and driver's license number, but I am not."

Overworked

For a couple years I've been blaming it on lack of sleep and too much pressure from my job, but now I found out the real reason: I'm tired because I'm overworked.

The population of this country is 237 million. 104 million are retired. That leaves 133 million to do the work. There are 85 million in school, which leaves 48 million to do the work. Of this there are 29 million employed by the federal government, leaving 19 million to do the work. 2.8 million are in the Armed Forces, which leaves 16.2 million to do the work. Take from the total the 14,800,000 people who work for state and city governments and that leaves 1.4 million to do the work. At any given time there are 188,000 people in hospitals, leaving 1,212,000 to do the work. Now, there are 1,211,998 people in prisons.

That leaves just two people to do the work. You and me. And you're sitting on your backside reading the newspaper.

Classmates

Ma comes home fuming after a visit to the new dentist in town, and Pa immediately rushes over to see what's the matter.

"What's wrong, Ma?" asks Pa. "Did that new dentist hurt you while he was working on your teeth?"

"No," says Ma. "We didn't get that far."

"Well," says Pa. "Was he unprofessional with you?"

"Nothing like that," answers Ma.

"Well, what was it," asks Pa?

"He was a classmate of mine from 40 years ago," says Ma. "He was so good looking back then I once had a crush on him. But he looks so old, and fat and ugly now."

"Didn't he remember you?" asks Pa.

"Said he did," replies Ma. "But he said he couldn't remember what class I taught."

Reincarnated

Kenny comes home one night strinking drunk. He slips into bed with his wife, who is already asleep, gives her a kiss on the cheek, and goes to sleep.

Suddenly, he is awakened and realizes there is someone standing beside the bed. He sees a tall, gray-bearded man in a long flowing robe.

"Who the heck are you?" asks Kenny. "And what are you doing in my bedroom?"

"Never mind who I am," says the stranger. "I'm here to inform you that your life here is now over. You will be starting a new life and you will have a choice of becoming a dog or a chicken."

"I don't want to be a dog," says Kenny. "And I don't know a thing about being a chicken."

"Don't worry," says the stranger. "Being a chicken is easy. All you have to do is wander about the barn lot all day, eating worms and corn and laying eggs."

Suddenly, Kenny is a chicken, and he finds it very easy as he wanders around the barn lot pecking at the ground. But Kenny has this pressing feeling inside like he is going to explode. Thinking he might need to lay an egg, he worries that it might hurt. But after settling into the nest, he finds it very easy, and a sense of relief falls over him. It feels so good, he decides to lay another, and another.

He is just lying their feeling the joy from laying his third egg when he feels someone hit the back of his head.

"Kenny, you drunken slob," says his wife. "I didn't mind you strutting around the room, pecking the lint off the carpet, but you're going to clean up the mess in the bed."

From Superintendent Jeff Saylor

Regional Career & Technical Center Update

Several weeks ago, the Estill County School District received confirmation that our grant application for the Work Ready Skills Initiative (WRSI) was approved and the district was awarded \$5.7 million to build a Regional Career and Technical Center. As superintendent, I wanted to give you a quick update on our progress and talk about several questions that have arisen since the approval of our grant.

Update on Grant Award and Other Important Information

During a special called meeting of the Estill County Board of Education on the 16th of May, the board in a unanimous vote approved a final letter of commitment for completion of a Career and Technical facility pledging a little over \$3.7 million dollars of local funds for the completion of the project. Based on this action, we received our official notification letter for an award of \$5.7 million on the 23rd of May from Secretary Hal Heiner. Sometime during the month of July, we will receive a contract from the Education and Workforce Development Cabinet concerning specific details of the proposed project and release of funds. Until then we will not be able to hire an architect, select a site and begin the actual building design.

Hiring an architect is the most important step in making this dream a reality. I believe it would be best practice to select the architect before a final site has been determined. Every piece of property has its positives and negatives and site preparation can sometimes cost more than the property itself. We have already looked at a preliminary design of what this facility could look like and can use that for possible site selection. The final design of this building will change several times before construction begins and take approximately 6 months.

There has been no final determination as to the location of this facility. On numerous occasions during the presentation of this proposal, I have talked about the possibility of locating this facility somewhere between Estill County High School and Powell County High School, but there has been no site selected. The board will begin the process of selecting a site starting sometime after July 1.

Finally, the one big hurdle left for this project is the funding for operations of this building. In our grant, we proposed that this would be a state operated facility; thus funding for staff and every day operations of this building would be the responsibility of the state. Senator Albert Robinson has been an avid supporter of this project and he has committed to obtaining funding in the state budget during the spring 2018 General Assembly. Simply put, if there is no funding allocated for the operation of this facility we will not be able to open on schedule. The Estill County Board of Education cannot afford to operate this facility.

If everything falls into place over the next few months, the timeline for the project calls for construction to begin sometime during the spring of 2018 with a completion date of August 1, 2019. This means that the facility would welcome its first students during the fall semester of the 2019-2020 school year.

What is a State Operated Area Technology Center?

There are currently 53 state operated facilities in the Commonwealth under the direct control of the Kentucky Department of Education. These centers tend to be regionally focused and accept students from multiple school districts. Generally, the building itself belongs to a local school district and the state provides an allocation based on total enrollment of all students attending the school, which in turn can be used for the maintenance or debt service of the building. It is similar to a lease where the owner allows use of the building, but does not have direct control of what occurs inside the walls of the building.

School districts from surrounding districts do not have to pay anything for their students to attend classes at these facilities. For example, some of our students currently attend the Madison County Area Technology Center and we do not have to pay any type of fee for their attendance. Some districts do work closely with the principals of these facilities to provide some resources for their students, but it is strictly up to the sending school if they wish to contribute.

Why did the Estill County School District seek a partnership with Powell County?

During the first round of the WRSI grant process, our original application was denied. This grant focused solely on building an Area Technology Center exclusively for our high school students and adults. We had several partnerships with higher education institutions, businesses, manufacturing and local government agencies. Since every school district around us already had a facility or access to another facility, we did not seek a partnership with another local school district. In the end, this is the sole reason we did not make the final cut. I spoke with Secretary Heiner and others at the Workforce Cabinet and they did not feel that our proposal met the spirit of the grant process, which focused on cooperation among school districts, non-duplication of career programs and maximizing the number of students that would be able to access the proposed programs offered by our facility. The state simply does not have the funds readily available to build facilities for each school district, so this is a new direction in the delivery of Career and Technical Education.

Based on this information, it forced us to reexamine our focus and seek ways we could develop a regional facility that had the possibilities of involving multiple school districts. At this point it became obvious that we needed to seek a partnership with Powell County and there were several factors we needed to consider.

Powell County currently operates a locally owned technology cen-

ter and offers several different programs. They receive funding from the state, but any additional revenue needed to support this center comes directly from their local funds. Based on the fact that it is locally owned and operated, they have complete control over the facility. We knew that transporting students for them would also be an issue, because it is an issue for us when we send students to Madison County. Simply put, they really do not need us; but we needed them to try to obtain more opportunities for our students while giving their students more opportunities as well.

From the start of this second round of funding we felt the need to locate this facility somewhere between ECHS and PCHS. We need to limit the amount of transportation for both districts in order to maximize the number of students attending the facility. We proposed programs and career majors based on a survey of our students, but we had to make sure that these same programs provided new opportunities for their students as well. Finally, because we are seeking funding for a state operated facility, it was important to emphasize there would be no additional cost to their school system. We needed their participation and students; the state will provide an allocation to our district based on the number of students they send to the Career Tech Center.

Conclusion

This is a great opportunity for our school district and community. The people of Estill County have wanted a Career and Technical Center for many years, and that dream is going to become a reality. We will be able to provide our students and adults with high quality instruction in program areas that will change the economic landscape of this community forever. We will also be able to share this opportunity with other students and adults across the region, thus providing more opportunities for everyone. It will require a substantial financial obligation on the part of our school district, but the benefits will more than pay for the investment. If you have questions about this project or anything else in general, you can always reach me at 606-643-7899.

Jeff Saylor, Superintendent, Estill County Schools

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