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Maudie's Naughties



Beware of Dog

As he enters the little country store, the stranger notices a large sign saying, "Beware of Dog!" hanging above an old hound sleeping next to the door.

"Is that dog really dangerous?" asks the stranger.
"Nah," replies the store keeper. "I just put that sign up 'cause people kept tripping over him."

Blind Pilots

Two pilots come onto the plane wearing dark glasses. One is using a guide dog and the other is tapping his way along the aisle with a cane.

Nervous laughter spreads throughout the cabin as the men enter the cockpit, the door closes and the engines start up. The passengers begin glancing nervously around, searching for some sign that this is just a little practical joke.

The plane moves faster and faster down the runway and the people sitting in the window seats suddenly realize they're headed straight for the water at the edge of the airport. As it begins to look as though the plane will plow into the water, panicked screams fill the cabin.

At that moment, the plane lifts smoothly into the air. The passengers relax and laugh a little sheepishly and soon all retreat into their magazines, secure in the knowledge that the plane is in good hands.

In the cockpit, one of the pilots turns to the other and says, "Ya know, Bob, one of these days, they're gonna scream too late and we're all gonna die."

Repair Job

Ma and Pa are sitting in the living room watching Hee Haw reruns when Ma says, "Hey, Pa, When are you going to fix that hole in the ceiling?"

"Well," replies Pa, "When you put away all your junk from off the couch and clean up this house."

A few minutes later, Ma is on the stepladder with a ruler and a pencil, measuring the hole.

"What are you doing?" asks Pa.

"Fixing the hole."

Anniversary

Ma and Pa are celebrating their 50th wedding anniversary and someone asks Pa what he has learned from all those years he's spent with Ma.

"Well," says Pa, "I've learned that marriage is the best teacher of all. It teaches you loyalty, forbearance, meekness, self-restraint, and forgiveness."

"What else have you learned?" they ask.

"That I wouldn't have had to learn all that stuff if I had just stayed single."

Well Insured

Gus and Slim show up at the same beach in Florida.

"What are you doing here?" asks Gus.

Slim replies, "You remember that overpriced house I bought in Richmond? Well, it caught fire the other day, so here I am with the insurance proceeds. What are you doing here?"

"Well," replies Gus. "You remember that big house I bought next to the river at Boonesborough? Well, the river flooded it, so here I am with the flood insurance proceeds."

"Gee," says Slim, "How do you start a flood?"

The Best Gunfighter

Junior and Bubba are coming home from Myrtle Beach and decide to stop by at one of the Old West towns in North Carolina where they use real-like guns that shoot rubber bullets. Junior wants to be like one of the old time gunfighters, so he buys a pistol and holster goes into a saloon.

Just as he walks in, an old man looks at him and says, "If you'll tie that holster lower onto your leg you'll be able to pull your gun out of the holster better."

Junior ties the holster lower and decides he going to try to see if he can get the gun out quicker. But the gun goes off accidentally and the rubber bullet knocks off the hat of a man sitting down at the end of the bar.

The old man says, "If you'll cut a notch in the top of your holster where the hammer hits, the gun will come out smoother."

Junior does so and then practices his draw again. The gun fires again, this time striking the leg of the same man as before who is sitting at the end of the bar, causing the man to fall onto the floor with the pain and discomfort from the rubber bullet.

The old man hands Junior a can of grease and says, "Here, rub this grease all over your gun and that will make it better."

Junior starts rubbing the grease all over his gun but he protests, saying, "I don't see how all this grease can help my draw."

"It won't," says the old man. "But that man you just shot is going to stick that gun where the sun doesn't shine . . . all that grease will keep you from hurting so much."

Letters to the Editor

Retired Teachers Urge Restoration of Fiscal Responsibility to Pensions

After thanking policy makers for bi-partisan action to put the Teachers' Retirement System (TRS) of Kentucky back on strong financial footing, Kentucky Retired Teachers Association (KRTA) President Romanza Johnson urged elected officials to stay the course. Romanza testified that teachers earned and contributed to their retirement plan, and pensions are a necessity not a luxury because teachers do not receive Social Security.

"I ask you to remember - we're not just numbers. We are real people. There will be

real consequences on our lives from your decisions," Johnson testified before the Public Pension Oversight Board (PPOB). "Because we are not eligible for Social Security, our pension is what pays for the roof over our heads, food on the table, electricity, medicine and clothing. We didn't earn big salaries in our working years, and our earned retirement benefits are vital to our survival in retirement," the retired teacher testified.

The average annual TRS pension benefit for a full-time teacher working nearly 30 years is \$36,000. Retired

teachers contributed to their pension out of every single paycheck while the state missed its required contributions for years.

Johnson also testified to policymakers that it is a mistake to switch teachers from pensions to 401(k) type accounts because it increases costs to taxpayers, undermines economic security in retirement and can harm education.

"I like to think of pensions like a home mortgage. You have to keep up with your payments. And if you don't, you can't just switch to another house. Switching doesn't eliminate missed payments or underfunding - it just creates more costs and confusion," Johnson said.

She expressed concern that young teachers will move to surrounding states that offer sustainable pension plans, or they will leave the profession all together at a time when the nation already faces teacher shortages.

Johnson also cited the ex-

periences in Alaska and West Virginia where the pension plans had large unfunded liabilities caused primarily by the state's failure to adequately fund pensions over time. The 401(k) switch was sold as a way to slow down the increasing unfunded liability. But instead, the unfunded liabilities soared and more than doubled in Alaska. Ultimately, West Virginia re-opened its pension and is on-track to full funding, while legislation has been introduced in Alaska to move back to pensions.

The Kentucky Retired Teachers Association is a not-for-profit organization established in 1957 that serves the states' retired education professionals. KRTA represents nearly 30,000 Kentuckians across the state who are actively engaged in giving back to our communities through organized community service projects. Located in Louisville, KRTA also serves as the voice of retired teachers to help protect their financial security.

Blue Grass Army Depot Group Seeks to Modify Waste Permit

A public meeting will be held on Wednesday, July 19, 2017 at 6:00 p.m. at the Blue Grass Chemical Stockpile Outreach Office at 1000 Commercial Drive in Richmond.

The Blue Grass Chemical Agent-Destruction Pilot Plant, or B-G-Capp, and the Blue Grass Army Depot are requesting to modify a hazardous waste facility permit.

The request proposes regulatory approval for B-G-Capp to move and sample G-B munitions to support laboratory analytical methods.

For further information, special access or other assistance to participate, please call Sarah Parke at (859) 779-7452 or (859) 624-7279.

Double Dollars program to expand with new funding

Additional federal, state, and private-sector funding will enable more low-income families in 22 counties to double their purchasing power at participating farmers' markets and retail stores across Kentucky.

Kentucky Double Dollars merges and expands programs already offered by Community Farm Alliance (CFA) and Bluegrass Farm to Table (BGFtT). The popular Double Dollars Programs merged under this effort will receive an infusion of \$602,000 over four years from the U.S. Department of Agriculture's Food Insecurity Nutrition Incentive and \$262,000 over two years from the Kentucky Agricultural Development Fund, public and private partners announced Tuesday in a joint news conference. Along with funding from WellCare and BB&T, the popular program will have almost \$300,000 available this year to help Kentucky families receiving government nutritional assistance to buy more fresh foods produced by local farmers.

"The Double Dollars Program helps achieve one of the key goals of our Hunger Initiative - to make fresh local foods accessible to more Kentucky families," Agriculture Commissioner Ryan Quarles said. "It also increases sales at Kentucky farmers' markets, creating new income

for producers. Congratulations to CFA and its partners for securing the funding to expand this effective and important program."

"Through the Market Manager and Double Dollars programs, farmers receive a greater return, which increases net farm income and stimulates the local economy, while consumers also receive incentives to purchase fresh and local items at the farmers' market," said Warren Beeler, executive director of the Governor's Office of Agricultural Policy. "The Kentucky Agricultural Development Board appreciates the opportunity to partner with the Community Farm Alliance to fund these mutually beneficial programs."

The Bluegrass Double Dollars program started in Lexington as part of Bluegrass Farm to Table, which connects Kentucky farmers with new market opportunities for locally grown foods, said Ashton Potter Wright, Manager of Bluegrass Farm to Table. "We're excited to see the program expand statewide," Wright said.

This season, 27 Kentucky farmers' markets, 12 Fresh Stop Markets (in Lexington and Louisville), and two Lexington-based retailers (Good Foods Co-op and Lexington Market East End) are offering Kentucky Double Dollars.

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