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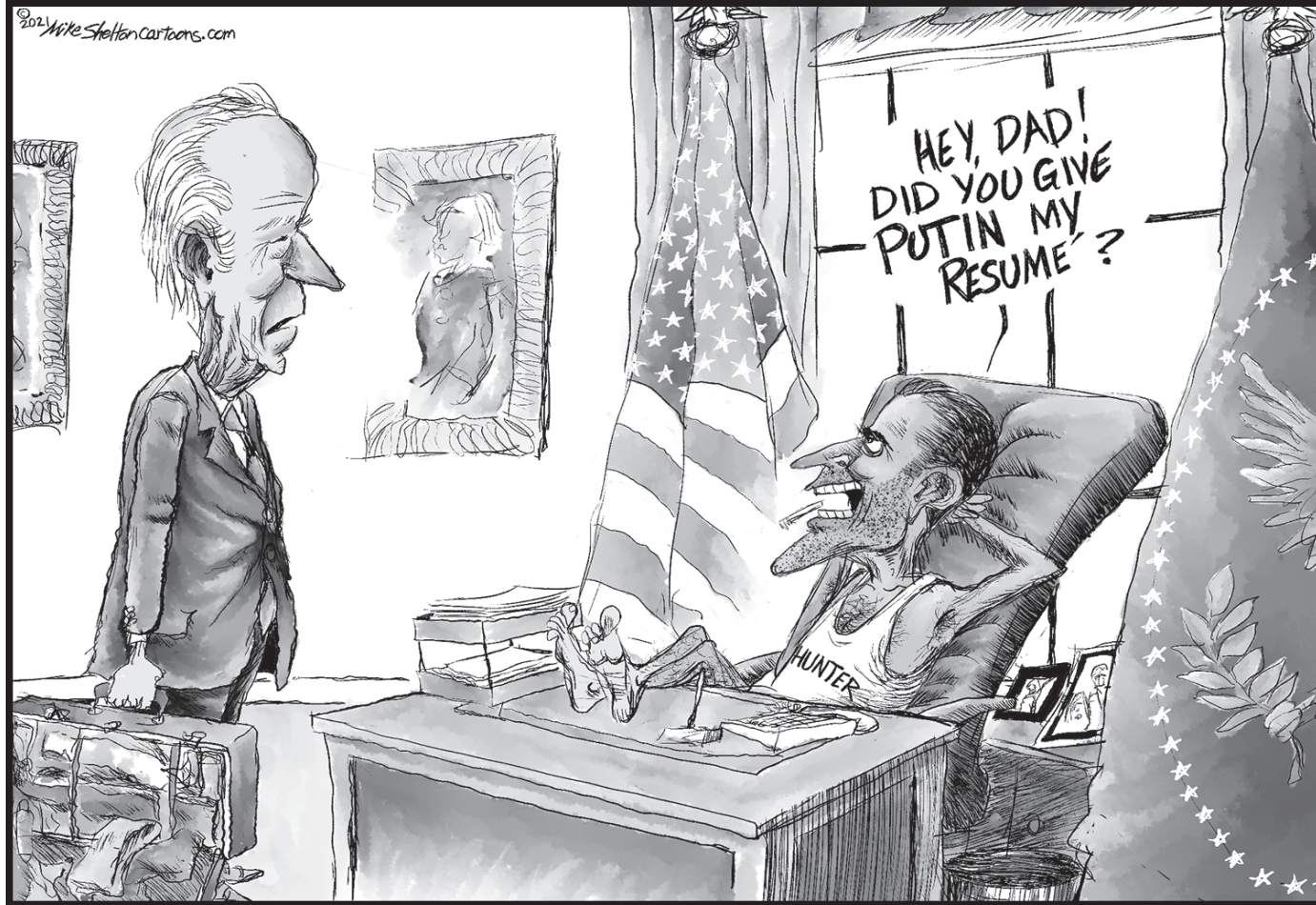
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Maudie's Naughties



Junior's Big Crash

Junior had just totaled his pickup in a horrific accident. Miraculously, he manages to pry himself from the wreckage without a scratch and is straightening up his hat when Sheriff Rocky arrives.

"My goodness!" the sheriff gasps. "Your pickup looks like an accordion that was stomped on by a pig. Are you okay, sir?"

"Yes, officer," says Junior. "I'm just fine."

"Well, how in the world did this happen?" Rocky asks as he surveys the wrecked car.

"Officer, it was crazy!" Junior begins. "I was driving along this road when from out of nowhere this tree pops up in front of me. So I swerve to the right, and there is another tree! I swerve to the left and there is another tree! I swerve to the right and there is another tree! I swerved to the left and there it is..."

"Junior," says Rocky, cutting him off, "There isn't a tree near this road for 30 miles. That was your air freshener swinging back and forth."

Last Words

While a preacher is visiting a dying man in the hospital, the man suddenly begins to flail about and make motions as if he would like to speak.

The preacher, keeping watch at the side of his bed, leans quietly over and asks, "Do you have something you would like to say?"

The man shakes his head, "Yes," so the minister hands him a pad and pen.

"I know you can't speak," says the preacher, "But use this to write a note, and I will give it to your wife. She's waiting just outside."

Gathering his last bit of strength, the man takes them and scrawls his message upon the pad and stuffs it into the preacher's hands. Then, moments later, the man dies.

The preacher says a short prayer over the man and then goes to break the sad news to the wife.

After consoling her a bit, the priest hands her the note, saying "Here were his last words. Just before passing on, he wrote this message to you."

The wife tearfully opens the note which reads, "You're standing on my oxygen hose."

More Last Words

A gangster walks into a room to meet with his former accountant where he demands, "Where is the 3 million bucks you embezzled from me?" The accountant does not answer.

The gangster asks again, "Where is the 3 million bucks you embezzled from me?"

The accountant's attorney interrupts, "Sir, the man is a deaf mute and cannot understand you, but I can interpret for you."

The gangster says, "Well, ask him where my money is!"

The attorney, using sign language, asks the accountant where the 3 million dollars is.

The accountant signs back, "I don't know what you are talking about."

The attorney interprets to the Godfather, "He doesn't know what you are talking about."

The gangster pulls out a 9 millimeter pistol, puts it to the temple of the accountant, cocks the trigger and says, "Ask him again where my money is!"

The message is well understood as the accountant quickly signs back, "OK! OK! OK! The money is hidden in a brown suitcase behind the shed in my backyard!"

The gangster says, "Well... what did he say?"

"He says you're a jerk and that you don't have the guts to pull the trigger."

Helping With Homework

Little Julie says, "Pa, can you ask me some questions about my homework so I can get a better grade this time?"

"I guess I can," replies Pa, "What is the shape of the earth?"

"According to my daddy," she answers, "It's terrible."

"It says here the answer is 'round,'" says Pa.

"The next question is 'Where do you live?'"

"Well, we get our mail at the Needmore Post Office," she answers. "But Mama told Brother to clean up his room that he was living in Filth. And Uncle Ed saw the law coming up the road and told Mama that he had to get out of Dodge for a while. Aunt June claims her neighbors across the road are living in Squalor, but Mama says Aunt June and her boyfriend are living in Sin."

"Maybe you'd better get Ma to help you with this."

LEGISLATIVE UPDATE from Representative Bill Wesley

Interim Week in Review: Unemployment Insurance continues to dominate

We can all agree that our current labor shortage has to be addressed if we are going to grow our economy and make a successful comeback. After all, there are more than a hundred thousand available jobs across our state. While some are entry level positions, many pay far more than minimum wage and include benefits and incentive packages. However, like many of you, I am completely floored by the \$1,500 per person return-to-work incentive created by the Governor. Using taxpayer money, even if it is federal funding, to pay people to get a job is simply not logical. It is insulting to those who have worked throughout this pandemic, including many on the front lines.

To compound the problem, the Governor still refuses to end Kentucky's participation in the Pandemic Unemployment Assistance (PUA) Program, which provides an additional \$300 a week to UI recipients who are already receiving benefits from the state program. Other states have already quit offering PUA payments, but the Governor seems committed to continuing until the program ends in September. So, ultimately, the administration is offering \$1,500 to go to work, while paying more than \$3,300 to stay at home.

The Governor's return-to-work announcement came just two days after members of the Unemployment Insurance Task Force held their first meeting to explore possible changes to the program. This task force was created with the passage of HB 413, legislation that contained several provisions aimed at improving how the unemployment insurance (UI) program responds in situations like last year's shutdown. Task force members will spend the next seven months listening to stakeholders and crafting recommendations that may become legislation during the 2022 Regular Session.

The task force hit the ground running this month, hearing testimony about fraudulent claims and other issues plaguing the system. This was particularly interesting to me as I have heard from several constituents who received notification that their information has been used to file for unemployment insurance, while they personally have not applied. While the number of fraudulent claims in Kentucky remains a mystery, a consultant dealing with unemployment insurance claims testified that the increase in claims caused by the state's shutdown led program administrators to make premature eligibility determinations, which made the program more susceptible to fraudulent claims.

Legislators on the task force also asked for more information about existing unprocessed claims.

When asked how many remained to be addressed, the administration could provide no concrete number. However, after spending \$17 million in contracts to fix the unemployment backlog, the problem remains more than a year later and Labor Cabinet officials are still saying they need additional staff. Ironically, cabinet officials added that one of the biggest challenges facing the UI Program now is finding employees. They are not alone, as a representative of the state's organization representing small businesses shared that a recent survey showed 90 percent of members have available positions.

Without a doubt, unemployment insurance issues will continue to dominate the 2021 Legislative Interim and occupy a considerable part of our 2022 Session agenda.

If you would like to share your thoughts on these or any issues relating to the Kentucky General Assembly, please reach out to me. I can be reached here at home anytime, or through the toll-free message line in Frankfort at 1-800-372-7181. Feel free to contact me via email at Bill.Wesley@lrc.ky.gov. If you would like more information visit the LRC website www.legislature.ky.gov.

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