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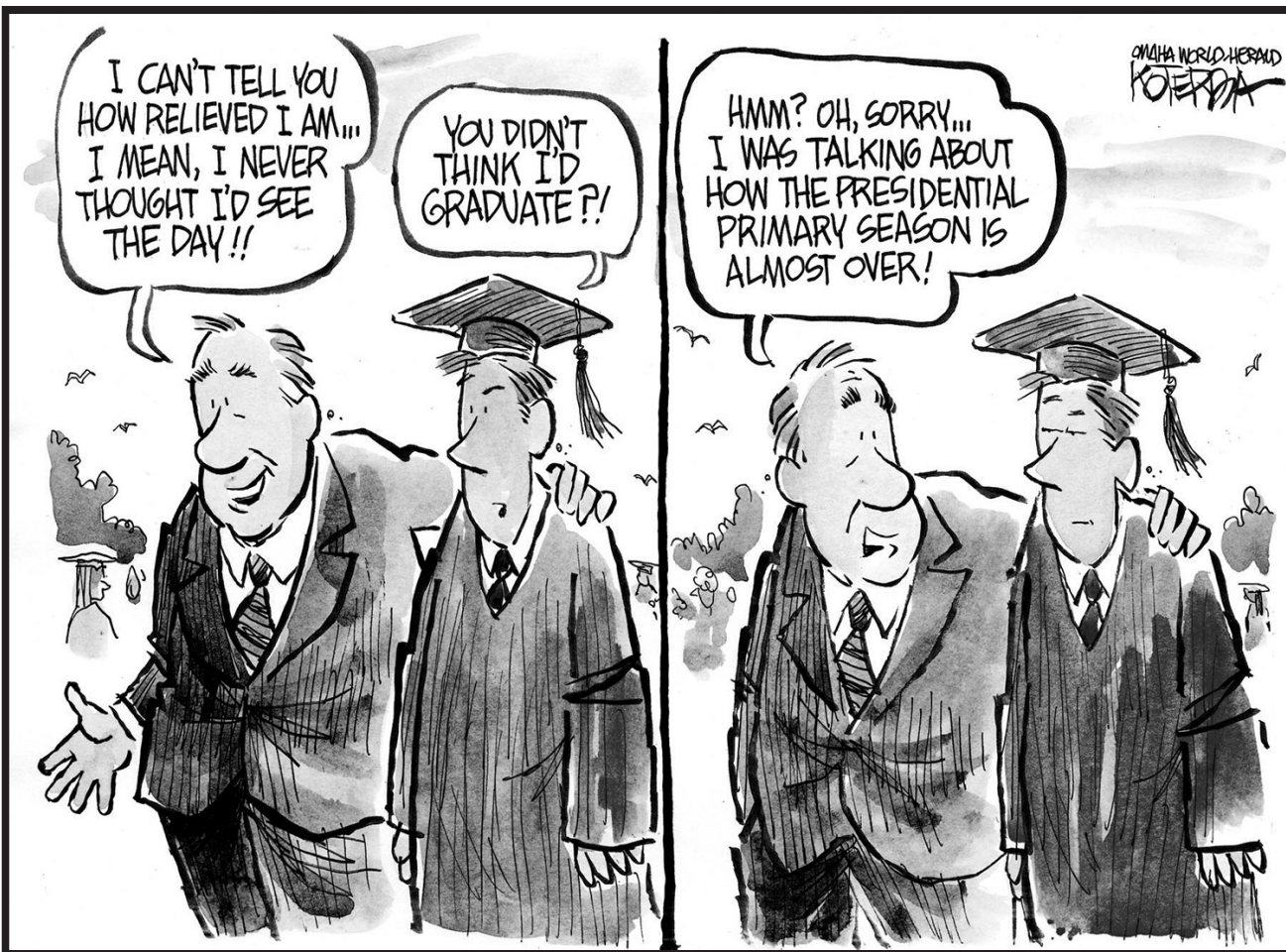
Member of Kentucky Press Association

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Irvine, Kentucky 40336-8517
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Published on Wednesdays by
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Subscription Prices
Estill \$17, Adj. Counties \$28, Elsewhere \$32
Periodicals Postage Paid, Irvine, KY 40336
(Permit #685-890)

POSTMASTER: Send address changes to:
The Estill Co. Tribune, 6135 Winchester Rd.
Irvine, Kentucky 40336-8517



Maudie's Naughties



Late From Work

Harry arrives home from work three hours late, and his wife meets him at the door. His hair is messed up, he has lipstick on his collar, and he smells of a woman's perfume.

"Don't lie to me, Harry," she says. "I saw you sneaking that bread sack into your pocket this morning. You've been playing golf with Jake again, haven't you?"

The Owl Hooter

One evening an avid bird watcher stands in his backyard and hears an owl hoot. So he thinks he'll give a hoot back. To his surprise and delight the bird hoots again. The next night the same scenario occurs.

All summer, the man and his feathered friend hoot back and forth. He even keeps a log of the "conversations." Just as he thinks he is on the verge of a breakthrough in inter-species communication, his wife has a chat with her next door neighbor. "My husband spends his nights calling to owls," the wife comments.

"That's odd," the neighbor replies. "So does mine . . ."

Back to School

A letter from a son at school to his father . . .

School is really great. I am making lots of friends and studying hard. With all my stuff, I simply can't think of anything I need, so if you like, you can just send me a card, as I would love to hear from you.

Love, Your Son.

A week later . . . the response from Dad arrived:

Dear Son,

I know that astronomy, economics and oceanography are enough to keep even an honor student busy. Do not forget that the pursuit of knowledge is a noble task and you can never study enough.

Love, Dad.

The Little Turtle

A little turtle begins to climb a tree slowly. After long hours of effort . . . he reaches the top, jumps into the air waving his front legs, until he crashes heavily into the ground with a hard knock on his shell.

After recovering his consciousness, he starts to climb the tree again, jumps again, and knocks the ground heavily again.

The little turtle persists again and again while a couple of birds sitting at the edge of a branch, watch the turtle with pain. Suddenly the female bird says to the male, "Dear, I think it's time to tell our little turtle he is adopted."

Marriage

On his way out of church, Frank stops at the door to speak to the minister.

"Would it be right," he asks, "for a person to profit from the mistakes of another?"

"Absolutely not!" replies the pastor.

"In that case," says the young man, "I wonder if you'd consider returning the hundred dollars I paid you to marry my wife and me last July."

Revival Break Up

A man is going to attend a Halloween party dressed in a costume of the devil. On his way it begins to rain, so he darts into a church where a revival meeting is in progress.

At the sight of his devil's costume, people begin to scatter through the doors and windows.

One lady gets her coat sleeve caught on the arm of one of the seats and, as the man comes closer, she pleads, "Satan, I've been a member of this church for 20 years, but I've really been on your side all the time."

Temperance Sermon

A preacher is completing a temperance sermon: with great expression he says, "If I had all the beer in the world, I'd take it and throw it into the river. And if I had all the wine in the world, I'd take it and throw it into the river. And if I had all the whiskey in the world, I'd take it and throw it into the river." He then asks what song should we close with.

Uncle Slim is sitting in the back of the church and yells out, "Can we sing 'Shall We Gather At the River.'?"

The Violin

Little Johnny is practicing the violin in the living room . . . while his Uncle is trying to read in the den. The family dog is lying in the den, and as the screeching sounds of little Johnny's violin reaches his ears, he begins to howl loudly.

Uncle listens to the dog and the violin as long as he can. Then he jumps up, slams his paper to the floor and yells above the noise, "For pity's sake, can't you play something the dog doesn't know!"

Dirty needles becoming common in public places

Woman stuck by needle faces up to one year of testing

by MELISSA PATRICK
Kentucky Health News

A Monroe County woman was stuck by an insulin needle found in a pair of sweatpants she purchased in Tompkinsville and now faces up to a year of testing to make sure she hasn't been infected with HIV or hepatitis, Jacqueline Nie reports for WBKO-TV in Bowling Green.

Insulin syringes are commonly used by IV drug abusers

"I had to be tested for HIV and hepatitis and a drug screening," said Mary Crawford, who was stuck by the needle. "I have to go back from that in 30 days and be tested again, and again in 6 months from that 30 days."

"Crawford says through at least these next 7 months, she cannot share anything with her husband or children," Nie reports. Crawford

warned others to be careful: "It could happen to anybody, anywhere."

The latest Kentucky Health Issues Poll found that 13 percent of Kentuckians said they knew someone with heroin problems. And insulin syringes and needles are commonly used to inject it.

Clark County Public Health Director Scott Lockard said that while this was the first time he had heard of a needle being placed in an article of clothing in a department store, he said it is not unusual for dirty needles to be found in public.

"Unfortunately it is becoming more common for used needles to be found by the public," Lockard said in an e-mail. "I have had reports of needles being found locally on streets, in parks, public parking lots, unoccupied buildings, and in rest-

rooms in public venues."

The problem is so bad in Northern Kentucky, where 35 percent in the poll said they knew someone with a heroin problem, that they released public service announcements before Easter to remind children to look for needles before eggs. The Northern Kentucky Heroin Impact Response Taskforce organized police and egg-hunt organizers to search parks for needles prior to the hunts, and said it will continue to search public places for needles throughout the summer. Ben Katko reported for WXIX-TV (Fox 19).

One way to keep dirty needles off the street is through needle exchanges, which allow intravenous drug users to exchange dirty needles for clean ones. These programs were authorized in Kentucky by the 2015 anti-heroin bill, but require both local support and funding.

So far, only 14 counties in Kentucky have either approved or are operating

needle exchanges: Jefferson, Fayette, Jessamine, Franklin, Clark, Kenton, Grant, Harrison, Pendleton, Carter, Boyd, Elliott, Pike and Knox. Some jurisdictions have rejected exchanges, saying they encourage drug use, despite pleas from experts who say that's not true and the programs lead users to treatment.

"Needle exchanges work," former state health commissioner William Hacker said. "It decreases the spread of infectious diseases. It takes dirty needles off the street. It is safer for the law enforcement and EMS. It also provides an opportunity to interact with people and divert them to effective treatment."

From Kentucky Health News, an independent news service of the Institute for Rural Journalism and Community Issues, based in the School of Journalism and Media at the University of Kentucky, with support from the Foundation for a Healthy Kentucky.

Health Insurers Asking For 17% Rate Increase

Health insurers want rate increases averaging 22.3 percent in 2017 for individual policies in Kentucky. Counting small-group plans, the overall increase would be 17 percent, "continuing a national trend of hefty hikes as insurers adapt to a market reshaped by President Barack Obama's signature health care law," Adam Beam reports for The Associated Press.

"But the rate increases, if approved by state regulators, do not guarantee double-digit increases in the monthly premiums people have to pay," Beam notes. "The base rate is one of many factors companies use to determine how much someone pays in a monthly premium. Other factors include age, where a person lives and whether the person smokes."

The average requested increases for individual policies range from 7.6 percent for Aetna Health Inc. to 33.7 percent for Louisville-based Humana Inc., which said recently that it was losing money on Obamacare plans and is working on a merger with Aetna (to which Missouri objected this week). Baptist Health Plan wants 26.68 percent more, Anthem Health Plans 22.9 percent, and CareSource 20.55 percent, all on average.

"The Department of Insurance will fully investigate all proposed rate increase requests to make sure they are warranted," Commissioner Brian Maynard said in a release. "Insurance rate increases are not specific to Kentucky;

states across the nation are dealing with this issue."

The department said some of the rate increases "appear to be attributed to the failure of the Kentucky Health Cooperative Inc.," a non-profit that was created under the reform law to provide more competition but then was not fully funded by Congress.

"The co-op went bankrupt and was placed into liquidation earlier this year, leaving other insurance companies to cover the more than 51,000 former co-op customers," the department noted. "Many of those customers were high-risk, and Kentucky's remaining insurers appear to project that those high-risk customers will affect the risk pool." Anthem spokesman Mark Robinson told AP that the expectation of insuring co-op customers was responsible for its rate request.

UnitedHealth Group Inc. said recently that it would stop selling exchange policies in Kentucky, leaving many counties with only one insurer on the exchange. The only company that seeks to sell individual policies statewide is Anthem. It will be the only choice on the exchange in 54 counties.

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