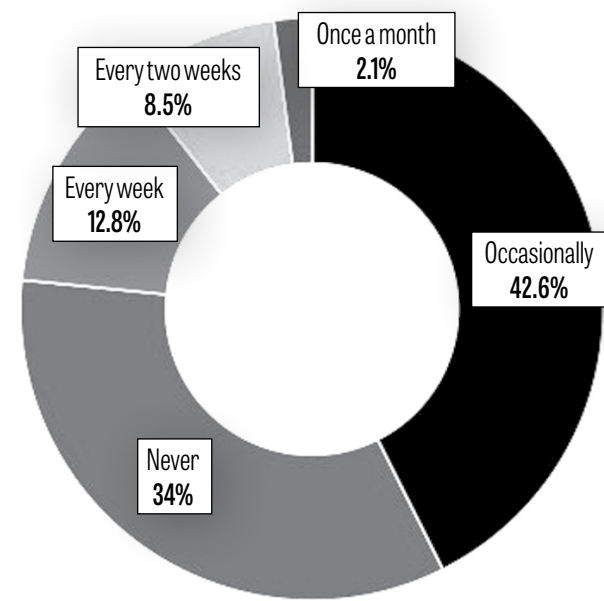


ONLINE POLL:
How often do you shop at the Franklin County Farmers Market?



This poll reflects the opinions of 48 respondents.
Visit www.state-journal.com to take part in today's poll.

EDITORIAL

Lakeview Park project may be game-changer for economy

With local officials looking on, ground was officially broken for the \$14 million revamping of Lakeview Park last week. Improvements for the project, which Judge-Executive Michael Mueller called a game-changer for the community over the long term, include seven new softball fields, a comfort station with concessions and restrooms as well as new scoreboards, picnic tables, dugouts, shelters and benches.

The renovations are estimated to achieve a more than \$11 million return on investment in the first year and will be used primarily for local teams Monday through Thursday. On weekends, the park plans to host tournaments with current discussions estimating 34 weekends scheduled per year. The tournaments are expected to draw approximately 50 softball teams or more than 700 people per weekend to area hotels, shops and restaurants, according to Mueller, who said the project is a “big deal” from an economic development perspective.

As for funding, the county has been saving for the project and, in addition, to \$6 million from the American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA), will pay for the renovations through a to-be-issued bond. Third District Magistrate Kelly Dycus pointed out during an April fiscal court meeting that no taxpayer dollars are involved.

“A project like this is instrumental to the community. It’s an investment,” Charlie Lewis, county parks and recreation director, explained of the Master Plan for the future of Lakeview Park. “I look forward to not only sticking this shovel in the ground, but in about a year to 16 months, or however long it is, snapping that ribbon so we can open it up and begin bringing people in for tournaments and letting people come to Franklin County and enjoy what we enjoy every day. It’s going to be a regional draw.”

We applaud the fiscal court for the improvements being made to Lakeview Park, which have been in the works for more than three years, and for its commitment to bringing sports tourism and the added economic benefits to Franklin County. We hope, like 1st District Magistrate Sherry Sebastian stated earlier this year, “our community will be the one those out of town visitors talk about when they return to their homes.”w

Fiscal cruelty, corruption and self-destruction

Among the big problems facing the United States are: great and growing wealth and income disparity and a huge national debt.

The first step in solving a problem is to recognize there is a problem; next comes working to fix it.

President Donald Trump is doing neither. And, in fact, he’s working to make the problems worse, when he’s not ignoring them, in favor of get rich schemes for himself, his family, friends, and cronies.

Instead of using his time and energy (a president’s most valuable resources) to work on America’s problems, Trump is busily and brazenly selling access to himself, through sales of his Trump meme coin, (which has no transactional value; it’s like a Cabbage Patch doll or Beanie Baby) during what his spokesperson has declared his “personal” time. (Let’s hope a national emergency doesn’t arise during his “personal” time).

On the evening of May 22, “winners” of his Trump meme coin sale, which netted about \$148 million, diners feasted and some especially high bidders

had time with Trump. Senator Elizabeth Warren said, “Donald Trump’s dinner is an orgy of corruption.” She’s right.



Andrea Veach
Guest columnist

Does is make a lick of sense that tax cuts for the rich are made possible by taking access, resources, food and medical care from the poor?

That’s what Trump’s Big Beautiful Bill entails, along with pil-

ing on about \$4.6 trillion to our national debt.

All three credit rating agencies don’t think so. They have downgraded the United States’ credit rating, and the market has followed suit. The United States bond market is no longer considered such a sure bet for repayment of loans.

According to TPC (Tax Policy Center Urban Institute and Brookings Institution), the latest iteration of the Big Beautiful Bill shows, “60% of the tax benefits go to the top 20% of households.” Does that sound like a good plan to mitigate wealth and income inequality?

Do we want to live in a country cleaved into the haves and have not? Do we want to live in a country that has gone bankrupt or defaulted on its debt? Both scenarios have crippling consequences to the majority of people; and those living in third world countries are intimately familiar with the corruption inherent in them.

The United States is like a plane going down, with the pilot not fearing the descent because he, his family, and cronies all have their parachutes at the ready, prepared with crypto, tax cuts, and Trump media stock. The rest of the plane’s occupants should be scared stiff, but a lot of them aren’t because they believe the pilot would not put them in danger.

Some of them think they will find gold at the end of the rainbow, even if sacrifice is required in the meantime. They should think again. Referring to Trump, one of his former casino workers said, “I didn’t realize he was as stupid as he is.”

Andrea Veach, of Louisville, can be emailed at andrea.veach@yahoo.com.



SUBMIT LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

The State Journal encourages readers to submit letters to the editor. Letters should be the original work of the author; no form letters, and be fewer than 330 words. The State Journal reserves the right to edit letters for grammar and brevity. To submit a letter email letters@state-journal.com. Please provide an address and phone number.

LETTERS

‘KDE MUST RECOMMIT TO EQUITY — NOT RETREAT FROM IT’

Dear editor,

The Kentucky Department of Education’s (KDE) call to eliminate Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion (DEI) initiatives is a blatant step in the wrong direction — especially when Kentucky’s academic outcomes are already in crisis. Most of our students do not read or complete math on grade level. Instead of scaling back efforts to reach all learners, KDE should be doubling down.

The majority of Kentucky’s Comprehensive Support and Improvement (CSI) schools — those identified as the lowest performing — are concentrated in Jefferson County, our state’s largest and most diverse district. This is not a coincidence. These schools face deep, systemic inequities that DEI initiatives are designed to confront. Meanwhile, many of our Targeted Support and Improvement (TSI) and Additional Targeted Support and Improvement (ATSI) schools earn that designation due to their English Learner and disability populations. Eliminating DEI means turning our backs on the very students KDE claims to serve.

KDE’s mission is to provide equity and excellence for all students — from the most rural communities to our urban centers. But equity requires action, not just words. If KDE truly believed in its mission, it

would invest in the tools proven to close opportunity gaps. DEI isn’t about division — it’s about removing barriers that prevent students from succeeding.

Stripping DEI from our schools abandons the students who need support the most. It sends a dangerous message that their success doesn’t matter. Kentucky’s kids deserve better. KDE must recommit to equity — not retreat from it.

*Natalie Gwishiri
Frankfort*

‘WE HAVE A LACK OF KNOWLEDGE OR PRACTICE OF OUR FOUNDERS’ DIRECTIONS’

Dear editor,

Not only have we forgotten or neglected the creator of our world and His Word, we have a lack of knowledge or practice of our founders’ directions.

John Adams, a signer of the Declaration and the second American president, offered the following: “Suppose a nation in some distant region should take the Bible for their only law book and every member should regulate his conduct by the precepts there exhibited ... What a Utopia ... what a Paradise would this region be! The Bible is the best book in the world.” — John Adams

*Phyllis Vincent
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