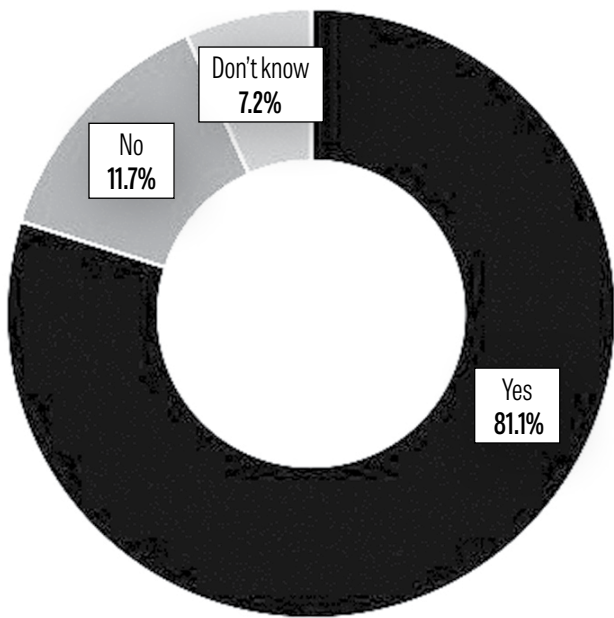


ONLINE POLL:

Do you think Juniper Hill Aquatic Center should stay open past Labor Day for lap swimmers and water aerobics?



This poll reflects the opinions of 375 respondents.  
Visit [www.state-journal.com](http://www.state-journal.com) to take part in today's poll.

EDITORIAL

# Permit testing event a win for Ky. families

In response to a large number of Kentuckians looking to obtain their driver's permit, Team Kentucky last week announced a statewide event offering more than 1,300 written permit test appointments between 8 a.m. and 4 p.m. on Saturday, Aug. 2 at 12 locations around the state — including Frankfort.

This is the second permit testing event held by the Kentucky State Police, which administers driving testing, and the Kentucky Transportation Cabinet, which issues permit licenses to applicants who pass the written exam. At the first statewide event in May, 1,104 tests were administered. Appointments are available via an online portal at [kentuckystatepolice.ky.gov/driver-testing](http://kentuckystatepolice.ky.gov/driver-testing) Those seeking appointments must be at least 15 years old and provide accurate information when registering for a time slot.

Before arriving to take the driver's permit test, applicants should bring all required documentation — such a birth certificate (not a photocopy), proof of Social Security and a School Compliance Verification Form — as preparation will help avoid errors and delays in scheduling. Visit KYTC's licensing website at [drive.ky.gov](http://drive.ky.gov) for a full list of documentation.

Applicants should also study the Kentucky Driver Manual, which can be found at <https://wp.kentuckystatepolice.ky.gov/wp-content/uploads/2023/11/Kentucky-Driver-Manual-10-11-2023.pdf> Those who do not pass the written test can schedule a future appointment though the online portal.

House Bill 15, which allows 15-year-olds to obtain their driver's permit, was signed into law in late March. In the time since, more than 17,000 15-year-olds have become permitted drivers. Despite the new legislation, drivers still must be 16 years old to obtain an intermediate license.

“Ensuring all new drivers are able to take the first step toward safe, independent driving is another way we protect our roads and communities,” Gov. Andy Beshear said. “Team Kentucky has been working to create more opportunities for eligible Kentuckians to get their permit in a reasonable timeframe, and I hope folks are able to take advantage of this statewide event on Aug. 2 to sign up and study beforehand.”

We appreciate KSP and KYTC partnering to make the driver's permit testing process faster and easier for Kentucky families. We applaud the agencies for being flexible and offering this service during the summer when teens are not in school.

# Must be the silly season

I read with great interest the definition of the “silly season” in accordance with The Oxford Dictionary. The phrase was used long ago when the great men of Britain's Parliament left London to go bird shooting in Scotland or back home to manage their manorial estates. The newspaper men in London were left with little to write about, so trivial, silly stories started to fill the pages.

Seems like the rise of silly stories corresponds with high summer, with which many of us share a love-hate relationship. It's too hot and sticky to do anything except sweat and gripe, the kids seem intent on finding any parental nerve they can irritate, car horn honking and windshield swearing peak at this time of the year. The state and county fairs crank up to feature deep-fried anything-on-a-stick. (Not gonna lie: I am intrigued with two items from the Texas State Fair. The first is Deep Fried Chicken Noodle Soup on a Stick, which sounds like an engineering marvel. The other is the Cotton Candy Taco. It's a graham cracker shell filled with cotton candy, the nightmare of orthodontists everywhere.)

People can't decide if they love summer and want it to continue or if they should shamefully admit they're ready for dreary autumn weather to break the heat. As a compromise, they stare at the Halloween decorations filling the stores the day after July Fourth. Silliness abounds.

The collection of wannabes, has-beens and ain't-never-gonna-

bes that infest the state and federal houses of governance grab at the chance to make bold statements of balderdash and claptrap these days. Some back bench distant cousin of the vice president declares that NASA should send a manned space mission to the surface of the Sun and claim it for America. He insists that the mission take place at night to ensure astronaut safety. Guys like that can get traction with the folks back home for their bold leadership in foolishness. Probably get re-elected by a landslide, too. The Green-Eyed Blonde is talking up her prediction for the next fashion trend. She says as summers feel hotter, more people will begin to use parasols. A dainty folding sunshade of linen or silk will become the must-have accessory for next season among the overheated haute couture. I asked if she was joking. She showed me her prospectus for investors. I know better than to discount what she says. She's been right too often for that.



**John Arnett**  
Guest columnist

Whither the poor news writers? Too poor for beach holidays and too enraptured with seeing their names in bylines, they scour the community for stories of lost pets returning home or some guy in a wifebeater shirt who reaches underneath creek banks to snatch a peaceful, unassuming catfish from its home. Photos of old ladies flower gardening or old men

with massive vegetables pulled from the earth take up space on Page Two. Same with pictures of beauty queens, kids with stringers of fish or the occasional good-natured three-legged dog, invariably named Tripod. (“He don't seem to mind it, ‘cept when his ear itches on that side where he can't scratch it. Then I help a feller out,” says Tripod's master.)

Police and first responders, bless ‘em, always say there are more strange calls in this season. Too many calls like domestic disputes over who didn't take the trash cans to the road or the man who called for assistance because he'd locked his keys in his convertible and he needed to put the top up in case it rained. Crazy days, crazier nights. Add in the full moon and there's no telling which story might make the headlines in any given edition.

Please, friends, don't take things too seriously in the silly season. Mark it off to the heat, the humidity, the sunlight or that the guy up ahead in traffic who really, truly doesn't know how to use a turn signal. Take the kids and go to the swimming pool. Stay on the porch, drink more sweet tea and lemonade. If you must venture out in the heat, I know a nice lady who can hook you up with a cool parasol.

*John Arnett, of Frankfort, is a State Journal columnist, financial regulator in public service and a longtime coach for Frankfort Parks and Rec in the summer. He can be reached at [bigdukeinky@icloud.com](mailto:bigdukeinky@icloud.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 400 words. The State Journal reserves the right to edit letters for grammar and brevity. To submit a letter email [letters@state-journal.com](mailto:letters@state-journal.com). Please provide an address and phone number with the submission.*

LETTER

## GRAND THEATRE, SJ ARE LOCAL INSTITUTIONS

Dear editor,

The recent State Journal article reporting about Bill Cull's “stepping back” and the Grand Theatre prompts the following thoughts.

For decades, Cull has been recognized as a voice for political and cultural progress in this community and state and I do not have anything of consequence to say, other than we need more like him. The Grand has saved me, and others like me, thousands of dollars we would never have had the ability to afford to experience front row seats and backstage passes for operas and world class entertainment. It is a jewel that should be “worn,” “insured” and protected.

That Philip Case wrote this particular recent front-page article is appropriate. He is a State Journal institution as is the SJ itself, an award-winning survivor in a nation that is rapidly losing local news coverage. Local news may not get “the juices flowing” like news about the Kardashians or the carnage in Washington and around the world. But it is news you can do something with and about.

News that can enrich your life in the “real” world of one's day-to-day existence. Frankfort is a wounded city, streets closed, bridges coming down, a Capitol dome under apparent permanent restoration, flooding. In all this, and generally speaking, the SJ is “news you can use.” And so, as Brian Wilson might tell you, regarding the Grand, The State Journal and Frankfort, “Be true to your school.”

*Henry Marks  
Frankfort*

# THE State Journal

**Joe Imel**, Publisher  
270-783-3273  
[joe.imal@bgdailynews.com](mailto:joe.imal@bgdailynews.com)

**Chanda Veno**, Editor  
502-209-6340  
[chanda.veno@state-journal.com](mailto:chanda.veno@state-journal.com)

**Hannah Brown**, Design Editor  
502-209-6339  
[hannah.brown@state-journal.com](mailto:hannah.brown@state-journal.com)

NEWS

**Linda Younkin**  
502-209-6336  
[linda.younkin@state-journal.com](mailto:linda.younkin@state-journal.com)

**Linda Boileau**, Editorial Cartoonist  
[linda-boileau@me.com](mailto:linda-boileau@me.com)

ADVERTISING SALES

**Meri Latek**, Director of Advertising  
502-395-3434  
[meri.latek@state-journal.com](mailto:meri.latek@state-journal.com)

**CLASSIFIEDS/LEGAL NOTICES**  
[classifieds@state-journal.com](mailto:classifieds@state-journal.com)  
[public.notices@state-journal.com](mailto:public.notices@state-journal.com)  
502-871-4559

MAIN OFFICE

**Sheri Bunker**, Director of Customer Service  
502-209-6305  
[sheri.bunker@state-journal.com](mailto:sheri.bunker@state-journal.com)

**Jim Wainscott**, Bookkeeper  
502-209-6301  
[jim.wainscott@state-journal.com](mailto:jim.wainscott@state-journal.com)

The State Journal (USPS 520-160) is published Wednesday and Saturday mornings by Frankfort Newsmedia LLC, 227 W. Main St., Frankfort, Kentucky, 40601.

**POSTMASTER:** Send address changes to The State Journal, P.O. Box 368, Frankfort, KY 40602.

**State Journal EZ Pay subscription rates:** Monthly by mail, \$11.00 per month; three months - \$33.00; six months - \$66.00; 12 months - \$132.00. Plus tax.

**For home delivery** call the circulation department at 502-227-4556. Periodical postage paid at Frankfort, Kentucky 40601.

**Unclaimed credit balances** will be forwarded to our Newspaper in Education Program.

