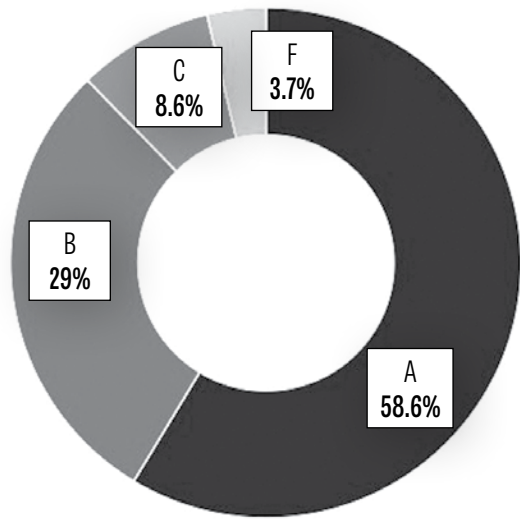


ONLINE POLL:

How would you grade the state and local flood response?



This poll reflects the opinions of 162 respondents. Visit www.state-journal.com to take part in today's poll.

EDITORIAL

Downtown Frankfort is open for business

With flood cleanup fully underway and rebuilding in some areas requiring long-term efforts, Downtown Frankfort is open for business. That is the positive message Downtown Frankfort Inc. Executive Director Suzy Hosley is spreading a week after historic flooding displaced residents and temporarily shut down parts of the capital city. Fortunately, the downtown business district was largely spared from major destruction.

Thanks to the strength, generosity and resilience of the capital city community, most downtown businesses have reopened and need our support.

"This community showed up for each other in every way," Hosley explained. "Now it's time for us to show up for our businesses. Spring is one of the most important times of the year for local retailers, restaurants and attractions. Let's rally behind them and keep our local economy thriving."

Two upcoming DFI events are sure to bring folks downtown. The Kentucky Hot Brown Trail, which features 20 participating eateries' takes on the bluegrass state's signature dish, is planned for April 25-May 2. Sponsored by Whitaker Bank, participants include: Buddy's Pizza; Brown Barrel; Cypress & Oak; Kentucky Coffeetree Café; Serafini; Howser Tavern; Mi Fiesta; Mortimer Bibb's Pub; The Ashbrook; B's Bakery; Bourbon on Main; Goodwood Brewing; Main Street Diner; Andy's Artisan Breads; Big Daddy's Fried Chicken; Cliffside Diner; Limewater Bistro; Locals Food Hub; POURter's; and Sig Luscher Brewery.

The Downtown Derby Celebration, sponsored by First Federal Savings Bank of Kentucky, is planned from 10 a.m. to 1 p.m. on Saturday, May 3. The family-friendly event has a little something for everyone.

Wave to the Derby Train as it heads to Churchill Downs in Louisville. Hear live bluegrass music from Mash Grass. Enjoy breakfast and brunch favorites and signature Derby cocktails at local restaurants and pubs. Shop downtown's unique businesses and boutiques. Kids can participate in interactive activities and entertainment and signups for the Infamous Triple Crown — Pedal for the Posies, Bounce for the Roses and Rebecca Ruth Bourbon Ball Challenge — will start soon.

Let's remember to shop local this spring and support the small businesses that have been there for us through, quite frankly, hell and high water.

Wake up, America

The current administration of our beloved country is blatantly violating the Constitution of the U.S. The part, "To establish Justice, ensure domestic Tranquility," especially "justice for all," is being sidetracked in executive orders that pour out almost daily from the White House.

As a retired educator who has given my career to leadership that sought to instill the importance of maintaining the democratic process into the teaching and learning process, I am amazed that the president has sent out an edict withholding federal funding from schools, including Kentucky, that continue to teach the DEI (Diversity, Equity and Inclusion) concept in their curriculum.

To meet all human needs, the three concepts must be well-known, understood and accepted through competent teaching. Cultivating compassionate and caring citizens and ensuring fairness in the treatment of individu-

als from diverse backgrounds is fundamental, ensuring that all experience equity and no one feels excluded due to their diversity.



Ed Ball
Guest columnist

Many presidential executive orders, such as arresting migrants without due process and indiscriminately firing Federal employees are violating the principles of human dignity, contributing to upsetting lives and families, which is cruel and condescending and violates the basic tenets of Christianity, expressed in the truth of the Golden Rule.

I had the opportunity to spend two years living in South Africa on a mission ministry.

During that time, I learned so much about the superior leadership of Nelson Mandela and Desmond Tutu, who fought for justice

for all citizens.

Approximately 10% of the white population controlled 90% of the colored citizens.

Desmond Tutu stated, "If you are neutral in situations of injustice, you have chosen the side of the oppressor."

Please join me in praying that our current administration will see the light in the righteousness of the Golden Rule, which is the principle of treating others as you want to be treated. Could we please demonstrate this model in all our daily interpersonal relationships?

Ed Ball, of Frankfort, completed a career in educational leadership as a teacher and administrator in elementary, secondary, and higher education. He is committed to saving our democracy and developing a Christ-centered culture for the foundation of all Americans. He can be emailed at eball40601@gmail.com.

LETTERS

FRANKFORT'S SISTER CITY SADDENED BY RECENT FLOOD

Dear editor,

Hello. I am Yoko Takubo of Shimamoto Cultural Exchange Association (SCEA), Frankfort's sister city in Shimamoto, Japan.

We were deeply saddened to see the news of the recent flooding in Frankfort. The images and reports of the damage left us truly speechless, and our thoughts are with all those affected.

While we may not be able to do much, we are thinking about what small things we can do to help.

We sincerely hope that the recovery efforts will proceed smoothly and that your community will regain a sense of safety and peace as soon as possible.

Yoko Takubo and all of us at SCEA Shimamoto, Japan

HAS FRANKFORT FORGOTTEN THE 1989 FLOOD?

Dear editor,

Has Frankfort forgotten 1989? Late January/early February of 1989 there was historic flooding in downtown Frankfort. Yet all the reports in the current flood only refer to 1978 and 1997.

In 1989, the Kentucky Press Association was located at 332 Capital Ave., at the corner of Capital Avenue and Fourth Street. That's four blocks from the river and our offices were flooded that far from the Capital Avenue Bridge. That was historic flooding according to all the reports from that week.

We were finally able to get into the offices on a Sunday afternoon, wading through waist-deep water and found water up to the baseboards on the first floor. Fortunately, we had the furnace taken out before the floodwaters hit and were able to get it reinstalled once the flooded basement waters receded.

We weren't located there in 1978 or with the apparent flood event in 1997, both referenced in recent comparisons to this current flood. We relocated in 1991 to higher ground on Consumer Lane. But the events of that week with water covering Capital Avenue up to Fourth Street, certainly deserve mention when folks discuss previous flooding in downtown Frankfort.

*David Thompson
Kentucky Press Association
Frankfort*

DOGE TERMINATED KENTUCKY HUMANITIES' OPERATING GRANT, EMERGENCY FUNDING SOURCES

Dear editor,

How would you feel if someone took your child's favorite book out of his hands?

What would you think if your local museum wasn't important enough to keep its doors open?

If someone said, "Sorry we can't help your community recover from a natural disaster" would you feel sad, outraged, lost?

For more than 53 years, Kentucky Humanities has helped communities across Kentucky celebrate what makes them unique and vital. We have been there for you and with you, connecting you to your neighbors, promoting your unique history, inspiring the next generation, championing what makes your town or city special.

But right now, we can't. And we are angry about it. You should be too.

In 2022, we assisted libraries, historical societies, artisan centers, radio stations, community centers, and cultural institutions in navigating a disaster like what we are experiencing right now, an historic flood.

We requested and received emergency grant funding from the National Endowment for the Humanities and poured every dime back into places that were devastated by flood waters because it is our mission to help Kentucky communities thrive. We wanted then, and want now, to be part of the rebuilding of Kentucky's communities ravaged by flooding, but we can't.

Why?

Because at the federal level, DOGE has targeted the NEH and terminated Kentucky Humanities' operating grant and any emergency funding sources that previously allowed us to provide aid in the Commonwealth.

We are sorry, but most of all we are angry because you and us — we — are the ones looking out for Kentucky and all Kentuckians.

If you're angry, too, please contact our elected officials and insist they support continued funding of the NEH and Kentucky Humanities. Together, our voices can make a difference.

*Bill Goodman
Executive director, Kentucky Humanities
Lexington*

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 250 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 with the submission for verification purposes only.

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