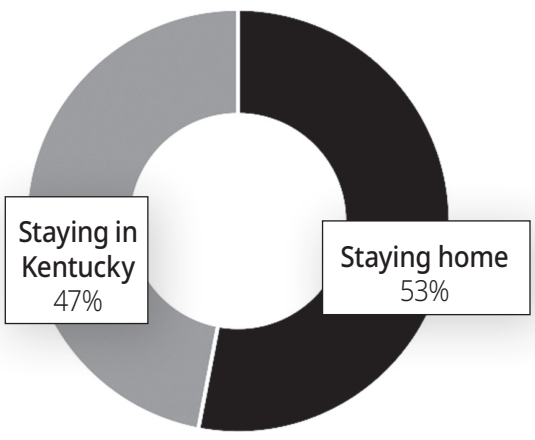
OPINION

ONLINE POLL:
How far do you plan to travel for Thanksgiving?



This poll reflects the opinions of 19 respondents. Visit state-journal.com to take part in today's poll.

LETTERS

WE MUST TRANSITION TO CLEAN ENERGY SOURCES

Dear editor,

While Global Warming is often discussed in terms of rising atmospheric temperatures, scorching heatwaves, and changing weather patterns on land, the most profound and alarming transformation is happening silently beneath the waves. Our oceans absorb over 90% of the excess heat trapped in the atmosphere by greenhouse gas emissions. As we pump carbon dioxide and other pollutants into the air, we are effectively blanket-wrapping the Earth.

The oceans are buffering us from the full force of this thermal energy, but they have reached their limit. The heat content of the upper ocean has hit record highs year after year, and this thermal saturation is fundamentally altering marine ecosystems.

Coral reefs, the rainforests of the sea, are experiencing massive, global bleaching as water temperatures exceed their biological limits. When corals die, entire marine food webs collapse, threatening the biodiversity that sustains over a quarter of all marine life.

Beyond the immediate threat to marine life, warming oceans directly impact human communities. As water heats up, it expands, which, combined with melting glaciers and ice sheets, accelerates sea-level rise.

Warming oceans accelerate sea-level rise. This directly threatens coastal cities and low-lying islands with chronic flooding and erosion. To protect our coastlines, our economies, and the planet's vital marine lifelines, we must stop burning planet-killing fossil fuels and rapidly transition to clean sources of energy. The health of our oceans is inextricably linked to our own survival.

Ron Sadler
Frankfort

FOOD PANTRY GRATEFUL FOR INTERFAITH FOOD DRIVE DONATIONS

Dear editor,

The Emergency Community Food Pantry of Franklin County recently held its fall Interfaith Food Drive. More than 20 faith communities participated by collecting non-perishable food and money for the pantry.

The pantry wants to express its thanks and appreciation to these communities that took part:

Bridgeport Christian Church, Buck Run Baptist Church, Capital City Christian Church, Church of the Ascension, Cornerstone Church of the Nazarene, East Frankfort Baptist Church, Farmdale Baptist Church, First Baptist Church at St. Clair, First Christian Church, First Presbyterian Church, First United Methodist Church, Friendship Church, Hillcrest Baptist Church, Hope Lutheran Church, Immanuel Baptist Church, Islamic Center of Frankfort, South Frankfort Presbyterian Church, St. John AME Church, St. Paul's United Methodist Church, St. Peter's Anglican Church, Unitarian Universalist Community Frankfort and Westview Baptist Church.

This is just a partial list of the religious organizations in our community that support the food pantry. Some help throughout the year with donations, volunteer help and separate food drives.

Our community is indeed fortunate to have a faith community that helps families in need. Thank you.

Gil Lawson
Board president
Emergency Community
Food Pantry of Franklin County

Thanks a lot

I read with great interest the election results that sent Republicans packing from dozens of congressional districts across the country. Little could have pleased me more. But now, like the legendary dog who finally caught the car he was chasing, Democrats must figure out what they will do with the House and Senate now that they have it.

There is a score of items to settle upon, healthcare and Medicaid and much more. You can research everyone's position on these and you can decide what should go where, how to fund it and what must be abandoned on the way. Your opinion is as valid as the newly elected members of the esteemed chambers. I'm much more interested in the "how" of their actions than the "why." A good example for them to emulate would be to look to Franklin County and Frankfort if they want to see what cooperation and consistency can do.

In all my long years of following local, state and national politics, I thought I had seen everything: Great bombast and flamboyant campaign promises, slick operations that looked like Hollywood productions, podium-pounding, raging speeches and sincere statements as homey as a flannel shirt. I recall the one honest man who said in his campaign, "I'm just looking for a job." But I saw something this season that was novel and right at the edge of astounding.

I saw a statement from Mayor Layne Wilkerson at the end of October in which he endorsed the entire city commission for reelection. All of them. Of all the cat-wrangling, bull-in-a-china-shop, saddle-up-and-hang-on things in politics, this was flabbergasting. Being a mayor is tough. Listening to constituents and being nice while trying to reason with a bunch of commissioners who all have their own views about every subject under the sun is hard. That he would come forth and ask to have the same gang, without exception, stay in their seats is a once-in-a-career move. I applaud him and give credit to the commissioners for their unity and progress.



John Arnett
Contributing columnist

After the polls closed, one member of the city commission will change. The familiar face of Katrisha Waldridge will now be seen at the big desk, bringing experience and her wise community vision.

And Judge Executive Michael Mueller won't need to learn any new names, either. All six of the county's magistrates satisfied their district's voters and returned to their positions for another term. It's hard to overstate the value of continuity when dealing in local politics. Old scores to settle and new vanity projects of freshly-elected members can derail even the best group ambitions, leading to wasted opportunities and lost momentum. The return of the entire seasoned crew should make for smooth sailing into the near future for the county.

Now let the United States House of Representatives and the Senate look here for inspiration! Just look at what has been accomplished already by our neighbors in office.

See the massive sports field expansion at Lakeview Park, which should be completed by the end of this year. There's the planned meeting and event center for downtown. There is the early vision of an enormously popular aquatic and wellness center off East Main Street, a joint community project that even includes the school system. Money has been spent or committed on improvements in the one area no one gripes about: parks. Both the city and county have done much and plan much more there. The new Paddock shopping development is roaring along into the holiday season.

The Singing Bridge will soon be replaced with work tagged for a spring start.

All of this comes from good leadership, smart planning and a focus on finishing. As much as I enjoy poking elected officials and making occasional outrageous statements about them, I must admit our band of locals are doing a good job. Exemplary, even.

It's right and proper this time of year that we can give thanks for living in a good area with good people doing a good job at getting good things done. Thanks, everyone.

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.



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