

THE ELLIOTT COUNTY NEWS

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Publisher Editor General Mgr.

157 S KY 7 • P.O. Box 222 — Sandy Hook, KY 41171

USPS Permit Number — 173-880

POSTMASTER: Send changes of address and all forms to the above address. THE ELLIOTT COUNTY NEWS is published every Friday of each week, except July Fourth week, and entered under periodicals permit at the Sandy Hook Post Office, Sandy Hook, Kentucky. Editors reserve the right to edit and/or omit items submitted for publication.

Uncommon Sense

By Dr. Glenn Mollette



Can You Live Without China’s Junk?

What does China export to the United States? Items include electronics, machinery, furniture, bedding, clothing, footwear, toys, cars, motorcycles, medical equipment, needles and catheters. There is of course more.

These and other products are a big part of the over \$48.83 billion in exports China sent to the US in December, 2024 alone. For the entire year it was over \$600 billion.

To break it down, we imported \$34.2 b (billion) in computers. \$23.2 b in phones \$4.3 b in televisions. Semiconductors \$3.4 b. Industrial machines \$8.5 b. Printing machinery \$1.3 b. Textile machines \$1.2 b. Vaccines \$1.1 b. Insulin \$134 million. Furniture \$15.5 billion. Footwear \$5.6 billion. These numbers are based on 2022 trade deals, so the dollar amount is always changing but it gives us an idea of how dependent we have become on China. This of course is not comprehensive as there are various other medicines and items that China exports to us. For example, Tylenol, Advil, Motrin, Amoxicillin, Keflex, blood pressure meds, Hydrochlorothiazide, Metformin, Vitamin C, Aspirin, insulin tablets and more come from China.

Does this scare you? It may because we import so much from China. However, it should make us all mad. How did we get ourselves into this mess? American companies took our jobs to cheap labor places like China where these products are made by people working for slave wages. These products were made cheaply and then sold back to us. The American people were robbed of jobs and opportunities to provide for our children because a lot of our jobs were outsourced somewhere else.

These companies have gotten by with it for over 30 years while our people in America had to go to work for McDon-

alds, Walmart, Starbucks and pray to God every day that they might make \$12 or \$13 an hour. We allowed our automobile industry to suffer, we buried our energy industry and became dependent on China, Vietnam, Japan and other countries.

Thus, Walmart became American’s store because we can go to Walmart and buy for cheap. Walmart and Dollar General are about the only stores most Americans can afford. They are no longer the choice just because they are cheaper. They are all most Americans can afford. Hold on, because of the tariffs Walmart will become more expensive.

Can anybody answer the question why we allowed this slow growing but almost fatal economic cancer to invade our mindset and our country? We did not protect ourselves. We looked out for the world and let our own country suffer. Now we are having to undergo a serious time of economic surgery and treatment.

It’s way, way, past time to bring the manufacturing back to America. It will not happen overnight. In the meantime, keep in mind that numerous other countries make medicine. India exports over \$9 b a year. Ireland over \$8 b. Switzerland, Germany, Italy, Canada, the UK, Israel and Singapore export billions of dollars of medicine every year. There are other places besides China to buy our medicine.

The same goes for electronics, toys, furniture and shoes. For example, toys. Yes, China exports 85% of our toys, but other countries make toys such as good old Vietnam. They exported \$3.4 b last year while Indonesia and Thailand both exported over \$4 b in toys. There are other places for us to buy toys.

We can find a way to live without China. It’s way past time.

Transportation Cabinet makes license renewal options available

By Tom Latek
Reprinted From
Kentucky Today

FRANKFORT, Ky., May 1— New remote renewal-based licensing alternatives will provide Kentuckians opportunities to “Skip the Line” and avoid waiting at Driver Licensing Regional Offices across the state, the Kentucky Transportation Cabinet announced on Thursday.

Options are now available using online, in-office and mail-in renewal forms.

In recent months, Kentucky’s licensing offices have experienced significant increases of in-office visits as customers come to renew a license, obtain a REAL ID or take advantage of free vision screenings now required by law.

The Transportation Cabinet has been adding staff, implementing new line-management technology and adjusting procedures to make it easier for many customers to return to remote renewal options and avoid unnecessary waits.

Those “Skip the Line” renewal options include:

- For those who can, visit an eye specialist, ask for a vision screening form and upload it to renew online at DLRenewal.ky.gov.
- Visit a licensing office, get a vision screening, receive a passcode, then return home to renew online at DLRenewal.ky.gov.
- Visit a licensing office, get the vision screening, fill out a renewal form on site without waiting and receive a temporary license via email.
- Renew by mail: Print and fill out the mail-in form at Drive.ky.gov and attach a completed vision form from an eye specialist.

“We understand the frustration of lines and want everyone to know what’s available to save them the time and hassle of unnecessary waits,” said Transportation Cabinet Secretary Jim Gray.

Some customers might still need to visit licensing offices if they:

- Need to upgrade to or apply for a REAL ID.
- Change the address, marital status or photo on their license.
- Need a CDL, hearing or noncitizen services.
- Are a new Kentucky driver, and need a permit or license after passing a Kentucky State Police-administered test.

The Transportation Cabinet is also reminding Kentuckians that this is not a deadline, but a federal enforcement date. Customers can still get one any time after that date and they have other options.

Don’t Forget To
Renew Your
Subscription!!!

Voter rolls continue to shrink in Ky.

Scty. of state says over 7,000 Voters Removed in March

FRANKFORT, Ky., April 11 — Secretary of State Michael Adams announced that Kentucky voter rolls continue to shrink due to vigorous list maintenance, with more voters removed than added in March.

“Federal oversight of our voter rolls since 2018 was recently lifted, because we have demonstrated we take election integrity seriously,” said Adams.

Of the 7,072 voters removed, 4,656 were deceased, 1,698 were duplicate registrations, 408 were felony convicts, 196 moved out of state, 75 were adjudged mentally incompetent, and 39 voluntarily de-registered.

Republican registration accounts for 47 percent of the electorate, with 1,580,933 voters. Republican registration grew by 157 voters, a .01 percent increase. Democratic registration constitutes 42 percent of the electorate, with 1,393,475 voters. Democratic registration fell by 248 voters, a .02 percent decrease. There are 358,492 voters registered under other political affiliations, making up 11 percent of the electorate. “Other” registration rose by 1,181 voters, a .33 percent increase.

Sandy Hook Socials

Last week Dawn Holland, of Serenity Hills Farm, was working with her horse, Titan, when he bolted and she fell, causing fractures in her pelvis and a break in her tailbone. After several days in the hospital at Morehead, she is now home on physical therapy and walking on a walker. We pray for a speedy recovery.

Last Thursday, Connie Harbie had surgery on her left ankle at Cabell Huntingon Hospital. The surgery was a follow-up procedure to clean out infection and begin the healing process. She remains in the hospital on antibiotics. She appreciates all the prayers for healing.

Weekend guests of Dwight and Flo Whitley were Alex and Jennifer Chidress and their children, Belle and Luke, from Petoskey, Mich. They traveled from Michigan to Sandy Hook on Friday, spending Friday afternoon and Saturday with the Whitleys before traveling on to Pigeon Forge, Tenn., to visit the Titanic Museum and enjoy some time in the mountains. We hope they enjoyed their trip and are now safely home.

Brent and Lori Sturgill, of Bruin spent several days in San Antonio, Texas. Lori had work-related meetings, and Brent went with her. When she didn’t have meetings, they spent time sightseeing, etc., making a mini vacation of the trip.

Volunteers sought for long term care ombudsman pgm.

The Legal Aid of the Bluegrass Long Term Care Ombudsman Program is looking for Volunteers! Did you know 60% of nursing home residents never receive a visitor?

The Long Term Care Ombudsman Program advocates for rights, dignity and independence for nursing home residents. The program’s volunteers visit about 1,700 frail and elderly at least quarterly and advocate for quality care and work to resolve problems. Ombudsman help provide a voice for those who otherwise would have none, serving those living in nursing homes, personal care homes, and Family care homes.

For more information, contact your Long Term Care Ombudsman:

Amanda Hamilton
FIVCO Long Term Care Ombudsman Program
1616 Greenup Ave
Ashland, KY 41101
(606) 780-2258
ahamilton@lablaw.org

SAIL AWAY

Twenty years from now you will be more disappointed by the things that you didn’t do than the ones you did do. So throw off the bowlines. Sail away from the harbor. Catch the trade winds in your sails. Explore. Dream. Discover.

— Mark Twain

PUBLIC NOTICE

Second reading of a proposed ordinance amending the Elliott County budget for fiscal year 2024-2025, to include unanticipated receipts from Real Property Taxes, Federal Reimbursement, etc. in the amount of 622,895.93 and increasing expenditures in the area of Reserve for Transfers, etc., will be held on May 21, 2025, at 6:00 p.m. at the Elliott County Courthouse. A copy of the proposed ordinance with full text is available for public inspection at the office of the County Judge/Executive during normal business hours'

What Is The Long-Term Care Ombudsman?

Under the federal Older Americans Act (OAA) every state is required to have an Ombudsman Program that addresses complaints and advocates for improvements in the long-term care system.

WHAT DOES THE OMBUDSMAN PROGRAM DO?

The Ombudsman program advocates for residents of nursing homes, personal care homes, assisted living facilities, and family care homes. Ombudsmen work to resolve problems individual residents face. Ombudsmen identify, investigate, and resolve complaints. Ombudsman program responsibilities include:

- Educating residents, their family and facility staff about residents’ rights, good care practices, and similar long-term services and supports resources;
- Ensuring residents have regular and timely access to ombudsman services;
- Providing technical support for the development of resident and family councils;
- Advocating for changes to improve residents’ quality of life and care;
- Providing information to the public regarding long-term care facilities and services,

residents’ rights, and legislative and policy issues;

- Representing resident interests before governmental agencies; and
- Seeking legal, administrative and other remedies to protect residents.

DOES THE OMBUDSMAN CHARGE FOR THEIR SERVICES?

The Older American Act funding a federal grant that allows these services to be provided for free.

HOW DO I REACH THE OMBUDSMAN?

For the counties Boyd, See INFO, Page 3

PUBLIC NOTICE

ELLIOTT COUNTY FISCAL COURT

Fiscal Year 2025'2026

BUDGET HEARING REGARDING PROPOSED USE OF COUNTY ROAD AID AND LOCAL GOVERNMENT ECONOMIC ASSISTANCE (LGEA) FUNDS.

A public hearing will be held by Elliott County Fiscal Court at on May 21, 2025 at, for the purpose of obtaining citizen's comments regarding the possible uses of County Road Aid (CRA) and Local Government Economic Assistance (LGEA) Funds.

All interested persons in Elliott County are invited to the hearing to submit verbal or written comments on possible uses of the CRA and LGEA funds. Any person(s) who cannot submit written comments or attend the public hearing, but wish to submit comments, should call the Office of the County Judge/Executive at 606-738-5826, so that arrangements can be made to secure their comments'

AUCTION

Auction at Elliott County Garage on May 10,2025, at 8am, located at 3390 N KY 7, Sandy Hook, K Y 411 71. Cash or good checks accepted day of auction. Titles for vehicles will be ready to sign and notarize after sale. No title for tractor.

Please call the garage with questions Monday-Friday, 8a-4p at 606-738-5826. May view anytime during open hours.

All sales final. No warranties or guarantees implied or offered.

Minimums on vehicles will be as follows:

F350-\$3750

DODGE VAN-\$880

JEEP GC-\$3000

CHEVY TAHOE-\$2500

NEW HOLLAND TRACTOR-\$2500

No minimum on any other items sold.

Thank you for your interest!

Myron S. Lewis

