#### THE ELLIOTT COUNTY NEWS

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## Uncommon Sense

By Dr. Glenn Mollette



# Musk's Tantrum: What Is **He Capable Of Doing?** Elon Musk 's wealth mainly

comes from his ownership stakes in two companies: 1. Tesla – around 37% of his wealth is from Tesla stock, although it was as high as 75% in 2020. 2. SpaceX – valued contracts include a \$20 billion deal with the United States federal government. He also earned money from selling PavPal to eBay for \$1.5 billion in stock, receiving \$175.8 million personally. His net worth is estimated to be around \$424.7 billion but this varies from week to week depending on the stock market.

Other business ventures of Musk's are Neuralink – brain machine interfaces and neurotechnology, The Boring Company - underground tunnels and infrastructure and

SolarCity which is solar energy, but was sold to Tesla in 2016. In 1995 Musk owned Zip2 which was an online content publishing company that was sold to Compaq. He also owns Starlink which is an internet constellation company.

No doubt Musk is a a true visionary, entrepreneur and one of the greatest geniuses of

Musk is still a young man, born June 28, 1971. The world may be yet to see what he will

However, anyone can spread himself too thin. Obviously, he has a lot of great people working for him, but anyone can overdo their capabilities or overestimate themselves.

In my opinion, it was a terrible idea for Musk to become so heavily involved in government and politics. He makes billions from the government contracts with SpaceX. I think that is definitely a conflict of interest. However, he is now out of his leadership role in ing in a moment of rage? Washington. After his temper

all kinds of dumb stuff about President Trump he probably won't be returning to any leadership roles. He further over elevated himself and his role in Trump's election. This reminds us again of this truth: Intelligent geniuses can do and say stupid things. Throwing mud at President Trump on social media has made Musk look like a spoiled brat who has seemingly always gotten his way. Again, we are reminded, no one always gets his or her way in this life.

Is Musk too rich to go broke? Probably, but anyone can fail financially. Musk's wealth is mostly tied up in stocks, making him "cash poor," or having low liquidity. But with SpaceX capturing 70% of the global launch market, his financial downfall is unlikely. Unless, he continues to hurl ill-will at President Trump which could potentially cost Musk a lot.

The problem is that if the US cancelled its contracts with SpaceX, it could impact our manned missions to the International Space Station. New space projects like NASA's Artemis moon program could be impacted. Dozens of NASA science programs would be affected plus the impact on national security as SpaceX provides critical space launch and communication services to the US military. These and other consequences could significantly affect the US space

program and national security. Trump, Musk and all the others on Capitol Hill need to work together for the common good of our nation. Musk has proven his genius and capabilities. However, his temper tantrum and verbiage last week make me wonder a bit as to just what he is really capable of do-

# Sandy Hook **Socials**

Angie Fannin Marx was taken by ambulance to Cabell Huntington Hospital on Friday afternoon due to extremely low blood pressure. She had a UTI and was put on antibiotics and monitored overnight. Her blood pressure returned to normal and she was released on Saturday. Dwight and Flo Whitley went to Huntington and brought her home. She is now doing well.

Please keep the family of Randy Flanery in your prayers as they mourn his passing on Saturday, June 9. He will be sadly missed by Trina and all his loved ones. May they be comforted by memories of the life he lived and the love he gave to all who knew him.

On Monday, Flo Whitley met her friend, Pam Horne Hall, in Grayson for lunch. They had a nice visit before Pam returned to Ashland for work and Flo returned home to make blue-

Connie Harbie has been home from the hospital since May 15 on IV antibiotics and drains, and immobile. Prayers that when she returns to see her doctor in Huntington, she learns that the infection is gone and she can get the plates and bolts installed and have a speedy

# Program ...

(Continued From Page One)

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

#### JUST IN CASE

If I knew that tomorrow there wuld be no dawn on earth for me. That I should have gone in the dark of night into eternity. I should do so many things for those I love, but, oh I should be happy, too. With those above. So, just in case I might be viewing morning in celestial skies, Lord bring me those who need my love today, for other wise the night may close a door on words I meant to say, and morning had my empty house with me away.

#### **GUEST COLUMN**

# Can this two-party system be saved?

If Democrats have a path back to relevance in Eastern Kentucky, they could find it by focusing on the economy

**COMMENTARY By Jeffery Tyler Syck Reprinted From** The Kentucky Lantern

June 4 — Sen. Robin Webb, a longtime state lawmaker from Carter County, is the latest mountain Democrat to defect to the Republican Party. (LRC Public Information photo)

A great darkness has descended upon the Democratic Party of Eastern Kentucky. All but banished from the hills and hollows they call home, Democrats are searching for a path to political relevancy that seems increasingly narrow and increasingly unlikely. Despite what seem to be

some positives for Democrats, state Sen. Robin Webb one of the longest serving Democrats in the Kentucky legislature — changed her party affiliation from Democrat to Republican. This comes even as popular Democrat Andy Beshear is serving his second term as governor amid talk that Eastern Kentuckian Rocky Adkins, a Beshear aide, could run to succeed him. Meanwhile, a bonafide Democratic challenger, Prestonsburg attorney Ned Pillersdorf, is considering a run against Republican U.S. Rep. Hal Rogers in the 5th Congressional District.

Webb is simply the latest in a long line of prominent Appalachian Democrats who have decided to join the swelling ranks of the Republican Party of Kentucky. Most of these conversions have been explained as a product of the Democratic Party no longer representing the values of the politician in question. More cynical political observers ascribe this mass exodus from the region's ancestral party to simple self-preservation: long time politicians fearful of losing their preciously held jobs at the very heart of Trump

Regardless of the reasons, these now common party switches are not a positive sign for the Democratic Party. Nor are they the only evidence that Appalachian Democrats should be worried. Despite Beshear's relative success across Eastern Kentucky in the last gubernatorial election and the mounting number of enthusiastic liberal activists in the region, Democrats have failed to make significant headway of any kind in the region. A reality made all the more stark by Elliot County, Kentucky, breaking its 144 year

support for the Democratic Party in the 2016 election for president. After 2024, an outside ob-

server cannot help but conclude that all the fervor of local activities and all the efforts of a relatively popular governor do nothing to boost the chances of the Democratic Party in the Kentucky mountains. So is all hope for the Democratic Party lost in Appalachia? Is there simply no immediate future left for the party of Rocky Adkins in his native region? The short answer is "quite possibly." Yet, as is often the case, the long answer is both more complex and more truthful. The long answer is that the

situation is bad for Eastern Kentucky Democrats. Nor is any attempt to sugarcoat this fact with hopeful news coverage and opinion pieces likely to improve circumstances. To solve a problem requires first a frank admission of the facts as they are and not as anyone may wish them to be. From these hard realities, a solution may emerge and a path to twoparty competition in the region becomes, if not likely, at least First and foremost, Ken-

tucky Democrats must admit that the average Appalachian voter does not trust the Democratic Party anymore. The brand has been greatly damaged and no blunder in the Trump administration is likely to provide a miracle realization among the populace that will change this fact. Voters in the region feel that the Democratic Party has abandoned them in favor of various ill fated social crusades that do little to better society and certainly have done little to solve the great troubles that plague the Appalachian

As an obvious consequence of this, Appalachian Democrats simply must give up any and all attempts to appeal to voters through the methods and messages of the national Democratic Party. There should be no more attacks in Johnson County by the Kentucky Democratic Party chairman on Republican attempts to end deeply unpopular D.E.I. programs. Democratic officials should also acknowledge that abortion and LGBTQ issues are simply not the cross to die on in a largely conservative region. Nor should the party persist in its continued and constant veiled attacks upon a president their game.

whose popularity remains rock solid across the region.

Instead, Democrats should focus on their historic strength in the region — the economy. They should offer solutions to the housing and jobs crises that face Eastern Kentucky. They should make "putting Eastern Kentucky back to work" and other local issues the heart of their message. As Republicans tie themselves to the newly popular national party, they should break free from Harris and Schumer to develop a uniquely Appalachian brand of liberal economics. The social liberalism can be left to Louisville and Lexington.

Second, Appalachian Democrats must face the reality of a changed Appalachia and party system. Union voters once formed the heart of the Democratic Party in the region. However, many of these voters feel that Democratic policies undercut their jobs and have hollowed out the unions. Whether this is true or not is beside the point; it is how voters feel and Democrats must acknowledge that older working class miners are unlikely to be the backbone of their party, though they should of course continue to angle for

their support. Instead, Democrats should target those in the region who tend to be most skeptical of Trump and the policies of the newly constituted Republican party — public school teachers, small business owners, and the young. Though most of these groups have historically voted Republican, things are changing in this country and seizing upon this reality is to the advantage of Eastern Kentucky

All of this advice is not given to "save" the state from the Republican Party or because I fear the Democrats are the only avenue to creating a better commonwealth. This advice is not even offered by someone who is currently a member of the Democratic Party. Instead, I offer this frank counsel because as a citizen and political scientist. I understand that both parties are strongest when they are faced with a formidable and influential opposition. Iron sharpens iron, and two party competition creates the best sort of policy. Kentucky is very close to losing this vital check on political authority — that is, unless rural Democrats step up

# Call The Elliott County News For Advertising Info: 606-743-3551

#### **ACCEPTING BIDS**

The Elliott County Fiscal Court is accepting bids for a poured, sloped, finished, and sealed floor in one of the government facilities. The floor will be approximately 24'x32' and will be on top of an existing concrete floor.

This project is scheduled to be done in July to August 2025.

Any interested insured concrete contractors are invited to bid. Please call the county garage at 606-738-5826 to schedule a viewing.

All bids must be received by end of business on June 17th, 2025.

### **SEALED BIDS**

ELLIOTT COUNTY FISCAL COURT IS NOW ACCEPTING SEALED BIDS ON THE FOLLOWING ITEMS OR SERVICES:

-FUEL (GAS AND DIESEL)

-RAIL AND CRIBBING

ELLIOTT COUNTY FISCAL COURT RESERVES THE RIGHT TO ACCEPT OR REJECT ANY OR ALL SEALED BIDS.

The sealed bids will be opened during a meeting of the Elliott County Fiscal Court held on June 17th, 2025. If you would like any additional information concerning these sealed bids or would like to obtain more specific information about the materials being bid upon, please contact the office of the Judge Executive.

Sealed bids must be submitted to the Elliott County Judges Office, located in the Elliott County Garage on Route 7, by 4 p.m. on June 17th, 2025. Bids can also be mailed to: Elliott County Fiscal Court P.O. BOX 710 Sandy Hook, KY 41171

If you have any questions about the specifics of the bids, please call the office of the Judge Executive at 606-738-5826

# **SEALED BIDS**

The Elliott County Fiscal Court will be accepting sealed bids until the end of business on the day of our regular scheduled meeting Tuesday, June 17.

To place a bid, write a note with the vehicle you are bidding on. Add your name and phone number with your bid. Place the note in a letter and write the vehicle you are bidding on the outside, then drop it off at the county garage Mon-Fri from 8am-4pm

These vehicles are being offered 'as-is', via sealed bids with no guarantees or warranties. Cash or good check, only, will be accepted

if bid is awarded. The Elliott County Fiscal Court reserves the right to refuse any and all bids.

If you have questions, please call the office at 606-738-5826 or feel free to stop by to view any of these vehicles during business hours.







