

THE ELLIOTT COUNTY NEWS

EARL W. KINNER FLO WHITLEY RICK ADKINS

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Congress shall make
no law respecting an
establishment of religion,
or prohibiting the
free exercise thereof;
or abridging the
freedom of speech, or of

THE
PRESS;

or the right of the people
peaceably to assemble,
and to petition the
Government for a
redress of grievances.

As America celebrate 250 years, we are proud to still be
an important part of our democracy and the only profession
explicitly named in the Constitution of the United States.

KPA

KENTUCKY PRESS
ASSOCIATION

NATIONAL
NEWSPAPER

OCTOBER 4 - 10, 2026

The Elliott County News

Voters can request absentee ballots through October 20

Elliott Countians are preparing to vote in the General Election on Tuesday, Nov. 3, for local, state and federal offices.

Kentucky's online mail-in absentee ballot request portal opened on Sept. 19, enabling voters to request ballots through Oct. 20 at govote.ky.gov.

Those who wish to obtain a mail-in absentee ballot can also call or visit County Clerk Jennifer Carter's office through Oct. 20.

General Election Dates, Deadlines And Other Info

The following is a listing of important dates from the Kentucky's election calendar, as per the State Board of Elections:

- **Tuesday, Oct. 20** – Online mail-in absentee request portal to close 14 days before the election.
- **Tuesday, Oct. 20** – Voter or their legally authorized agent may submit a notarized paper application for an absentee ballot because of a medical emergency within 14 days or less of an election.
- **Wednesday, Thursday and Friday, Oct. 21, 22 and 23; and Monday, Tuesday and Wednesday, Oct. 26, 27 and 28** – Excused, in-person absentee voting: Qualified voters may make application to cast an absentee ballot during normal business hours during the six (6) business days immediately proceeding the Thursday of no-excuse, in-person absentee voting period.
- **Tuesday, Oct. 27** – Last day to apply for a military-overseas ballot. A covered voter may use the declaration accompanying a federal write-in absentee ballot as an application for a military-overseas ballot simultaneously with the submission of the federal write-in absentee ballot if the declaration is received by the appropriate election official by the close of business hours seven (7) days before the election. An application for a military-overseas ballot for a primary, whether timely, is effective as an application for a military-overseas ballot for the regular election.
- **Tuesday, Oct. 27** – Last day for any voter who has received an absentee ballot

PUBLIC NOTICE

Second reading of a proposed ordinance amending the Elliott County budget for fiscal year 2026-2027, to include unanticipated receipts from LARP Funding, Legal Process Fees, Jail Operations, Court Settlement, Prior Year Surplus, etc. in the amount of \$833,173.84 and increasing expenditures in the area of Reserve for Transfers, Tax Bill Preparation, Autopsys and Attendant Services, Capital Outlay, P & O Tax Refunds, Library Expenses, Other County Properties, EC Ambulance, Contract Workers, Road Maintenance, Signs etc., will be held on October 13, 2026, 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.

E-10-2-2t

Way Back When: Taters

By Jo Ann Butts

Way back when I was growing up in the 1950s and 1960s, Middlefork is where I spent most of my young life, up at the end of Coal Branch Holler.

We raised most of our food as everyone else did that I knew of in that area. We raised several staples like corn, sweet potatoes, possum pumpkins, tomatoes and green beans.

Other than the big bottoms of field corn, we dedicated our lower garden to one big Irish potato patch. All the old people called them taters. I do too.

Although we moved the tater location every couple of years, they seemed to always produce great.

One year we raised more than usual. A lot more than usual. We had rows and rows of them. They were planted in the early spring, plowed, hoed, and hilled up many times.

Then when they got big enough, I was sent to the patch to gravel a few for dinner. Mommy said lightly dig around the bottom of the

tater plant. Dig out a few from here and there, but don't disturb the plant. So I did. The skin was soft and we scraped them.

Mommy cooked up a special side dish for dinner that consisted of fresh snap peas and new potatoes with a creamy thick white sauce. They were delicious. We all loved them and ate them all up. I remember them being in a 3-quart little pressure cooker with a handle on it.

Though very delicious, they definitely had the spring tonic effect on us kids. After all these years, I can still laugh about that even today. And I did. (LOL)

So many years later, I fixed that same combination meal for my son when we lived up Chicken House Holler. He was a teenager and loved them. They were really good.

Fresh garden produce is very good for us all.

The next day he said, "Mom! Did you know that those peas and new potatoes would do that to me?"

I laughed and laughed and said, "No," but he didn't

ESTATE SALE

Roger and
Wilma Davis

563 S. Ky 7 Sandy Hook 41171

THURSDAY, FRIDAY,
SATURDAY & SUNDAY

OCTOBER 15TH - 17TH

10:00 - 4:00

AND

SUNDAY OCTOBER 18TH

1:00 - 4:00

LARGE HOUSE PACKED WITH
YEARS OF COLLECTING.

GO TO ESTATESALES.NET
FOR PICTURES AND MORE
INFORMATION.

believe me. LOL

As a kid, I was Daddy's helper when he tore out the old rotten tater box in the cellar. I carried all the old boards up the steps and out to be burnt.

Daddy was a good carpenter – even though he only had a hand saw, hammer, and nails to work with. He built a strong wooden tater box the size of a big chest freezer.

I guess he was expecting a big harvest, and there was. It took us a couple days I reckon. We dug and dug until we finally got them all dug and sorted, and then carried and emptied into the new bin.

That new bin looked beautiful when Irish taters piled up high in it.

We ate good all fall, winter and spring, with lots of taters still left in the bin on tater plantin' day.

My brother and I had to carry out all the potatoes from the bin. Some had long sprouts on them, some shriveled up, and some rotten.

While Daddy and Mommy were in the yard sitting,

cutting up the seed taters for that spring crop, This is no lie... We carried out 20 bushel of taters from that bin that spring on planting day.

Daddy and Mommy had bushels cut up to plant, bushels for us to eat on until the fall that we carried back to the cellar, and bushels he took and gave to his friends and neighbors in the area. We loaded them in the back of his pickup truck.

As an adult on my own, I've purchased many bags of store bought potatoes – but they do not taste anything like homegrown taters.

Homegrown is so much better. But as a kid growing up I didn't know the difference, because we never bought any of them.

I've spent many a trip going to the cellar for a big bowl of taters to peel for Mommy to fix for dinner or supper. She was a good country cook and fixed them in several ways. It didn't matter to us which way. we never complained way back when.

By Jo Ann Butts
606-738-9839

Drivers reminded to use caution as deer activity increases this fall

Collisions with hit 7-year high in 2025, underscoring need for vigilant driving

FRANKFORT, Ky. Sept. 29—With deer activity and collisions on the rise, motorists are reminded that the best defense against a deer-related crash is to stay alert, slow down and buckle up. New crash data shows Kentucky experienced a seven-year high of 3,411 deer collisions in 2025, underscoring the importance of safe driving habits as peak deer movement season gets underway along roadways statewide.

"With deer active this time of year, especially at dawn and dusk, motorists should stay focused, slow down in areas where deer are present and always wear a seat belt," said State Highway Engineer James Ballinger. "A few extra moments of caution can help prevent a serious crash."

According to the Kentucky Department of Fish and Wildlife Resources, deer movement typically increases during the fall as mating season begins and food sources shift. Deer often travel farther distances during October, November and December, making roadway encounters more common.

Kentucky State Police data shows deer crashes

have climbed each year since 2020, resulting in an overall 18.2% increase over the past five years.

While crash numbers increased last year, data showed a positive downward trend in deer crash-related fatalities with none reported in 2025, compared with six fatalities in 2024. Thirty people were reported to have been seriously injured in these crashes. Nearly half of all deer collisions occurred during the final three months of the year. November recorded the highest number of crashes with 823 reported collisions, followed by October with 394 and December with 330. Together, those three months accounted for nearly 46% of all reported deer crashes in 2025.

Kentuckians should drive with caution, especially at sunrise and sunset when deer are most active. Crash data also shows deer-related collisions are most common during evening commuting hours and periods of low light. The highest crash totals occurred between 6 p.m. and 8 p.m., with 304 crashes reported at 6 p.m., 242 at 7 p.m. and 281 at 8 p.m., highlighting the need to drive alert at dusk and in

the evening.

The Kentucky Transportation Cabinet (KYTC) offers these driving tips to stay safe:

- √Stay Aware: Be vigilant, especially in forested terrain, and during dusk and dawn when deer are most active. Deer often travel in groups so others may be close behind if you see one.
- √Be Prepared: Always wear a seat belt (it's the law) and eliminate distractions (phones down!).
- √Turn On Headlights: Keep them on bright unless other vehicles are approaching.
- √Slow Down: Take your foot off the gas immediately if you spot a deer crossing the roadway.
- √Don't Swerve: Trying to avoid a deer can result in a more serious crash with an oncoming vehicle or roadside object.
- √If There's a Crash: Keep both hands on the wheel and apply brakes steadily until stopped.

Motorists are asked to report all deer-vehicle collisions to police. KYTC traffic engineers use the crash data to help place deer-crossing warning signs and other safety measures.

12,000+ new voters register in Ky. in Sept. Independents still fastest growing bloc

FRANKFORT, Ky., October 2 – Secretary of State Michael Adams announced that in September, 12,380 Kentuckians registered to vote, the highest monthly total since 2024. Voters who are Independents or align with third parties again out-registered Democrats and Republicans.

"Polls across the country show tightening races. In Kentucky, too, voters who do not affiliate with Democrats or Republicans will decide whether Democrats or Republicans win our elections," Adams said.

In September, net registration rose by 7,323, with 5,057 voters removed; 3,626 who were deceased, 876 felony convicts, 420

who moved out of state, 39 adjudged mentally incompetent, 61 duplicate registrations, and 35 who voluntarily de-registered.

Republican registration accounts for 48 percent of the electorate, with 1,626,732 voters. Republican registration grew by 2,227 voters, a .14 percent increase. Democratic registration accounts for 41 percent of the electorate, with 1,373,500 voters. Democratic registration rose by 2,486, a .18 percent increase. There are 388,992 voters registered under other political affiliations (mostly independent), making up 11 percent of the electorate. "Other" registration jumped by 2,610, a .68 percent increase.

TO BE WITHOUT

To be without some of the things you want is an indispensable part of happiness.

– Bertrand Russell

Sandy Hook Socials

On Saturday afternoon, Don Bush, of Rush, Ky., visited with Dwight and Flo Whitley. He and Dwight had a lot to catch up on. They drove trucks for the same companies for several years and talked about those days and the other drivers they had made friends with through the truck driving days before retirement.

On Saturday, Oct. 3, Bryan Mayse and Amanda Hutchinson "tied the knot." Congratulations and best wishes to Mr. and Mrs. Mayse. We wish you many years of happiness!

The Elliott County Fiscal Court met on Tuesday, Oct. 6, 2026, to discuss public concerns about the possibility of a data center here in Elliott County. The court held the first reading of a resolution for a two-year moratorium on data

centers during the meeting. More on this matter can be found in a report on page one. Any additional updates will be noted as they become available.

Prayers for Joanna Faye and Dale Smith and their family. Their mother, Janice Smith Skaggs, passed away on Monday. Their father, Jackie Smith, is in the hospital, and so is their mother's twin sister, Judy.

Thanks For Reading
The Elliott
County News!!!

Birthdays

Happy birthday to the following:

- Sandy Hays, Oct. 12.
- Kerie Steele Ison, Oct. 13.
- Scott Shepherd, Oct. 14.
- Daniel Ferguson, Oct. 15.

- Tammy White, Oct. 15.
- Joy Ferguson, Oct. 16.
- Ethel Lyon, Oct. 17.
- Rita Whitt Jackson, Oct. 18.
- Joel David Brickey, Oct. 18.
- Amanda Whitley, Oct. 19.

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