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# Illegal Chinese vapes funneled into U.S.



The supply chain ferrying illegal Chinese-made vapes into the United States mostly operates in plain sight.  
PHOTOS BY CBP/HANDOUT VIA REUTERS

## Analysis finds billions of dollars in imports unaccounted for

Emma Rumney, Kaylee Kang and Tom Polansek  
REUTERS

CHICAGO – From an office a 15-minute drive from Chicago’s O’Hare International Airport, one small firm helped import millions of unauthorized Chinese-made vapes last year alone, forming a key link in the supply chain feeding U.S. demand for illegal e-cigarettes.

In a little over four years, the firm, a customs brokerage run by a man named Jay Kim, became a go-to broker for the Chinese vape industry. The firm worked on 60% of all shipments of vapes and vape parts from China to the United States in 2024 registered by the Food and Drug Administration, according to a Reuters analysis.

“A lot of them have FDA authorization,” Kim said in an interview in his office in April, referring to the vape shipments his firm handled.

However, FDA data on imports into the U.S. of FDA-regulated goods such as tobacco products or medicines showed the products Kim’s firm helped bring into the United States included unauthorized brands like Lost Mary and Geek Bar.

The FDA has declared those brands illegal to import or sell, warning their array of fruit and candy flavors may appeal to children. The agency says nicotine can harm developing brains and impact attention, learning and mood in young people, who can get hooked more easily on the addictive chemical.

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Unauthorized Chinese-made vapes were seized in a raid outside of Chicago by members of the Food and Drug Administration and U.S. Customs and Border Protection.



Something to Think About  
Debbie Kulick  
Guest columnist

## Broadway performers appearing at resort July 20

While there are so many fun and adventurous things that are coming up this summer, none of them has the heavy hitters of Broadway like the Pocono Center for the Arts Broadway Summer Celebration happening on July 20 (beginning at 4 p.m.) at Shawnee Inn and Golf Resort!

This all-musical event has cast members who collectively performed in 20 different Broadway productions! Stephen DeAngelis has done it again, putting together a special show that puts together five performers with a one-time performance of a variety of musical treats! All of these will be singing along with one of Broadway’s top pianists, Eugene Gwozdz.

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## Kelly reacts to Secret Service suspensions

Matthew Rink  
Erie Times-News  
USA TODAY NETWORK

U.S. Rep. Mike Kelly on July 10 applauded the “transparency and accountability” being implemented under the new leadership of the U.S. Secret Service after multiple reports in recent days that the agency suspended six agents without pay following the attempted assassination of then-candidate President Donald Trump last year.

Sunday, July 13, marks the one-year anniversary of the fatal shooting at a Trump campaign rally in Kelly’s hometown of Butler. Bethel Park resident Thomas Crooks fired eight rounds into the crowd of thousands at the Butler Farm Show ground nearly 10 minutes into Trump’s speech, killing one man,

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