

OBITUARIES

Lula Faye Kennedy

Lula Faye Kennedy, 88, of Elizabethtown, passed away Monday, Dec. 8, 2025, at Peridot Senior Living.

She was born Oct. 20, 1937, in Hardin County, to her parents, Jessie Raymond and Lillian Milby Strader.

Faye was a longtime member of Youngers Creek Baptist Church, where she was very active in the church serving many years as a Sunday school teacher and enjoyed being involved in the Young and Rowdy Group. She was retired from the Hardin County Schools, having worked in the cafeteria at Lincoln Trail Elementary. She also received a 40-year pin for her service to the National Weather Bureau.

She was preceded in death by her husband, Ardis Odell Kennedy; her parents, Jessie and Lillian Strader; three brothers, David, John Richard Jr. and Charles Strader; and two sisters, Sandra Daugherty and Wanda Hughes.

Survivors include her three sons, Michael Kennedy, Darrence Kennedy (Janet) and Chris Kennedy (Sharon); a daughter, Debbie Hines (Tim); two sisters, Cindy Babb and Phyllis Humphrey; eight grandchildren, Amanda, Jacob, Aaron, Sam, Nick, Eric, Devan and Daniel;



and six great-grandchildren.

The funeral is at 11 a.m. Friday, Dec. 12, at Trowbridge Funeral Home in Elizabethtown. Burial follows in Youngers Creek Baptist Church Cemetery.

Visitation is from 4 to 8 p.m. Thursday and continues at 9 a.m. Friday at the funeral home.

Expressions of sympathy may take the form of donations to Hosparus of Central Kentucky.

The family would like to thank the staffs of Peridot and Hosparus and all of her former caregivers for their comfort and compassion given to Faye.

To express an online condolence and to light a candle of remembrance, go to [trowbridgefh.com](http://trowbridgefh.com).

Trowbridge Funeral Home in Elizabethtown is in charge of arrangements.

Gary Hollis Stillwell Jr.

Gary Hollis Stillwell Jr., 44, of Elizabethtown died Wednesday, Nov. 26, 2025, at Baptist Health Hardin in Elizabethtown.

Survivors include his son, Cameran William Bryce Stillwell; and a daughter,

Zoey Jane Elizabeth Stillwell.

A memorial service is at 11 a.m. Thursday, Dec. 11, at Trowbridge Funeral Home in Elizabethtown.

Visitation begins at 9 a.m. Thursday at the funeral home.

COUPLE

FROM PAGE A1

or burglary; having a prior murder conviction or violent felonies; murder involving extreme cruelty or torture; the murder victim is a child younger than 12; or a murder was committed while under a protective order.

McCrary said with the evidence he has seen, the Durbins do not qualify.

The Durbins originally were arrested on first-degree assault charges, but the charge was later amended to murder after Bobby Pennington, 62, of Elizabethtown, died from his injuries.

According to both Durbins' arrest citations, Elizabethtown police responded Nov. 13 to an apartment complex on East Memorial Drive in Elizabethtown on a report of an adult male being unresponsive in front of the home.

Officers were advised before arrival, the patient had possibly fallen from a second-story balcony, according to Elizabethtown Police Public Information Officer Chris Denham.

When officers and EMS arrived on scene, they noted that Pennington had severe blunt force trauma to his face and was unresponsive, with a witness performing CPR on the man, according to a police report.

The witness told police that she witnessed the Durbins physically drag Pennington from their apartment and throw him over the second-story balcony handrail.

Police noted the fall was approximately 11 feet, six inches onto a concrete pad.

Denham said Pennington

was transported to Baptist Health Hardin in Elizabethtown, where he was put on a ventilator, and then later flown to the University of Louisville Hospital in critical condition.

According to a citation report, X-rays revealed that Pennington had suffered fractures of the C1 and C2 vertebrae, along with several ribs with buckle fractures.

Denham said that Pennington died Nov. 17 at the hospital as a result of the injuries sustained during the assault.

When questioned by the police, Nancy denied any involvement.

In addition to the murder charge, Shawn also was indicted on two counts of third-degree assault of a police officer and resisting arrest.

After being arrested by police in reference to the assault on Pennington, police report Shawn began kicking out the transporting officer's patrol vehicle window, according to his arrest citation.

When the officer stopped the vehicle and opened the door, Shawn spat in the officer's face and would not follow commands.

Police removed Shawn from the vehicle and once on the ground, Shawn grabbed the officer's in the crotch, reads the police report.

Shawn continued to fight with officers until he was properly restrained and transported to the Elizabethtown Police Department for an attempted interview, which was unsuccessful.

The Durbins are set to return to court at 10 a.m. Jan. 20 for a pre-trial conference. Both are being held in lieu of a \$500,000 cash bond at the Hardin County Detention Center.

a program at Stithton Baptist Church in Radcliff.

The mayor and council members spent a great deal of time in closed sessions attempting to figure out how to make the vacant building, which had been donated to the city, work for the Boys & Girls Club of Kentuckiana.

"After we got the proposal and what that building could look like, it would be \$3.5 to \$4 million to get it to that point," Duvall said, regarding necessary renovations.

Following nearly two years of meetings, and a partnership with the church, a deal was able to be reached, bringing the club to Radcliff.

"We're glad Stithton Baptist Church was willing to step up," Duvall said.

SERVICES

**Tony Randall Clemons**, 55, of Leitchfield, died Friday, Dec. 5, 2025. The funeral is at 1 p.m. CST Saturday at Dermitt Funeral Home in Leitchfield with burial in St. Anthony Catholic Cemetery. Visitation is from 4 to 8 p.m. CST Friday and continues at 9 a.m. CST Saturday at the funeral home.

**Dorothy B. Carney Gladhill**, 75, of Elizabethtown, died Saturday, Dec. 6, 2025. The funeral is at 11 a.m. Friday at Chism Family Funeral Home in Vine Grove. Visitation is from 5 to 8 p.m. Thursday and continues at 9 a.m. Friday at the funeral home.

**Cleo Martha Howard**, 89, of Elizabethtown, died Thursday, Dec. 4, 2025. A graveside service is at 11 a.m. today at Sonora Cemetery. Manakee Funeral Home is handling arrangements.

**Donita Gayle Lucas**, 66, of Owensboro, formerly of Irvington, died Friday, Dec. 5, 2025. The funeral is at 2 p.m. today at Alexander Funeral Home in Irvington with burial in Custer Cemetery. Visitation begins at 11 a.m. EST today at the

funeral home.

**Cheryl Karcher "Cheri" McGuire**, 74, of Boston, Kentucky, died Thursday, Dec. 4, 2025. A funeral Mass is at 10 a.m. today at St. Benedict Catholic Church in Lebanon Junction with burial in Lebanon Junction City Cemetery. Visitation resumes at 9 a.m. today at Trowbridge Funeral Home in Lebanon Junction.

**David Hugo Schutt**, 70, of Brandenburg, died Friday, Nov. 28, 2025. A funeral Mass is at 11 a.m. Saturday at St. Christopher Catholic Church in Radcliff. Burial will be at a later date in St. Patrick Cemetery. Visitation begins at 9 a.m. Saturday at the church. Bruington-Jenkins-Sturgeon Funeral Home is handling arrangements.

**Stephen Thomas Skees**, 60, of Sun City Center, Florida, died Sunday, Oct. 26, 2025. A memorial service is at 10 a.m. Saturday at Memorial United Methodist Church in Elizabethtown with burial in St. James Cemetery. National Cremation and Burial Society is handling arrangements.

**Sheila Gail Stallins**, 65, of Radcliff, died Friday, Dec. 5, 2025. The funeral is at 1 p.m. today at Nelson-Edelen-Bennett Funeral Home in Radcliff with burial in North Hardin Memorial Gardens in Radcliff. Visitation resumes at noon today at the funeral home.

**Ernest G "Ernie" Steff**, 77, of Roundhill, died Friday, Dec. 5, 2025. The funeral is at 11 a.m. CST today at Dermitt Funeral Home in Leitchfield with burial in Layman Memorial Cemetery. Visitation resumes at 9 a.m. CST today at the funeral home.

**Gerald Vance**, 84, of Casey, Illinois, died Monday, Dec. 1, 2025. The funeral and Masonic service begins at 1 p.m. CST Monday at Trent-Dowell Funeral Home in Hardinsburg with burial in Horsley Chapel Cemetery. Visitation begins at 10 a.m. CST Monday at the funeral home.

**Terry Neil Vittitow**, 64, of Magnolia, died Thursday, Nov. 20, 2025. Memorial services are at 1 p.m. Saturday at Dixon-Rogers Funeral Home in Magnolia. Visitation begins at 10 a.m. Saturday at the funeral home.

Hegseth tells congressional leaders he is weighing release of boat strike video

BY STEPHEN GROVES AND LISA MASCARO  
ASSOCIATED PRESS

WASHINGTON — Defense Secretary Pete Hegseth told congressional leaders Tuesday that he was still weighing whether to release the full video of an attack on an alleged drug boat that killed two survivors, even as he faced intensifying demands from Congress for disclosure.

Hegseth provided a classified briefing for congressional leaders alongside Secretary of State Marco Rubio and other top national security officials. Senate Democratic leader Chuck Schumer said that when he asked the defense secretary whether he would allow every member of Congress to view the video of the attack from September, Hegseth's response was: "We have to study it."

But lawmakers are demanding a full accounting from the Department of Defense on the strikes that killed two people who were clinging to the wreckage of an initial strike. Legal experts say that action may have violated the laws governing the use of deadly military force. The situation has awakened the Republican-controlled Congress to its oversight role after months of frustration about the trickle of information from the Pentagon.

Schumer described the briefing as "very unsatisfying" and added that "Democrats and Republicans had a right to see it, wanted to see it, and should see it."

Separately Tuesday, the U.S. Navy admiral who is retiring early from command of the campaign to destroy vessels allegedly carrying drugs near Venezuela spoke to key lawmakers overseeing the U.S. military. The classified video call between Adm. Alvin Holsey, who will be retiring from U.S. Southern Command in the coming days, and the GOP chair and ranking Democrat of the Senate Armed Services Committee represented another determined step by lawmakers to get answers about the



J. Scott Applewhite/AP photo

**Defense Secretary Pete Hegseth smiles as he walks to a secure room in the basement of the Capitol to brief lawmakers on how he handled a military strike on a suspected drug smuggling boat and its crew in the Caribbean near Venezuela Sept. 2, at the Capitol in Washington on Tuesday.**

operation.

Sen. Roger Wicker, the Republican chair of the Senate Armed Services Committee, declined to discuss the specifics of the call, but described Holsey as a "great public servant." He also said that the Pentagon is weighing whether releasing the video would disclose classified information.

In its annual defense authorization bill, which was crafted by both Republicans and Democrats, Congress is demanding that the Pentagon turn over unedited video of the strikes, as well as the orders authorizing the attacks. The legislation threatens to withhold a quarter of Hegseth's travel budget if he refuses.

"There is a growing demand that everyone get a right in the Senate to see it," said Sen. Jack Reed, the top Democrat on the Senate Armed Services Committee.

He added that Holsey answered the senators' questions but also said that "there are still many questions to be answered." Reed later added that Holsey did not give a reason for his retirement other than saying it was a personal decision.

CONGRESS PRESSES FOR MORE INFORMATION

Lawmakers are trying to understand the purpose and parameters of President Donald Trump's campaign, which has struck 22 boats

and killed at least 87 people since it started in September. Trump has also been making threats against Venezuelan President Nicolás Maduro, sending a fleet of warships near the South American country, including the largest U.S. aircraft carrier.

On Tuesday, the U.S. military flew a pair of fighter jets over the Gulf of Venezuela in what appears to be the closest American warplanes have come to the country's airspace since the start of the Trump administration's pressure campaign.

Holsey became the leader of U.S. Southern Command just over one year ago, but in October, Hegseth announced that Holsey would be retiring early from his post. As commander of U.S. forces in the region, Holsey oversaw a command structure that has in recent years been mostly focused on building stability and cooperation across much of the region.

Trump's drug boat campaign, however, has added a new, deadly dynamic to its mission. Rather than trying to interdict drug-carrying vessels, as forces like the U.S.

Coast Guard have traditionally done, the Trump administration asserts that the drugs and drug-smugglers are posing a direct threat to American lives. Officials say they are applying the same rules as the global war on terror to kill drug smugglers.

Trump this week justified the strike by claiming that the two suspected drug smugglers were trying to right the part of the boat after it had capsized in the initial attack. However, Adm. Frank "Mitch" Bradley, the special operations commander who ordered the second strike, told lawmakers in a closed-door briefing last week that he ordered the second strike to ensure that the cocaine in the boat could not be picked up later by cartel members.

The entire House Armed Services Committee will also hear from Bradley next week, said Rep. Adam Smith, the top Democrat on the panel.

"We need an all-member briefing for the House of Representatives," House Democratic Leader Hakeem Jeffries told The Associated Press.

For the last several months, the Trump administration has brandished videos of the strikes — black and white footage of boats exploding into flames — on social media.

Sen. Mark Warner, the top Democrat on the Senate Intelligence Committee, called it a "little strange" for officials to now claim that full, unedited video of the strike is classified and cannot be released even to members of Congress. He and other Democrats also say that the logic underpinning the entire operation is deeply problematic.

"They are using expensive, exquisite American military capabilities to kill people who are the equivalent of corner dealers," said Sen. Chris Coons, a Delaware Democrat.

SELL

FROM PAGE A1

The city reserves the right to reject any and all bids.

The mayor said a tenant is currently using the building as storage and is on a month-to-month lease. Should they have the winning bid, they will be allowed to stay in the building. If not, they will be vacating the property.

Council members will have the final say as to the purchasing bid price once the sealed bids are open.

The property was considered for the Boys & Girls Club of Kentuckiana, which announced last week it was going to establish

In January or February, council members will get the opportunity to see the church's newly remodeled gymnasium, industrial kitchen and commercial-grade cafeteria, and spacious classrooms as the Boys & Girls Club begins its opening process.

"It's what we consider plug-and-play," Duvall said. "It's ready to go."

With a location for the club settled, in order to help with a successful beginning, the city has committed \$165,000 a year over the next two budget cycles.

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