

Woman gets probation in boyfriend's 2025 death

BY TAYLOR SIX
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A Fayette Circuit Judge granted a sentence of probation for a woman originally charged with the murder of her boyfriend in May 2025.

Chief Circuit Judge Kim Bunnell sentenced Mia White, 41, to a sentence of 10 years, but granted five years probation under the "highest supervision allowed."

White pleaded guilty to an amended charge of second degree manslaughter. She was originally charged with murder — domestic violence in May 2025 for the death of 24-year-old Elmer Eldridge.

White previously confirmed to police she shot Eldridge, who she claimed was attacking her with a glass liquor bottle. Her attorneys argued — and evidence showed — Eldridge stran-

gled White, took her inhaler and beat down a closet door she was hiding behind.

On Thursday, White's attorney were required to hold a hearing to prove to a judge she was a victim of domestic violence and that she qualified for lesser penalties at her sentencing including probation, shock probation or conditional release.

Bunnell found that, under the statute, White was a victim of domestic violence at the time of the assault. She sentenced her to five years probation with several conditions, including drug testing, "at the highest level possible," abstaining from alcohol, partaking in the substance use and reentry programs, and have no contact with Eldridge's family.

She is also flagged for discretionary detention, meaning a probation

officer could hold her in detention without contacting the judge.

White will be released from Fayette County custody and transferred to Madison County, where she faces an assault charge from December 2024, when she attacked a woman, the mother of Eldridge's child, who entered White's home to confront Eldridge, according to a police citation.

WHAT LED UP TO THE SHOOTING

Previous hearings and court filings show that White had experienced abuse by Eldridge.

After her arrest the day of the shooting, police documented significant evidence — including photos of strangulation — to indicate White may have shot Eldridge to protect herself.

At the time of the shooting, Eldridge was in violation of an emergency

protection order, violated his probation by having a gun, and also violated federal law being a felon in possession of a firearm, according to her attorney, Daniel Whitley.

White and her lawyers had attempted to argue the charges should be dismissed altogether because she had grounds for self-defense. But at a court hearing in October 2025, Bunnell denied that request. Bunnell said questions remained that she felt were the responsibility of a jury to answer.

According to previous evidence presented, on the day of the shooting, White had been strangled multiple times by Eldridge before she sought refuge in a closet. Police evidence shows Eldridge broke the closet door, strangled White again and then confined her to the bedroom.

Evidence and testimony presented shows that

White struggled to breathe, and Eldridge took her inhaler, which was later found in his pocket. All the while, a handgun was on the nightstand in the room.

While confined to the bedroom, White said nearly an hour went by between her assault and when she shot Eldridge. The amount of time that passed was one discrepancy in the events that Bunnell said could affect the case.

But White asserts she was under watch by Eldridge, and the first chance she got, when Eldridge turned his back to her, she grabbed the gun. She says Eldridge responded by grabbing a liquor bottle and raising it to strike her.

She shot him several times, once while he was on the ground, and told a roommate to call 911, according to testimony.

When police arrived, they noticed that the liquor bottle was on the nightstand, and White could not explain how the bottle got there.

VICTIM'S MOTHER REQUESTS MAXIMUM SENTENCE FOR WHITE

Eldridge's mother, Rosemary Eldridge, ap-

peared on Zoom to ask that White be given the maximum sentence in accordance with her plea deal for the death of her son.

She consistently said how much her son was loved, and missed by the entire family, including his young daughter, who he would not get to see grow up.

"When I see my son, I see the little boy that would put frogs in his pocket that I would find at bath time," she said. "And the jars of lightening bugs around the house."

Rosemary Eldridge spoke to White, and said she should have known better, "dating a man half her age" while she had a husband and kids of her own who were the same age as Eldridge.

She was adamant that her son would never have hurt White.

"I know that he wasn't mean, cruel or vindictive," Eldridge said of her son. "(White) is lying about all of this. I raised him, and I know what kind of person he was."

If you or someone you know is experiencing domestic violence, contact the national domestic violence hotline.

Developer plans \$1B investment in Lexington data center

BY PIPER HANSEN
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The developer looking to transform a former Lexmark data center campus into one that serves artificial intelligence demand planned to invest approximately \$1.05 billion over time at the facility.

The investment could come in two parts: first, another \$300 million in the facility, and then, an additional up to \$750 million over time as power capacity increases.

The dollar figures are according to a June 2 email the development company's President and CEO Scott Willis sent to Commerce Lexington's Executive Vice President of Economic Development Gina Greathouse, which was forwarded to the city's Chief Development Officer Kevin Atkins. The email chain was acquired by the Herald-Leader through a public records request.

"We are looking to build a strong partnership with the city of Lexington, the power company and plan to invest a significant amount of capital over the next few years and just want to explore any incentives that would be available," Willis wrote to Greathouse.

If the company does invest more than \$1 billion at the facility, it would make it one of the state's most expensive data center projects, behind the multi-billion dollar TeraWulf data center for Anthropic in Hancock County, the developer's other project in Boyd County and the PowerHouse Data Centers and Poe Companies project in Jefferson County.

Willis leads DartPoints, the data center development company that acquired nearly 30 acres on New Circle Road in mid-May. The \$29 million former Lexmark property was previously used by IBM as a data center. It already has cooling and power management equipment in place in addition to backup generators, and there is a Kentucky Utilities substation on site.

In an announcement sharing details of the property acquisition, the company said it would redevelop the site to support AI and believed it could scale power capacity from about 30 megawatts to 70 megawatts, or the electricity equivalent of that needed to power around 70,000 homes at once. The campus spans approximately 343,000 square feet and includes roughly 81,000 square feet of raised data

center space. DartPoints operates enterprise data centers or those that are privately owned or leased to support a specific information technology and storage needs. It generally has a smaller physical footprint and takes less power compared to a hyperscale data center, or the kind built by cloud providers like Amazon or Meta for artificial intelligence platforms.

While the announcement of the property acquisition said "Lexington stood out for its combination of existing data center infrastructure, utility support, zoning readiness and room for expansion," it was scant on details of what scaling the site might look like and how long it would take.

The email is also lacking in details as to what Willis, Greathouse and Atkins were intending to discuss and when other than to meet the developer's interest in making a connection with the chamber, "sharing my objectives for DartPoints in Lexington and the state of Kentucky, and exploring any available tax incentives that could be available," Willis said in the email.

Greathouse said she could not comment on confidential clients and a DartPoints spokesperson did not respond to a request for more information from Willis. A spokesperson from Lexington Mayor Linda Gorton's office said it did not have any comment.

Since the property sale became public June 3, Gorton said her office had informed DartPoints it would not support public incentives for the project, but did support "very tight

controls." A zoning ordinance text amendment process was initiated by the Lexington-Fayette Urban County Council June 9 when it unanimously voted to have planning staff draft rules. Lexington's planning staff released a draft of changes last month.

The 20-page draft amendment prohibits any data center from operating in agricultural zones and does not allow major data centers — those it defines as any larger than 50,000 square feet — to locate anywhere in Fayette County. The amendment also outlines conditional use related to data centers, or the specific requirements a developer must meet to bend regular rules of the zone a property might be in.

The city's Planning Commission will discuss and take potential action, plus hold a public hearing on the amendment, at a July 30 meeting. In the meantime, the city launched Engage Lexington to gather feedback on data center developments.

At the same June 9 meeting, council passed a moratorium on data center development in Lexington which paused permits, development plans and zone change requests until at least Oct. 31.

DartPoints did not apply for the necessary approvals needed to operate before Council put a moratorium on issuing them. Without a zoning compliance permit and certificate of occupancy, DartPoints cannot operate, Department of Planning and Preservation Commissioner Keith Horn previously told the Herald-Leader.

warranty, meaning manufacturers are legally required to repair or replace defective emissions-related components, went from 100,000 miles or 5 years to 450,000 miles or 10 years.

These changes were designed to cut truck-related pollution. Biden's EPA estimated at the time that in 2045, the final rule would have prevented 6,700 hospital and emergency department visits, 18,000 cases of asthma onset in children, and 78,000 lost work days.

Under the proposal, Trump's EPA is keeping the stricter NOx thresholds but relaxing warranty requirements for new vehicles. Specifically, the EPA recommends extending the current 5-year warranty rule for model year 2026 trucks for the foreseeable future, among other changes to warranty structures.

Trump fires Election Assistance Commission members

BY BO ERICKSON AND ERIN BANCO
Reuters

WASHINGTON President Donald Trump on Thursday terminated the last three members of the Election Assistance Commission, the independent, federal commission that assists election administration officials nationwide, according to one person familiar with the decision and two other people briefed on the terminations.

The remaining three commissioners of the four-member bipartisan commission were forced out of the commission on Thursday in different ways. The one Republican appointee resigned and the other two Democratic appointees were fired via an email from the White House Presidential Personnel Office, according to two people familiar with the terminations. The fourth commissioner departed the commission in April.

The terminations follow the recent Supreme Court decision that granted the president more power to fire members of independent agencies, and a push by Trump for more federal intervention in voting processes, traditionally the purview of the states, as midterm elections approach in November.

"On behalf of President Donald J. Trump, I am writing to inform you that your position as Commissioner of the Election Assistance Commission is terminated, effective immediately. Thank you for your service," the email, seen by Reuters, said.

The White House confirmed the terminations in a statement to Reuters.

"The President, and head of the Executive Branch, reserves the right to remove individuals that may not be totally aligned with the important task of securing America's elections and ensuring every legal vote is counted," a White House official said, citing the Supreme Court decision as precedent.

The official added that the Trump administration has been "working across all agencies and local partners to safeguard elections from fraud and abuse, and investing in a

strong infrastructure to sustain that mission especially in the midterm elections."

The Election Assistance Commission serves as a "national clearinghouse of information on election administration," accredits testing laboratories and certifies voting systems, and maintains the national mail voter registration form developed by the National Voter Registration Act of 1993, according to the commission's website.

The terminations follow Trump and top administration officials' advocacy to change vote-by-mail requirements ahead of the midterm elections, and investigations into the 2020 presidential election outcome, which Trump lost to Democrat Joe Biden.

In his second term, Trump has repeatedly claimed without evidence that the 2020 election was rigged.

COMMISSION'S FUTURE UNCLEAR

The commission was established by Congress in 2002 through the Help America Vote Act. The four commissioners are appointed by the president, are required to be evenly split with two Democrats and two Republicans, and ultimately need to be confirmed by the U.S. Senate.

The three remaining commissioners who were forced out, Thomas Hicks, Benjamin Hovland, and Christy McCormick, were all unanimously confirmed by the Senate.

The 2002 law states the president can appoint replacements to the commission, but it is unclear how Trump will move ahead with the commission.

Senator Mark Warner, a Virginia Democrat, said in a Thursday social media post that the terminations should "concern every American, regardless of party."

"Removing every remaining commissioner just months before the 2026 midterm elections is an extraordinary step that demands an immediate explanation from the administration and raises profound concerns about political interference in the institutions that support our elections," Warner said.

EPA wants to relax air pollution standards for buses, trucks

BY ZAHRA HIRJI
Bloomberg News

The U.S. Environmental Protection Agency on Thursday proposed rolling back emission standards for new heavy-duty trucks, including buses, garbage trucks and semis.

Under the proposal, EPA is looking to scale back future warranty mandates from 10 years to five and to delay requirements to extend the period during which the vehicles are subject to pollution limits. If finalized, this action could result in lower costs for truck manufacturers while potentially also boosting air pollution.

The 10-year warranty

rules, which were created by the Biden administration, are "the single biggest cost of all to the trucking industry," said EPA Administrator Lee Zeldin at a press event announcing the rule change on the National Mall. "We're proposing to roll it back while keeping the underlying emissions standards in place."

This is the latest effort by the Trump administration to unwind pollution regulations for vehicles and other sources finalized by former President Joe Biden. In May, the agency proposed delaying emission standards set to kick in for new light- and medium-duty cars and trucks starting with model year 2027.

Heavy-duty trucks are far more polluting than smaller cars and trucks, releasing higher levels of nitrogen oxides, or NOx, that can cause shortness of breath and other respiratory problems in the short term. They also contribute to ozone and smog conditions.

Under the current rules that took effect in 2023, Biden's EPA reduced the federal NOx limit for these trucks by nearly 90%. It also extended the heaviest trucks' useful life — meaning the time frame when they are expected to meet the federal limits — from 435,000 miles or 10 years to 650,000 miles or 11 years. The time period during which this class of vehicles has to be under