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OBITUARIES

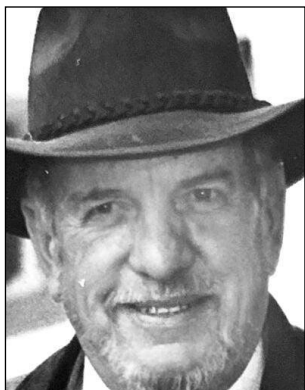
Leon Francis 'Sandy' Simms Jr.

Leon Francis “Sandy” Simms Jr., 93, passed away peacefully at his home surrounded by family on Monday, Dec. 1, 2025.

He was preceded in death by his parents Leon F. “Grig” Simms, Harriet Barber Simms and Delena Barber Simms Brooks.

He was a graduate of Springfield High School and attended Marion Military Institute, Bellarmine and Notre Dame Universities. He was a member of the Kentucky National Guard Springfield Unit which served in the Korean War and he was the youngest sergeant in the history of his platoon at age 19.

Sandy loved his family



and spent many hours with his children, grandchildren and great-grandchildren who adored Pappaw Sandy. He will leave a legacy in the many businesses he founded, land he developed and his nature projects restoring native plant

species and wildlife reintroduction with state and federal governments.

Sandy had both a passion for life and an unmatched work ethic.

Sandy is survived by his three sons, Gregory (Cathy) Simms, Mark (Denita) Simms and John (Anne) Simms; his two daughters, Kelly Simms and Harriet Simms-Boone (Mike Carey), 17 grandchildren and 16 great-grandchildren.

A celebration of Sandy’s life is planned for 5 to 9 p.m. Saturday, Jan. 3, at The Black Barn, 2292 Lincoln Park Road, Springfield.

Hale-Polin-Robinson Funeral Home is handling arrangements.

Russell E. 'Rubo' Jefferson III

Russell E. “Rubo” Jefferson III, 57, of Hodgenville, the son of Kathleen Marie and David Pouncey, was born April 10, 1968 in South Carolina and departed this life Friday, Dec. 5, 2025, at his home.

Survivors include his

parents, Kathy Pouncey and husband, David; his fiancé, Christina Graham; his children: Raeanna Jefferson, Ally Jefferson, Cody Bray, Rebecca Ray, Jacob Graham and Davion Graham; and seven grandchildren.

Cremation rites were handled by L.R. Petty Funeral Home. The remains will be buried in Greenlawn Memorial Park in Columbia, South Carolina.

No public services are scheduled.

Karen Sue Tierney

Karen Sue Tierney, 79, of Dale, Indiana, passed from this life Sunday, Dec. 7, 2025, in Campbellsville. She was born April 16, 1946, in Jasper, Indiana.

Survivors include three

children: Lori Lyons of Dale, Indiana, Angel Siebe of Campbellsville and Jaime Schnarr of Huntingburg, Indiana; nine grandchildren and numerous great-grandchildren.

She will be laid to rest beside her husband in Fairmount Cemetery in Huntingburg, Indiana. No services are scheduled.

L.R. Petty Funeral Home handled local arrangements.

Diana Leigh DeWitt

Diana Leigh DeWitt, 83, of Campbellsville, daughter of the late Robert Tally DeWitt and Opal Joy Mae DeWitt, was born Nov. 21, 1941, in Taylor County. She

died Wednesday, Nov. 12, 2025, in Campbellsville.

Diana is survived by several cousins and many other relatives and friends.

A graveside service was held Tuesday, Dec. 9, at Brookside Cemetery in Campbellsville.

Parrott & Ramsey Funeral Home handled arrangements.

Drivers reminded to plan safe rides this holiday season

BY CKNJ STAFF

In the spirit of this holiday season, law enforcement across Kentucky will be supporting the nationwide “Drive Sober or Get Pulled Over” campaign running from Dec. 10 through Jan. 1.

According to the National Highway Traffic Safety Administration, December drunken driving deaths are at their highest nationwide in 15 years. The agency also notes that even one drink can impair driving; at a blood alcohol concentration of 0.02, visual functions and multitasking abilities begin to decline.

"Every year, lives are regrettably lost for something that was 100% preventable because someone chose to get behind the wheel impaired," Transportation Cabinet Secretary Jim Gray said. "There's no shortage of options to stay safe, like designating a sober driver, calling a rideshare or finding another safe ride. Protect yourself, your passengers and everyone sharing the road this holiday season."

Over the last five years in Kentucky, there have been 448 impaired driving-related crashes, resulting in 192 injuries and 13 deaths, during the Christmas and New Year holidays.

To prevent impaired driving-related tragedies this holiday season, KYTC recommends the following:

Before festivities begin, plan a way to safely get home at the end of the night.

If impaired, use a ride-booking company or taxi, call a sober friend or family member or use public transportation.

If you see an impaired driver, safely pull over and contact law enforcement. You may dial the KSP toll-free line directly at 800-222-5555 or call 911.

If you know people who are about to drive or ride while impaired, take their keys and help them make other arrangements to get to their destination; and

Wear a seat belt. It is not only the law, but also the best defense against an impaired driver. Buckling up helps prevent injury and death if involved in a crash.

The “Drive Sober” campaign is funded by NHTSA and distributed to law enforcement agencies through each state’s highway safety office.

For more information, go to kentuckyhighwaysafety.com/drivesober-holiday.

Christmas concert tradition began.

Because of construction at the library, this year the concert moved to the Extension Office at 1143 S. Columbia Ave.

“This event is free to the public and open to all ages,” said Natasha Nall, adult programming coordinator at the Taylor County Public Library. “Refreshments will be served.”

Eggert, who has rung handbells for four decades, is a member of the Handbell Musicians of America, a national organization founded to promote the art of handbell ringing.

“We are dedicated to

sharing our love of handbells with others, and ring frequently throughout the Central Kentucky area,” she said.

Those interested in learning to ring handbells, seeking music for a special event, interested in an informative presentation or planning to attend a future event may contact Eggert at 571-408-1390 Karen. eggertf@rocketmail.com.

The ensemble consists of a few core ringers, but others who are interested in ringing join each semester. There is no experience required and no auditions, although it is helpful to already know how to read music.

FREE

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weekly for one hour from September through December, and January through May on the Campbellsville University campus.

“For the past several years we have rung carols on Main Street during the seasonal kickoff events, which the Main Street businesses hold before Christmas, and provide seasonal music after the Campbellsville Christmas parade.”

Three years ago, Taylor County Public Library agreed to host the ensemble and the

STATE

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said he has a different operational management process.

He said all money is accounted for. He said the small bills and coins are just included in the daily startup cash available to make change.

Similarly, Carney said he chooses not to collect advances from companies which purchase delinquent tax liens in favor of collecting all revenue on the day of sale.

He said maintaining as many as 12 separate escrow accounts for the various companies and refunding money where required is a burden that does not make business sense to him. Carney

said his decision is based on 12 years of corporate management experience prior to becoming county clerk.

“It’s a management decision that comes from being in the business world and not the government world,” he said in an interview Tuesday.

The office also was cited for lacking adequate separation of duties. A common audit finding, particularly in small offices, the report cited concerns about money being handled by the same staff member responsible for making posts to the ledger and handling the daily deposit.

By law, staff of the auditor of public accounts is required to annually audit all county clerks and sheriffs. The latest report and supporting documentation, which is available for public inspection in the clerk’s office, is based on the 2024 financial statement.

TCMS students excel at 6th Grade Showcase

SPECIAL TO THE CKNJ

The sixth-grade academic team from Taylor County Middle School had an excellent day on Saturday at the 6th Grade Showcase, hosted by KCA.

TCMS students were the top overall team and also took first in the quick recall competition.

Team members are Harper Harris, Eli Burdette, Eli McPherson, Micah Hunter, Anderson Cox, Vesper Angel, Kylie Reed, Anna Poff, Aubrey Wright, Annabelle Williams, Isla Snyder and Ella Gupton.

Information supplied by the Taylor County School District also showed these individual honors:

Math: Kylie Reed, third place.

Language Arts: Anna Poff, first place; Micah Hunter, fourth place.

Science: Vesper Angel, first



Submitted

The sixth-grade academic team from Taylor County Middle School and their sponsors poses with their first-place plaque.

place; Anderson Cox, second place; Eli Burdette, fourth place

Social Studies: Ella Gupton and Harper Harris, tied for fourth place.

Arts and Humanities: Kylie

Reed, first place; Ella Gupton, second place; Annabelle Williams, third place.

Composition: Ella Gupton, first place; Harper Harris, second place; Aubrey Wright, third place.

CIS

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Originally from Taylorsville, Smith graduated from Campbellsville University in 1993. He completed master’s degrees at Asbury College and Eastern Kentucky University and later earned his superintendent

certification.

Smith worked for Spencer County Schools from 1994 to 2004 before joining the Campbellsville district as a special education teacher at the high school.

He became an assistant principal in 2008 under Mike Deaton and a year later was named principal of Campbellsville High School. He also succeeded Deaton in the

superintendent’s role.

Although stepping aside, Smith said he will be always an Eagle and cheering from the sidelines.

“I believe our district is strong, steady and prepared for the future. I leave with confidence in the continued success of Campbellsville Independent Schools and I am excited for what lies ahead.”

You're invited to our annual

CHRISTMAS Open House

DEC 2025

11

11:30 am - 1:30 pm
613 E. Broadway Street
Campbellsville, KY 42718

Cookies | Coffee
Collecting Gift Cards for Cancer Patients

To make donations before or after the event, feel free to contact Rhonda Smith at (270) 789-8570.