

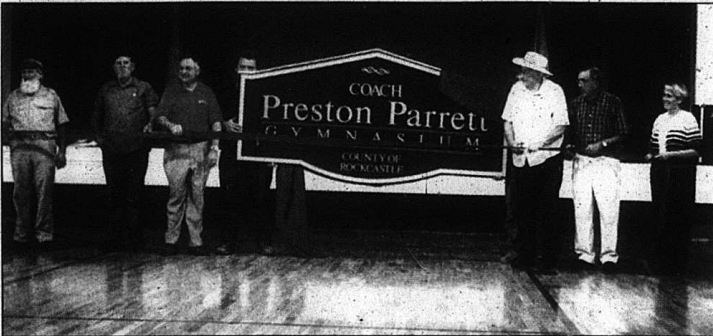


Rockets bounce South Laurel - Pg. A8

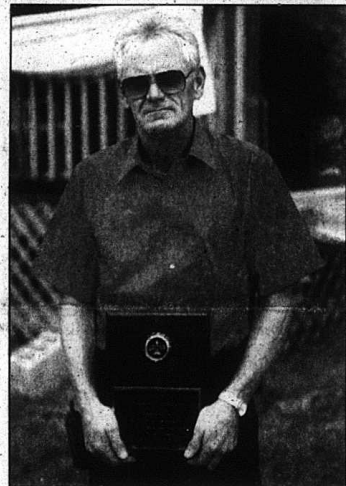
Mount Vernon Signal

Serving Rockcastle County Since 1887

Mount Vernon, Kentucky 40456 • Volume 116 • Number 48 • Ph. (606) 256-2244 • 50¢ a copy • Thursday, September 5, 2002

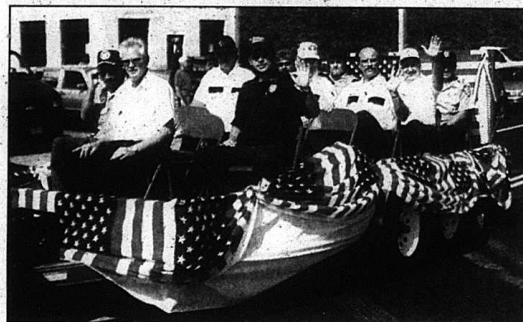


Shown above from left taking part in Saturday night's official ribbon cutting are magistrate John Holbrook, magistrate Donald Bullock, Representative Danny Ford, Preston Parrett, Lee Gentry and Martha Cox.



Above, State Representative Danny Ford of Mt. Vernon got a ride from Livingston Mayor Curt McFarquie. Ford served as Grand Marshal for this year's parade, which was Livingston's largest ever parade held during the Homecoming weekend. At left is Sam Stallworth, who was chosen as Livingston Citizen of the Year. Stallworth is Livingston Fire Chief, Water Superintendent and a member of the Rockcastle County Board of Education. (See more photos inside this week's paper and in next week's addition).

Homecoming Photos By:
Richard Anderkin



At left, Rockcastle firefighters were honored on Saturday. Shown from left are: Russell Barron, Livingston fire chief; Sam Stallworth, Brothead rural fire chief; Johnny Benge, Albert Carpenter, Brothead city fire chief; Tim Abright, Everett Abright, Larry Mullins, assistant Brindle Ridge fire chief; Larry Mullins, David Ott, Mt. Vernon fire chief; Garry Hansel and Darrell Smith.

Volunteers search for boy who was at Wal-Mart

Numerous volunteers searched for three hours Thursday evening for a missing 8-year-old boy.

The Roundstone school student had been missing for about an hour and half when 911 dispatch received the call.

Volunteers searched the area around the child's home, which is located near Grace Baptist Church and even brought in a helicopter to help in the search.

Around 9 p.m. the child showed up at home. He had apparently gone with some neighbors to Wal-Mart in Berea, but had not notified his parents of his whereabouts.

On Tuesday, police were looking for another juvenile, who had apparently threatened to kill himself.

According to witnesses at the scene, the teenager had possibly been sniffing spray paint for several hours on Tuesday when he got a knife and said he was going to kill himself.

Neighbors said he ran off into the woods next to his mobile home which is located off U.S. 25 in Mt. Vernon, near the former Superior Food Market.

Police, neighbors and EMT's with the Rockcastle Ambulance Service searched the area, but were unable to locate the boy. Officials said that they were not sure if the boy returned home or not.



Carlous McClure gave last year's Homecoming Queen Hannah Saylor, center, this year's Queen Samantha Lewis, right and runner-up, Whitney Whitaker, a ride in Saturday's parade.

Livingston gym named in honor of former coach

An extremely large number of people came and went at the Livingston Homecoming this past weekend.

It was probably the most people to ever attend the annual three day event.

Those attending were treated to a long parade, beauty contests, live music and an Old Timer's basketball game.

The game was probably the highlight of the evening with a standing room only crowd in attendance. Before the game, the Rockcastle County Fiscal Court named the recently renovated school gymnasium after former Livingston basketball coach Preston Parrett, who coached at the school for 33 years.

Parrett was on hand to accept his

award, as was former coach Lee Gentry, who coached at the school before Parrett.

Numerous former players, students and cheerleaders congratulated the two men on their honors. Also during the weekend, several other awards were presented.

Sam Stallworth, who serves as Livingston Fire Chief and is a member of the Rockcastle County Board of Education, was named Citizen of the Year. Stallworth has also served on the Livingston Homecoming Committee for several years.

Mark Poynter, owner of Livingston Market, was awarded the Business of the Year Award and Mrs. Lucille Carlotis was awarded the New Business of the Year Award for (Cont. to A-7)

Rockcastle men arrested in drug sting by feds

Two major methamphetamine seizures in three weeks have authorities concerned that an outside meth cartel may be trying to move into South-east Kentucky.

On August 9, police arrested three men in Williamsburg who were attempting to take delivery of 16 pounds of meth, a highly addictive stimulant. This week, police seized 29 pounds of meth in London and charged three people with transporting it from Southern California for distribution.

Before this month, most meth cases in the area involved an ounce or less that had been produced locally, typically in homemade labs.

The two big meth shipments from out of state could indicate that large traffickers who operate "superlabs" in Mexico or the Southwest United States are moving into the area, either to try to take over the market or to establish a base to distribute meth in other states.

"It's raising our concern," said Michael Pelonero, resident agent in charge of the U.S. Drug Enforcement Administration Office in London.

The DEA investigated both of the recent large seizures and made arrests with support from other federal, state and local police.

The first case grew out of a traffic stop in Arizona, in which police found just over 16 pounds of meth bound for Kentucky. The DEA turned the delivery into a sting, arresting Calvin Dawson, 55, of Brothead; his son, James Dawson, 29, of Mt. Vernon; and Bobby Lovell, 37, of Mt. Vernon, when they showed up in Williamsburg to get the shipment. All three have been charged with conspiracy to possess with intent to distribute meth and marijuana.

The second big seizure grew out of a DEA investigation in Southern California.

An informant there told federal drug agents that a large meth manufacturer named Eduardo "Lalo" Perez-Hernandez had made several shipments of the drug from his ranch outside San Diego to the London-Corbin area and was planning another large shipment, according to a sworn statement from Fred J. Baker, a DEA special agent in the London office.

Baker testified at a hearing yes-

terday that Dale Clinton Lewis, 40, and his girlfriend, Tammy Davidicos, 34, both of Knox County, went to Perez-Hernandez's ranch last week to pick up the shipment.

Lewis, with Davidson as passenger, brought the load back to Kentucky in a dog box in the back of his Ford pickup truck while the informant and Jose Salazar-Peligo, 34, followed in a Chevrolet Suburban. Salazar-Peligo, of Pueblo, Mexico, was to make deliveries of the drug and collect for past shipments, Baker said.

The four "drove more or less straight through" to Kentucky from San Diego, Baker said, arriving early August 26. The DEA kept tabs on the shipment with a tracking device on (Cont. to A-7)

Two arrested

A Tennessee woman and a Herndon Kentucky man were arrested late Wednesday night, after police received a tip they were hauling stolen property in a covered trailer.

State trooper Colby Smith and Rockcastle Deputy Aaron Matthews arrested the couple around midnight at the Super 8 Motel in Mt. Vernon.

Police say when they searched the trailer and motel room they found items that had been reported stolen to other agencies, components to make methamphetamine, meth and marijuana.

The couple was charged with receiving stolen property, manufacturing meth, trafficking in a controlled substance and trafficking in marijuana.

McKee man seriously hurt

A McKee man is listed in critical condition at the U.K. Medical Center in Lexington after an accident in Livingston Sunday afternoon.

Livingston police officer William Harris said that Daniel Brewer, 44, was riding his motorcycle south on Hwy. 25 around White Star when Earl Ponder, 88, of Livingston turned into his path.

Brewer's motorcycle skidded 37 feet before striking Ponder's vehicle. Brewer was taken to the Rockcastle Hospital and later flown to U.K. with massive head injuries. He was wearing a helmet.

Ponder was treated at the hospital and released. The accident occurred around 6 p.m.

Next Week!

Watch next week's Signal for pictures and stories that were too late for this week's edition.

The Governor visited on Wednesday and Tuesday afternoon Western Waters held a raffle contest for a \$733,000 project, which will serve 117 more homes.