

Mount Vernon Signal

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Callie Asher, above right, was crowned Bittersweet Queen during the City of Mt. Vernon’s Bittersweet Festival Pageant Tuesday night at the RCHS Auditorium. All participants will be introduced as part of the festival events this Saturday. Shown above, from left, are contestants who won awards: McKinzii Todd took the honor of Best Interview; Carley Childress won Most Photogenic and Miss Asher, Queen and Miss Congeniality. The Festival is this Friday and Saturday on Main Street in Mt. Vernon along with a Car Show Thursday evening.

Local schools receive good report cards for 2012-2013 year

By: Doug Ponder

Every school in the Rockcastle County School District showed overall positive gains after statewide test results for the 2012-2013 school year were released last week. The district's rank went from 47th statewide to 84th. Last year they were listed as "needs improvement" and this year they are listed as "Proficient/Progressing" and a "High Progress District." The Rockcastle County School District received a 60.9 overall score out of 100 compared to the 54.7 overall score they received the previous year. The test scores are a result of students who are tested annually in a complex testing system called the Kentucky Performance Rating for Educational Progress. The two year old KPREP testing system reveals how well students are doing in all basic academic areas. The KPREP test also compares academically each school's students to students in other school districts. Besides academics, at the high school level, the test calculates graduation rates and college and career readiness. Brodhead Elementary School made the largest improvement in the district with a 21.4 gain from the previous year.

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Mt. Vernon man arrested Monday for attempted murder

By: Doug Ponder

A Mt. Vernon man was arrested for attempted murder Monday afternoon after he assaulted a man and allegedly tried to drown him in the Kentucky River at Hazard. Arrested was Larry W. Yocum, 42. According to Hazard Police reports, a witness called police after he saw Yocum reportedly murder Jeffery Karr on the Kentucky River bank near the basketball courts on Main Street in Hazard. The witness said he saw Yocum beat Karr with his fists and then hit him in the head with a cinderblock. After assaulting Karr, the witness said he saw Yocum drag Karr's body into the water and place the cinderblock on top of him in an attempt to sink his body. However, when Karr's body would not sink, the witness said Yocum used his foot to push Karr's body down the river where he left him for dead. Police later found Karr's body on the opposite side of the river approximately 200 yards downstream from the scene of the attack. Karr was still alive and talking to police and confirmed the details about the attack. Officers noticed that he had severe cuts on his arms, a broken nose, and possible skull fragments in his hair. Karr was transported to Hazard ARH Medical Center and later flown to the UK Medical Center where he was later treated and released. Upon further investigation, police suspect that Yocum

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Sheltowee Trace Association places headquarters in Livingston

By: Doug Ponder

A prominent Kentucky trail association will move its headquarters to Livingston in the summer of 2014. Sheltowee Trace Association Executive Director Steve Barbour recently announced that the association plans on moving their headquarters from Tollesboro to Livingston. The association plans on starting the transition in November and they hope to be finished with a fully functional office by June 2014. The Sheltowee Trace is a 302 mile trail that starts near Oneida, Tennessee and ends near Morehead, Kentucky. The trail was named after Daniel Boone who was given the name "Sheltowee" by Chief Blackfish when he was adopted into the Shawnee Tribe. The word Sheltowee translates to "Big Turtle" which is why a white turtle is used as a symbol to mark the trail. The trail goes through the Daniel Boone National Forest, Big South Fork National Park, Cumberland Falls State Resort Park, the Natural Bridge State Resort Park, Cave Run Lake and Laurel Lake. Hundreds of tourists travel the Sheltowee Trace each year by either hiking, bicycling or horseback riding. Livingston Mayor Jason Medley has offered two rooms inside the former Livingston Elementary School for the STA to use as their headquarters. A lease agreement is currently in discussion and should be drawn up in the near future for both parties to sign. Barbour said the STA became interested in moving their headquarters to Livingston after they officially became a Trail Town in the summer of 2013. He said having their headquarters in Livingston will help the STA as Livingston is located near the middle of their trail. "This is huge for us and huge for the City of

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Two people arrested during drug deal within 1,000 feet of local school

By: Doug Ponder

Two people were arrested last Thursday night for participating in an alleged drug deal in a Mt. Vernon restaurant's parking lot that is within 1,000 feet of a school. Arrested at the scene was Christopher Scott Jones, 40, of Brodhead and Stephanie Kaye Chapman, 22, of Lancaster.

Rabies vaccination clinic next Thursday

The Rockcastle County Health Department, and local veterinarian Dr. James Chism, are hosting a rabies vaccination clinic next Thursday at Brindle Ridge Volunteer Fire Department from 5 to 6 p.m. The cost is \$7 per vaccination and the clinic is for dogs and cats only. Pet owners are encouraged to bring their pets to receive their rabies vaccination or first time booster vaccination. All animals must be on a leash or other appropriate restraint and no appointment

According to Mt. Vernon Police reports, officer Ryan Messenger responded after receiving a complaint of a possible drug deal taking place in Snack Shack's parking lot in Mt. Vernon. Once Messenger arrived, he observed Jones standing at the driver's side door of a red vehicle with a handful of dollar bills. After searching Jones, Messenger found a prescription bottle of Alprazolam (Xanax) that was filled with 90 pills on September 25th. However, Messenger noticed that there were only 32 Alprazolam pills left in the bottle. While searching Jones, Chapman was inside the restaurant ordering food and then came outside. Chapman told Messenger her name was Heather Jones and Jones told Messenger her name was Christy. Messenger also noticed that Chapman appeared intoxicated as she had slurred

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Correction

In an article last week about the violent home invasion, the homeowner was incorrectly identified as the victim. The *Signal* regrets this error.



Local author and historian David Owens was at the Rockcastle County Library last Saturday to do a book signing for his new book "Before Consolidation: The Golden Age of Rockcastle County Basketball." Shown above with Owens is Freda Sturgill, who was once a cheerleader at Livingston High School, and widow of Paul Sturgill, the all time high scorer for Rockcastle County. Sturgill scored 3,047 points during his career at Livingston High School.

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