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# Mount Vernon Signal

Serving Rockcastle County Since 1887

Mount Vernon, Kentucky 40456 - Volume 113 - Number 50 Ph. (606) 256-2244 - .50 a copy - Thursday, September 14, 2000

## Contaminated ground water found locally

State officials are trying to determine just how widespread the contamination of ground water is in the Mt. Vernon area.

A spokesperson with the Division of Water in Frankfort said that contamination of the ground water is being caused by underground storage tanks at the former B & F Gulf Station on Hwy. 25, which apparently leaked.

Samples taken recently in the area show that chemicals from these tanks have gotten into the rock formation and that every time it rains, the contamination spreads throughout the city.

Last week a work crew drilled wells in the general vicinity of the former gas station and placed monitoring devices to help them determine the spread of the chemicals.

## Bittersweet Festival is on

"A Little Bit of Something for Everyone!" is this year's theme for the Bittersweet Festival.

The Festival, originally cancelled by the City of Mt. Vernon, is being headed up by a committee of local citizens and will be a three-day affair this year.

Activities will get underway Friday, October 6 at 4 p.m. when the Festival opens with booths, food concessions and entertainment which will begin at 5 p.m. Dance contests will begin at 8 p.m. with Radioactive Sounds by DJ Jeff Petrey.

Saturday will be a full day with the 5K Run beginning activities at 8 a.m. The day will feature a horseshoe tournament, a Baby/Little Miss and Little Master Pageant, Kid's Fun Time, the parade at 2 p.m., a senior bingo game, variety talent show, a dessert contest (Best Bittersweet Dessert) and the last event of the day, Country and Southern Rock Music featuring Legit Limit.

On Sunday, there will be a Gospel Singing beginning at 1 p.m. and ending at 5 p.m.

Sponsors for this year's event include Lumber King, Barry McClure Builders, Rockcastle Hospital and Respiratory Care Center, Inc. and the Key State Police.

The festival committee is composed of Carol Kirby, Phyllis Deatherage, Janet McClure, Sharon Thacker, Sherry Hansel, Teresa Bussell and Minnie Kirby.

## Want to be firefighter?

Applications are now being taken for the fall firefighting season in Rockcastle, Laurel and Jackson counties.

Firefighters will be hired for a training session beginning October 1.

For more information, you may call 1-800-866-0504 to leave a message and a ranger will return your call or you may call 256-5031 after 4:30 p.m.

Also, residents and businesses are reminded that the fall restricted burning law goes into effect October 1 and continues through December 15.

## Red Carpet Days start this week

This week's edition of *The Mt. Vernon Signal* will be featuring a new advertising promotion - Red Carpet Days.

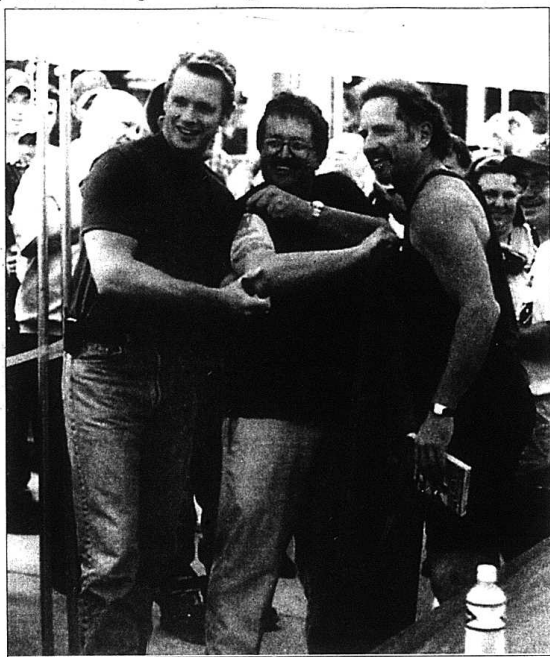
The promotion will run for the next six months. *Signal* readers will be able to acquaint and familiarize themselves with all different types of businesses and services in our trade area.

Special feature stories and photos will appear throughout our special promotion.

Each and every reader is urged to support and register at all of our Red Carpet Day advertisers. Participants will be eligible to win \$50 from the *Signal* that will be given to one lucky winner every other week for the next six months.

Be sure and register at all 53 of our Red Carpet Days businesses.

## Duke Boys reunion to Renfro



John Schneider, left, and Tom Wopat, right, The Duke Boys, were in Renfro Valley on Saturday for two shows. The Duke Boys signed autographs and posed for pictures with local fans.

## One arrest warrant leads to others

Rockcastle District Court cases against some members of the same Livingston family were continued on Wednesday.

Jonathan S. Northern, 21, of Livingston will be back in court on Friday, when a public defender will be appointed.

Northern is charged with possession of marijuana and possession of drug paraphernalia, after he was arrested on August 28 by Livingston Police Officer Danny Keeneey.

Keeneey had wanted Northern's residence to serve a warrant for attempted theft by unlawful taking and criminal mischief, when he found a

bag of marijuana in Northern's pocket. Keeneey also said in his complaint that Northern had a pipe with marijuana in it in his possession.

## Rockcastle Water Association Meeting

The annual Rockcastle County Water Association's annual meeting will be held Friday, September 15, beginning at 6 p.m. at the Family Life Center.

Soft drinks will be provided. Everyone is welcome.

For more information, contact Joy Cook at 256-5480.

The attempted theft charge was the result of a warrant sought by Gary Mullins of Mt. Vernon.

In his complaint Mullins said that Northern, his brother Jason, 22, of Livingston and Kim Kirby, 24, of Mt. Vernon tried to steal a ditch which from his residence on August 28.

Jonathan Northern is in jail and

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## State charges local man with illegal dumping

A Rockcastle County man has been ordered to clean up an illegal dump he has allegedly been operating near his home.

Water Douglas III of Flat Lick Road was directed to stop dumping material and take the accumulated waste to a permitted facility. Douglas was also told to pay a \$250 fine and provide proof to the Natural Resources and Environmental Protection Cabinet that he has paid in advance for the next two years of home garbage service.

Inspectors from the cabinet cited Douglas following an inspection of the Flat Lick Road site on September 5. The site contained stacks of wood pallets that Douglas told inspectors he was reconditioning. Staff from the Division of Waste Management issued a notice of violation to Douglas last week based on their inspection.

Inspectors also discovered three areas at the site where garbage or other material had been burned. Douglas was directed not to burn any material or he could face a \$25,000 penalty. Douglas has been given 30 days to pay his fine and provide proof of home garbage service. Failure to do so could result in maximum penalties of \$5,000 per day from the date the notice of violation was issued.

Cabinet investigators also discovered other illegal dumpsites on Flat Lick Road, and they will work to identify and cite the persons responsible for those sites.

Citizens in Kentucky can report illegal dumping activities to the Natural Resources and Environmental Protection Cabinet by calling 1-888-NO-DUMPS (a toll-free number) or by visiting [www.kydamps.org](http://www.kydamps.org) on the World Wide Web.

## Richard Lovell gets ten year sentence

U.S. District Court Judge Karl Forester described Richard "Rick" Lovell as a "big dog and mastermind" of a Rockcastle County cocaine smuggling ring last week, then sentenced him to 10 years in federal prison and five years supervised probation.

Lovell and 16 other defendants-most of them family members-sold at least 150 kilos of cocaine they hauled in from Florida then distributed in Eastern and Southeastern Kentucky, prosecutors said.

Lovell faced a sentence of 20 years up to life, but eked out a lighter sentence by cooperating with federal prosecutors. Lovell was not the first to cooperate, but he was an early defendant to do so-a trend that led 14 other defendants to plead guilty.

The Lovell family has had other run-ins with the law. David Lovell, also indicted in the drug case, faces a murder charge alleging that he killed Charles "Toddy" Baker of Mt.

Vernon and burned his body in 1997. In exchange for his plea a guilty to operating a continuing criminal enterprise, Lovell will serve the 10-year sentence and forfeit his interest in 10.2 acres on U.S. 25 South in Rockcastle County, along with the mobile homes on that land and \$50,000 seized in April 1999.

The drug bust in February was the culmination of a five-year investigation in which dozens of law enforcement agencies cooperated.

## Sammy Kershaw in Renfro Valley

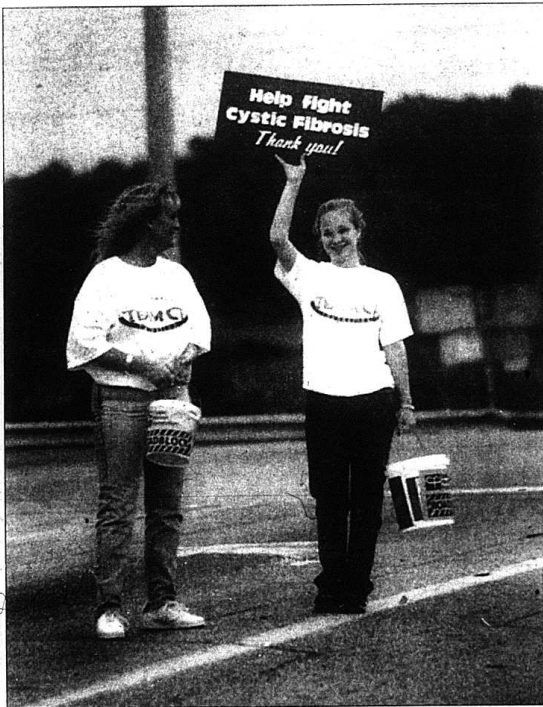
From defeat to redemption Sammy Kershaw has lived every note he sings, so says the Mercury recording artist's biography and you believe it when you hear him sing songs like "Don't Go Near The Water," "Haunted Heart" and "Cadillac Style."

Kershaw came up the hard way.

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Work crews drilled wells around Mt. Vernon for monitoring devices to see how far contaminated water has spread throughout the city.



Sheena Miller, right, and Connie Hurley, were among the volunteers who helped at the Cystic Fibrosis road-block on Saturday. The annual event raised over \$10,000 to help fight the deadly disease.