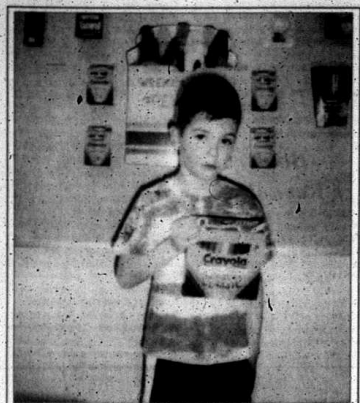


Mt. Vernon Message

Special Events: The students in Mrs. Paula Clark's fourth grade class achieved an exciting goal last week: Each student scored 100% on their weekly spelling test. Congratulations to Mrs. Clark's class.

Art Prize: This week's weekly art prize winner is Ashton Arvin from Mrs. Alexander's Entry Level class. Congratulations Ashton!

Thought for the Week: There are two ways of spreading light: To be the candle or the mirror that reflects it.—Edith Wharton.



Ashton Arvin

FFA - Discover the Power

There is an amazing power within each and every high school student. A student's success is simply a matter of finding that power and putting it to work. The National FFA is a proactive organization that encourages and assists students in discovering the power they possess. Agricultural education, a supervised agricultural experience and FFA form a solid foundation for students to develop leadership skills, global agricultural knowledge and practical experience needed to succeed in their careers and everyday life.

National FFA advisor Dr. Larry D. Case says that "FFA takes classroom knowledge and brings it to life and provides many opportunities for members to develop self-confidence, leadership skills and positive values."

Dressed in their familiar blue and gold jackets, FFA members are popularly associated with raising animals or growing crops. From this proud heritage, many people are surprised to discover there are more than 300 careers in the business, science and industry of agriculture. FFA members, from urban, suburban, and rural areas, are preparing for careers in such diverse fields as genetic engineering, marketing, law and communications. The number of agricultural positions is anticipated to expand as countries depend more on the United States for their food, fiber and natural resources requirements.

FFA members from the United States, Puerto Rico, the Virgin Islands and Guam will organize events and activities to build awareness of agricultural education and support during National FFA Week, February 17-24, 2001. National FFA Week is held each year during the week of George Washington's birthday to recognize his leadership and commitment.

Case Corporation provides financial support for National FFA Week promotional materials as a special project of the National FFA Foundation.

"This year's theme, 'FFA - Discover the Power,' illustrates how FFA's programs allow students the opportunity to apply classroom information to real-life situations. Even if students decide not to pursue one of the hundreds of agricultural careers, they benefit from public speaking, skill, career, experience and leadership skills gained from the FFA."



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FFA is a national organization of 453,902 members preparing for leadership and careers in science, business and technology of agriculture. Local, state and national programs provide opportunities for students to apply knowledge and skills learned in the classroom. The organization has 7,220 local chapters located throughout the United States, Puerto Rico, Guam and the Virgin Islands. The FFA's mission is to make a positive difference in the lives of students by developing their potential for premier leadership, personal growth and career success through agricultural education.

Here on the local level, our FFA Chapter is doing numerous activities to promote the awareness of the FFA in our county. Members of the local chapter are going to be airing information about the FFA over the local radio station, WYRK to inform citizens about the organization. However, there are many students in our local high school who know little about the organization. The FFA is holding a small quiz contest at the high school allows students to get involved and learn about the club and its activities, by answering the questions.

Burdett: *Academic Achievers* - Erik Jordison, Nathaniel Mullins, Brittany Pruitt, Katie Williams, Morgan Thacker and Sara Cain. *Perfect Attendance* - Sara Cain, Patrick Dammell, Brandon Edger, Brenda Hayden, Erik Jordison, Blake Rader, Stephen Riddell and Mark Anthony Vekos.

Midfield: *Academic Achiever* - Yancey Burdett, Leslie Burdett, Tim Harding, Devin Hasty, April Johnson, Tyler Vaughn, Alyssa Coe, Josh Mullins and Zachary Goebel. *Perfect Attendance* - Leslie Burdett, Tyler Vaughn, Seth Cain, Brittany Hyden, Justin McCracken, Kelly Poynter and Lou Ann Masters.

Viola: *Academic Achievers* - Brooke Bowlin, Grant Burdette, Miranda Dammell, Jonathan Gadd, Stacey Hindley, Hannah Ponder and Jamie Todd. *Perfect Attendance* - Buck Blair, Jonathan Gadd, Travis Hendrix, Pamela Johnson, Katie Kidwell, Joey Reeves, Nicky Shelton, Tommy Spencer and Ashley Varnish.

Mrs. Jean: *Academic Achievers* - Allen Burdette, Tonya Brock, Samantha Bishop, Rachel Bullock, Nicole Locklear, Dustin Kadar, David Kelly, Jeffrey Isaacs and Jared Harding. *Perfect Attendance* - Jared Harding, Michelle Masters, and Dustin Kadar.



The RCMS Holiday Express is a very active group at Rockcastle County Middle School. The group, sponsored by Mrs. Debbie Bugg, works after school creating various crafts to sell to the students and public. They may also be contacted to make items upon request. Among those involved in Holiday Express include, front row: Ashley Bullock, Melanie Bullock, Carlota Bond, Brittany VanWinkle, Andrea Witt. Middle row: Jessica Alcorn, Andrea Reynolds. Back: Ashley Jasper, Carla Hensley, Erin Murphy. Standing behind rail: Glen Click, Gabe Guilford, Adam Paquette, Kevin VanWinkle, Dustin Thomas, and Scarlett Fredrick.

Minds in the Middle

Our Spring Parent Teacher Conference Day will be held on Thursday afternoon from 3-6:00 p.m. The 21st Century Community Learning Center is sponsoring a child support fire to all who attend. We will not be having any other 21st CCLC activities or ESS tutoring on Thursday. Report cards may be picked up during the conference. These not picked up will be mailed home.

This Friday morning we will be having spring pictures. Saturday will be the GEAR-UP trip to Alliston Wilson College. Permission forms are available in middle office. All costs are paid by GEAR-UP.

March 13th is the scheduled date for our Annual Reality Store. We are seeking community volunteers. Call Ms. Cromer for more information.

Softball practice began on Wednesday afternoon. Tryouts were held last week. Those making the team were: Brittany Offutt, Kayla Bryant, Amy Parsons, Jamie Ellison, Megan Parker, Hannah Burdette, Katie Stevens, Brittany Perkins, Kelli Frederick, Brittany VanWinkle, Carlota Bond, Latoya Lamb, Courtney Rose, Keri Marurek, Ashley Kimbrell, Kena Coates, Renee Taylor, Samantha Anglin, Lori Miller, Elizabeth Scarborough, Tressie Robinson, Heather Hopkins, Courtney Cordier, Ashley Bussell, Ashley Dollins, and Victoria Clontz.

Next Wednesday afternoon the students will be observing a motivational program in the gym. The group will perform stunts, balancing, comedy, juggling, and work with trained animals.

RES Perfect Attendance and Academic Achievers

Burdett: *Academic Achievers* - Erik Jordison, Nathaniel Mullins, Brittany Pruitt, Katie Williams, Morgan Thacker and Sara Cain. *Perfect Attendance* - Sara Cain, Patrick Dammell, Brandon Edger, Brenda Hayden, Erik Jordison, Blake Rader, Stephen Riddell and Mark Anthony Vekos.

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Three Farms Machinery Consignment

Auction

20th Annual London Farm Machinery Consignment Auction
Sat., February 24th • 9:30 a.m.
Laurel County Fairgrounds
On Hwy. 229, Near Levi Jackson State Park, London
Consignments accepted Wednesday, Feb. 21st, Thursday, Feb. 22nd and Friday, Feb. 23rd from 8 a.m. to 5:30 p.m.

26th Annual Brodhead Farm Machinery Consignment Auction
Sat., March 3rd • 9:30 a.m.
Brodhead Fairgrounds
Brodhead, Kentucky
Consignments accepted Wednesday, Feb. 28th, Thursday, March 1st and Friday, March 2nd from 8 a.m. to 5:30 p.m.

There will be a buyer's premium added to the winning bid on each item to determine its final price.

Buyers premiums are as follows:
3% on any items \$100 and over
10% on any item under \$100

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Tiger Pause

A special thank you to Mitchell Tolle for giving each fourth grade 2001 calendar and allowing us to use several prints as a display this month. Also, thank you to local photographer Doug Brock for providing prints for our display. The display may be viewed in the front hallway at the entrance of BES.

What would a town be without a mall? No place to find food or clothes? Would we have to live off the land like Indians? Yes, we know that no town would be successful without one. Why even Brodhead Elementary has one!

Yes it's true. The students earn "tiger bucks" by working in class and for intermediate students by working at their micro-society jobs. They go to different businesses on their micro day, including the micro bank.

Some of these jobs can be pretty busy, but the mall would probably be by far the busiest. If you wanted to talk to one of the employees the first chance you get would probably be at the end of micro.

The pieces are much different from a real store though. At micro they are MUCH higher than real life. A bottle of lotion for \$1000, a bookmark for \$100. If it was like that in the real then we'd be living in the poorest country in the world! Luckily, students earn lots of money, pay only \$100 tiger bucks for taxes, and don't buy nearly as much.

So, no matter what the size we all know every town needs a store, rich or poor! (Reporter, Holly Brown)

In the BES cafeteria a lot of students have been getting top loads. This makes it difficult for the lunch lady to hear our number. Please speak with your child about noise level in the lunchroom. I'm sure they would appreciate your help. (Reporter, Toni Baker)

Thursday, March 8, fourth graders are doing a project called Market Day. In this project they will provide a good to sell. With that money they will buy a good from someone else. This will make a circular flow. This learning project will be one they might never forget! (Reporter, Beth Potter)

Mrs. Rita Shaffer's class has been learning about dinosaurs. They watched the movie Dinosaurs. If it came out, right now they are learning about meat-eaters. Mrs. Shaffer says that the students love it! (Reporter, Beth Potter)

Hey all you BES students, you are doing great on collecting those soup labels. Mrs. Dyehouse's class is in the lead for primary and Mrs. Scott's class is in the lead in intermediate. If collection continues to be this good we could top our goal! Mrs. Dottie's class is in the lead for collecting the most pop tabs. Her class has over 8,500. Keep up the good work! (Reporter, Megan Lovett)

Do you have a child in Mrs. Addison's class? Would you like to know what they have been doing? I interviewed two students in her class. Caitlin said he made a rabbit's face. Jacob said he had been learning about dinosaurs. (Reporter, Timber Shelton)

In Ms. Cromer's fifth grade class they have an individual reading with each student. On that day the students had to answer questions for Mrs. Cromer. The grading level is one to four, with four being the best. I believe Mrs. Cromer is very good at helping children with reading problems because she works with them until they understand. (Reporter, Toni Baker)

Anarchy or Democracy?

Which is it? You decide for yourself!

The so-called Oscar Isaac Road has been a controversial issue since the Rockcastle County Fiscal Court decided to take over maintenance of it. But? Carollo has admitted the road cannot be legally maintained by the county road department because it does not meet the 30 feet width required by state regulation. In fact, the road is only 15 feet wide. Also the Judge (Carollo) said the people were unwilling to give up land to widen the road.

On or about August 12, 1999, the Rockcastle County Fiscal Court convened to conduct its business. During this meeting, Joe Shelton complained about cross-ties being placed near the road corner next to Karen Ramsey's home. Judge Carollo assured the complainant that the cross-ties would be removed by the county road crew, assisted by the Sheriff's Department. Shortly after the meeting, at least three people from the county road crew and Deputy Sheriff Darrel Doan came to my home, while I was at work and removed cross-ties which were placed on my property line to prevent public encroachment upon my land. Where the crosses were placed cannot be disputed. The Fiscal Court has agreed that these cross-ties were on my property. Refer to correction printed in the Mt. Vernon Signal dated August 19, 1999. The county road crew threw these cross-ties into a stack and scattered some of them on my front lawn, damaging my flowers and shrubs. The county should be held liable for this damage.

Clearly, it is my opinion, as well as my lawyer's opinion, the office of the Rockcastle County Judge, and its representatives have abused the power of its office, by committing the tort of trespassing and interfering with private property. This is not what democracy is about, but rather this kind of behavior borders on the brink of anarchy.

Can you imagine how you would feel to come home from work and find your property vandalized. And, even worse, to learn from your next door neighbors that the police had parked his car in your driveway and watched the road crew wreck your fence and damage your property. This was done without any prior legal warning or my permission.

As a matter of Judge Carollo's previous commitment to abandon the Oscar Isaac Road, I am requesting that he abide by his commitment. The residents who were petitioned by County Attorney Jeff Burdette, asking for land to widen the road, turned down the petition. Why does the county continue to impose their unwanted encroachment upon the residents who live on this road? There are many roads in Rockcastle County in a poor state of repair. This is obvious to all who are acquainted with the county roads.

Also, the proof of tampering with evidence has been noted on some of the deeds of property owners who are effected by the condemnation suit. "I have a dream." Important information has been deleted from the deeds. The Attorney General needs to investigate the Rockcastle County Fiscal Court for potential criminal misconduct and intentional wrong doing in the condemnation suit of private property for public use.

Some landowners have already decided 20 feet for the purpose of widening the Oscar Isaac Road in 1976. Why doesn't the county take advantage of this gift? This 20 feet gives the county 5 more feet than what they request in this petition.

In an overview of this matter, one can only conclude that the county's intention is to harass some of the private landowners. I write the public to come and look at this road the county has been claiming maintenance over since 1976. It has not been maintained to the James Sparks' driveway, but rather it falls short of this driveway and turns in a different direction. I ask anyone who is familiar with deed search to look at the claim of title for the land upon which this road is built and you will see that the county does not have a clear title to this road! Also, one can further conclude that the county's intention of leaving out important language of certain deeds was to mislead the public concerning the condemnation of the Oscar Isaac Road.

It is my opinion that the Rockcastle Fiscal Court is subsidizing a trailer park in conjunction of this road, with the support of the taxpayer's money. The trailer park is being developed by Preacher Charles Johnson from Berea. This is why the county is supporting and they could care less about the people who live on the Oscar Isaac Road. Also, it is my opinion that the narrow road has had several accidents. I have lived here for years and I know what's going on. Charles Johnson doesn't know what he is talking about. I've looked at your pictures, Carl!

People, you can't hide closed doors, for God shall prevail. Someday you will be judged for what you are!

Judge Carollo, what happened to the public hearing you should have held prior to the condemnation suit?

For "I have a dream,"
Camilla Ramsey
Rt. 3, Box 802, Conway Road, Berea, Ky. 40403



Members of the Rockcastle Co. FFA Officer Team watch as County Judge Buzz Carollo signs the proclamation declaring the week of February 17-24, 2001 as National FFA Week.

School Menus

February 26-March 2, 2001
Breakfast:
Monday: Egg/chicken biscuit or cereal, biscuit/jelly, juice and milk.
Tuesday: Scrambled egg or cereal, toast/jelly, juice and milk.
Wednesday: Pancakes and syrup or cereal, toast/jelly, juice and milk.
Thursday: Breakfast pizza or cereal, toast/jelly, juice and milk.
Friday: French toast sticks and syrup or cereal, toast/jelly, juice and milk.
Lunch
Monday: BBQ on bun or fish on bun, french fries, carrot sticks, peaches, milk.

Tuesday: Pizza or sandwich, garden salad, corn, jello with fruit and milk.
Wednesday: Chili and crackers, sandwich, veggies and dip, fresh fruit and milk.
Thursday: Lasagna or chicken on bun, slaw, Texas toast, applesauce, and milk.
Friday: Vegetable soup and crackers, sandwich, veggies and dip, beans and milk.
**Chickadee available at middle & high school daily.
* Menu subject to change due to inclement weather.*