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Rockets win opener

## Christmas activities

Several Christmas activities including two parades are scheduled for the next two weekends in Rockcastle County.

The annual Christmas Parade at Brodhead is scheduled for 3 p.m. Saturday.

Brodhead will also hold its annual Christmas breakfast at the Brodhead Fire Department from 7 a.m. to 11 a.m. on Saturday. For more information call City Hall at 758-8635.

On Friday night, December 1, the annual Christmas in the Park ceremony will be held in Trange Park in Mt. Vernon.

The festivities begin at 6:30 p.m. Those attending are asked to bring canned food items to help the needy.

The event is sponsored by the Rockcastle Kiwanis Club.

On Saturday, December 9, Mt. Vernon will hold its annual parade at 2 p.m.

The City of Mt. Vernon is also conducting a food drive this holiday season.

Food will be collected from December 1 until December 9 and will be distributed by Mt. Vernon's First Baptist Church Food and Clothing Mission.

For more information call City Hall at 256-3437 or 256-1219.

## Dug Hill woman jailed

A local woman is behind bars this week after she was arrested for breaking into a neighbors home last Thursday.

Tonya Denny, 26, was arrested Tuesday at the Rockcastle Sheriff's office after she turned herself in to police.

According to Kentucky State Police Detective Gary Lane, Denny was apparently found in the home of Mark Loudermilk on Dug Hill Road on Thursday.

Loudermilk called police and Denny fled.

She is charged with second degree burglary and burglary of mail matter.

She is currently being held in the Rockcastle Detention Center.

## Blood Drive

Christmas is a time of enjoying the company of your family and friends around heavy meals and rooms filled with laughter. Unfortunately, not everyone gets to share in

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## Rockets fall to Highlands in semi-finals

The Rockcastle County Rocket football season came to an abrupt end Friday night when they lost to the number one team in the state.

The Fort Thomas Bluebirds defeated Rockcastle County 21-9 before a crowd of about 4,000 at the Rockcastle County Middle School.

Highlands, which is also the seventh ranked team in the nation, totally dominated the ROCK, in handing them their first loss against 13 wins.

Rockcastle's only two scores came on a safety by senior Sean Smith and a touchdown by sophomore Mary Reagan against Highlands' junior varsity team at the end of the game.

Offensively, the Rockets manged only 115 yards and their defense gave up 394 yards to Highlands.

"We had a great season, something our players should be proud of and something they will never forget," said head coach Tom Larkey.

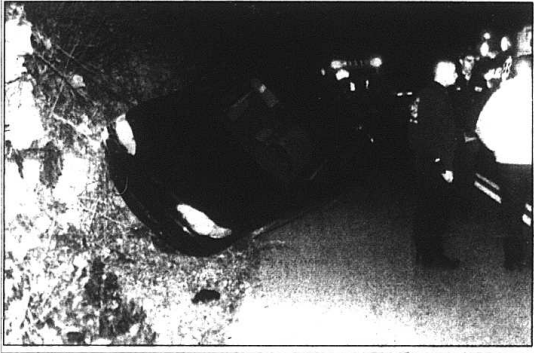
"We simply ran in to a team that is one of the best in the entire nation and we doubt the best team in the state," he said.

Highlands will move on to play Owensboro in Louisville on Saturday.

Editors Note: The Signal has published a special section in this week's paper as a tribute to the Rockets.



Several wrecks occurred in Rockcastle County over the Thanksgiving holiday, including the one above on the Hwy. 461 by-pass in Mt. Vernon. A Michigan couple and their grandchildren, ages three and four, were injured after Aaron J. Atwood, 25, of Versailles rear-ended them around 2:15 a.m. Thanksgiving morning. Three of the four were treated and released at Rockcastle Hospital, but the three-year-old was transferred to the University of Kentucky Hospital. Atwood was arrested and charged with driving under the influence. Below, Donald Rice of Mt. Vernon lost control of his Ford Escort around 8 p.m. Wednesday on the Sand Springs road.



## Police arrest fugitive in Lincoln

A Brodhead man who escaped from police in April is currently being held on federal drug charges.

Joe Michael Spoonamore, 25, was arrested at the Castle Village Apartments in Brodhead on April 2.

But Spoonamore ran off from Brodhead Police Chief Joe Bussell and Rockcastle Deputy Sheriff Ronnie Reark, after he was handcuffed.

Police had been looking for him

ever since.

About two weeks ago, the Rockcastle Sheriff's office received a tip that Spoonamore had been arrested in Lincoln County.

However, Lincoln authorities told local police that they had no Joe Michael Spoonamore.

They did say they had arrested two men, Vernon Pickett and Travis Hux, for making methamphetamine, and that Hux had no identification

him at the time of the arrest.

After police gave a description of Spoonamore, Lincoln police fingerprinted Hux and it was Joe Michael Spoonamore.

Spoonamore is currently being held on federal charges in Fayette County, but he faces numerous other charges in Rockcastle County.

He is accused of assault of a police officer, second degree escape, theft by unlawful taking and probation violation.

Kentucky Police Detective Gary Lane and Rockcastle Deputy Sheriff Sonya Parker, who have been working the case on Spoonamore said he will also be charged with several church break-ins in Rockcastle County earlier in the year.

## Local man pleads guilty

A Rockcastle County man, who caused a disturbance at the Rockcastle High School and Fort Thomas Highlands game Friday night, has pled guilty in Rockcastle District Court.

Jamie Linville, 22, of Rt. 3, Mt. Vernon, was arrested on the field Friday night by Mt. Vernon City Police and charged with disorderly conduct and public intoxication (non-alcohol).

According to court records, when police took Linville to the Rockcastle Detention Center he had a small amount of illegal drugs in his possession.

Linville was charged with promoting contraband in the jail.

On Monday, he pled guilty to a 12 month sentence, which was probated for ten months. He is scheduled to serve 30 days in jail before he enters a drug treatment program.

Linville played quarterback for the Rockets in 1994 and 1995.

## KSP arrest 37 for DUI

On Wednesday, November 22, through Sunday, November 26 at 11:59 p.m. the Kentucky State Police

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## Gabbarads find year-round crop to help replace burley

By: Richard Anderkin

There is good news for tobacco farmers this week from the powers to be.

For the first time in years, Burley Tobacco experts say that no cuts will be made in the amount of tobacco growers are allowed to grow.

But one local family isn't dragging their feet waiting for the federal or state government or divine intervention to take care of the cuts in tobacco quotas.

They have found an alternative crop, one that no one controls but themselves and one that can be grown year around.

Don and Joyce Gabbard and their children Michael and Donna Faye are currently in the middle of a growing season although the temperature has already dropped into the teens.

The Gabbarads are growing tomatoes in their greenhouses at Brindle Ridge.

The Gabbarads began to grow their new crop this Fall and have already sold many pounds of vine ripe and green tomatoes to local people.

They currently have about 150 plants that are expected to produce approximately 40-60 pounds each.

But growing vine ripe tomatoes does not come without a lot of time consuming work.

The Gabbarads keep the temperature in each of their three greenhouses

at 68 degrees.

In order to do that they must keep some type of heating at all times in the winter months.

Currently, they use two types of heat, fuel oil furnaces and wood burning stoves.

Because of the huge increase in fuel prices the Gabbarads have gone to mainly wood heat.

Every three hours or so, seven days a week, the Gabbarads must check the temperature in each of their greenhouses and in most cases put wood in the stove.

"If the temperature drops below 55 you lose everything" so we are very careful about the heat in the winter time," Joyce Gabbard said.

"Too much heat won't hurt the plants, but not enough will kill them all," she said.

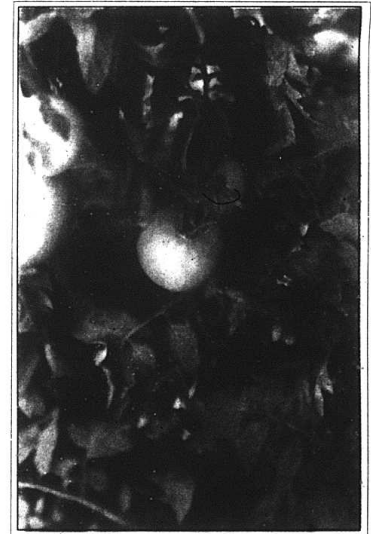
The Gabbarads also use a watering system that puts the exact amount of water and chemicals on the plants each day.

The Gabbarads have been helped by their project by the University of Kentucky and a fellow greenhouse owner, Jessie Shelton of Lincoln County.

Shelton, who is a former Horticulture teacher, also grows tomatoes in his greenhouses.

Besides the tomatoes, the

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The Gabbarads are growing vine ripe tomatoes at Brindle Ridge.

## Singer Dale Ann Bradley to perform in Berea

The success story of Dale Ann Bradley had been well documented, with much of her fame coming on the heels of her 1997 solo debut, "East Kentucky Morning."

The album received overwhelming media raves, reached the top 10 on both bluegrass and American charts, and was embraced by mainstream country as well.

Everybody from Billboard magazine on down raved about the album, and comparisons to Alison Krauss and Dolly Parton were frequent. In fact, Billboard went so far as to say, "She has an angelic voice and definitely deserves a listen from anyone looking for fresh, passionate new music."

Music Row called Bradley "a gentle mountain songbird with a shimmering delivery, marvellous purity of tone, soprano trills, and lonesome bent

notes." Gavin added, "Bradley has a voice that evokes real emotion and credibility."

Bradley will perform at the Matt Paul Music Hall on Hwy. 1016 in Berea on Friday night. Show time is 8 p.m. For more information call 859-986-2523 or 859-582-5306.

With all the attention and praise she garnered with her debut, one could easily think a follow-up album could only fall short. Such is not the case, however, with "Old Southern Porches," the new release from Bradley. With production chores handled by Sonny Osborne, a great deal of time and care was invested in the album, from the selection of the material to the actual recording of this important release. Songs range from

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Rockcastle County School Superintendent Larry Hammond, right, presents RCHS head football coach Tom Larkey with the state semi-final trophy after the Rockets' loss to Highlands on Friday night. The Rockets finished in the final four in the state in Class AAA and 13-1 on the season.