

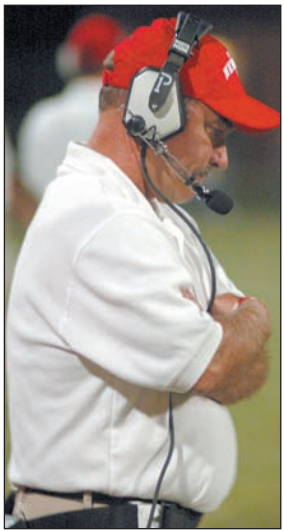
WEATHER

Mostly sunny 90/57



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SPORTS



For the first time in recent memory, the Lamar Warriors and Atkins Red Devils will face off Friday night at Lemley Field with identical 3-0 records to open 4AAA Conference play.

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AROUND THE VALLEY

The Russellville School District announces its Students of the Month.

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STATE BRIEF

Senate president carries too much money into year

LITTLE ROCK (AP) — The Arkansas Senate's next president pro tempore says holding more than four times the allowed amount of carry-over funds from his 2006 campaign was a mistake he immediately fixed.

The campaign fund of Sen. Bob Johnson, D-Bigelow, contained more than \$61,000 at the end of 2006.

Johnson said he sent a check to the state treasurer's office for more than \$49,000 after being contacted by a reporter from the Arkansas Democrat-Gazette. State law limits candidates' carry-over funds from past campaigns to the annual salary of the office they hold.

The salaries for most representatives and senators went to \$15,060 on July 1. "That's my bad, my mistake," Johnson said.

Graham Sloan, executive director of the state Ethics Commission, said Johnson "followed a reasonable course of action" in sending the check to the state. The commission's possible sanctions for ethics violations range from fines of \$50 to \$2,000 and public letters of caution, warning and reprimand.

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Hicks wins position on Dardanelle School Board

By Brooke Chambers education@couriernews.com

The final but unofficial vote count Tuesday night for the newest member of the Dardanelle School Board put candidate Sherry Hicks in the lead by a margin of four votes in her race against Andrew Dick.

The race between Hicks and Dick was the only contested race in this year's Yell County school elections. The final count was 72-68 in favor of Hicks, who will replace current school board member Howard Orsburn, who did not seek re-election after 13 years on the board.

In Johnson County, a run-off is expected in three weeks (Oct. 9) between



Lamar School Board candidates Travis Horn and Clint Bacchus. Bacchus received the most votes at 268, while 195 voters chose Horn. The two other candidates in the race, Jerry Boen and Nancy Hill, received 129 votes and 66 votes, respectively.

Clarksville School Board's newest member will be Joanie Liles, who was chosen by voters Tuesday night over Patrick Baker 34-29.

Jerry Stricklin defeated Dion Henson 83-19 in the race for Position 2 on the Johnson County Westside School Board.

A 'win-win' for Dover

School District to recruit tutors for its students

By Brooke Chambers education@couriernews.com

DOVER — The Dover School District is the first district in the area to become part of the Future Teacher Initiative through the Arkansas AmeriCorps, a program designed to hire young adults considering a teaching career to work



Jerry Owens

See DOVER on page 2

Lot crimes concern shoppers



THE COURIER / Joshua Mashon

Top: Shoppers scurry Tuesday afternoon into the Russellville Wal-Mart Supercenter.

Bottom: A Wal-Mart spokeswoman from its corporate headquarters told The Courier no specifics about its security measures or whether there are plans to increase them, but indicated in a written statement cameras are located inside and outside their retail stores.

Local Wal-Mart declines comment on specific security measures in place after customers' safety questioned

By Mary Kincy Benefield crime@couriernews.com

Since April, when a local teacher was attacked in broad daylight in the parking lot at the Wal-Mart Supercenter on East Main Street by a man police have identified as Bobby Shane Patrick — who the woman said punched her in the face and attempted to shove her into her vehicle before taking her purse and running away — one person has indisputably been shot amidst the metal jungle of cars parked in front of the store.

The man who shot him, 50-year-old William Garfield Farr, told police he himself was knifed, albeit superficially, by the acquaintance he met in the parking area minutes before he fired his weapon in response to the alleged attack, according to a police report.

And earlier this month, Russellville Police Department (RPD) officers responded to two troubling incidents on the lot hundreds of people pass through each day.

In one case, on Sept. 7, officers issued a disorderly conduct citation to a man later identified as Michael A. Modica, 45, who an unknown complainant alleged was touching himself inappropriately — apparently in plain sight of passersby — while sitting in a 2004 Hyundai Sonata parked in front of the store, according to a report written by Officer Phillip Varnell.

On Sept. 8, another RPD officer ticketing parking violations on the lot, Michael Evans, along with Officer Todd Winesburg, observed 28-year-old Walter Valladares, "hitting and kicking a blue Ford truck as he was chasing

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"Personally, I think that crime is on the rise here [in the area]. Maybe they should get a security guard to patrol the lot in a golf cart or something like that. My philosophy is, head it off at the pass. Don't wait for an incident, because somebody's going to pay the price."

— Ola shopper Mike Green, who no longer allows his elderly mother to shop at the local Wal-Mart by herself after she was nearly hit by a speeding driver.

Atkins firefighters on lookout for new truck

By Sean Ingram newseditor@couriernews.com

ATKINS — Wanted: New fire truck, in the \$300,000 or less price range. Not too big, not too small, just right to maneuver around city streets and corners.

The Atkins City Council approved resolutions during its regular meeting last week in accordance with an Arkansas Department of Economic Development (ADEED) grant obtained for the community's newest industry.

Mayor Jerry Don Barrett told



Jerry Don Barrett

In other business, the council approved to rezoning requests from R-2 (residential) to commer-

cial. Barrett said this week the city is also in the market for a new fire truck, with funding to come possibly from the city's general fund, but not all of it is needed up front, he said.

"The (Arkansas) Legislature passed a bill that we don't have to pay for it all up front," Barrett said. "Hopefully, we can pay a third or half on a new truck up front, then pay the rest of it out. That way, you can still use the equipment."

Barrett said he hoped the city could purchase a new fire truck in

the \$300,000 range, but hoped a new truck could be found for less.

Atkins firefighters formed a committee and had traveled to other cities to look and test out fire trucks, but encountered a problem. Barrett said firefighters realized some trucks were too big to get around the city's narrow corners.

"We're having to downsize, so to speak, to fit our locale," Barrett said. "However, we've got a good committee working on it, and they will come back with a good recommendation."

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This day in HISTORY

A year ago in The Courier Sept. 20 2006

Rylee family files suit

The family of Bobby Joe Rylee filed a wrongful-death lawsuit in Little Rock against Russellville, Pope County and numerous city and county officials and personnel.

We've got the River Valley covered.

The Courier SPORTS

