



WEATHER
Cloudy, showers
69/39



Page 6

SPORTS



Russellville Junior High's West Whirlwinds defeated the East Whirlwinds 20-7 in the final regular-season game for both teams before next week's playoffs.

Page 1B

AROUND THE VALLEY

Russellville Junior High School students attend play "Still Life With Iris," create memory coat;

Members of two local Rotary Clubs help host, attend seminar on events of Rotary Foundation.

Page 3

LOCAL BRIEF

ADEQ still considering permit for wastewater storage and disposal

The Arkansas Department of Environmental Quality (ADEQ) has yet to decide whether to approve a permit that would grant a Greenwood-based company, S&W Environmental, the right to store and land-apply wastewaters produced as by-products of off-site natural gas drilling.

The proposed 6-acre site for the storage and application lies off Howell Road in Pottsville.

Doug Zinner, a media spokesperson for the ADEQ, provided the following statement:

"The permit on S&W Environmental is still being reviewed by the technical staff here at the agency, and no decision has been made on whether to issue the permit or not."

Zinner was unable to say when a decision might be forthcoming.

"It sometimes has to go through several levels of review before a final decision is made," he explained.

TODAY'S ACTIVITIES

Pope County Farmer's Market, 10 a.m. to 1 p.m., Russellville historic downtown Depot.

Page 3

INDEX

- Inside News2
- Around the Valley3
- Opinion4
- Obituaries/Local5
- Weather/Local/Nation6
- Stocks/Local/State7
- Entertainment8
- World9
- Nation10
- Sports1-4B
- Tech Athletics4B
- On Campus5B
- Comics6B
- Classifieds7-10B

Detention center inmate dies

Coroner says cause of death may have been "self-inflicted"; he, sheriff awaiting autopsy results before providing further specifics

By Mary Kincy Benefield
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A man who was arrested on suspicion of a series of misdemeanor offenses and transported to the Pope County Detention Center by Russellville Police Department (RPD) officers just before 1 a.m. Tuesday morning left the jail without ever having to appear before District Judge Don Bourne.

Instead, Phillip Price, 45, was rushed to Saint Mary's Regional Medical Center about 8:24 a.m. Tuesday after he was found unconscious in his cell by corrections officers.

By nine o'clock, Price was pronounced dead, apparently the result of a cardiac arrest, according to 911 dispatch information provided to EMS heard over police scanners.

Pope County Sheriff Jay Winters, who

See **INMATE** on page 2



Bobby Joe Rylee



James Jamerson

THIRD POPE COUNTY DETENTION CENTER INMATE TO DIE IN 15 MONTHS

Phillip Price is the third inmate to die at the detention center since July 2006. Bobby Joe Rylee, 61, died in July 2006 at the University of Arkansas for Medical Sciences (UAMS) in Little Rock days after sustaining injuries during an altercation that occurred during the arrest, according to a July 19 article by Janie Ginocchio.

A new trial date for a federal lawsuit filed against officers involved in the incident was assigned in August. The lawsuit alleges the officers and PCDC employees violated Rylee's civil rights and wrongfully caused his death. The jury trial is now slated for April 21, 2008.

On March 21, 2007, James Jamerson, 55, was found unresponsive in his bunk and was rushed to Saint Mary's Regional Medical Center, where he was later pronounced dead. The state medical examiner ruled he died of natural causes stemming from heart and chronic lung disease. Jamerson, a diabetic, had requested medical attention for a boil two days before he died.

A Sheriff's Office internal investigation revealed correctional officers violated procedure in three separate instances the day Jamerson died. Sheriff Jay Winters said the procedures were sound, and jail administration planned a "refresher" course for correctional officers.



Leonard Krout



Sheriff Jay Winters



THE COURIER / Scott McClure

The Pope County Library on East Third Street in Russellville suffered an attack of vandalism when someone shot the front door with a BB gun. Library staff had the door replaced soon after it was discovered.

BB vandals strike library, South Ark. business

Police again request community's help in identifying culprits; reward offered

By Mary Kincy Benefield
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The latest to suffer damages that appear to be the result of projectiles shot from either a BB or pellet gun — the Russellville headquarters of the Pope County Library, located on East Third Street, and Golden Boys Golf Cars, located on South Arkansas Avenue — were hit Monday night by vandals who damaged a glass door and a window, respectively, at the locations.

Both incidents were reported to police between 7:30 and 8 a.m. Tuesday morning, according to Russellville Police Department (RPD) reports.

The two join the ranks of nearly a dozen businesses, agencies and organizations whose property has been damaged by unidentified vandal(s) apparently wielding BB or pellet guns since the first of the month.

RPD Public Information Officer Joshua McMillian reiterated an earlier request for the public's help in identifying and

See **VANDALS** on page 2



RSD Annual report to the public

Russellville reports student performance progress, goals

By Brooke Chambers
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The board room at the administration office of the Russellville School District was full Monday night with district administrators, teachers and parents all present to hear the annual report to the public.

Superintendent Randall Williams outlined the goals of the district and school board, which included an increase in the use of technology, student performance, school safety emphasis and effective communication between the district and the community, as well as becoming more financially efficient and improving district facilities.

Meeting attendees were then able to hear the district's plan for implementing these goals, as well as the steps the district have already taken to pursue the goals.

"This should be called the annual report to the students," Williams said. "A time when we tell the students what we're doing for them and what's new in the district."

Student performance

To enhance student perform-



THE COURIER / Brooke Chambers

Dr. D'Anne Barrow, Russellville's elementary curriculum director, reports student Benchmark exam scores Monday night during the school district's annual report to the public at the administration building.

ance, the district has focused on standards-based instruction in grades K-12. Professional development activities aimed toward improving student achievement and frameworks for understanding poverty have also been applied.

"A lot of these things are for preventative purposes," Williams said. "They're not necessarily in response to anything. We just try

to do these things as we can."

In the coming school year, the district hopes to provide English Language Learner (ELL) professional development for all teachers, expand English and Math Intervention for K-12 students, double-block secondary math classes, take a systemic approach

See **REPORT** on page 5

Staph infection problems not really new

For The Courier

In response to calls from concerned parents and local school officials, the Arkansas Department of Health (ADH) is issuing some guidance on dealing with community-acquired staph infections in Arkansas. According to James Phillips, MD, Director of the Infectious Disease Branch at ADH, the problem is not really a new one.

"Community acquired methicillin-resistant staphylococcus (CA-MRSA) has been a known problem since the 1990s. It's just increasing in frequency and awareness. It's the number one bacterial infection of the skin," Phillips said.

Staph bacteria, including MRSA, can cause skin infections that may look like a pimple or boil and can be red, swollen, painful or have pus or other drainage. More serious infections may cause pneumonia, bloodstream infections or surgical wound infections.

Some 20-30 percent of the population carry Staphylococcus aureus (staph), bacteria on the skin or in the nose. Some staph are resistant to methicillin and related antibiotics

See **STAPH** on page 7

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This day in HISTORY

A year ago in The Courier
Oct. 24, 2006

Guns, meth seized near school
Three Hector residents were held at the Pope County Detention Center after narcotics agents accused them of selling methamphetamines near the elementary school.

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Join us for . . .
The HEARTWALK on Saturday, October 27th at Arkansas Tech.
American Heart Association

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