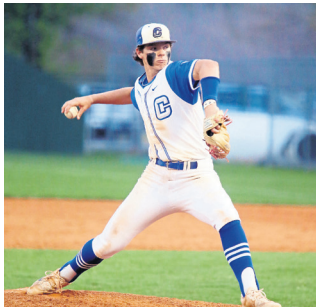




CONWAY JUNIOR SHUTS DOOR
ON CABOT IN WAMPUS CATS'
8-5 WIN OVER PANTHERS
SPORTS, B1

WOMAN REPORTS CAR WASH
COMPLETELY REMOVED THE
REAR BUMPER OF HER CAR
POLICE BEAT, A2

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Data center could lead to investment worth billions of dollars

By KOLTON RUTHERFORD
Log Cabin Democrat

The city of Conway has entered into a memorandum of understanding with an unnamed company potentially seeking to build a 300,000 square-foot data center in the city. The Conway City Council unanimously approved the MOU at a special meeting on Tuesday. The company, currently unnamed due to a non-disclosure agreement, expects to invest approximately \$1 billion into building the data center and create about “50 new high-quality jobs” in Conway during the first of five possible phases, the MOU text

available on the city’s website read. If all the phases are completed, the company’s total investment in the city could reach as much as \$10 billion of real property, \$50 billion of personal property and hundreds of jobs, Conway Area Chamber of Commerce and Conway Development Corporation President and CEO Brad Lacy told aldermen on Tuesday. “This is a big step forward for the community,” Lacy said, describing the project as “much larger in scope and size and impact than what we’re accustomed to seeing.” The MOU is an agreement of the city, Conway Corp and the compa-

ny (named as Forgelight Ventures, LLC in the document). Lacy said the company is on the Fortune 100 list and is “a name that you would know.” Per the Arkansas Secretary of State’s website, Forgelight Ventures, LLC filed with the state on Feb. 11 and is in “good standing.” The company’s address is listed to a location in Wilmington, Delaware, and its registered agent is based in Little Rock. As part of the MOU, the city has committed to a property tax abatement of 65 percent for 30 years. “Without [the property tax abatement], we are not a viable site,” Lacy said.

Data centers store and manage digital data. Lacy said the center is not for data mining and has nothing to do with cryptocurrency. Building the center and its surrounding campus is a long-term project and could take as much as 5-8 years. “Should this move forward, it is a massive construction project,” Lacy said. Conway Area Chamber of Commerce Executive Vice President Jamie Gates said the center will not significantly impact the city’s drinking water or electric supply. The center will use graywater for cooling and Entergy will provide high-voltage electricity. Ordinance

es for graywater rates and Entergy’s involvement will be needed later, Gates said, adding that Tuesday’s approval was only the start of a long process. “This isn’t the beginning of the end. It’s not even the end of the beginning. This is a pledge to sign up for a lot of work,” Gates said. It remains unclear when the public will know the identity of the company. “The ball’s been kicked, guys. Get after it,” Conway Mayor Bart Castleberry said after aldermen approved the MOU. News Editor Kolton Rutherford can be reached at krutherford@thecabin.net.

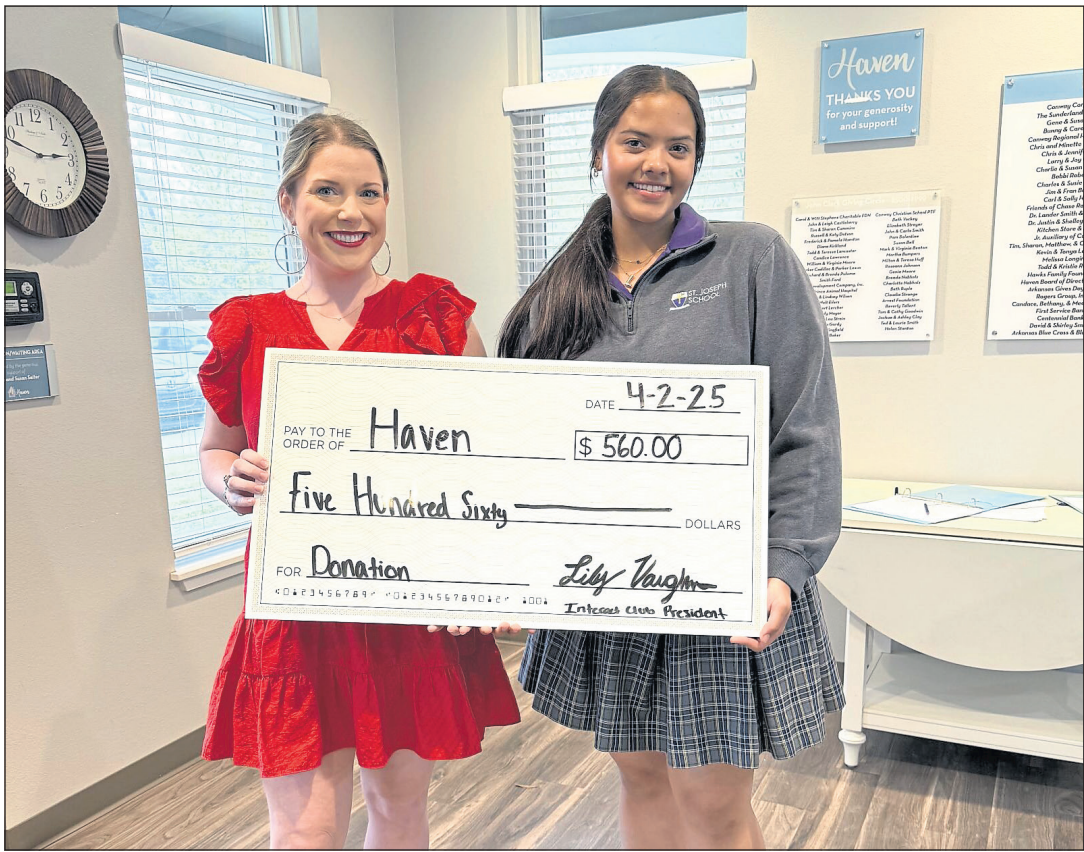
History society publishes spring ‘Fiddlings’

By CINDY BECKMAN
Special to the Log Cabin Democrat

The Faulkner County Historical Society recently published its spring 2025 “Faulkner Facts and Fiddlings” historical journal. The society lost a very valuable board member with the passing of Dr. Bob Reising in October 2024. The issue opens with an “In Memoriam” tribute to this wonderful treasure who helped share local history through his writings and his service on the Faulkner County Historical Society board. UCA Chemistry Professor Dr. Robert Mauldin contributed a very interesting and informative article about Dr. E.E. Cordrey, Chemistry professor at Arkansas State Normal School and later, Arkansas State Teachers College (now UCA). When Dr. Cordrey retired in 1950, the Science Building (the first building on campus) where he taught for so many years was renamed in his honor. As a Christian man, Dr. Cordrey did his best to reconcile his faith with the requirement to teach evolution. After completing the re-packaging of the Sam Fausett Photo Collection at the Faulkner County Museum this spring, I decided to look back at the legacy of this man’s photography. Fausett operated a portrait studio in downtown Conway for three decades, from 1941 until 1970. The Museum has 24,000 individual “sittings” in this collection and can scan these photos for reproduction. In another article, I take a look back at the past doctors who provided medical care for the residents of Faulkner County.

See FIDDLINGS, page A3

INTERACT CLUB



Submitted photo
The St. Joseph Interact Club, which is affiliated with the Conway Noon Rotary Club, recently presented a \$560 donation to Haven of Conway. The Club raised the money from a dress-up event on St. Patrick’s Day. Haven is a Qualified Residential Treatment Program for adolescent females in foster care between the ages of 12 and 18 who’ve experienced trauma. Pictured are Interact Club President Lily Vaughn and Haven Development Manager Emma Barre.

Animal shelter open house rescheduled for April 11-12

By LOG CABIN DEMOCRAT

The Faulkner County Animal Shelter’s open house originally set for Friday and Saturday has been rescheduled for April 11-12. From noon to 4 p.m. on April 11, the shelter located at 597 Highway 65 in Greenbrier will be open for tours ahead of a ribbon cutting ceremony at 4:30 p.m. On April 12, Family Fun Day at the shelter will last from 10 a.m. to noon. “We are excited for this much needed resource within our community,” the county said on Thursday.



Submitted photo
The Faulkner County Animal Shelter’s open house originally set for Friday and Saturday has been rescheduled for April 11-12.

School board to consider use of AI in classrooms

By JORDAN WOODSON
Log Cabin Democrat

The Conway Public Schools Board of Education is set to consider two proposed policy revisions related to the use of artificial intelligence in the classroom, administrative functions and during decision-making processes for school licensed and classified personnel during its regularly scheduled meeting Tuesday. According to the policy proposal, licensed personnel will only be able to use AI tools approved by the school district’s committee, must operate in a way that would allow for staff, students and parents to have access to information on how the AI tools are integrated into teaching and learning and must adhere to district policy, state and federal law, state rules and federal regulations governing data privacy. “Licensed employees may use AI tools to personalize learning, assist with lesson planning and provide real-time feedback to students,” the proposed policy read. “Any use of AI tools shall be to complement, rather than replace, human instruction.” Per the policy proposal, licensed employees must also ensure that the use of AI tools align with the district’s ethical guidelines and educational goals. “While AI tools may be used to assist with administrative tasks, such as lesson planning, scheduling, data analysis and managing student records, final decisions impacting students or employees must involve human oversight,” the proposed policy read. Use of AI tools by students must be approved by teachers and students will receive instruction on how content generated by AI should be reviewed for bias and inaccuracies and cited as a source, which follows the district’s citation guidelines. Licensed employees would be responsible for helping students understand the boundaries of using AI tools in completing assignments. As for classified employees, the policy encourages them to use AI tools to enhance job performance and efficiency. Those employees must consult their supervisor or the IT department if they are not sure about using a particular AI tool. The district will also provide training for classified employees on the use of AI tools which will include data privacy requirements. “All classified employees shall participate in the district’s training on AI tools before they may use AI tools to assist with any

Community Foundation awards 32 grants to local nonprofits

By LOG CABIN DEMOCRAT

The Community Foundation of Faulkner County, an affiliate of Arkansas Community Foundation, awarded \$42,775 in Giving Tree, Early Literacy, Stop Hunger and Childhood Obesity Grants for nonprofits in Faulkner County in March. These grant recipients will be recognized at the affiliate’s next Celebrating Philanthropy event in October. “Our local affiliate committee performs a thoughtful review and selection each spring,” Shelley Mehl, executive director of the

Faulkner County affiliate, said. “Those organizations selected represent innovative, effective programs that help change lives in our community.” Opening their doors in 2001, the Faulkner County affiliate office has returned more than \$8.5 million in grants to area nonprofits. “The Giving Tree grantmaking program represents our commitment to and the importance of how local dollars, decided by local leaders can meet local needs,” Heather Larkin, president and CEO of the Community Foundation, said. “Funding for these grants comes from individuals and families

within our affiliate areas who want to improve their community. The Giving Tree endowments provide a permanent source of funding for local charitable causes.” The focus on early literacy is year-round. This year, the committee supported the Imagination Library in Faulkner County and the Main Stage Education Series at Reynolds Performance Hall. The Bill and Betty Roberts Educational Endowment provides the matching funds each year to help support these programs. Other grant recipients include: ■ AR Kids Read. ■ Arkansas Hunters Feeding the

Hungry. ■ Arkansas Single Parent Scholarship Fund. ■ Boys & Girls Club of Faulkner County. ■ CAPCA. ■ City of Hope Outreach. ■ Community Connections. ■ Compass Academy. ■ Conway Cradle Care. ■ Conway Ministry Center. ■ Conway Public Schools. ■ Conway Regional Health Foundation. ■ Conway Symphony Orchestra.

See GRANTS, page A3

