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SPORTS, B1



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AFTER BORROWING IT
POLICE BEAT, A2

Log Cabin Democrat

School board taps candidates for 2 open seats

By TAMMY KEITH
Special to the Log Cabin Democrat

The Conway School Board voted unanimously Friday to appoint Matthew White, assistant professor in the Department of Leadership Studies at the University of Central Arkansas and program coordinator for the UCA K-12 leadership programs, to fill the vacant at-large school board seat.

Mary Lajeunesse, the only candidate for the Zone 4 vacancy, was unanimously appointed, as well. She is an independent licensed psychological examiner and has children in the district.

White scored 94 out of 100 on the

rubric the board used – the highest of the seven at-large candidates – but the board was having a hard time deciding between him and Rebekah Fincher, who scored 90. Fincher is the chief administrative officer and designated institutional official of Conway Regional Health System.

“We’re gonna win with either one of them,” Board President Leona Walton said, and the four other board members made similar statements.

After the board struggled with the decision for a few minutes, Fincher spoke up from the audience and asked if she could withdraw her application “so you guys can have consensus on a vote? Because I feel like it’s really important for the community to feel like you got a consensus.”

School district attorney Shasta Wagner said she could. White, seated near Fincher in the audience, thanked her, and they high-fived.

White said via text after the meeting, “I am honored to have been selected among so many outstanding candidates to represent our district. I look forward to continuing our mission to serve students, staff, families and community.”

Fincher said after the meeting that she withdrew her application to help facilitate the board’s decision.

“It is important for our community



Photos by Tammy Keith / Special to the Log Cabin Democrat

LEFT: Mary Lajeunesse makes a presentation Friday to the Conway School Board during a special meeting before being appointed to the vacant Zone 4 seat. **RIGHT:** Matthew White, who was appointed unanimously to the at-large seat on the Conway School Board, gives his presentation at Friday’s special meeting. He was one of seven applicants for the position.



Submitted photos

Congressman French Hill tours the Clayton home building facility. Rep. Hill highlighted new provisions in his new housing bill, the 21st Century ROAD to Housing Act, which will expand opportunities for manufactured and modular housing across the country.

French Hill tours Clayton Conway facility

By LOG CABIN DEMOCRAT

Congressman French Hill toured the Clayton home building facility highlighting new provisions in his new housing bill, the 21st Century ROAD to Housing Act, which will expand opportunities for manufactured and modular housing across the country.

The bill passed both chambers with bipartisan support and became law on July 11.

“Chairman Hill’s visit provided an opportunity to showcase the hard work and craftsmanship that go into every home Clayton builds and to discuss the critical need for more attainable housing across the country,” Jamar Murchison, Clayton Conway general manager, said. “We applaud his leadership on the 21st Century ROAD to Housing Act, which will help increase housing



Arkansas Representative French Hill tours the Clayton Conway Facility with General Manager Jamar Murchison. Murchison said that Hill’s visit provided an opportunity to showcase the hard work and craftsmanship that goes into every home Clayton builds.

School districts to participate in USDA meal programs

Conway, Greenbrier, Vilonia join for 2026-27

By LOG CABIN DEMOCRAT

The Conway School District, Greenbrier School District and Vilonia School District are set to participate in the national school lunch program, afterschool snack program and/or school

breakfast program.

Households may be eligible for free or reduced price meal benefits. Applications can be found on districts’ websites. Households that participate in the Special Supplemental Nutrition Program for Women, Infants and Children (WIC) may be eligible for free or reduced-price meals.

To apply for free or reduced-price meals, households must complete and return the application. Applications will be considered incomplete if all information is not provided as described in the instructions provided

with the application. Applications may be submitted at any time during the school year as circumstances change provided that the loss of income causes the household income during the period of unemployment to be within the eligibility criteria.

Boozman applauds interns for service

By LOG CABIN DEMOCRAT

U.S. Senator John Boozman (R-AR) recognized the students who served as interns in his Washington, D.C. and Arkansas offices during the second summer session.

“Whether assisting constituents, supporting my staff or observing the legislative process firsthand, these talented students made meaningful contributions to our office,” Boozman said. “I appreciate the dedication and professionalism they demonstrated throughout the summer. I am confident this experience has encouraged them to continue pursuing opportunities to serve their communities and our

country.”

Anna Abston, Catie Brewer, Ellie Gilbert, Anna Hale, Lauren Magre, George Rizzo and Abby Shoemaker completed a five-week internship in Boozman’s Capitol Hill office. Throughout the program, they supported his staff by assisting with constituent services, leading U.S. Capitol tours and contributing to legislative, communications and administrative projects. Each intern also spent a day shadowing Boozman, gaining the unique opportunity to observe the responsibilities of a U.S. senator and the day-to-day work of the Senate.



Submitted photo

Co-committee chairs for the 50th celebration Cathy Meyer (pictured) and Linda Hoff also serve as the welcome coffee chairs for 2026-27.

Newcomers’ Club to celebrate 50 years

By LOG CABIN DEMOCRAT

The Newcomers’ Club of Conway will celebrate its 50th anniversary with a party for all members on Nov. 7.

The Newcomers’ Club was founded to welcome new residents to Conway offering opportunities to build friendships, connect with the community and feel at home in a new place. Today, anyone who resides in Conway is welcome to become a member. For half a century, the club has offered its members a wide

variety of fun activities that create warm and welcoming places that foster lasting relationships.

This members-only celebration will honor our history, reflect on treasured memories and recognize some of the current and past members who have contributed to the success of our organization, plus lots of food and fun for all.

We look forward to the Golden Anniversary Celebration for 50 years of the Conway Newcomers’ Club, club officials said.



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