

Log Cabin Democrat

Conway teacher completes step 2 in grievance against superintendent

By TAMMY KEITH
Special to the Log Cabin Democrat

A brief meeting Monday between Conway teacher Randi House and Bryce Bennett, assistant superintendent of curriculum and instruction, completed the second of four steps in her grievance process against Superintendent Jason Black. House, a fourth-grade teacher at Theodore Jones Elementary School, filed the grievance Sept. 28 based on Black's actions she said occurred when he called her out of class for an hour-long meeting regarding her plans to speak at the Sept. 23 special school board meeting.

House said she felt "intimidated, bullied and reprimanded" by Black not to speak that night at a special board meeting. Step 2 in the grievance process was meeting with Black's designee, who was Bennett. The meeting Monday lasted 2 minutes and 22 seconds, Cavin said. He said

they met with Bennett and Gynger Campbell, director of human resources. "He (Bennett) started out by saying he's there to listen to Dr. House and her grievances," Cavin said. "I spoke up and explained that the grievance speaks for itself by policy and law, and I said, 'Do you have any questions?' He replied, 'I don't have any questions.' Do you have a resolution that's different than Dr. House's? He said, 'I don't have a resolution in mind at this point in time.' And I said, 'OK, you know, basically, we're just checking a box today.'" Step 1 was a meeting Oct.

2 with Theodore Jones Elementary School Principal Carise Echols and Assistant Principal Heath Dow. Cavin said Bennett asked in Monday's meeting if there was anything else House wanted to add, "and I explained the grievance speaks for itself, that it's laid out in a manner that shows policy rules and laws were violated, and then I explained to Dr. Bennett that clearly this is grievable under state law. With that, everybody said, 'Have a nice day.'" Step 3 is meeting with Black; step four is a hearing

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Election early voting begins October 19

By KOLTON RUTHERFORD
Log Cabin Democrat

Early voting for the Nov. 3 general election begins in five days at seven vote centers across Faulkner County. The Faulkner County Election Commission previously finalized its list of early and Election Day vote centers. Early voting will last from 8 a.m. to 6 p.m. Monday through Friday and 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. on Saturdays. The Faulkner County Courthouse is the only early voting site open on Saturdays. Early voting will end at 5 p.m. on Nov. 2. Early vote center locations include: ■ The Faulkner County Courthouse on 801 Locust Ave. in Conway. ■ The Faulkner County Library on 1900 Tyler St. in Conway. ■ The McGee Center on 3800 College Ave. in Conway. ■ The Greenbrier City Event Center on 5 Lois Lane in Greenbrier. ■ The Mayflower Water Department on 2 Ashmore Drive in Mayflower. ■ Vilonia First Baptist Church on 1206 Main St. in Vilonia. ■ Roving on Oct. 21-22 only at Conway Regional Medical Center on 2302 College Ave. in Conway. Faulkner County is a "vote center county," Election Coordinator Rob Denning previously told the Log Cabin Democrat. That means that "registered voters may vote at any open voting site." On Election Day on Nov.

3, vote centers will be open from 7:30 a.m. to 7:30 p.m. The Faulkner County Courthouse is not an Election Day vote center. Election Day vote center locations in Conway include: ■ The Conway Community Center on 250 Central Landing Blvd. ■ The Faulkner County Library. ■ Friendship Baptist Church on 767 Rocky Point Road. ■ The McGee Center. ■ Mt. Gale Baptist Church on 8 W. Brannon Drive. ■ Pickles Gap Baptist Church on 2 Pickles Gap Road. ■ The True Holiness Life Center on 198 Highway 286 E. ■ The UCA Welcome Center on 201 Donaghey Ave. ■ University Church of Christ on 3155 Dave Ward Drive. Election Day vote center locations in other cities in Faulkner County include: ■ Copperas Springs Baptist Church on 336 Highway 25 N. in Guy. ■ The Damascus Fire Department on 5 Broadway St. in Damascus. ■ The Greenbrier City Event Center in Greenbrier. ■ The Springhill Baptist Church Life Center on 25 Highway 287 in Greenbrier. ■ Wooster First Baptist Church on 68 Church Circle in Wooster. ■ The Mayflower Water Department in Mayflower. ■ Mt. Vernon Baptist

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Submitted photos

St. Joseph High School chemistry students participate in a colorful experiment. The experiment allowed students to identify the presence of specific metals in a chemical sample by observing the variety of colors a sample turns when heated by a bunsen burner.

ST. JOSEPH CHEMISTRY STUDENTS PARTICIPATE IN COLORFUL EXPERIMENT

By LOG CABIN
DEMOCRAT

Chemistry students in Karen Ferrer's class at St. Joseph High School recently took part in a colorful experiment. It allowed students to identify the presence of specific metals in a chemical sample by observing the variety of colors a sample turns when heated by a bunsen burner. Each element, such as lithium, sodium, potassium and others, emits light at specific wavelengths, creating a distinctive spectrum. "This same principle explains the vibrant colors of fireworks," Ferrer said. "They're produced by adding metal salts to create different colors when ignited. This also applies to neon lights, which glow when an electric current excites the gas inside the bulb." During the lab, students used spectroscopes to separate the emitted light into its component wavelengths. By examining these patterns, the students compared the elements and observed the unique characteristics of each element.



Cotton's absence takes center stage at debate between senate candidates

By AINSLEY PLATT
Arkansas Advocate

Republican U.S. Sen. Tom Cotton was not in the room as his Democratic and Libertarian challengers debated Monday, but criticism of the Arkansas lawmaker's record and his absence from the debate took center stage. Cotton, who is seeking his third term in the Senate, didn't participate in the Arkansas TV debate with Democrat Hallie Shoffner and Libertarian Jeff Wadlin. Cotton, who chairs the Senate Intelligence Committee, instead attended a birthday party for World War II veteran and family friend Jock Davis Monday, campaign spokesperson James Arnold said in an email. Shoffner and Wadlin barely acknowledged each other during the debate, and their focus on Cotton was apparent from the get-go. "Where is Tom Cotton? He's not here, because he either thinks he's too good or he's too scared, and neither one of those works for Arkansas," Shoffner said in her response to the first question. The second question was about Cotton's absence. Jeff Wadlin, the Libertarian candidate, took the opportunity to call the incumbent "a

coward and a hypocrite." "Twelve years ago he badgered Senator (Mark) Pryor about not showing up to debate him. Well, where is Senator Tom Cotton today?" Wadlin said. He said he's travelled to all of Arkansas' 75 counties as part of his campaign, and the message he's heard has been consistent: "The consensus I've heard from Arkansans is that they want (Cotton) fired." Cotton has repeatedly criticized Shoffner on immigration issues and his campaign has vastly outspent hers. Shoffner and Cotton accepted an invitation to debate by conservative Christian news outlet Salem Media. Wadlin said during the debate Monday that he was excluded. The Cook Political Report sees the Senate race as solidly Republican, though local polling found Shoffner with a slight edge over Cotton in August – though still within the margin of error for the poll. Panelists' questions touched on topics ranging from the war in Iran to immigration to economic development to college athletics. Shoffner, a sixth-generation farmer, frequently steered the conversation

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