

NEW BEARS COACH: CONWAY IS A 'SPECIAL PLACE'

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MAN WEARING BLUE BLANKET ON HEAD BANNED FROM GYM

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Log Cabin Democrat

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Mayflower dad launches Arkansas Christmas Lights Guide website

By JORDAN WOODSON
Log Cabin Democrat

A Mayflower dad has recently launched a free website to help Arkansans find the best Christmas light displays in the area for the holiday season.

Chris Uting is a father of three from Mayflower who works at the Sonshine Academy in Conway and he and his family have always had a tradition of visiting to Christmas light displays in the area during this time of year, but this year Uting said that the process of looking up information for these displays was becoming taxing.

"I kind of got a little tired of having to Google everything and try to figure out if it was open and where it was," he said. "I kind of felt like a map with all the lights that you can put in your ZIP code and find everything around and the time and all of that would be a lot more helpful than having to spend a bunch of time searching for everything."

And so Uting decided to make that website himself, launching the Arkansas Christmas Lights Guide. The guide features a free map of more than 180 Christmas displays and events across the states, every single one verified with the venue before it's listed.

See **LIGHTS**, page A3



Tammy Keith / Special to the Log Cabin Democrat

Lorine Morris, who turns 100 today (Nov. 28), is having a party at 2:30 p.m. at Superior Health and Rehab, 625 Tommy Lewis Drive in Conway. Her family welcomes friends to drop by and celebrate with them.

100-year-old remembers raising seven children in Friendship community

By TAMMY KEITH
Special to the Log Cabin Democrat

When Lorine Morris' husband died unexpectedly in 1963, leaving her with seven children, ages 17 to 2, she didn't falter; she didn't fall apart.

Morris, who will celebrate her 100th birthday today (Nov. 28), raised those children in the tight-knit Friendship community with a firm hand, faith and a sense of humor.

See **CENTENARIAN**, page A2



Submitted photos

Alphonse "Al" Hiegel (center) looks up at a flyover in his honor in September ahead of his 100th birthday on Oct. 1. City and county leaders dedicated Oct. 1 as "Al Hiegel Day" in Conway and Faulkner County.

Veteran's life marked by curiosity, positivity

By KOLTON RUTHERFORD
Log Cabin Democrat

Hiegel is "officially 100 years old." The World War II veteran remains busy and is a frequent attendee at his great-grandchildrens' sports games.

Alphonse "Al" Hiegel has lived a lot of life the past 100 years. The World War II veteran, pilot, author and longtime owner of Hiegel Lumber and Hardware in Conway turned 100 years old on Oct. 1, the same date city and county leaders designated as "Al Hiegel Day" in Conway and Faulkner County.

Hiegel reflected on his life in an interview with the Log Cabin Democrat ahead of his birthday, telling the newspaper that the recognition he received from local leaders felt "great" and that well-wishers had sent him more than 60 greeting cards and more than 80 guests attended birthday parties held in his honor at his alma mater St. Joseph School and at Fifth Avenue Park.

"I didn't know if there was 10 people who were gonna come see me," Hiegel said. "Well, 80 showed up."

A lifelong resident of Conway and parishioner of St. Joseph, Hiegel has deep roots in the community. He was born Oct. 1, 1926, the second oldest child of Peter and Mary Hiegel. He lived about a block away from the old Conway airport as a child, an experience that got him interested in flying at an early age.

"I could go to my school down there at St. Joe and go to the upper level, and I could watch the planes come and go," Hiegel said.

Hiegel took his first airplane ride in 1933 at just 7 years old, he wrote in his book, "Becoming an Old Salt: My Life & Experiences," which was published after he turned 97 years old. A Ford Tri Motor plane had landed in Conway and was selling tickets for plane rides. A total of 6-8 passengers sat in wicker seats as the plane flew them over the city.

"It was amazing and really got me hooked on airplanes," Hiegel wrote.

When Hiegel was a teenager in 1942, a U.S. Army training plane crashed in front of his house. The pilot and passenger of the plane were killed in the crash, but

See **VETERAN**, page A7



Conway Women's Chorus sets concert

By LOG CABIN DEMOCRAT

Conway Women's Chorus and their special guests will perform "The Sounds of Christmas" as their gift to the Conway community at 2 p.m. on Dec. 6 in the Windgate Center for Fine and performing Arts at the University of Central Arkansas, 2150 Bruce Street in Conway.



KIMIA KESHAVATZ KELLEY

The group is under the direction of Mary Worthen, retired choral conductor and music educator. Peggy Town, a member of the chorus who has over 15 years experience in directing church choirs, will direct two selections.



The Little Pearson Sisters: Iris, age 9, Athena, age 7 and Eve, age 5, present selections of children's Christmas favorites. Conway Women's Chorus will present "The Sounds of Christmas" at 2 p.m. Dec 6 at the University of Central Arkansas' Wingate Center.
Submitted photo

Guest soloist, Kimia Keshavarz Kelley, is a mezzo-soprano, who was born in Iran. She is currently pursuing her Master of Music in vocal performance at the University of Central Arkansas. She earned a bachelor's degree in music with concentration in piano in Iran. Kelley developed her passion for singing through independent study and determination. Her journey from being a self-taught singer to performing on American opera and concert stages reflects her dedication to music and passion for artistic expression.

See **CONCERT**, page A3

Kemp among 2026 CFX Most Powerful Women

By LOG CABIN DEMOCRAT

Conway Corp Chief Customer Officer Crystal Kemp has been named among the 2026 CFX Most Powerful Women by Cablefax, a national recognition celebrating women making an impact across the cable, broadband, media and technology industries.



KEMP

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SATURDAY	SUNDAY	MONDAY
Cloudy	*Mostly Sunny*	*Sunny*
66/51	*60/32*	*58/35*

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