

RAPE SEMINAR

A RAPE SEMINAR WILL BE HELD AT OUACHITA TECHNICAL COLLEGE TUESDAY APRIL 16TH AT 2 P.M.

THE PUBLIC IS INVITED TO ATTEND.

Sponsored by:

OTC **Ouachita**
Technical College

HSC
Medical Center
Foundation

COMMUNITY
SERVICE
LEAGUE

Tri-Lakes Edition

April 14, 2002

Through April 15: An art display at Ouachita Technical College Library by Olivia Pierce of Malvern may be viewed from 7:30 a.m. to 7:30 p.m. Monday through Thursday and from 7:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. Friday. The exhibit includes pencil drawings, oils on canvas, pen and ink, and large gourds painted with detailed picture stories in acrylic. For more information, call Amber Lindsey at (501) 332-3658, ext. 1170.

Malvern Daily Record

April 17, 2002

Meet candidates

A 'Meet The Candidates' event will be held Friday at 7 p.m. at the Ouachita Technical College Great Room.

MNB-Bank promotes Tarkington

MNB Bank President Claud Davis has announced the promotion of Patsy Tarkington of Malvern to Vice President in the bank's Credit Division.

Tarkington is a 23-year veteran of MNB Bank, having joined the organization in 1979 as a Loan Secretary.

She is a graduate of Ouachita Technical College and the Arkansas Bankers' Association Lending School at Arkansas State University in Jonesboro. In addition, Tarkington has completed various workshops and seminars pertaining to banking regulations and loan documentation. Her on-the-job performance has been rewarded by being named a past Employee of the Month as well as the Credit Division Employee of the Year for 2001.

In making the announcement, Davis said, "Patsy has been an exemplary employee throughout her years with MNB. Her diligence on the job as well as her enthusiasm for her work, is an example to all who work with her. We are very happy to have someone like Patsy in our Credit Division."

Presently, Tarkington is in charge of

loan documentation for real estate loans and large commercial loans for the corporation.



Tarkington

She has been married for 26 years to Randall Tarkington and has two children – Clint, a senior at Malvern High School and a daughter, Lacey, who is a fifth grader at Wilson Elementary.

MNB Bank celebrates its 68th anniversary this year, having been founded in 1934.

Presently, the bank has seven full service branches in Malvern, Bryant, Benton, East End, Hot Springs and Sheridan as well as 3 drive-in branches in Malvern.

MNB Bank has assets over \$340 million dollars.

Arkadelphia Daily Siftings

April 24, 2002

Malvern Daily Record

April 25, 2002

Benton Courier

April 25, 2002

OTC **Ouachita**
Technical College

PLANT MAINTENANCE SUPERVISOR I

OTC in Malvern is seeking qualified applicants for a *Plant Maintenance Supervisor I* with the following qualifications: must be skilled in air conditioning, electrical, flooring, carpentry, and have general maintenance knowledge. Formal education equivalent of a high school diploma, plus 4 years experience in building maintenance and repair. The position is a grade 18 and starts at \$23,166 with an excellent state benefits package.

Application deadline May 1, 2002. For more information, contact Roger Coomer, at (501)337-5000 or (800)337-0266, ext. 1120. Hiring procedures include drug testing and a background check. Please send state application (available at OTC or ESD office) to:

Personnel Office
Ouachita Technical College
One College Circle ♦ Malvern, AR 72104

OTC is an AAVEO Two-Year College.

Former Aalf's workers get job training

By SHIRA KELLEY
News Editor

When Aalf's manufacturing closed its doors in Malvern, its employees were left without work. Some had worked there for several years. But Hot Spring County's WAGE program stepped in to help the displaced workers develop or increase other job skills, making them more employable.

WAGE, the Workforce Alliance for Growth in the Economy, has trained many people since its inception. It focuses on multiple disciplines. WAGE trainees seek to improve reading level, refine mechanical perception, improve manual dexterity and develop better clerical or numeric perception. The program is under the auspices of the Arkansas Department of Workforce Education. There are 19 WAGE programs in the state, scattered from Randolph County in north-east Arkansas to Miller, Columbia and Union Counties in the state's extreme south.

Participants can earn an industrial or a clerical certificate or a certificate of employability through the WAGE program. Eighteen people displaced by Aalf's are involved with WAGE. More started the program but have since found other jobs.

The former Aalf's employees have classroom time, computer lab and skills testing. The skills tests involve sorting and alphabetizing cards, assembling an item from a diagram, sorting items by size, completing a visual maze, calculating payroll and performing measurements. Immediately after each skill test, students are scored on performance.

They attend 20 hours of WAGE sessions weekly. But individuals have different time frames of when they'll complete the program because of the various requirements for certification levels.

For more information about WAGE, contact the Ouachita Technical College Adult Education Center at 332-5002.



TRAINING — Rhonda Stroud supervises as former Aalf's employees perform tests. The students are receiving job training the the WAGE program of OTC Adult Education. (Photo by Shira Kelley)

Malvern Daily Record

April 25, 2002

OTC

continued from page 1

Colley said several students are simultaneously earning VAST and CIS degrees. The program isn't limited; it corresponds well with other degree plans.

VAST is project-oriented. The GPS/GIS students are working on a project called Eagle Park, a community walking trail at the back of OTC's campus. The trail will be open to the community and will include, besides an easy trail and a hiking area, a playground for children, fishing decks around the OTC pond, restrooms and trailheads with information on trail routes and lengths. "We plan to apply to the Arkansas Highway and Transportation Department for a grant to fund this trail. We want it to be utilized community wide, not just by OTC," Colley said. "We want to get the community involved and on campus. Students are seeking donations of playground equipment, restroom equipment and so forth — part of the grant requirement is that the community donate supplies for the project."

While the GPS/GIS students worked to develop the park plans, the charac-

ter animation class created a fly-through/walk-through of the park to help prospective financiers envision what the Eagle Park will look like, Colley said.

OTC offers scholarships for the VAST program. The board of trustees scholarship, providing six hours of tuition, is for graduating high school seniors who attend OTC in the fall after graduation. The VAST scholarship is for students who took EAST courses in high school. According to VAST literature, possible articulation of high school EAST credit will be evaluated on an individual basis.

But EAST isn't a prerequisite for VAST — most students currently in the VAST program have never had an EAST course and most are OTC's usual non-traditional students, returning to improve their educations. "It doesn't mat-

ter if you have had one single EAST class," Colley said.

Class sizes are limited to 12 students. Registration for the summer and fall sessions at OTC began last week and the classes are already being claimed, Colley said. "If anyone wants to take these classes, they need to register as early as possible to get in. They fill up pretty quickly," she said.

The fall 2002 program offers intro to visual technology, graphic design, 2D/3D design and web design.

(Part two of the two-part series on Ouachita Technical College's new associates degree continues in Wednesday's Malvern Daily Record as news editor Shira Kelley details the program now being offered.)

Malvern Daily Record

April 29, 2002

OTC adds new associate degree in business

By SHIRA KELLEY
News Editor

(This is the first in a two-part series on OTC's new associate degree.)

Ouachita Technical College is offering a new associate degree in its business department, instructor Robin Colley said.

OTC opened a lab for VAST, or Visual Arts and Spatial Technologies, in the fall 2000 semester and had its VAST degree program approved in spring 2001. The first VAST graduates will complete the program in spring 2003.

Colley said the program fills up quickly. And small wonder — where else could students earn a degree in a program of 2D/3D design, graphic design, web design, character animation, GPS/GIS and media production?

VAST is a spinoff of the EAST — Environmental And Spatial Technology — a high school technology program which originated

six years ago in Greenbrier. There are only 150 EAST schools in the United States, and Malvern High School is one of those. The VAST lab was established after OTC joined the EAST Initiative in Little Rock in

2000.

Until then, students involved in the PRISM and EAST programs at MHS had no place to continue those specific studies. A degree in basic Computer Information Systems (CIS)

doesn't focus on the specialties that EAST has. OTC decided to fill that void, giving EAST students a place to go. So they developed VAST. It's the only one of its kind in the state.

"We're set up similar to

the (MHS) PRISM lab. We're taking EAST a step further, utilizing the software, learning philosophy and teaching philosophy at the collegiate level. It's more advanced," Colley said.

Specific courses are geared to topic areas. There are eight specialty core classes in VAST, she said: introduction to visual technology, integrated applications, graphic design and 2D/3D design comprise the first VAST year. The second year of the associate program includes introduction to spatial technology, media production, web design and character animation as its specialty cores.

The remaining 34 credit hours for the VAST degree at OTC are broad core courses and general education courses, which will transfer to four-year universities if students wish to seek a bachelor's degree.



Students in OTC's VAST lab work on project Eagle Park, a community walking park the class is designing for the back of campus. VAST will have its first graduates in spring 2003. (Photo by Shira Kelley)

See OTC, page 15

OTC

continued from page 1

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Malvern Daily Record

April 29, 2002

OTC program gives students 'VAST' training

By SHIRA KELLEY
News Editor

(This is the second and final installment of a two-part series on Ouachita Technical College's VAST "Visual Arts & Spatial Technologies" program, an associate degree in the business department, continued from Tuesday's Malvern Daily Record.)

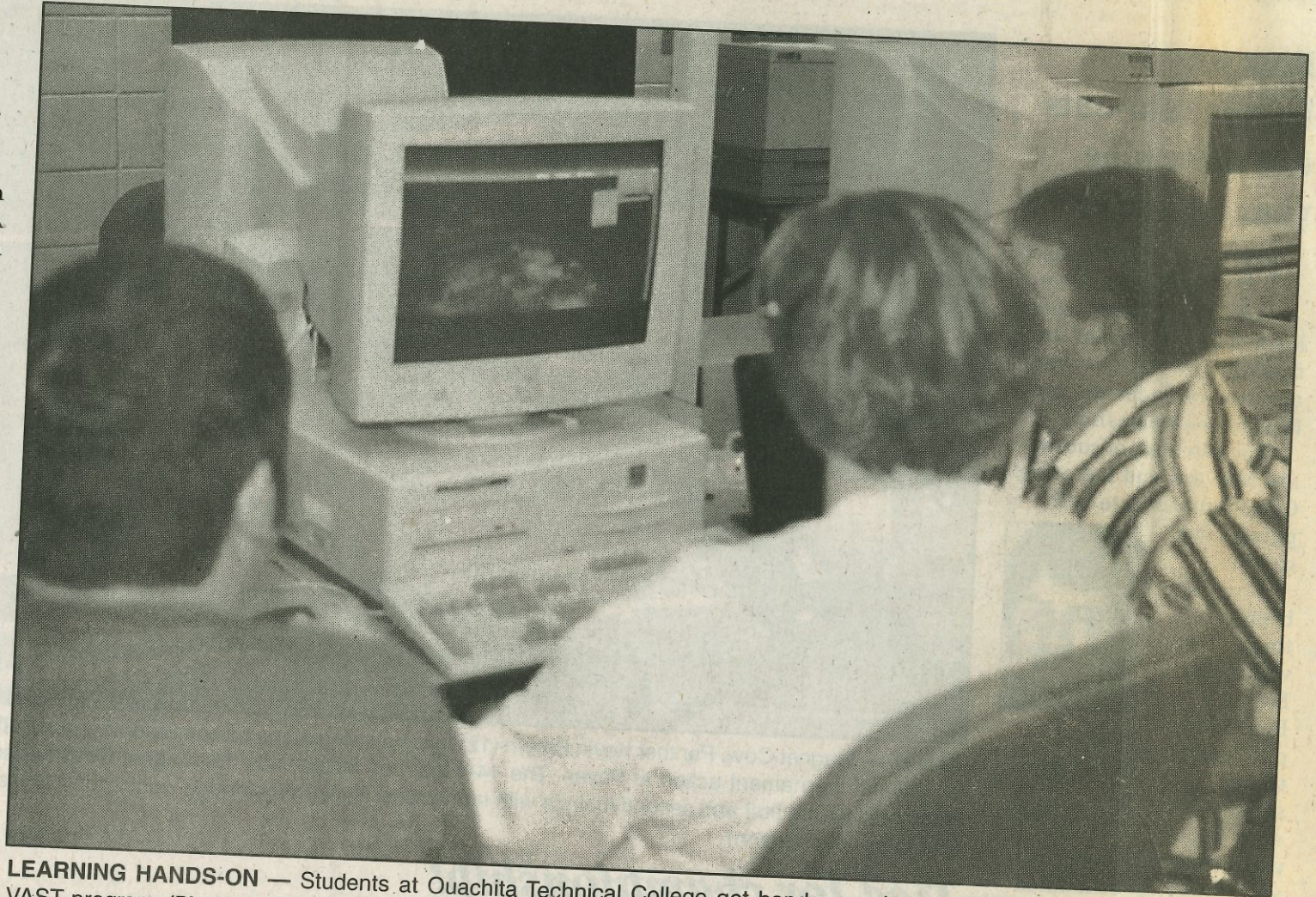
And a VAST degree is "very diverse — you can get so many things involved that it prepares you to adapt to any situation, any software, and to work as an individual or a team. It includes skills ... preparing students to go on to a four-year university or go directly into the workforce," business instructor Robin Colley said.

For example, some students are applying for jobs in Internet web page design. Of the 50 United States, 48 state highway departments use the same

software VAST uses to plan their highway systems. A construction worker is in the VAST program because of the architectural software it uses. Media productions training can prepare students for mass media jobs. The Forestry Commission uses GPS and GIS technology.

"This is so new and innovative, there's not a lot of competition for it on the collegiate level. UALR has an EAST lab but not a degree program. The University of Arkansas at Fayetteville has a CAST program — Center for Advanced Spatial Technology. But OTC has the only degree program in this line," Colley said.

For more information about the VAST program and degree, contact Colley at 501-332-3658 ext. 1106 or 800-337-0266. Her e-mail address is rmcolley@otcweb.edu.



LEARNING HANDS-ON — Students at Ouachita Technical College get hands-on education in the business department's VAST program. (Photo by Shira Kelley)

Single-parent scholarship recipient receives award

BENTON — Local community and business leaders in Benton joined Charles Cunningham, executive director of Central Arkansas Development Council (CADC), in presenting Jennifer Donnor with a \$2,500 award.

Donnor was recently named the New Century Scholar for Arkansas. She is the state's highest scoring student in the All-USA Academic Team competition.

In presenting the award, Cunningham was joined by state representative Shane Broadway; Gary James and Rusty Campbell of Coca-Cola Bottling Company of Arkansas; Van Stamps, manager, Career and Family Development Center (CADC); and Valerie Ramsey, CADC family development specialist for Saline County.

As a New Century Scholar, Donnor and her son Jonathan are currently in Seattle, Wash. to officially accept a \$2,000 scholarship from the Coca-Cola Foundation.

Donnor is a participant in CADC's Parent Scholarship Fund Program, which has provided funding for her education at Ouachita Technical College in Malvern. She graduated in December with a degree in Computer Information Systems and Cisco Networking. Donnor plans to continue her education at Henderson University in the

fall with a major in pre-medicine.

"Ms. Donnor is an exceptional student and parent," said Cunningham. "We are proud of her accomplishments and the opportunity to have provided her support through the Single Parent Scholarship Program. We look forward to greater successes from Ms. Donnor."

CADC's Single Parent Scholarship Program is designed to eliminate the barriers that often keep single parents from achieving their educational goals. Money from scholarships may be used for such things as child-care expenses, transportation, books and tuition.

More information about the program is available by calling the CADC Career and Family Development Center at (501) 315-7702 or (888) 592-3472.

Malvern building boom includes power plants, p

More than a half-billion dollars in construction — that's billion with a "B" — is going on in Malvern, the Hot Spring County seat known mostly for its brick industry.

Most of that amount is for construction of two power plants, one that went online recently and the other just announced.

A third big project is the 968-bed Malvern Unit state prison, construction of which is well under way.

Although neither power plant will provide a lot of jobs when operational, the positions will be good-paying. Those on the staffs full time are expected to make annual salaries ranging from \$30,000 to \$75,000.

Meanwhile, the hundreds of construction workers needed to build the plants already are infusing the area economy with dollars.

The \$550 million Duke Energy North America plant on U.S. 67 southwest of Malvern is going through test runs and recently began negotiating contracts. Duke Energy has already signed a power contract with the city of North Little Rock.

Tractebel Power Development Inc. announced April 2 that it will build a multimillion-dollar plant on 60 acres along Arkansas 51, about five miles northwest of Malvern. Coincidentally, this plant will be just a few miles from the site of the state's first power-producing dam, R Emmel Dam, which forms Lake Catherine.

Billed as a 720-megawatt project, the plant will require

Leroy Donald

Everybody's Business



about 270 construction workers over a two-year building period. If completed and operational in 2004 as scheduled, it is expected to employ a staff of 25, about the same number that will staff the Duke Energy plant. No official announcement of a price tag yet, but Malvern officials are tossing around a figure of as much as \$400 million for the Tractebel plant.

Tractebel Power Development Inc. is a subsidiary of Tractebel North America, the Houston-based company that handles North American operations for Tractebel SSA. The latter is the energy and services arm of Suez SA — a water, waste-recycling and energy company based in Paris.

A fact sheet released at the announcement described Tractebel as a worldwide operation, employing 75,000 people, with ventures in more than 100 countries. Tractebel has assets of \$34 billion and is ranked as one of the world's leading independent power producers, according to the fact sheet.

Tractebel North America, as the name implies, handles operations in North America. Its plant near Malvern will be a natural gas-fired power project.

The third large project at Malvern, once promoted as the

"Brick Capital of the World," is the new state prison unit scheduled to open later this year. The \$37 million project will employ between 400 and 500 people, creating a significant impact for the area. Wages for the workers will start at \$9.25 an hour, according to Malvern Mayor Stephen Northcutt.

Other projects for the city on the mayor's "laundry list" of projects include completion of a post office and a state Revenue Division building, a new "Center for Community and Senior Citizens," and the start-up of a K-12 public school campus.

In addition, Ouachita Technical College recently completed a \$1.8 million library, a Comfort Inn is in the works and a \$16 million water pipeline extending from Malvern into Saline County is on schedule.

Also on the development agenda are renovation of Malvern's downtown district — the mayor has obtained a \$200,000 grant for this project — expansion of the Malvern Airport, and an upgrade of the city's sewer and water system.

Still another important project for the immediate area is rebuilding a bridge on Arkansas 84 near Interstate 30. The new span will replace the rickety old Rockport River Bridge that was washed away several years ago. The mayor has secured \$3 million in governmental grants for the project.

And, the road from the bridge into Malvern will be upgraded. This will make for easier access to the town for res-

idents of Diamondhead, a sizable residential development on Lake Catherine west of Malvern.

All the activity in Malvern already has been a boon for Diamondhead, says Darrell Allison, who is the owner-broker for Diamondhead Realty. His company has exclusive marketing rights for the development.

Diamondhead is one of the oldest communities of its type in the state, starting up in the 1970s. Serious development of the 3,700-acre community, however, began about seven years ago under new ownership.

The new bridge will not only shorten driving time between the community and Malvern to about 10 minutes, but also open the Diamondhead property for construction workers and employees that the new plants and projects are bringing to the area, says Allison.

"We're building lots of condominiums," he said last week. "And of course this helps us pre-sell homes. We've already experienced sales for Duke Energy people."

Three of Duke's managers are living in Diamondhead, Allison said. And many of the 350 construction workers on the Duke Energy plant rented long term, Allison said.

"We'll experience the same with Tractebel and the correctional institution that we did with Duke," he added.

Also having a major impact on Diamondhead, Allison says, is the addition of several dozen

dues-paying members at the development's golf course. Many of the new members are connected with the Malvern-area projects.

The new Arkansas 84 bridge also will tie Malvern — via Arkansas 171 and Arkansas 290 — closer to developments on the southeastern edge of Hot Springs, including Red Oak and the newly opened Garvan Woodland Gardens on Lake Hamilton.

"We've built a 4,000-square-foot office building at Highways 171 and 290 [where the entrance to Diamondhead is located] mainly because of the expected traffic growth between Malvern and Interstate 30 to the gardens," Allison said. Diamondhead Realty will move its headquarters there.

NEW DIGS

The hallway in the new quarters for Mangan Holcomb Rainwater Culpepper is roughly 180 feet long. So John Haman, an account executive with the public relations agency, uses a small push scooter to casually travel the length.

Chip Culpepper, an agency partner, stands on the balcony high above the Arkansas River, taking in the panoramic view of downtown Little Rock and keeping an eye out for the chipmunks that inhabit the river bank three stories below.

Steve Holcomb, one of the earlier partners of the agency, just shakes his head and grins.

It's all part of the creative atmosphere at the agency that, a few weeks ago, moved into

the 9,600 sq encompassing floor of the building at 2300 C Riverdale.

The agency staff of 30 are after 22 years building down

The open offices gives every office a view down some of the being elevated cupants enjoy

Locating the three-story challenge work and configurations. the architect used natural ern material temporary by David Rainwater.

"We told our goal was feel like they to Oz when t elevator," Rainwater didn't know would take u

All this, pl from Brave that waft the dows. It's the quent eating partners and is why the weight, they

Everybody's B Sunday in the b Arkansas Demo your business n Arkansas Dem Box 2221, Little

Notice of public Hearing Highway 270 Bypass (MALVERN)

Tuesday, May 7, 2002 - 4:00 to 7:00 p.m.

Ouachita Technical College

Room A300, 1 College Circle, Malvern, AR

Notice is hereby given to all interested persons, agencies, and organizations, both local and state, that an open forum public hearing will be held Tuesday, May 7, 2002, from 4:00 p.m. to 7:00 p.m., at Ouachita Technical College, Room A300, 1 College Circle in Malvern.

The public hearing is being held for the purpose of permitting all interested persons, agencies and organizations the opportunity to express their views regarding the proposed Highway 270 bypass in Malvern. The project consists of approximately seven miles of two-lane highway constructed on new location northeast of Malvern.

The open forum format will allow concerned citizens the opportunity to attend the hearing anytime between the hours of 4:00 p.m. and 7:00 p.m. Personnel will be on hand during those hours to explain the proposed modifications, answer questions and take oral or written comments about the project.

Preliminary plans showing location and design features of the contemplated work and copies of the

environmental assessment are available for public inspection at the office of the District Engineer, Arkansas State Highway and Transportation Department (AHTD), 8900 Mabelvale Pike in Southwest Little Rock and the City Hall, 305 Locust Street in Malvern, during normal business hours.

Persons wishing to submit written statements or other exhibits in place of or in addition to oral or written statements made at the public hearing may submit them to the Arkansas State Highway and Transportation Department, Environmental Division, P.O. Box 2261, Little Rock, AR 72203. Such submissions must be received no later than Friday, May 17, 2002. Comments can be faxed to 501-569-2009 or emailed to info@ahtd.state.ar.us.

All interested persons will be heard at the public hearing. Information on proposed right of way appraisal and acquisition procedures as well as the environmental handling documentation will be available at the hearing.



For more information contact:

AHTD - Environmental Division

P.O. Box 2261

Little Rock, AR 72203-2261

501-569-2281, Fax 501-569-2009

EMail: info@ahtd.state.ar.us

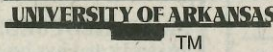
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May 3, 2002
May 4, 2002
May 7, 2002
May 10, 2002
May 11, 2002

**Did you start college, but never finished?
Is lack of a degree holding you back?**

BS in Education Degree (Human Resource Development)

- Earn up to 33 credits for job experience or training
- Transfer credit from other colleges you've attended
- Graduate in just two years
- Participate in Live Interactive Classes
- Meet Friday evenings & Saturday mornings
- Learn with other full time working adults
- Begin classes September 2002



**join us for an informational meeting on the Quapaw Tech
campus (Mid-America Blvd., Hot Springs) May 16, 5-7pm**

For More Information call 767-9314

Partners: *Garland County Community College, Ouachita
Technical College & Quapaw Technical Institute*

Malvern Daily Record

May 4, 2002

**Art Council May
Meetings**

All are invited to participate at the May meetings of the Art Council of Hot Spring County. Memberships are available and donations accepted. May meetings will be held at OTC Community Room, B102 on May 8 and 22 from 4 p.m. to 5 p.m.