

Submitted to:
Malvern Daily Record
Benton Courier
Arkadelphia Daily Siftings
Gurdon Times
Fordyce News Advocate
Arkansas Democrat-Gazette
Bismarck Mountain Journal
Tri-Lakes Edition
Community News

August 30, 2002

Ouachita Technical College officially broke ground for the new Allied Health Building during ceremonies on Tuesday, August 27, at 4:30 p.m. Remarks were provided by State Representative Bill Scrimshire, State Senator Steve Faris, Malvern Mayor Steve Northcutt, OTC Board of Trustees Chairman Pete Paladino, and Malvern/Hot Spring County Chamber of Commerce Vice President Kristi Norris. Each spoke about the progressiveness, persistence, and quality leadership that was integral in the planning process of the \$1.2 million building.

The 11,500 square foot complex will house the expanded Nursing Program, Allied Health Science courses, and a new High School Career Center Program, Medical Professions Education (Med Pro Ed). Included in the structure will be five health science classrooms/labs, three lecture halls, one computer lab, a student lounge, a faculty lounge, and offices. Additional parking will also be added in a 30-space lot to the south side of the building.

The Nursing Program prepares individuals for the practice of Licensed Practical Nursing. With the move to the new building, the program will be expanded to 30 students with a capacity of 50. To become an L.P.N., the student must complete the one-year course and successfully pass the National Council Licensure Examination for Practical Nurses.

The Medical Professions Education (Med Pro Ed) High School program is expected to begin in the Fall of 2003. This program is designed to provide an overview to the many opportunities available in the Allied Health field. Up to 60 students will be admitted to this program on a competitive basis and will complete courses in Medical Terminology, Anatomy & Physiology, and Medical Ethics.

General contractor for the construction of the building is Marco Construction of Hot Springs. Other contractors include Local Master Electrician, Donnie Overton, S & S Plumbing, Inc., GTS, Inc., and Quality Drywall and Acoustical, Inc. The exterior walls will be fully bricked with material from Malvern industry, ACME Brick.



BEATIN' THE HEAT— Todd Schultheiss of the Hot Spring County Sheriff's Office waits to get dunked by partner Brian Bailey's fast ball as OTC students look on. The dunking booth was set up at OTC to raise money for their Relay for Life team. (Photo by Kristen Almond)

Ouachita Technical College Adult Education Class Schedule

LOCATION	CLASS	DAY	TIME
Arkansas Workforce Center 1519 E. Page Avenue Malvern, AR	Adult Basic Education GED Preparation	Monday – Thursday Friday	8 a.m. – 4 p.m. 8 a.m. – 12 p.m.
	WAGE Certification	Monday – Thursday Friday	8 a.m. – 4 p.m. 8 a.m. – 12 p.m.
	Adult Basic Education GED Preparation	Tuesday Thursday	4 p.m. – 8 p.m. 4 p.m. – 8 p.m.
	Parenting	Tuesday & Thursday	5 p.m. – 8 p.m.
Head Start Building 836 Acme St. Malvern, AR	Adult Basic Education GED Preparation	Monday - Friday	8 a.m. – 12:30 p.m.
	Parenting Education PACT	Monday & Wednesday	8 a.m. – 1:00 p.m.
Bismarck High School Bismarck, AR	Adult Basic Education GED Preparation	Tuesday & Thursday	5 p.m. – 8 p.m.

GED and WAGE Certification Tests are by appointment only.
ESL classes will be arranged as needed.

OTC lands \$1.8 million Title III grant

By **MARK BIVENS**
Editor

Ouachita Technical College (OTC) in Malvern received notification from Senators Blanche Lincoln and Mark Pryor and Congressman Mike Ross late Wednesday that the college had been awarded a five-year \$1.8 million Title III grant. The information came in the form of phone calls from Congressional offices. Notification of the grant had been anticipated since July. The first year of the project will be funded at \$363,737.



Ballard

Title III funds are meant to improve student learning, student retention and graduation rates. The college will use such funds to assist with student services, instructional technology and obtaining additional financial resources.

"This is a huge thing for us because we have been so strapped for finances," Dr. Barry Ballard, president of OTC said Thursday afternoon. "Our enrollment has grown much faster (than anticipated) and finally we're going to have some money to help us do extra things."

Ballard said OTC had done

almost "too good a job" in growth, but that he was proud of that achievement.

"This grant will be totally focused on improving learning and graduation rates," Ballard said.

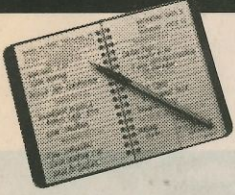
The grant, which was written by Mark Burris, Title III Project Director, will also provide a \$720,000 endowment fund that will provide ongoing funds for student scholarships, faculty development, and technological improvements. Twelve colleges in Arkansas submitted grants; only three were accepted.

Ballard indicated that student enrollments have doubled in the last six years as the reputation of the college has grown but state revenues have been flat because of the slowing economy. "As a result, every extra dollar has been plowed into instruction, primarily adjunct faculty salaries, and we have become less personal and less able to respond to the instructional, financial, and personal needs of our students."

Congressman Ross told the Malvern/Hot Spring County Chamber of Commerce of the grant Thursday morning at the monthly Chamber Breakfast where Ross was the featured speaker.

"OTC has done wonderful things," Ross said. "They're not shy about asking for money. "Barry (Ballard) and the folks at OTC made this happen."

WHY CHOOSE OUACHITA TECHNICAL COLLEGE?



5. Location, location, location!

4. We will help you make it happen!

3. Bigger doesn't mean better!

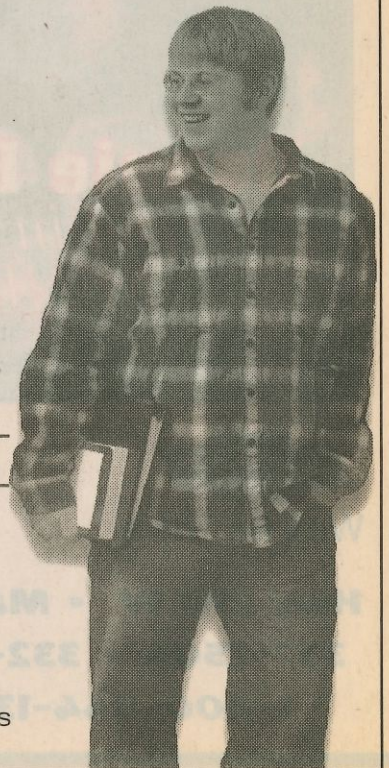
2. It makes dollars and cents sense!

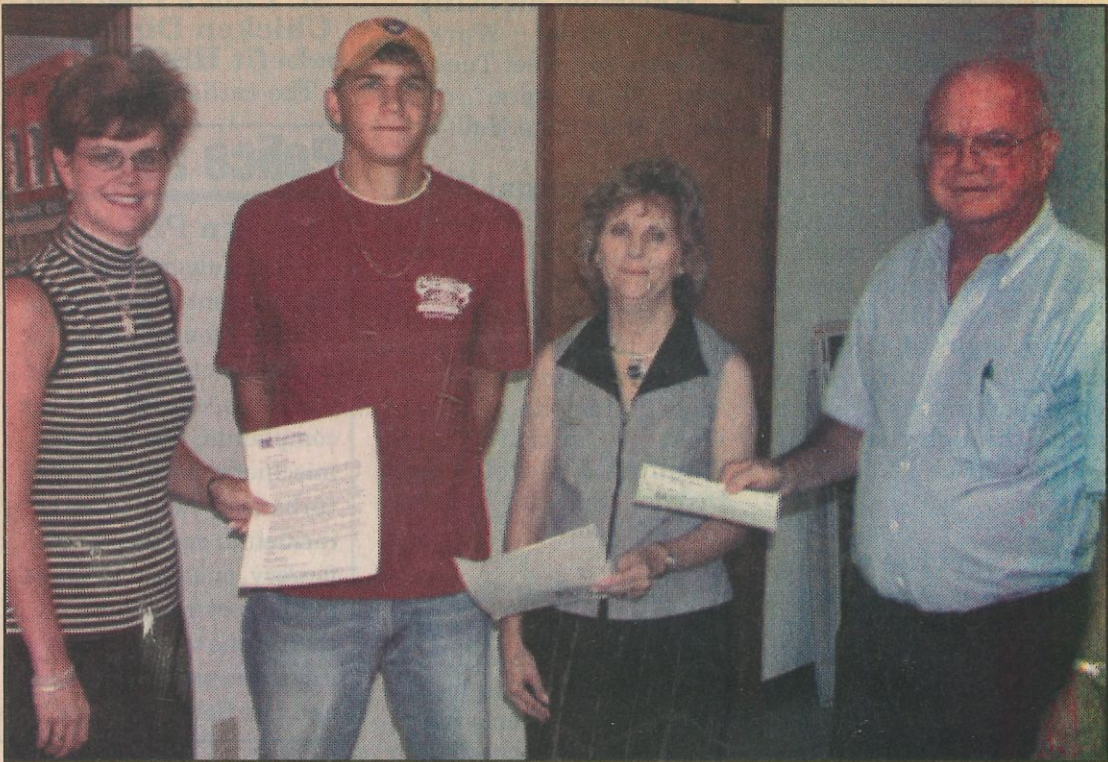
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OUACHITA
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MALVERN, ARKANSAS





BIG FISH, BIG PRIZE — Kevin Brown (second from left) was the winner of the Malvern/Hot Spring County Chamber of Commerce Tag Fishing Derby. Brown caught the six-pound bass on Lake Catherine and raked in \$355 in cash and a two-night stay at Lake Catherine State Park. Pictured with Brown are (left to right) Amber Lindsey of Ouachita Technical College, Patsy Jackson of the Chamber and James Crowder, representing the people and businesses that donated the cash prize. Those donating were Stihl Southwest, Western Sizzlin, Farm Bureau, Ann Harp, Entergy Hydro Operation, Keeney Food Market, Malvern/Hot Spring County Chamber of Commerce, Malvern Nursing Home, Young's Health Mart, Mike Clayton Buick-Pontiac-GMC, Wal-Mart, Judge Phillip Shirron, Popplo's Pizza and Southern State Bank. The derby has been held since 1968. (Photo by Mark Bivens)

OTC **Ouachita**
Technical College

**Keep our
 Children Safe!**

OUACHITA
TECHNICAL COLLEGE

OTC's Allied Health Building set to house students for coming semester

(Editor's Note: This is an installment in a continuing series on the progress and growth of Malvern and Hot Spring County.)

By **MARK BIVENS**
Editor

Construction of the Ouachita Technical College Allied Health Building is complete and OTC President Dr. Barry Ballard says the faculty and staff are in the process of moving in.

The 11,000-square foot building will house five laboratory rooms to support nursing, allied health and high school medical profession education. The latter program was requested by area high

schools.

"It looks like children have had Christmas in every room," Ballard said, referring to the paper and wrappings. "This is a wonderful building."

The building construction was a \$1 million project. Ballard said the equipment, furniture and landscaping added an additional \$250,000 to the price tag.

Ballard reports the college is in partnership with 18 area high schools and that over 300 high school students enrolled at OTC this past spring.

"We have over 200 high school students on campus every day," Ballard said.

"Hopefully we'll see more (opportunities) for women too. We had 1,841 students enrolled last year — a new record."

A dedication for the Allied Health Building is scheduled for Sept. 30 at 4 p.m. Ballard said that will give the faculty, staff and students a chance to get settled in the building before the dedication.

For now, Ballard says the plan is for the name Allied Health Building to remain. But if someone wanted to donate a sizable amount of money, that could change.

"We'd be delighted to name it after someone," Ballard said of a major contributor.

CHITTENANGO COLLEGE

... helps build, fine-tune basic skills

money.
 program changed in January 2002,
 n said, now including more business
 h as reading charts and graphs. The
 re multi-tasking questions and
 e algebra and geometry.
 n any of those programs, potential stu-
 eened. If they test with a low reading
 e referred to the Literacy Council of
 ounty, Inc., for tutoring.
 dents are given training on context

staff takes Adult Ed to populations with low socio-
 economic advantages who might be unable to reach
 Adult Ed's offices on East Page Avenue in Malvern.

And better yet, "It's prepaid by your taxes." That
 means when students enroll, they don't have to
 sign a check — that's been done by April 15 each
 year.

But it's not free. It's an investment of time and
 effort.

But for literacy — whether for business or pleas-
 ure use — the investment has high dividends.

September 10, 2003

Malvern Daily Record



Pictured are WAGE graduates and staff: Maude Pierce, Patricia Harmon, Jan Robertson, Rhonda Stroud, Gwen Robbins and Dr. Barry Ballard. Graduates not pictured are Sheri Fulbright, Sharon Davis, Nicole Johnson, Bonnie Griffin, Carolyn Parrish, Doris Anderson and Eddie Conklin.

quickly, while students with lower levels
 ger.
 id the Adult Ed staff has held classes
 reas, but needs a good interest level to
 se classes. Bismarck has a strong pro-
 s Jones Mill. Ten or more students are
 class.

be cost-efficient to have a teacher. But
 e only factor. If the students are con-
 continue the classes," Stroud said. The

Adult education staff members are Zelma Jones, coordinator; instructors Brenda D. Keisler and Jan Robertson; Stella Murdock, paraprofessional. Even Start Family Literacy staff are Sarah Eppler, recruiter/case manager; Cathy Larson and Rhonda Stroud, instructors; part-time paraprofessional Brooklyn Blackmon.

At Bismarck, Barbara Richardson handles GED classes and Donna Placker leads ESL.

Submitted to : Benton Courier, Arkadelphia Daily Siftings, Malvern Daily Record, Bismarck Mountain Journal, Fordyce News Advocate, Gurdon Times, Hot Springs Village Voice, Sentinel Record, Spirit of Saline County, Tri-Lakes, and Sheridan Headlight on August 28, 2003.

Fun-Ed/Continuing Education Classes to begin in September at OTC

Ouachita Technical College is offering Fun Ed/Continuing Education Classes beginning in September. Class offerings are listed below along with their start dates. If you are interested in any of the classes, please contact Tony Hunnicutt at (501)337-5000, ext. 1136, for costs, times, etc.

CLASS	STARTING DATE
Conversational Spanish	Monday, September 8
Computer Basics	Thursday, September 11
Learning to Crochet	Monday, September 15
Floral Arrangements	Thursday, September 18
Self-Express with Watercolors	Thursday, September 18
Beginning Knitting	Monday, September 22
Auto Mechanics	Monday, September 22
Hypnotherapy	TBA

School Board discusses half-day kindergarten, college credit

By Andrea Isaac Adams

The Sheridan School District Board Members are looking at a variety of options for students in the coming school year, including college and high school partnerships that would allow students to earn college credits and a half-day kindergarten program. The board also heard a parent request regarding the formation of a class for gymnastics.

The School Board meeting, held Feb. 11, included a report by high school principal Betty Cook that outlined the possibilities of Sheridan High School teaming up with SEARK Technical College and Ouachita Technical College, enabling students to apply for concurrent college credit while they are in high school.

Principal Cook stated that SEARK would accept students that were currently enrolled in certain Advanced Placement classes (such as AP Biology, AP English), if the students would pay approximately \$40 per college hour. SEARK would accept SHS-issued textbooks and students would attend classes normally. The student would be expected to maintain at least a C average, and upon completion of the class, would receive college credit as well high school credit.

Ouachita Technical College

would also cost \$40 per college hour, but classes would be conducted before or after normal school hours three days a week by a SHS teacher. Students would purchase books from OTC and follow the OTC syllabus, and upon completion of the course, would receive college as well as high school credit.

Principal Cook said that she believed the concurrent programs would be good to offer students, and noted that many public schools are utilizing similar college programs. The board voted to proceed with the implementation.

The possibility of a half-day kindergarten program at Sheridan Elementary School was discussed by members with Asst. Superintendent Steve Brown. Brown stated that by the end of Feb., 150 kindergartners are expected to be enrolled for the 2002-2003 school year, and that parents of those enrolled will have been given the opportunity to express an interest in the program.

Information packets are currently available at SES for rising-kindergartners, said Brown, and within that packet is a sheet notify-

See Board page 2

Board

Continued from page 1

ing parents of the possible half-day kindergarten program. The sheet asks interested parents to sign the paper stating their interest. Brown told the board that he will be able to present the board with the number of parents who have signified a definite interest in the program next month.

Relay for Life Teams needed!

The HSC American Cancer Society is now registering teams for the Sixth Annual Relay for Life to be held 4:00 p.m. to 4:00 a.m. April 26 - 27, 2002, at Malvern High School's Claude Mann Stadium. The first team captain meeting is Monday, February 18, 5:30 p.m., at Ouachita Technical College. To register a team or to find out what the Relay is all about, call 332-3658 for June Prince (extension 1133 or jprince@otcweb.org) or Amber Lindsey (extension 1170 or amber@otcweb.org).

Relay for Life Schedule

Teams for the Relay for Life need to call 332-3658 for June Prince (extension 1133 or jprince@otcweb.org) or Amber Lindsey (extension 1170 or amber@otcweb.org) in the evening. Call before the first week of March.

Cancer survivors should begin contacting Connie Cheatham at 332-7361 immediately. Call before the first week of March.

A kickoff parade for the Relay for Life will be held at 6 p.m. Thursday,

March 14 in downtown Malvern. Teams and survivors will participate in the parade.

Relay for Life is an annual event which supports cancer research within in the state.

All money donated and raised by teams will be spent within our region assisting cancer patients and survivors.

Lee hasn't regretted her decision

By KRISTEN ALMOND
Staff Writer

Arnescia Lee serves as the receptionist at Brandon's Mortuary, a family owned and operated business that has been in the area for over 27 years.

She is married to Charles Lee, an employee of Weyerhaeuser (formerly Willamette), the mother of two, Courtney Lee, 19, and Charnescia Lee, 10; the step-mother of two, LaTara Lee, 21, and Deonté, 19, and the grandmother of one, Ma'kyaha.

Lee originally worked in a factory in Malvern which eventually closed down. She had worked there 15 years. While the plant closing meant uncertainty and doubt for a lot of its employees, for Lee it meant freedom.

After losing her job, she enrolled in Ouachita Technical College, taking medical transcriptionist classes. Toward the end of the semester, her sister-in-law, Alberta, called to offer her a position at Brandon's. To set a good example for her children, Lee did not quit school right away: instead she finished out the semester and then began working with her family. She has worked there for three years now.

Lee admits that it took some adjusting and change on her part to avoid being overemotional with families who have lost loved ones, but over time she has been able to adjust and change so that she may be of better service to the families.

"When I first started working here, during family visitations I would cry as bad as the family members. I was just so emotional," she explained. "I realized one day that I was not helping the families by being overemotional and it is getting easier for me to control my emotions."

Lee said the part of her job that is the most difficult is helping families who have lost young people, such as children and babies. She cited the sudden death of Malvern High School football star Anthony Brown as one of the most difficult for her.

"When Coach Alpe brought all of Anthony's teammates in for a special visitation, I got very emotional."

Lee says being able to spend more time with her family has been a definite perk in this job. She and her sister-in-law are not only friends and confidants, but have good working relationship as well.

Anytime Lee would like to go to her children's functions, she is able to attend. This comes in handy for her especially around Girl Scout cookie time: she

support our families."

She also believes that women hold a valuable role in the workplace. "Most men procrastinate; women get the job done."

Lee admits that being the eldest of five children has contributed to her need to take care of everyone in her family. Thanks to family helping family, it is much easier for her to juggle the art of being a working mother, but as most mothers know, the unexpected will always happen. Lee says she puts it in God's hands then. Apparently He has yet to let her down.



Malvern Daily Record

February 23, 2002

Saturday, February 23, 2002

Women In The Workplace

Malvern Daily Record - Page 11

Rynders balances requirements of work, family, community

By KRISTEN ALMOND
Staff Writer

Joyce Rynders is not only an Assistant Vice President at Southern State Bank, but a devoted wife and mother who makes sure she is there for her family and her community.

She is married to Jack Rynders, who is employed as a manager at Food Center, and together they have two sons, Chris, 14, and Jason, 11.

After graduating from Henderson State University with a Bachelor of Science in Business and Administration, she found herself looking for employment and found her way into banking after being offered a position at the Bank of Malvern. She has been in this field for 17 years and has no plans to change.

Rynders started off as a teller and worked her way up the ranks, serving first as a bookkeeper, teller and then into the loan department, eventually earning the supervisors position over the loan department, and finally to her current position as

Assistant Vice President serving in the Loan Servicing Department and overseeing all the computer needs of Southern State.

Rynders joined Southern State Bank's staff in October 1995. It's a decision she does not regret.

Originally, the bank had only one small branch with seven staff members. Several careful strides have been taken since then, including the construction of the new main branch on East Page as well as the addition of a second branch in Rockport. They have also have tripled their work force. The bank also now offers telephone banking and a website.

Rynders believes the greatest stride made so far by the bank is its computer advances. When she began, it was still a brand new bank and staff members were working from hard copy printouts, even posting on ledger cards rather than the much faster and more efficient way offered by computers.

"Advances in computer technology have banking totally different from what it used to be," said Rynders.

She believes that if you work your way up from the bottom learning more and more as you go, then when you do reach a position of management you know more about the workings of bank overall because you understand each department's duties and needs firsthand.

When asked what the biggest change for women in her field has been, Rynders pointed out that when she began in the business, there were few women in the upper management positions.

"Tellers were predominately female, but you just did not see many in the upper management positions," she explained.

Rynders says in today's banking world, women are offered room for advancement as well as more diversity in job duties. Women can now be found in just about every department and are no longer limited to just teller duties.

"Women are given a chance now," said Rynders.

She believes that women serve a very important role in the work force. "Women

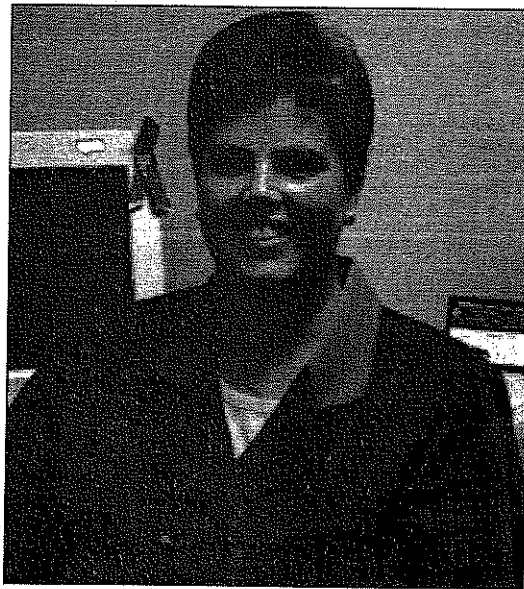
can accomplish many different tasks at the same time without receiving accolades," she explains.

Aside from juggling a multi-faceted career, Rynders also finds the time to be a very active mother to her sons. Anyone who knows her has seen the ever-present lawn chairs in the back of her vehicle. She rarely misses a game or event that her children are participating in.

"It is difficult at times to juggle work and home, but I have a lot of support from Jack and my parents. It is simply a matter of setting priorities and making use of your time," she said.

She is also very thankful to Southern State Bank, which prides itself on being family oriented. Rynders explained that she is allowed to adjust her lunch hour for any event she might wish to attend, and said the bank is very flexible and understanding when it comes to an employee's family life.

She also manages to find the time to be an active member of the community: she has served as Southern State's co-captain for two



years on their Relay for Life team, is a member of the Malvern Jaycees, serves on the OTC Adult Education Advisory Board, is a member of the Magnet Cove Booster Club, served as a basketball coach at the Boys and Girls Club for three years and is currently assisting with the coaching of Magnet Cove's fifth-grade basketball team.

She is the prime example of how to be successful in a career, a good wife, a wonderful mother and a good friend to many. Most people never truly realize how much she is juggling; however, her devotion to her family and her community are apparent. They are as clear as the smile that's always on her face.

Prince a strong educational asset to Hot Spring County and OTC

By JOHN NELSON
Staff Writer

June Prince, 46, is one of Malvern's most prominent women in business and a sought-after source to have in the educational field.

Prince is vice president for planning and assessment at Ouachita Technical College.

Prince is married to Dennis Prince, an Alcoa employee, and the couple has two children: Corey, 23, and Amber, 19.

"Both of my children are college students, both have attended Ouachita Technical College, and both are now students at the University of Arkansas in Fayetteville," she said.

Prince said her personal interests are being involved with the First United Methodist Church, and going to NASCAR races.

"I go to NASCAR races when I can and really enjoy the relaxation," she said.

Civically, Prince is involved with the "Relay for Life" effort here, which

benefits the American Cancer Society.

"Relay for Life is coming up in Malvern from 4 p.m. on April 26 until 4 a.m. on April 27. Our theme this year is patriotism, going along with the Olympics," Prince said.

The educational specialist is involved in institutional research, involving federal and state requirements. Prince keeps up with enrollment statistics and trends, coordinates the planning process, and makes sure the school maintains accountability, accreditation and accessibility.

"I started at OTC in 1991 as a faculty member," she said. "The place had just gone through a transition from a vocational technical school to a college in 1990. We were given 10 years of accreditation in 2001, through the North Central Association. That is the maximum."

Prince said she has been in her current position about five years. When she

started, she taught business classes.

A native of Malvern, Prince graduated from Malvern High School in 1973. She went to college at Henderson State University in Arkadelphia, earning a bachelor degree in business education in 1976.

She returned to Henderson in 1989 and earned a masters degree in counseling. From 1976 until 1989, she taught school at Malvern Junior High School and Malvern High School.

"My husband and I moved to Richmond, Va., for his job and I was an educational counselor for two years before coming home and going to work for OTC," she said.

Prince said she obtained her present position by working up from within the framework of the college.

"One of my biggest challenges was when we went through our accreditation process. It was a lot of work for just a

few people. It has been exciting to see how far this institution has come," she said.

"It is exciting to work at a place where people will do what it takes to be successful."

Prince said she comes from a long line of educators in her family, and that history is probably one of the biggest reasons she works in the field of education.

Prince said women have always worked in the educational field "and it is a line of work where they move up quickly."

She said, "I believe women make an impact in education."

Prince praises OTC for never making it feel as though she might not move up quickly because of being a woman.

"It is just never been a problem here," Prince said.

She said her mother is one of her strongest mentors, as Joy Faucett of

Malvern is a retired elementary school teacher.

"I can not say enough about our college," she said. "I was encouraged and I try to encourage others."

Ouachita Technical College, she noted, offers technical certificates of professionalism, associate degrees, a transfer program, business and industrial training, a high

school career center, and an adult education program to obtain a GED or to catch up on needed skills before college.

"We have enrolled 1,008 in college credit classes alone, which does not even count those enrolled in our other programs," she said. "I knew more about education than other fields when I started. It has been good for me."





*OTC honors
the women of the College.*

OTC

Ouachita Tech tops spring, fall enrollment from 2001

MALVERN — Ouachita Technical College in Malvern has set a record enrollment for the spring 2002 semester, OTC president Dr. Barry Ballard announced recently.

Ballard said the number represents a four percent increase over the previous record in fall 2001 of 968 students enrolled. The spring 2001 enrollment at OTC was 831.

"The college projects enrollment will continue to increase during the 2002-03 academic year," Ballard said. "Programs in information technology, early childhood education, practical nursing, medical transcription and general studies for university transfer, continue to grow. We also have plans to

add other high-demand career programs and courses."

OTC was recently named as one of the nation's 50 fastest-growing two-year colleges. According to a report in Community College Week, OTC ranked 27th among the Top 50 Fastest Growing Public Two-Year Colleges with fewer than 2,500 students.

In addition to college-credit classes, OTC also provides non-credit instruction to more than 2,000 students per year through its adult education programs, high school career center, business and industry training programs and avocational courses.

More information about OTC is available by calling (501) 332-3658.

*"Small classes...friendly atmosphere...
personal attention...smooth registration"*

These are just
a few things
our students
are saying about
Ouachita
Technical College.



Art Council Invitation

Anyone and all previous members who would like some meaningful community service opportunities are invited to

attend the next Art Council meeting. For those interested in the revitalization of Hot Spring County through fun and creative efforts and events, you all are

invited to share your views and talent with the Art Council of Hot Spring County. The meeting will be held at the Ouachita Technical College, Community

Boardroom, B102 on February 27, 2002 Wednesday 4 p.m.-5 p.m. Call Debbie Shelman, Secretary at 501-844-4825 or Merrilee Kinzie at 337-5498.

Blood drive today

The American Red Cross Blood Services' Greater Ozarks/Arkansas Region is asking for your help. Two days of collections were lost because of snow earlier this month, and the Greater Ozarks/Arkansas Region is having to rely on other regions to supply its area hospitals. The two lost days represent 1,000 units of blood that could not be collected.

To help make up for this, the Red Cross encourages any donors to attend a blood drive Ouachita Technical College Wednesday, Feb. 27, from 9 a.m. to 2 p.m.

To donate blood, one must be healthy, at least 17 years old and weigh 110 pounds or more. For more information, call 501-614-4400 or 1-800-GIVE-LIFE.

TV auction group sets deadlines

By SHIRA KELLEY
News Editor

The Cable TV Auction committee met Tuesday to distribute a call list for merchandise collections and set the donation deadline at March 24.

Chamber members will begin collecting donations to be auctioned during the tenth annual event. This year's benefit Libby's R.O.S. is a non-profit ministry organization.

Auction Committee Chairperson Brenda Weldon said anyone inter-

ested in helping with the auction can contact her at Summit Bank (337-7788). Personnel from Ouachita Technical College, where the auction will be held, will help cover telephone lines, she said.

The auction will be held April 4. The 12-day interval between the donation deadline and auction date will allow Chamber president Rosemary Darrow to complete the extensive paperwork for the event.

See Auction, page 16

Auction

• continued from page 1

The committee — and any volunteers with pickup trucks and trailers — will transport items from the Malvern/Hot Spring County Chamber to OTC April 4, beginning at 1 p.m.

Weldon said businesses will be contacted; however, any individual who wishes to donate items can call the chamber or drop the item off there.

She said Cox Communication will continue its traditional role in the Cable TV Auction. The Extension Homemakers Club provides snacks for the auction workers and in past years some pizzerias have brought pizza.

Weldon said workers who wish to bid on items being auctioned must do so at a table that will be set up for them. Bids from workers and from public callers will be treated equally, she said, saying the separate table will prevent confusion of workers passing a bid across the room and will prevent bids from being slipped in after the official bidding ends.

The committee also said it will try to eliminate extra people from the auction room to lower noise levels and confusion.

Teresa Bailey, a member of the committee and candidate for county tax collector, said in interest of fairness

The auction ends at 10 p.m. Buyers have until 11 p.m. to retrieve their purchases or can pick up items before noon the following day at OTC.

A disclaimer will be read and posted during the auction, reminding bidders that the items are donated and the Chamber is not responsible for them.

Donors of items up to \$150 will be advertised during the time that item is being auctioned. Donors of items over \$150 will be displayed throughout the auction.

The committee will meet again March 19 to finalize details.

R.O.S.E. Director Dorothy Massengale thanked the committee for dedicating this year's auction to the ministry.

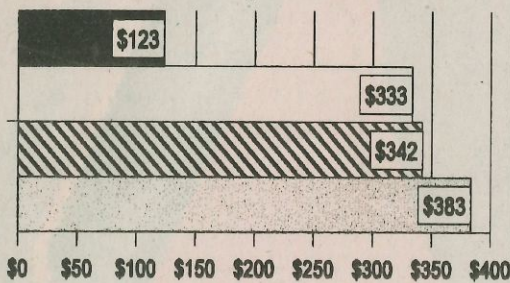
We Will Pay Hutchinson Income Tax

OUACHITA TECHNICAL COLLEGE

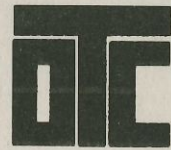
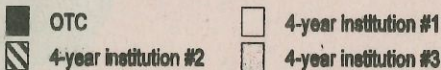
Compare us to area
4-year institutions...

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**ONE COLLEGE CIRCLE
MALVERN, AR 72104**

(501)332-3658

(800)337-0266

Ouachita Technical College plans for future accommodations

By MARK BIVENS
Editor

There's good news at Ouachita Technical College in more areas than might appear on the surface. Dr. Barry Ballard, entering his first calendar year as the president at OTC, said the statistics tell the tale. OTC is the 23rd fastest-growing two-year college in the nation. Ballard said there should be more good news around the corner.

"We're planing for more growth," Ballard said. "Things are going very well."

There were 875 students enrolled for the fall semester and in Ballard's words, "as many as 200 not in the system yet."

Ballard said there have been 8,400 semester credit hours, compared to 8,200 last fall. Next semester, Ballard says 1,000 in enrollment is a realistic goal.

"In my guess, we're going to be up 15 to 20 percent in amount of instruction," Ballard said.

Ouachita Technical College offers two types of Associate Degrees, the Associate of Arts and Association of Applied Science.

The Associate of Arts is basically the first and second year of a four-year degree and the Associate of Applied Science is designed for career development, such as Business Technology, Accounting and Medical Transcription.

Ballard said there is a "strong" demand for Business and Computer Information Systems courses. There are 550 computers at OTC.

"These areas are real hot," Ballard said. "Anything in business is

good and CIS is strong. Our biggest programs are in the area of general education to transfer (credits). Our students are very well received by senior institutions all over the state."

Ballard said most students transfer their credits from OTC to Henderson State University, Southern Arkansas University, UALR and University of Central Arkansas.

Ballard said students with two years of education from OTC typically score higher on examinations administered by the state than students with two years of education from four-year schools. Ballard credited smaller classes, better access to teachers and more individual attention for that achievement.

Part of OTC's future plans consist of a \$1 million building to house the nursing school programs. Ballard said OTC's nursing classes are popular now due to a "tremendous shortage

of nurses."

The funds to complete that building were already in place, Ballard said. Bids were released at the end of January and a contractor will be selected the last week of March.

Although smaller classes have their advantages, Ballard said at least 20 to 30 students are needed to maintain a program.

Ballard said OTC had some "outstanding" programs prior to becoming accredited in the early 1990s that were phased out. Courses such as algebra were required for a degree in those classes.

"A lot of vocational students didn't like that," Ballard said. "The enrollments dropped off. I'm interested in opening some of those back up."

Ballard has ambitions of reinstating automotive classes, machine shop and welding.

"We've got to make sure there's a need for them,"



Ballard said of studying the need for those courses. "In some cases, we still have the equipment (needed for the previously mentioned courses) here."

Ballard said those courses could be reinstated in the next three to five years.

Ballard also said OTC was "studying" the feasibility of adding new programs in the medical field. Those could be housed in the new building. Another possible addition could be a program in teaching. Ballard said students could get their first two years of credit toward a degree in teacher education at OTC and then transfer to a four-year

school. Ballard said the shortage of teachers could make that an attractive program.

Ballard said OTC trains about 750 working employees in the fields of business and industry.

"We deliver training to almost every business and industry in this area," Ballard said.

OTC has approximately 200 high school students from 10 area high schools in five different programs. Approximately 80 to 100 will graduate from the GED program.

"We're reaching over

3,000 people a Ballard said. "We're pleased about that. We 17 percent this past f

That rates OTC a third largest growing lege in Arkansas.

"We want to keep cost," Ballard said prime goal at OTC.

There are over employees at OTC school has a \$6 budget.

"That's a nice econ contribution to M and Hot Spring C Ballard said.

Ballard took the p of president at OTC 2001.



Technical College plans for future accommodations

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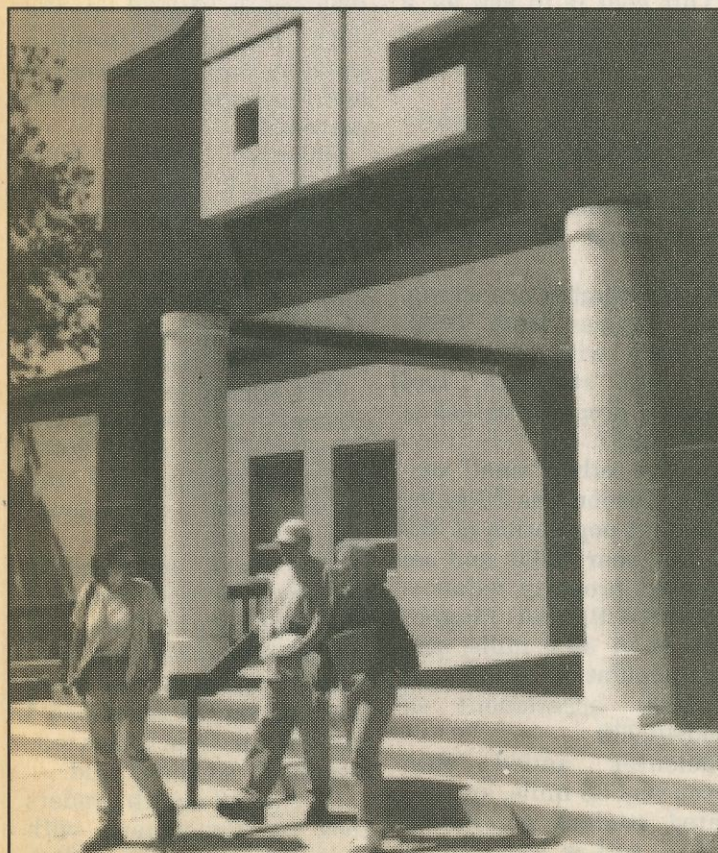
That rates OTC as the third largest growing college in Arkansas.

"We want to keep it low cost," Ballard said of a prime goal at OTC.

There are over 100 employees at OTC. The school has a \$6 million budget.

"That's a nice economical contribution to Malvern and Hot Spring County," Ballard said.

Ballard took the position of president at OTC May 1, 2001.



OTC **Ouachita**
Technical College

PART-TIME FACULTY

OTC in Malvern is seeking qualified applicants for a ***Part-Time Nursing Instructor*** to teach in the Certified Nursing Assistant Program in Benton. ***Qualifications:*** Current RN License required, two or more years of nursing experience with at least one year in long-term care.

Application deadline March 15, 2002. For more information, contact Sharon Turley, Nursing Department Chair, at (501)332-3658 or (800)337-0266, ext. 1160 or 1114. Hiring procedures include drug testing and a background check.

Please send resume with cover letter to:

Personnel Office

Ouachita Technical College

Malvern, AR 72104

OTC is an AA/EO Two-Year College.

'Relay for Life' revving up

By JOHN NELSON
Staff Writer

The sixth annual Malvern "Relay for Life," American Cancer Society fundraiser will kick off with a 6 p.m. parade this evening.

June Prince, of Ouachita Technical College, has been involved with the Relay for Life effort since its inception. She told Lions Club members Tuesday about how the effort has grown.

"We started with 12 teams and raised about \$25,000 to fight cancer," she said.

"Last year, there were 32 teams and we raised about \$66,000. This go



June Prince

around we have 38 teams." Prince said the parade

will include a rally at the Hot Spring County Courthouse with Relay for Life Cancer Survivors representative Tim Hale on hand.

There will be lighting of the "RFL Olympic Torch."

The next phase of "Relay for Life" will be at 8 a.m. Tuesday, April 23, when Hale will make a bicycle stop at Brookshire's parking lot.

But Prince said the main event will be Friday and Saturday, April 26 and 27, when the 12-hour, 4 p.m. until 4 a.m. HSC Sixth Annual "Relay for Life" begins. The opening ceremony is at 7 p.m.

Prince told Lions Club

members the cancer survival rate has improved in recent years, and is now at 62 percent.

"Cancer never sleeps is our theme," she said. "One in every two men gets cancer, and one in every three women will get it."

As for the April 26-27 weekend event, Prince said it is a huge bunting party with plenty of food and fun for all.

"It is really awesome to see that many people turn out to support a good cause," she said.

Prince said there are usually at least 600 to 700 people turn out for the night of the relay.

Cooking tonight

The Taste of Home Cooking School will be held tonight at Malvern High School Auditorium beginning at 7 p.m.

The doors open at 6 p.m.

Tickets may be purchased at the door for \$6.

There will be free gift bags for everyone attending.

The *Malvern Daily Record* is sponsoring the event. Local businesses participating are Orr's Furniture, MNB Bank, Food Center, Family Market, Regency Funeral Home, Atkinson's Funeral Home, OTC and Southern State Bank.

Artist displays in OTC Library

The art of Olivia Pierce of Malvern is currently on display in the Ouachita Technical College Library.

Pierce is a graduate of Malvern High School and Henderson State University, is now retired from teaching art at Malvern High School and Glen Rose High School. She has also taught art classes at OTC and The Art Studio in Benton.

On display are several pencil drawings, oils on canvas, and pen and ink. Also included in this show are four large gourds, painted with very detailed picture stories in acrylic.

Pierce says she prefers drawing to painting, liking the feel of pencil to paper and enjoying the challenge and control of pen and ink. But she also says, "At times I have a

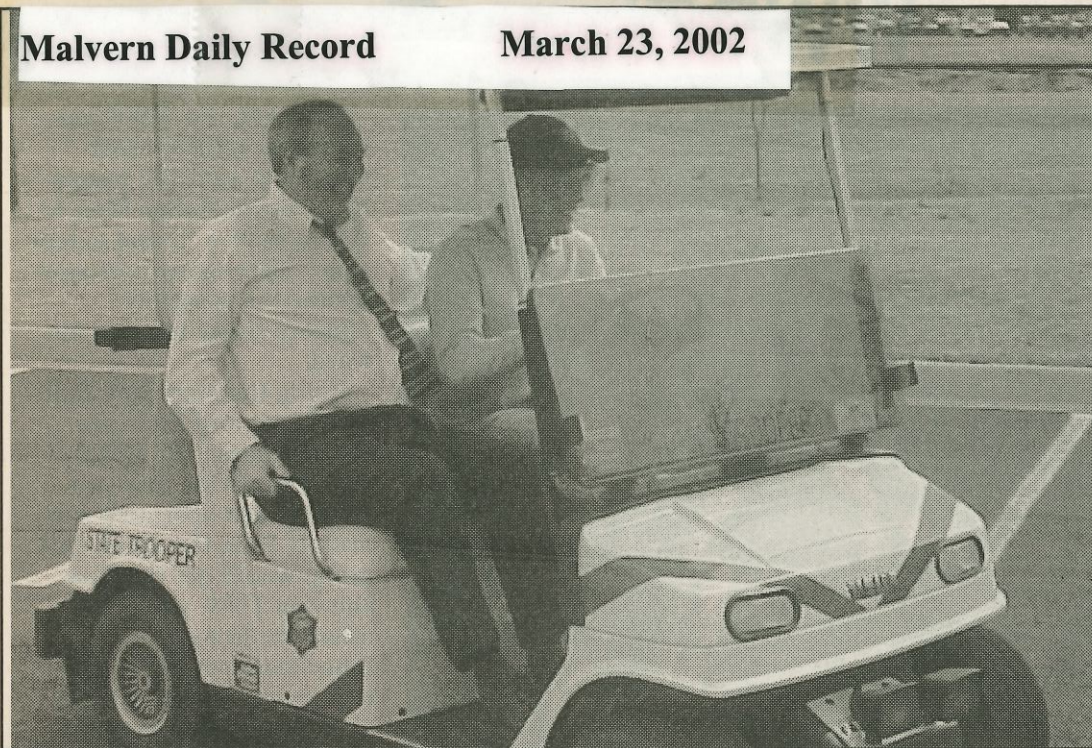
hunger for color and that is when I paint."

This art will be on display until April 15, 2002. The Library/LRC is open from 7:30 a.m. until 7:30 p.m. Monday through Thursday and from 7:30 a.m. until 4:30 p.m. on Friday.

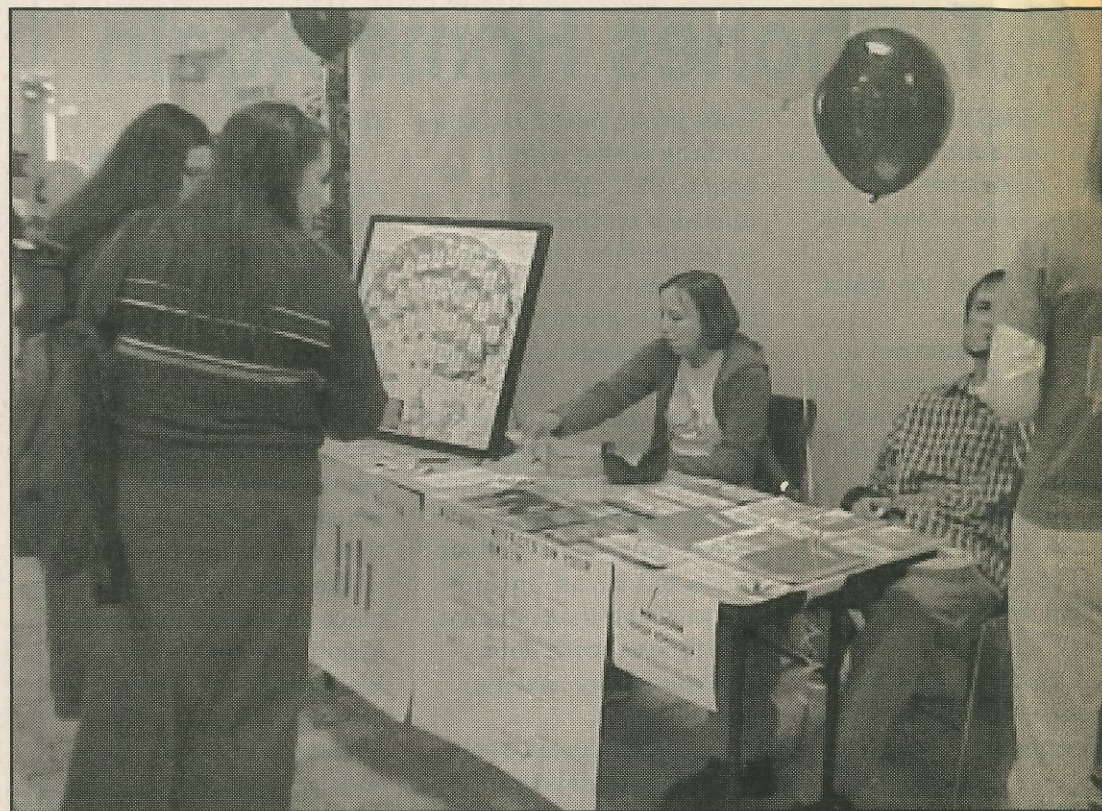
Alcohol and Drug Awareness Day at OTC

Malvern Daily Record

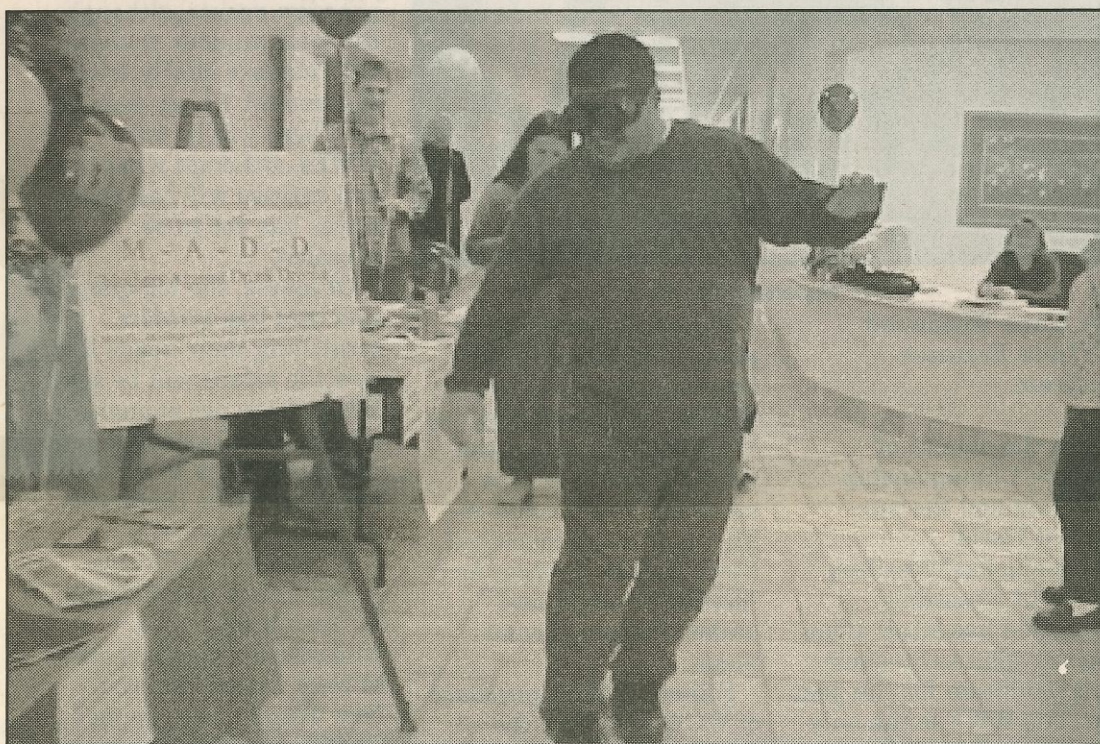
March 23, 2002



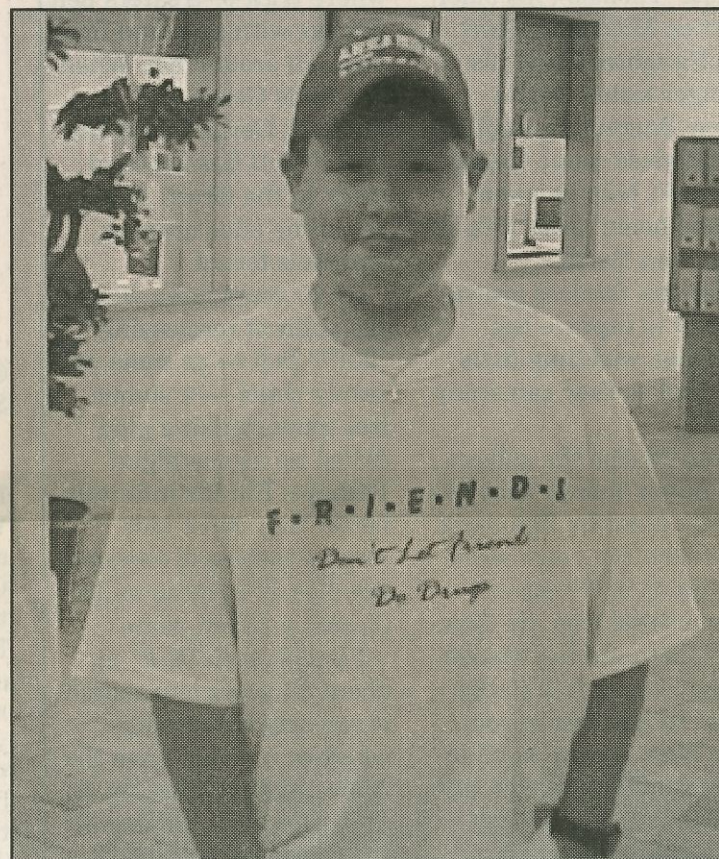
Pictured above: an OTC student wearing "fatal vision goggles" tries to operate a golf cart as OTC Councilor Vaughn Kesterson holds on. (Photo submitted)



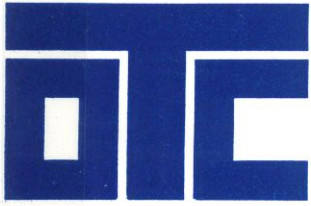
Pictured above:
Malvern High School
Peer Counselors educate
students on the risks of
Alcohol and Drug abuse.



Pictured above: OTC student Tom Davies attempts to walk a straight line while "under the influence of fatal vision goggles". (Photo submitted)



Pictured to the left:
Justin Tidwell shows
off one of the many T-
shirts that were given
away as door prizes to
participants during
OTC's Alcohol/Drug
Awareness Program.
(Photos submitted)



Ouachita Technical College

Submitted to:	
Tri-Lakes Edition	March 25, 2002
Malvern Daily Record	March 25, 2002
Arkadelphia Daily Siftings	March 25, 2002
Sheridan Headlight	March 25, 2002
Fordyce Advocate	March 25, 2002
Benton Courier	March 25, 2002

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
March 25, 2002

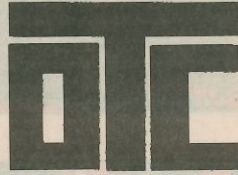
CONTACT: AMBER J. LINDSEY
(501) 332-3658, ext. 1170

Transfer/Career Fair at OTC Announced

Ouachita Technical College in Malvern will host its annual Transfer/Career Fair on Wednesday, April 10, 2002, from 10:00 a.m. until 1:00 p.m. The event is designed to give students the opportunity to visit with representatives from area businesses, health care providers and health care educators. Representatives from various four-year colleges/universities in Arkansas will be in attendance to help students interested in transferring to a four-year institution. The OTC Transfer/Career Fair is open to anyone wishing to attend and is highly recommended for high school and college students. Call (800) 337-0266, ext. 1111 for more details.

*"...Small classes...friendly atmosphere...
personal attention...smooth
registration..."*

These are just a few of
the things students are
saying about
Ouachita
Technical College.



**Malvern Memorial
Chapter 29 to meet**

The Malvern Memorial Chapter 29 of the Disabled American Veterans will meet at the Ouachita Technical College on April 5 at 6 p.m. All members are encouraged to attend. All disabled veterans are welcome to the meeting. After the meeting refreshments will be served.

**Miss Malvern
Community Service
Pageant**

The Miss Malvern Community Service Pageant will be held April 13, 2002 at Ouachita Technical College. Little Miss competition will begin at 9 a.m. Miss and Teen Miss Malvern will be held at 2 p.m. New categories have been added. Supreme Queen ages 0-35 months, Supreme Queen ages 3-6 and Supreme Queen ages 7-12 and Ad Sales. Each winner of the new divisions will receive a crown. To qualify for Supreme Queen the contestant must enter all optional phases of competition. (Beauty \$35, Photogenic \$5, each of the other optional \$5 each totaling \$65) Rehearsal will be Friday night at OTC. See forms for details. Applications are at CK Consignments, Clipper Ship, Collins Pharmacy, Cuttin Up, Ruthalene's, Summit Bank and Young's Health Mart. Registration Sunday, March 24 at OTC at 2 p.m. Group photos and late registration deadline April 7 at OTC 2 p.m. Limit 15 contestants per group.

Gassman fired up for fifth term as JP for District 2

By SHIRA KELLEY
News Editor

Dale Gassman announced that he is seeking a fifth term as District 2 Justice of the Peace for Hot Spring County.

Gassman said he wants to see the county prosper. "We have a lot of things coming together over the next few years that the county has been working on for a long time," Gassman said.

Current county growths include Duke Energy, Tractebel, and the Riverwalk. The Riverwalk, he said, will attract tourism, ranging from kayakers to anyone who enjoys being outdoors.

Gassman said all the county's projects will create jobs and help the tax base. "We have a lot of assets in the county. We have a good fresh water supply;

See Gassman, page 13

Gassman

continued from page 1

Ouachita Technical College helps companies that need technical training and there's a good employee base to draw from," he said. "When people find out about Malvern and what we have, I think we'll attract more and more new business as time goes by."

Gassman is an elder at First Presbyterian Church. A Vietnam-era veteran, he served in the United States Navy for eight years. He has worked at the Alcoa Continuous Rolling plant for 23 years.

His wife, Penny Gassman, is a teacher at Pratt Kindergarten. They have a 14-year-old daughter at home who is active in school and honor activities.

Gassman has lived in Hot Spring County since 1976; his family is from Malvern, he said.

"I want to see the county grow and things take place for the people of the county," he said.

He mentioned county roads, saying they "are in terrible shape," and said various "financial issues" have set the county backward. "Hopefully things will get better over the next few years. We need to keep good county employees and keep decent wages and decent benefits for them," Gassman said.

He mentioned such progress as the establishment of 911 and the Courthouse Annex housing offices but said the county needs to move ahead in technology and industry.

"I look forward to continuing to serve the people of the county to the best of my ability. In the past several years the county has worked well with (Malvern Mayor) Steve Northcutt and the city of Malvern. I hope this cooperation will continue over the next several years ... It benefits both the city and the county," he said.

"I highly recommend Ouachita Technical College for anyone seeking an education in Nursing. OTC has so much to offer."

-Marcia Rogers, LPN
1978 OTC graduate
Employed at HSC Medical Center 23 years



"...the instructors and staff at Ouachita Technical College were helpful and genuinely interested in my success."

-Shari Roys
OTC Bookstore Manager

"I would not be where I am today without OTC."

-Debbie Gullett
OTC Microcomputer Systems Technology Instructor



(501)337-5000
www.otcweb.edu



'Arkansas stories'

The Hot Spring County Historical Society was invited by Dr. Marvin Schultz to join his history class for a presentation of "Arkansas Stories" by Charlie Sandage and Harmony.

This is an entertaining and enlightening program of Arkansas history, in which they play a variety of acoustical instruments with songs whose story range from Caddo Indians to the advent of rock-and-roll music.

The meeting is at 7 p.m. April 1.

Art Council Open Meeting

The Art Council of Hot Spring County meeting will be held at the Ouachita Technical Community College, Community Boardroom, B102 on March 27, 2002 from 4 p.m.-5 p.m.

Historical Society change of venue

The Historical Society will meet at OTC Room A-309 (Terraced Lecture Hall) instead of the First Methodist Church on Monday, April 1 at 7 p.m.

OTC stages 'Speak up, Arkansas'

■ Discussing public schools is tonight's agenda.

By SHIRA KELLEY
News Editor

A meeting tonight will give citizens statewide a chance to discuss what they want public schools to do to educate children.

The Blue Ribbon Commission on Public Education will host community meetings in the "Speak Up, Arkansas" program in all 75 counties tonight, in an organized effort to give everyone the opportunity to submit ideas for education reform.

Hot Spring County's meeting will be held at Ouachita Technical College's Lecture Hall. All the meetings will be held from 6-8 p.m. For more information about this, con-

tact Marty Martin at 332-2721.

Bob McGinnis, co-chair of the Blue Ribbon Commission, said, "We have at least one location in each county where Arkansas citizens will have the opportunity to express their ideas and views on improving education in our state. It's a statewide event unlike anything we have ever seen before."

The Commission said participants will be asked one question: What do you want from our public schools?

Co-chair Stacy Pittman said, "This simple question invites all kinds of responses. That's what the Commission wants — to know what the public wants. That means parents, students, teachers, administrators, school board members, business

people, community leaders and senior citizens — all of Arkansas — can voice their concerns about public education and discuss solutions."

Each site will have facilitators to help lead discussions and record participant input. All participants will see a brief video about Arkansas education and then form small groups to discuss problems and solutions. Notes from those discussions will be sent to the Blue Ribbon Commission.

In a press release, Pittman said, "We want the public to understand that these meetings are about them, about their communities and about their ideas for improving education. These are not public hearings or gripe sessions. This is a unique opportunity for Arkansans' ideas about education reform to be heard."



Malvern and Hot Spring County Schools Are Drug Free & Proud

Peer Leaders make presentation at OTC

Malvern High School Peer Leaders sponsored a booth on March 12 & 13 for the Alcohol and Drug Awareness Week at Ouachita Technical College.

The Peer Leaders provided pamphlets on drug awareness and drinking and driving. The youth also had the Fatal Vision goggles for those attending the informational booths to have an opportunity to see and experience the feel and impairment of being under the influence of both alcohol and other drug substances.

The youth offered two types of goggles for those at OTC to wear and try to walk the line and to try to

Bailey, Jamie Scrimshire, Kendall Keese and Ricky Chastain.

Mrs. Williams made arrangements for the Arkansas Department of Corrections Inmate Panel to make presentations to the OYC students on Tuesday morning and Wilson Elementary 6th grade on Tuesday afternoon. The inmates discussed the dangers of drugs, alcohol and negative behaviors. Each inmate stressed the importance of education, positive friendships, and staying away from drugs, alcohol and gangs. The inmates also discussed the hardship of being in prison and the privileges and freedoms

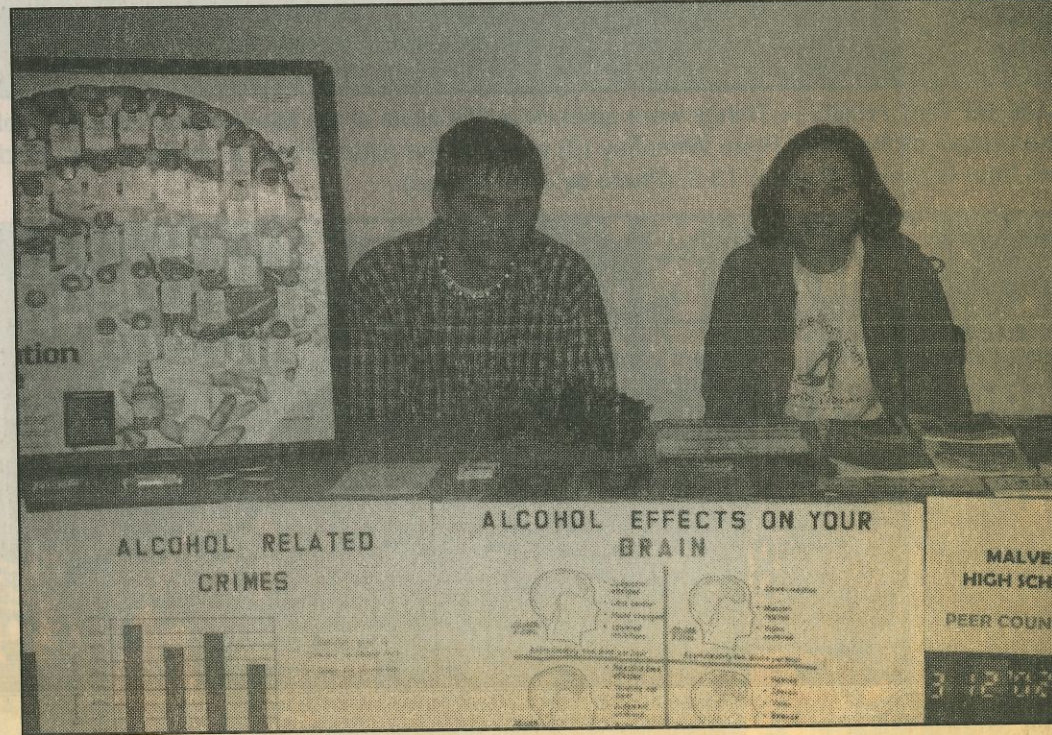
tions at the end of each presentation. Mrs. Williams stated that several teachers and parents have said that in their opinion the inmate panel is one of the most effective ways to teach young people about consequences. They wish all youth had the opportunity to hear from this inmate panel. Mr. Willie Jones, TVP Coordinator for the Benton Pre-Release of the ADC accompanied the inmates and also gave a short presentation to each of the groups.

On March 14 & 15, Malvern School District Drug Prevention Program sponsored a Drug Impairment Training for Educational Professional (DITEP).

The Arkansas DITEP program is funded by a grant from Pfizer Pharmaceutical Company and the Arkansas Highway and Transportation Department. The program is administered and coordinated by the Criminal Justice Institute, which is part of the University of Arkansas System.

Mr. Richard Davis is Program Coordinator and worked with Mrs. Wanda Williams, District Prevention Coordinator to present this two-day training for local educators from Malvern School District, County-wide school nurses, school resource officers, emergency medical technicians, fire fighters and emergency room nurses. Approximately 38 educators, 12 medical personnel, fire fighters and 6 resource officers attended the training.

The county schools will be forming intervention



MALVERN HIGH SCHOOL PEER LEADERS — Kyle Bailey and Jamie Scrimshire serve on the panel.

learned from the DITEP training. Several law enforcement officers from Little Rock, Conway and Fayetteville conducted portions of the training.

Lt. William (Bill) Ross and Sgt. Doye Delacruz with the Malvern Police Department in coordination with Malvern Police School

DrugNiolenche Prevention Program has just finished the Project Alert program for the 8th and 9th grade students at Malvern Junior High School. The program is designed for Jr. High level and provides students with 12 weekly lessons for 8th grade and 4 follow-up sessions for the 9th, The

sessions include decision making, skill building, refusal skills and information about the dangers of drugs and alcohol.

The partnership between the two agencies has been very rewarding for the faculty, students and the community.



FATAL VISION — Barbara Draper tries out goggles.



Chamber auction slated for tonight

By SHIRA KELLEY
News Editor

The annual Cable TV auction by the Malvern/Hot Spring County Chamber of Commerce will be held tonight. The auction begins at 6 p.m. on Malvern Cable Channel 13.

The event takes place at Ouachita Technical College, where a television will be

set up in a meeting room for those who do not have cable TV service. Viewers in this room can bid by cell phone. The number for bidding is 332-5000.

The annual auction benefits various organizations. This year's proceeds will go to Libby's R.O.S.E., a non-profit ministry organization.

No live audience will be

permitted in the auction area. Items may be claimed during or immediately after the auction.

The cashier's booth will close at 11 p.m. Items not picked up today must be picked up no later than noon Friday.

Payment is accepted in cash or by check. All sales are final and 'as is' with no exchanges or refunds except

where specified. No warranties are issued.

Items to be auctioned include hair products from Cuttin' Up, a tire rotation and balance by East Page Quick Lube and Tire for Less, a tool set from Advance Auto, floral arrangement by Malvern Florist, membership to U Go Girl Fitness Express, a glider rocker from Fred's

Discount, tanning visits to Body Images, a driftwood lamp from Wade's Taxidermy, six semester hours at OTC, an installed bedliner from Teeter Chevrolet, oak table and chairs from Hank's Fine Furniture, a rolltop desk from Weyerhaeuser and motor oil from Malvern Oil Co.

Farm Bureau Political Rally

Hot Spring County Farm Bureau is sponsoring a political rally Friday, April 19 at 7 p.m. at Ouachita Technical College. The rally will be televised on Malvern Cable TV channel 13. Come by or watch us on TV.



Malvern Daily Record

April 3, 2002

Benton Courier

April 3, 2002

The Sentinel Record

April 5, 2002

Hot Springs Village Voice

April 10, 2002



PART-TIME FACULTY

OTC in Malvern is seeking qualified applicants for *Part-Time Faculty* to teach day and evening classes in Malvern in the following subjects: *Basic Skills, Composition, Life Fitness, Oral Communication, Biology, Physics, Chemistry, Environmental/Earth Science, Humanities: Art or Theater, Early Childhood (Pre K) Education.*

Positions are available for summer and fall.

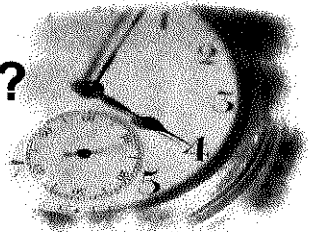
Qualifications: a Master's degree with 18 graduate hours is required. Please submit a cover letter and resume by *April 19, 2002*, to:

Terri Colananni, General Education Department Chair
Ouachita Technical College
One College Circle, Malvern, AR 72104
OTC is an AA/EQ Two-Year College.

Malvern Daily Record

April 6, 2002

**IS IT TIME
FOR A CHANGE?**



Visit the 2002 OTC
Transfer/Career Fair

Wednesday, April 10, 2002, 10 AM - 1PM
at Ouachita Technical College presented by
OTC & TRIO Student Support Services

**BRING YOUR RESUME
AND SPEAK TO THE MANY COLLEGE,
BUSINESS AND INDUSTRY REPRESENTATIVES.**

For more details, call (501)337-5000, ext. 1111.





Submitted to:
Malvern Daily Record April 8, 2002
Arkadelphia Daily Siftings April 8, 2002
Sentinel Record April 8, 2002
Fordyce Advocate April 8, 2002
Benton Courier April 8, 2002
Tri-Lakes Edition April 8, 2002
Gurdon Times April 8, 2002

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
April 8, 2002

CONTACT: AMBER J. LINDSEY
(501) 332-3658, ext. 1170

Ouachita Technical College recognizes Arbor Day

On Friday, March 29, the faculty, staff, and students of Ouachita Technical College in Malvern honored National Arbor Day by joining together for Arbor Day activities. National Arbor Day, a tree-planting holiday founded in the 1800's, is held on the last Friday in April, which is too late a date to plant trees in Arkansas. While Arkansas holds a statewide Arbor Day on the 3rd Monday in March, this date conflicted with OTC's Spring Break. OTC worked with the Student Government Association and chose March 29th as OTC Arbor Day observed.

A number of OTC's faculty, staff and students are members of the National Arbor Day Foundation. OTC's Arbor Day activities resulted in almost 40 OTC volunteers planting 18 new trees on the college's campus. The planters dug holes to the proper size and shape, cleaned out and put soil in the holes, planted the trees covering them with more soil, and water and mulch was added.

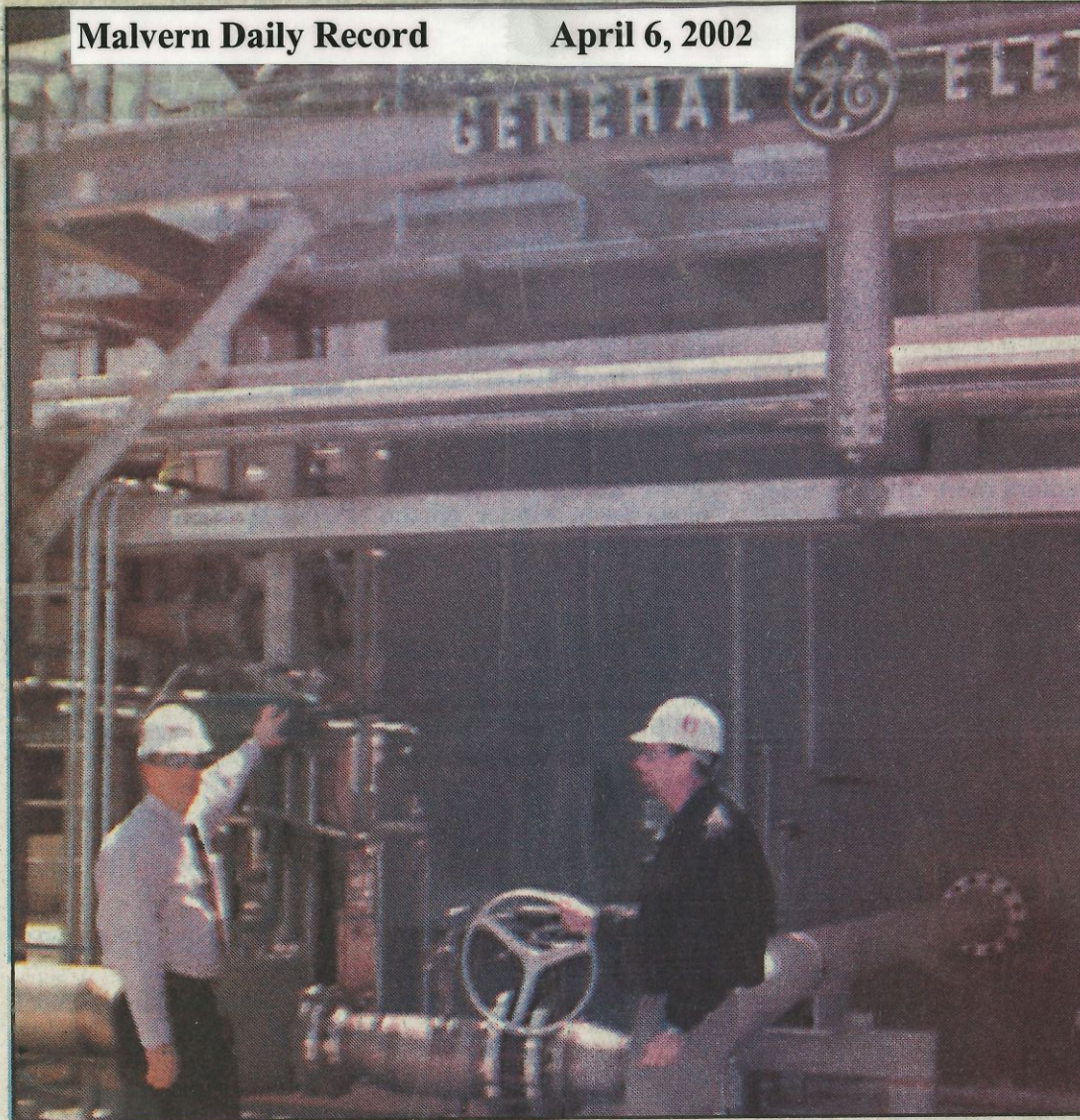
In the past five years, the college has lost about 40 big trees due to wind storms, a tornado, at least two ice storms, lightning, pine beetles and red oak beetles, so the efforts given to plant new trees will reap many benefits. Trees beautify our surroundings, increase property values, and help save energy.

All totaled, the day's activities ended with a few blisters, some muddy shoes and boots, a lot of sweat, a spider bite, one stuck pickup truck, some cold water and soft drinks, and 18 trees planted.

Duke Energy found a 'home' in Hot Spring County

Malvern Daily Record

April 6, 2002



COSTLY TURBINE — Duke Energy Hot Spring Energy Facility Project Manager Neal Coffey (left) and Plant Manager Dick Arruda stand by a turbine which cost approximately \$35 million. (Photo by Mark Bivens)

Originally merely one of several potential sites for the construction of a power plant, Hot Spring County won with persistence and solid leadership.

By MARK BIVENS
Editor

Duke Energy has moved from 17th to 14th on the Fortune 500 list it was announced recently, and just as important, Duke has secured a No. 1 rating as the "Most Admired Energy Company in the Nation."

Neal Coffey, Project Manager of Duke Energy Hot Spring Energy Facility, and Dick Arruda, Plant Manager, have read about, and been a part of, Duke Energy's success.

Coffey said Duke's efficiency in establishing new power plants is second to none.

"We build them in 18 months and get them on-line," Coffey said from his office at the Malvern plant Thursday. "The way we can do that is through community and local support."

When Duke Energy representatives were seeking a location for a new plant approximately two years ago, Hot Spring County was not the only option Duke

Energy had for the construction of the plant. In fact, it was rumored, and maybe even rightfully so, that Clark County had the

inside track on the \$550 million plant.

"The swaying thing was the support in Hot Spring County," Coffey said. "Clark

County wanted us just as badly. You'd have been reading about (Duke) being in Clark County. We hit some snags. (State Sen.) Steve

Faris went out on his own and walked those (problems) through. And the support (Malvern Mayor) Steve Northcutt gave us was immense."

Coffey said the county's leadership and representatives were exceptional.

"The horizon for Malvern is extremely positive," Coffey said. "This town is going forward."

The Duke Energy plant brought 710 construction workers to Hot Spring County during the peak of construction. Coffey said 300 workers are presently on site. Once completed, the Hot Spring Energy Facility will employ 23 full-time.

Duke Energy presently has nine projects that will produce over 6,000 megawatts under construction.

Coffey said Duke doesn't have to redesign each plant, helping make construction easier.

"We build so many, we're pretty much got all the bugs out," Coffey said. "We put these things out faster and cheaper than anybody in the industry."

Duke Energy's Hot Spring Energy Facility made a "first-run" last week, exporting that power to Entergy. The run was flawless, Coffey said.

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Malvern Daily Record April 8, 2002
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Contact: Amber Lindsey
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Senior Day at OTC

Ouachita Technical College is hosting **SENIOR DAY** on Friday, April 19, 2002. If you are graduating from high school and have not decided on where to attend college, please make plans to join us for **SENIOR DAY**. Campus tours, financial aid information, lunch, giveaways, and more will be provided. To make your reservation or for more information, call 1-800-337-0266, ext. 1180 or ext. 1177.

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When fully operational, the plant will produce 620 megawatts. If Phase II becomes a reality, another 620 megawatt plant would be constructed on the site. Coffey said it had earlier been thought Duke would know whether Phase II would be built by October 2001, but it is still on hold and Coffey said he wasn't certain when a decision would be made on Phase II.

That additional would require approximately the same number of construction workers for the same amount of time as Phase I did.

"People are in a wait-and-see mode right now instead of building new plants," Arruda said.

The cost of building and operating plants under the present conditions could prove prohibitive.

Coffey and Arruda both praised the work-force available in the Hot Spring County area. Arruda said "80 percent" of the employees at the Hot Spring Energy Facility are native Arkansans. Arruda himself is a 1972 graduate of Morrilton High School.

"We've been extremely pleased with the local talent," Coffey said. "OTC (Ouachita Technical College) has helped us."