Groundbreaking Set in Mountain View

Ozarka College has announced plans for a groundbreaking for their permanent facility located on South Riggsville Drive off of Highway 14 in Mountain View. The ceremony will take place at 9AM on Thursday, August 26th at the building site and the public is invited to attend the celebration.

The ten acre parcel of land behind the Department of Human Services building was purchased by the college in May of 2003 from Stone County. The new building will be 9,322 square foot and house five classrooms, reference room, offices, and restroom facilities.

According to Ozarka President, Doug Rush, the building contract was awarded to Noacon, Inc. of Fairfield Bay in July and they plan to begin initial construction in the next few weeks. “Noacon is doing a fantastic job on our new facility in Ash Flat and we are confident that they will make the same progress here in Mountain View.”

Currently Mountain View enrolls approximately 150 students. Rush adds, “Once this new facility is up and running we will be able to accommodate more students and look for increased enrollment in the Mountain View area.”

The public is invited to attend the groundbreaking event on August 26th. Ozarka’s Culinary Arts Department will provide refreshments after the ceremony.

Ozarka Awarded Second Forestry Grant

Ozarka College has again been selected as a recipient of the Arkansas Forestry Commission Urban and Community Forestry Assistance grant. This grant program is funded jointly by the United States Forestry Service and the Arkansas Forestry Commission.

According to Joan Stirling, Director of Special Projects at Ozarka, this grant goes beyond last year’s project by not only installing additional trees on the main campus in Melbourne, but also at the Ozarka College education centers in Ash Flat and Mountain View.

Stirling says the project goals include an Arbor Day tree-planting celebration at all three sites, additional watering systems, hosting an educational Tree City Dinner for surrounding city officials interested in urban forestry, further education for the college’s landscaper, and the adoption of an Ozarka College tree ordinance.

In conjunction with the previous forestry grant, Ozarka faculty and staff developed a campus “tree inventory” as a learning project. This year students, faculty, and staff will extend the inventory to include the wooded area on the Melbourne campus, as well as assessment of the new building sites in Ash Flat and Mountain View to plan future forestry projects at those locations.

Stone County Forester, Michael Mowery, and
First National Banking Company (FNBC) President, Marty Sellars awarded Alicia Huihui a $4,000 scholarship on July 21st at the FNBC main office in Ash Flat. Huihui will be a new student at Ozarka College this fall. Also present to congratulate her was Ozarka College President, Douglas Rush.

Alicia will receive $1,000 for the 2004 Fall semester to be used for tuition, fees and/or books. She will be eligible for the stipend up to three semesters as long as she continues to meet the criteria determined by the scholarship requirements.

This scholarship is the first to be awarded since Sellars announced the funding of its availability earlier this year. A second similar scholarship will be funded starting in the fall of 2005. Once fully funded, the FNBC scholarships will award two students $2,000 each year, making the total scholarships valued at $4,000 annually.

Alicia graduated in May from Izard County Consolidated School in Brockwell. Her many school activities included band, choir, CHASE and Key Club. She was honored with being named All-Region Band and All-Star Honor Band, as well as 1st chair percussion. Alicia resides in Horseshoe Bend where she is a member of the United Methodist Church choir and hand bell choir. Her parents are Robert and Stephanie Huihui. Alicia says her educational plans are to major in Music Business.

After presenting Huihui with the scholarship and wishing her good luck in her endeavors, Sellars stated, “We at FNBC are committed to investing in our community by making educational opportunities available. We are excited to help students like Alicia who have the desire for success through education. There is no better way to do that than through another local organization that shares our commitment to personal service. We feel that scholarships for Ozarka students are a long term investment not only for the individuals, but also the economic future of our area. FNBC looks forward to continuing our partnership with Ozarka to make a positive impact in north central Arkansas.”

FNBC Awards Scholarship to Huihui

Kids Academy Slates Yard Sale

The Ozarka College Kids Academy has scheduled a yard sale on Saturday, August 7th from 8AM – Noon in order to sell stored items so that newer equipment can be purchased for the Academy students.

The yard sale will take place in the parking lot of the Kids Academy located on College Drive in Melbourne. Some of the items for sale include play kitchen sets, highchairs, art easels, soft furniture, adult rocking chairs, playpens, infant swings and many books and other fun and educational toys. These items are appropriate from ages six weeks through five years old.

The Kids Academy will also accept and appreciate monetary donations or new toys. For further information on the yard sale call Amy Pinkston, Director of the Kids Academy at 870-368-7868.
OC Participates in Sharp County Fair

Ozarka College was again this year part of the Sharp County Fair as a commercial exhibiter. The “fair” weather brought many people out to the five day event, which took place July 27 - July 31. Several Ozarka employees should be thanked for their help in manning the Ozarka booth and visiting with the many people who walked through the commercial building.

Those staff, administrators, and faculty who helped were: Karla Rush, Kim Whitten, Linda Morgan, Steve Benoit, Carol Sellers, Bruce Dietsche, Judy Cannady (and husband, Carl), and Ruby Johnson. Also helping out was Ozarka student and work-study for the Sharp County Education Center, Connie Esparza.

The next county fair Ozarka will be a part of is the Fulton County Fair in Salem. It takes place August 10-14. Anyone who would like to be a part of that fair can contact Kim Whitten at (870) 368-2060 or email, kwhitten@ozarka.edu.

GED Test Schedule for August

The GED Test will be given at Ozarka College in Melbourne, Arkansas on August 26 & 31 at 8:30 a.m. in Room 516 of the Wyth Duke Adult Education Building.

The test will also be given at the following locations in August:

- Ash Flat - Courthouse - August 2nd & 30th;
- Ozarka Stone County Education Center - August 3rd & 5th;
- Salem - Courthouse - August 4th & 17th;

The tests in each location begin at 9:00 a.m.

You must present an Arkansas photo ID, a Social Security Card, and proof of passing Practice Test scores dated after January 1, 2002. There is no cost to take the GED Test. However, if you plan on taking the test at any of these locations, you MUST register by calling Ozarka College at 368-7371 or 1-800-821-4335 before the day of the test. Because of increased demographic information needed, it will be necessary to allow two days for the testing.

Fair Schedule

- Fulton County Fair: 8/10-8/14
- Stone County Fair: 9/6-9/11
- Izard County Fair: 9/23-9/25
- District Fair: 9/26-10/1

Tree Grant (continued from Front Page)

Izard County Forester, Mark Cutrer, have also committed to assist Ozarka College on the project as consultants. Mountain View has been a Tree City USA for the last 18 years. Mowery, who directs that initiative in Mountain View, and others will speak at the planned Tree City Dinner in an effort to encourage other communities to work toward the qualifications necessary to become a Tree City USA.

Stirling adds, “Our landscaper, Dave Rush, has worked hard to improve the looks of our Melbourne campus through the previous grant and he is enthusiastic about the new project. He will be planting and maintaining new trees, as well as helping educate Ozarka students and the community with his tree-care advice. This project will provide both an ecological and a cosmetic boost, and by receiving this grant, we will also be able to incorporate the project into learning experiences for students.”

This project is supported in part by the Arkansas Forestry Commission’s Urban Forestry Program and the U. S. Forest Service.
Ozarka to Offer Child Care Training

Ozarka College will offer a course in child care orientation training (CCOT) from August 24 through September 16 at the main campus in Melbourne. This training is being offered in partnership with the Division of Child Care and Early Childhood Education of the Arkansas Department of Human Services and the University of Arkansas.

This program is recommended for childcare personnel with little or no training in a child care setting. Childcare givers can receive this quality training at no cost due to a grant from the University of Arkansas. In addition to the training, students will benefit from the interaction with other caregivers and will be eligible to receive a certificate of completion. Graduates from the CCOT course are also eligible to apply for Child Development scholarships applicable for further training.

Topics to be covered in this CCOT course include child growth and development, children’s health, developmentally appropriate practice, handling emergencies, child safety, communication, observation/assessment/accountability and human diversity.

Classes begin on Tuesday, August 24, at 5 p.m. and will meet until 8 p.m. on Tuesday and Thursday evenings through September 16. Amy Pinkston, Director of Ozarka Kids Academy, will be providing the instruction for the CCOT course.

Even though this training is provided free of charge, enrollment is limited. To register, call 870-368-7371.