

The Signal

Ouachita Baptist University www.obusignal.com

Thursday, October 27, 2011

Volume 120, Issue 7

Arkadelphia, Ark.

New wrestling complex opens

By **SAM CUSHMAN**
Signal Writer

Ouachita commemorated the opening of its new wrestling facility in a ceremony this afternoon. The new complex is the culmination of more than a year's work by contractors, school administration and the members of Ouachita's wrestling program. The building housed Ouachita's Facilities Management department for 40 years before being renovated and remodeled for the wrestling program, which is barely more than a year old.

"We quickly realized that the university did not have an available structure to accommodate the practice space needed by the team," said Brett

Powell, vice president of administrative services. "We looked at several options but none of them were sufficient, so we started working on temporary and long-term solutions."

As vice president for administrative services, one of Powell's responsibilities is making sure that there is adequate space for university activities, and though the wrestling program is still very young, he has been heavily involved with this project.

"Fortunately, we had just completed a storage building at the Facilities Management complex that was still vacant and close to the size we needed," he said. "[But] since Facilities Management planned to move into the building once the rest

of the complex was completed, we knew this was only a one year solution."

The old Facilities Management building, located behind Sturgis Physical Education Center, was constructed in the 1970s and was exactly the size needed by the wrestling team, but there were two significant issues: first, the building itself was showing signs of four decades worth of wear; second, the interior was divided into office spaces, which did not fit the space needs of the wrestling team.

As renovations went under way, all that was retained of the original building was its skeleton.

see **WRESTLING**, p. 3



JESSICA BOWLING/TheSignal

JACOB WATSON and Kathryn Kellogg rehearse for "Under Milk Wood." The play opens tonight at 7:30 p.m.

'Milk Wood' debuts tonight

By **MAURI SPARKS**
Signal Writer

Ouachita's theater arts department will present "Under Milk Wood" by Dylan Thomas as its second production of the 2011-2012 season. Performances will be Oct. 27-29 and 31 at 7:30 p.m. in Verser Theater, with a matinee performance Oct. 30 at 2:30 p.m. Tickets are \$8 each. Students receive one free ticket with a student ID.

"'Under Milk Wood' is based on a poetic 'play for voices' created by Welsh poet Dylan Thomas, and has been adapted for a stage production by the OBU theatre department," said director Daniel Inouye, assis-

tant professor of theater arts. "Like Thomas' poetry, the play relies on the sound of its lines and the pictures conjured by its words to communicate meaning; it is truly a lyrical, poetic and spellbinding experience."

Students involved in a Ouachita production usually rehearse from 4-6 weeks with an average of 15 hours a week plus outside rehearsal to work on memorization and characterization.

"I would imagine that the average student working on a show can spend anywhere from 100 to 150 hours preparing for the show," Inouye said. "On top of this we also add all the work of the production and technical crew. Put together with

all the students and faculty working on a show, we literally see 1000-plus man hours committed to a production before an audience ever sees it."

Kathryn Kellogg, a senior musical theatre and mass communications major, is an actor in the production and said this production is a challenge for the roles she has to play.

"The show is a Welsh poem and is set up in a way that lines are so crucial because they are all layered," Kellogg said. "There are over 50 characters in this play, and there are nine of us playing all of them. When you first look at the script they're just caricatures, but we're trying to

see **MILK WOOD**, p. 2

Art Center occupies historic downtown Royal Theater, hosts Battle of Ravine art

By **GLENN BOLTON**
Signal Writer

Almost 300 people lined Main Street waiting to get into the new Arkadelphia Arts Center.

The arts center is the cultivation of a community desire for a place for art to thrive.

"The Arkadelphia Arts Center is dedicated to bringing the arts to the community and the community to the arts," said Summer Bruch, professor of art and a board member on the Clark County Arts and Humanities Council.

The Arkadelphia Arts Center's hours are 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. Thursday through Saturday. Anyone can go and see local art exhibits free of charge.

Located at 625 Main Street next to Dino's Main Street Cafe, the arts center's location has a rich heritage — the building originally housed the circa 1932 Royal Theatre.

"After the theater closed, it was bought and turned into a screen-printing shop," said Denise Parkinson, executive director of the center. "The arts center will, in the end, showcase all the forms of art, including theatrical, cinematography, musical and visual."

Parkinson said several more renovations are planned for the building. She said beams put up for the printing shop will be removed, allowing the back half of the arts center to house a community theater seating about 50 people. The theater could potentially host film festivals and would be a place for the Arkadelphia Little Theatre to perform. Renovations will take place after the building's electrical systems are updated.

The arts center's first big exhibit will be on display beginning Saturday, Nov. 5, with a grand opening planned from 2-4 p.m. The exhibit will be a combination of Battle of the Ravine artwork and a clay piece installation artwork. All of the work will be on exhibit during November.

"The [local] children were told stories about the Battle of the Ravine and its history, and then they were told to create art about the Battle of the Ravine," Parkinson said.

The artworks will be judged and the winners will be announced at the Nov. 11 Ravine Rally. "It says a lot about the community's talents and generosity that arts educators and student artists collaborated to create the center's first donated art piece as well as the themed exhibit."

see **ARTS CENTER**, p. 2

Battle of the Ravine Blood Drive



HEATHER ELLIS/TheSignal

JACOB CATLETT prepares to give blood at the annual Battle of the Ravine Blood Drive last week in Evans Student Center. This was the third year for the drive, which benefits more than 50 hospitals in the Ozark area through the Arkansas Red Cross.