



OMCNews

The Right Care, Right Here

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OMC Celebrates

50 years

The Right Care, Right Here

For more on OMC's
50th Anniversary,
see page 2

OMC President and CEO David Zechman cuts the ribbon outside OMC on March 2 to mark the health care organization's 50th anniversary. Pictured, from left, are Dr. Charles Morgan, Chief of Staff and OMC Board of Directors member; Dr. Christopher Nicholas, board member; Dr. Edward Henegar, Vice President of Professional and Clinical Support Services; West Plains Mayor Joe Paul Evans; Greg Beykirch, Board Chairman; Mike Gross, Chief Financial Officer and Vice President of Support Services; Zechman; Kenneth Joplin, board member; Judy Ingalsbe, board member; Jeannie Looper, Chief Operating Officer; Kevin Gleghorn, board member; Gary Duggins, board treasurer; and Marge Slayton, board member.





OMC celebrates 50th anniversary with ribbon cutting

More than 200 community members joined Ozarks Medical Center in celebrating 50 years of providing quality health care at a ribbon cutting on March 2.

On March 2, 1959, OMC received its first patient. Since then, the health care organization has been caring for the community while growing in services and technology to meet local health care needs.

“The ribbon cutting event was a great start to the 50th anniversary celebration and marked the beginning of the next 50 years of OMC providing quality health care to the local area,” said Chief Operating Officer Jeannie Looper. “We would like to thank the community for their participation in this event and for their continued support of OMC.”

The ribbon cutting included presentations by OMC President and CEO David Zechman, West Plains, West Plains Mayor Joe Paul Evans, Judge David Evans, OMC Vice President of Professional and Clinical Support Services Dr. Edward Henegar, long-time local physician Dr. Marvin Fowler, OMC Chief of Staff Dr. Charles Morgan and OMC Board of Directors Chairman Greg Beykirch.

As part of the kick off, time capsules from 1957 and 1993 were unveiled.

Also unveiled was a moving wall display with information about the history of OMC and a tribute to the original donors who made the hospital possible. Both the time capsules contents and moving wall are currently on display in the OMC Main Lobby.

There was also a premier of a short video made about the history of OMC and tours of the hospital facilities.

The OMC anniversary celebration will continue on May 23 when OMC will host an all-day event for the community at the Heart of the Ozarks Fair Grounds.

This full-day event will feature musical entertainment, health fair and activities for the whole family.

Hospital History

When OMC first opened to patients in 1959 as West Plains Memorial Hospital, it was the result of hard work and commitment from the entire community.

OMC began to take shape in 1954 when a community donation campaign began to raise the \$350,000 needed to match federal funds to build the hospital. It took 56 months and a huge effort by the community but the campaign was a success.

As the community grew, so did the hospital.

In 1970, 24 beds, an intensive care unit, treatment room and family room were added to the original building. A second expansion was completed in 1974 and a third in 1978. In 1985 the facility was renamed Ozarks Medical Center.

In 1989, OMC fulfilled another large need in the community by opening the Heart Care Center, including a cardiac diagnostic lab and cardiac catheterization lab.

In the 1990s, OMC reached out to outlying areas and expanded services.

In 1993 a 47,000-square-foot expansion/renovation project was completed. The next big expansion for OMC was in 2001 when the OMC Surgical Services facility opened.

In 2005, a major milestone was reached when open-heart surgeries began at OMC.

“All of this growth and expansion has put OMC in the position to be a leading health care provider and has made the organization able to offer amazing services to the region, including heart care, cancer treatment, neurosurgery, neurology, rheumatology, urology, orthopedic surgery, general surgery, obstetrics, gynecology, primary care, pain management, rehabilitation and behavioral health care,” OMC President and CEO David Zechman said.

OMC Rehab Services sponsors Feb. 21 Grizzly game against Arkansas Baptist College with star-studded theme

Dancing with the Stars of West Plains



Above Chuck and Jackie Brotherton, left, and Jim and Cindy McFarland, right, perform a waltz at halftime. Not pictured are Al and Melinda Vance and Geoff and Sabrina Larson.



Above, members of the West Plains Center of the Arts dance troupe perform to "Proud Mary." The group includes Briana Adams, Mary Jones, Hannah Crown, Megan Frey, Alyssa Roylance and Lilly Brotherton.



Above, Dana Vincent, left, won a Nintendo Wii by taking first in the Starburst Candy Guess. The competition was sponsored by OMC Rehab Services. Pictured with Vincent are OMC Rehab Services Director Pam Ream, center, and OMC Rehab Services Manager Pat King, right.



Above is Anita Matthews, left, the second place winner of the Starburst Candy Guess, sponsored by OMC Rehab Services. For her prize, Matthews received a jar of candy and massage gift certificate.



Above is Danelle Alkines, left, the third place winner of the Starburst Candy Guess, sponsored by OMC Rehab Services. She received a jar of candy.



Above, Marianna Roylance performs to the "Stray Cat Strut" during halftime.

WELCOME TO OMC

Student learns about hospital pharmacy during externship

St. Louis College of Pharmacy student John Huff is receiving hands-on hospital pharmacy experience during a five-week externship at Ozarks Medical Center.

Huff, who is from Licking, will be at OMC through the middle of March. While at OMC, he will learn about the day-to-day operations of hospital pharmacy and will have the opportunity to shadow pharmacists in various departments at OMC. He also will learn about medications used during procedures and treatment.

This is Huff's seventh pharmacy externship. He said usually pharmacy externships are divided between community and hospital experience, but because he has previous experience working in community pharmacies, he wanted to concentrate his extern experiences on hospitals.

He has also spent time at the St. Louis VA Medical Center, St. John's Hospital in Springfield and at the Phelps County Regional Medical Center in Rolla, as well as Forbes Pharmacy in Houston and Walgreens Pharmacy.

Huff said during his other hospital externships, he spent most of his time with clinical pharmacists visiting patients.

He said he is looking forward to his time at OMC and seeing a different side of hospital pharmacy, working behind the scenes with inpatient care.



John Huff

OMC Pharmacist Ashley Hart said the externships allow students to experience the differences in hospital and retail pharmacy.

"This gives pharmacy students the chance to get hands-on experience to assist them with future career decisions," she said.

Huff said he has been interested in pharmacy as a career since grade school, when a long-time pharmacist in Licking inspired him to look into the career path.

I had a four-wheeler accident and he patched me up from it and talked to me about what it was like to be a pharmacist," he said. "In high school, I looked into pharmacy more and really liked it."

Huff will graduate from the six-year pharmacy program in May 2009.

OMC welcomes new employee health nurse to Ozark Works

Ozarks Medical Center welcomes Cindy Wakefield, LPN, as the new employee health nurse at Ozark Works.

"I'm excited to be in this position and hope to improve the position to be more convenient for employees," she said. "I am very passionate about this position."

Wakefield has been in nursing since she was a teen-ager, attending school for medical assisting, phlebotomy and to become a certified nursing assistant (CNA). She also attended Missouri State University.

From 2003 to 2007, Wakefield was

employed at OMC, first working in the laboratory and then as a clinic technician for Ozark Works.

She left OMC to enroll in the licensed practical nursing (LPN) program at the South Central Career Center. She said now that she has earned this certification, she is thrilled to be back at OMC.

Wakefield and her husband of 20 years, Bobby, live in West Plains and have two children, Lacie, 18, and Cassie, 16.

To reach Wakefield, call Ozark Works at 417-257-5972.



Cindy Wakefield