

# THE DAILY SIFTINGS HERALD



## \$54K grant goes to 'front door' project

By JOE PHELPS  
Siftings Herald

Ouachita Baptist University will soon have a "front door" entrance sign thanks to a \$54,000 grant awarded to the university, President Dr. Rex M. Horne Jr., announced Tuesday.

The sign will be located on Highway 7 near the north end of Central Park. The large, classically styled brick sign will have the university's name and allow campus guests and visitors "to identify the best access to Ouachita's facilities," most of which are not visible from Arkadelphia's main thoroughfares. Southern Bancorp provided the grant.

A new tree-lined, well-lit street will be constructed through what is now the Central Park area. The total cost of the new entrance project is estimated at \$1.01 million, according to a press release.

The sign falls under Strategic Goal Three of the Clark County Strategic Plan, which addresses primary entry routes to Arkadelphia. In addition to the university's name, the sign will acknowledge the plan, according to the press release.

Dr. Wesley Kluck, co-chairman of the CCSP and vice president for institutional advancement and uni-



Workers remove dirt from the campus of Ouachita Baptist University to make way for a new, landscaped street that will be part of the university's "front door." The \$1.01 million project will be built through what is currently Central Park and lead north to the campus. Ouachita was recently awarded a \$54,000 grant to erect a sign near the new entrance on North 10th Street. The project should be finished by the end of the year.

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versity physician at OBU, thanked the CCSP Economic Development Subcommittee for recommending the grant.

"In addition to providing curb appeal to OBU, creation of the new entrance will help to enhance the

university segment of Highway 7 and will make the whole area more appealing to visitors, tourists and local residents," he said. "The sign ... will herald this exciting project, which will allow visitors to realize the beauty, tranquility and vitality

that is present in Clark County."

Both the entrance street and sign should be complete by the end of the year, Kluck said.

For more information about the Strategic Plan, visit [www.clark-countyplan.org](http://www.clark-countyplan.org).