

Arkansas HIGHWAYS

JULY 2016

A PUBLICATION OF THE
ARKANSAS STATE HIGHWAY & TRANSPORTATION DEPARTMENT | MAGAZINE

Making Our Highways Safer

ARKANSAS HIGHWAY POLICE
PARTICIPATE IN ROADCHECK 2016

Governor Hutchinson
Signs New
HIGHWAY BILL

The Tale of an AHTD
Project Takes a
"NOVELLA" APPROACH

Exploring the
PEAKS AND LAKES
Near Russellville

DIRECTOR'S MESSAGE



Highway Improvement Act is Welcome News

ON MAY 23RD, GOVERNOR ASA HUTCHINSON SIGNED INTO LAW THE ARKANSAS HIGHWAY IMPROVEMENT ACT OF 2016. THIS LEGISLATION IS WELCOME NEWS AND WILL PROVIDE THE DEPARTMENT WITH SUFFICIENT FUNDS NEEDED TO MATCH NEARLY \$200 MILLION IN FEDERAL-AID FUNDS EACH YEAR. IF THE DEPARTMENT HAD BEEN UNABLE TO REMEDY THE SHORTFALL IN STATE MATCHING FUNDS, THESE FEDERAL FUNDS WOULD HAVE BEEN REDISTRIBUTED TO OTHER STATES. THIS WOULD HAVE EQUATED TO A

NEARLY \$250 MILLION ANNUAL REDUCTION IN CONSTRUCTION PROJECTS TO IMPROVE AND MAINTAIN ARKANSAS' TRANSPORTATION SYSTEM.

Governor Hutchinson's bill is a groundbreaking one because, for the first time, it allocates surplus revenues to the AHTD. These, and other provisions in the bill, bring new funding to our Department, all without raising taxes.

This is great news for the immediate future, but the task of investigating and finding new sources of funding for long-term future highway construction still lies ahead. We will be working diligently to find ways to put adequate funding into place.

The passing of the Governor's new Highway Act couldn't have come at a better time. Looking at the big picture, State revenues are down overall and that has had an effect on the Department's budget as we plan for 2017. Yes, there are increases in some areas, but at the same time, there are also areas where funding has been reduced. Overall, the AHTD's budget will be just slightly higher this fiscal year than it was last year. As a result, we face a familiar challenge to be as efficient as possible while still providing critical services to our users.

Helping the Department maintain that efficiency is our Efficiency Review Committee. The committee was formed to document practices in place that save money and time, what we are doing efficiently and what we can do in the future to maximize cost savings. The Department's Network Fleet is a good example of what can be done to save money. The Committee's goal is to find as many ways as possible to be good stewards of the taxpayers' money. After all, our revenue utilizes taxpayer money in the shape of user fees, so it is a must that we use that incoming revenue responsibly and efficiently.

As in the past, our future success stories will rely on each of us as we carry out our responsibilities. Each of us performing well and efficiently as individuals will result in the Department continuing to be a successful State agency as a whole. Your actions help tell our story at the AHTD. Let's continue to work hard to make that story a good one!



Scott E. Bennett, P.E.
Director of Highways and Transportation

FRONT COVER:

Arkansas Highway Police Sergeant LaToya Best conducts an inspection during Roadcheck 2016.

BACK COVER:

Highway 62 • Benton County

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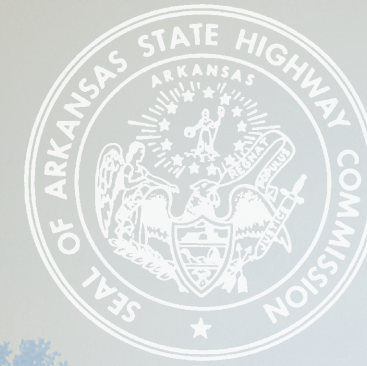
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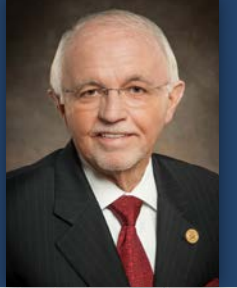
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PULLING OVER FOR

INTERNATIONAL ROADCHECK 2016

BY DAVID NILLES



AHP Sergeant Joy Bean flags vehicles into Roadcheck.



THE COMMERCIAL VEHICLE SAFETY ALLIANCE'S (CVSA) 29TH ANNUAL INTERNATIONAL ROADCHECK TOOK PLACE JUNE 7TH – 9TH IN ARKANSAS AND ACROSS THE CONTINENT. INTERNATIONAL ROADCHECK IS A 72-HOUR PERIOD WHEN APPROXIMATELY 13,000 CVSA-CERTIFIED LOCAL, STATE, PROVINCIAL, TERRITORIAL AND FEDERAL INSPECTORS IN JURISDICTIONS ACROSS NORTH AMERICA PERFORM ROADSIDE SAFETY INSPECTIONS ON LARGE TRUCKS AND BUSES.

(continued on page 6)



Among those inspectors were members of the Arkansas Highway Police (AHP) who had roadside inspection areas set up on Interstate 30 in Saline County, and in south Arkansas in Desha County.

"We are using three electronic traffic control devices to advise truckers that International Roadcheck is underway and they must prepare to pull off the highway into the inspection area," stated Captain Jeff Bickerstaff of the Arkansas Highway Police on the first day of the event.

During International Roadcheck, inspectors primarily conduct the North American Standard Level One Inspection, which is the most thorough roadside inspection. It is a 37-step procedure that includes an examination of both the driver and vehicle. Drivers are required to provide items such as their license, endorsements, medical card and hours-of-service documentation, and may be checked for seat belt usage and the use of alcohol and/or drugs. The vehicle inspection includes checking items such as the braking system, securement of cargo, coupling devices, exhaust system, frame, fuel system, lights, steering mechanism, driveline/driveshaft, suspension, tires, van and open-top trailer bodies, wheels and rims, windshield wipers, and emergency exits on buses.

"If we find critical safety violations we will pull the vehicle out of service," states AHP Chief Ron Burks. "Certified mechanics are available to fix the problem and after repair, the truck can roll on down the road."



AHP Captain Jeff Bickerstaff uses special equipment to check vehicle brake temperature.

AHP Major Jay Thompson serves as the CVSA President this year and had this to say about the roadside inspections program in North America.

"International Roadcheck is the largest targeted enforcement program on commercial motor vehicles in the world, with nearly 17 trucks or buses inspected, on average, every minute in Canada, the United States and Mexico during the 72-hour period. As an Arkansan, I can say we are very proud of the commercial motor vehicles that we have in the state of Arkansas. Our motor carriers are leaders amongst the country's leading safety motor carriers."

On hand at a news conference to kick off the inspection event, David O'Neal, Director of Safety Services for the Arkansas Trucking Association (ATA), reflected on working with the Arkansas Highway Police on safety matters.

"The ATA puts a high value on the positive relationship that it has with the Arkansas Highway Police and the law enforcement community at large and we fully support and share their commitment to improved highway safety for everyone. International Roadcheck puts an emphasis on that commitment to safety and helps us to remember it every day."

The ATA represents over 300 trucking companies across Arkansas.

"The companies of the Arkansas Trucking Association are extremely conscious of safety and they know

that there are two critical elements needed in order for their businesses to operate safely," O'Neal stated. "They are equipment that is properly maintained and drivers who are well trained and well rested. When those truckers get behind the wheel, they only want one thing, to make it back home to their families and they want the same for your families with whom they share the road. Our Arkansas Highway Police want that too and we appreciate that these patrol officers put their lives on the line every time they step out of their patrol vehicles with only a few feet between them and the flow of traffic."

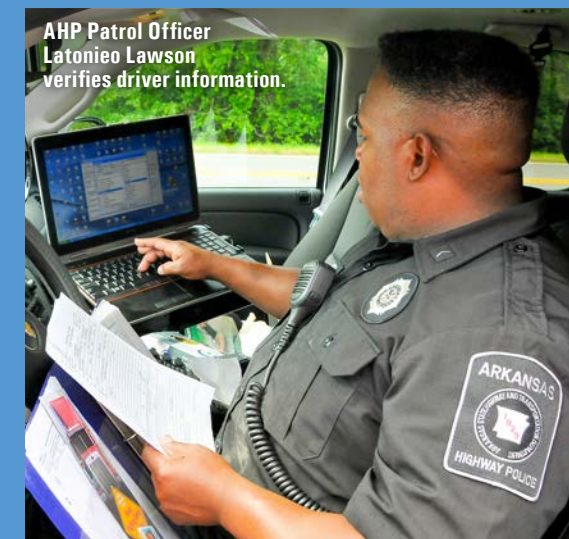
Since its inception in 1988, roadside inspections conducted during International Roadcheck have numbered more than 1.4 million resulting in over 334 lives saved and over 6,000 injuries avoided. International Roadcheck also provides an opportunity to educate industry and the general public about the importance of safe commercial motor vehicle operations and the North American roadside inspection program.

Each year, International Roadcheck places special emphasis on a category of violations. The special emphasis for 2016 International Roadcheck was tire safety (i.e., measuring the tire tread depth, checking the tire pressure, checking to make sure that no items are lodged between dual tires and examining the overall condition of the tire to make sure that no deep cuts or bulges exist in the sidewalls of the tire).

"We're excited about the lives we're saving and the unsafe trucks that are being pulled off of the highways this week," Major Thompson added.

At the conclusion of this year's event, a total of 637 commercial vehicles had been inspected in Arkansas. Of those, 213 received CVSA decals for their trucks indicating vehicles having no violations of the items inspected or violations contained in the North American Standard Out-of-Service Criteria. Of the violations found during inspection, many were for brakes, lighting or tires.

International Roadcheck is a CVSA program organized in partnership with the Federal Motor Carrier Safety Administration, Canadian Council of Motor Transport Administrators, Transport Canada and the Secretariat of Communications and Transportation (Mexico). ■



AHP Patrol Officer Latonio Lawson verifies driver information.

AHP Corporal James Cooper writes a ticket for a vehicle being taken out of service.



Arkansas Highway Police Major Jay Thompson speaks to the media at a press conference. He was joined by other AHP Officers, as well as members of the Arkansas Trucking Association.



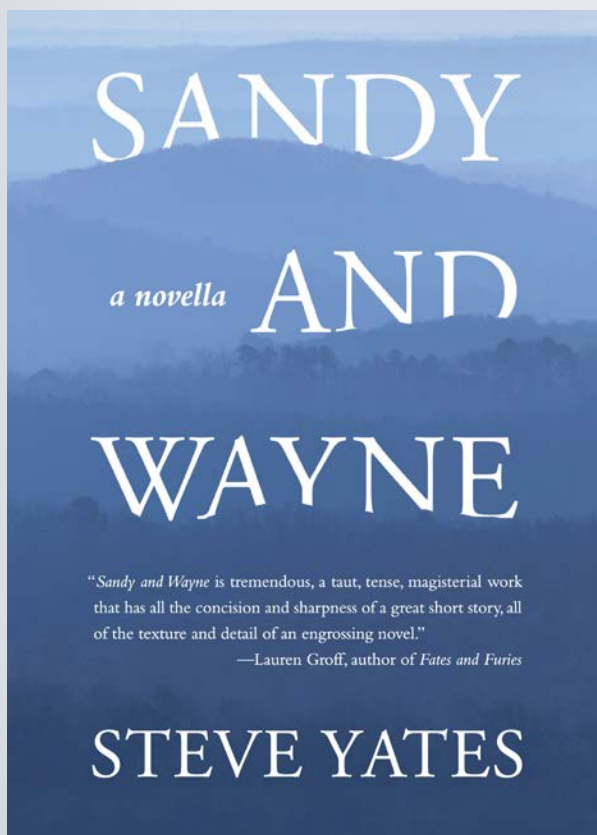
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[Vimeo.com/AHTD/Roadcheck16](https://vimeo.com/AHTD/Roadcheck16)
 FOR VIDEO COMPLEMENT TO THIS STORY!

From SUMMER INTERN

Interstate 49 in northern Arkansas during its construction in the early 1990s.

To SUCCESSFUL WRITER

BY DAVID NILLES



IS IT SURPRISING TO FIND AN ARKANSAS STATE HIGHWAY AND TRANSPORTATION DEPARTMENT CONSTRUCTION PROJECT SERVING AS THE BACKDROP FOR A POPULAR FICTION NOVELLA? Not when its author, Steve Yates, spent three summers working as an intern for the AHTD.

His book, *Sandy and Wayne* unfolds in northwest Arkansas where Yates spent three summers working on the construction of Interstate 49 between Devil's Den State Park and Greenland. The book tells the story of Sandy Coker, an AHTD lead inspector who meets Wayne Sheridan, dirt foreman for a contractor constructing a project on Interstate 49.

Arkansas Highways editor David Nilles had the opportunity to talk with Yates about his time with the Department and the story that followed.

“THE LABOR WAS BROILING HOT, DUSTY RED AND SOMETIMES INEXPRESSIBLY BEAUTIFUL BACK IN THE MOUNTAINS. THERE WAS A STRETCH OF CUT WAY UP ON THE SIDE OF A MOUNTAIN, PAST WEST FORK... ...STANDING ON THAT MOUNTAINSIDE ON A CLEAR DAY, YOU COULD SEE OLD MAIN ON THE NORTHERN HORIZON.”



STEVE YATES
Author of "Sandy and Wayne"

NILLES: Take us back to those three summers you worked for the AHTD. How did you get a job with the Department?

YATES: The AHTD Springdale office was in dire need of cub surveyors who could maintain a narrative distance.

Seriously, I have often asked myself that same question. I was an MFA candidate in the University of Arkansas Creative Writing Program. I had the mathematical acumen of a tufted titmouse and the engineering skills of a southern black vulture. How did I get so lucky?

Guessing, I would say that there was a ton of survey and inspection work on the docket that first summer of 1991. All the engineering school candidates had already found positions. My resume indicated someone eager, stable and reliable.

I was humbled and honored to be welcomed back for two more summers after that first one. When I did not return in 1994 — I had lucked into two fellowships and could afford to spend that summer writing — the office manager at Springdale rang our apartment hoping to recruit me again. That was one of the most affirming phone calls of my young life.

NILLES: What were your job duties?

YATES: Surveying at all levels of responsibility from flagman and rodman to assistant, and finally gunner. Now that

theodolites are wireless and a gunner can be her own rodman, would there even be a need for all that labor? I became a fully certified operator of a Kaiser blade. Construction inspection and concrete plant inspections were also major parts of what we were doing.

All this experience was tremendously helpful to my writing. At the time, I was drafting a novel about a family who owned and mined a limestone quarry in Springfield, Missouri, during and after the Civil War. Excavating and blasting has similarities to quarrying, and certainly all the concrete and limestone products we used were fascinating and had corollaries in 1861. We also surveyed an abandoned quarry near West Fork — a dangerous, torturous challenge, but deeply informative to understanding work in a nineteenth-century quarry.

Those summers really helped me write my first two novels, *Morkan's Quarry* and its sequel *The Teeth of the Souls*. Both were published by Moon City Press. That's what I was writing in all those ring bound notebooks in transit and on lunch hours. Okay, I'll admit it, also while I was dirt inspecting, in the delays between earth movers unloading. Back at the Springdale office, one of the engineers said he and the foremen on the job were so very impressed with how fastidiously I minded the dirt work and took so many notes. I have a strong feeling he knew what I was up to.

NILLES: How would you describe your three summers working construction on Interstate 49?

YATES: The labor was broiling hot, dusty red and sometimes inexpressibly beautiful back in the mountains. There was a stretch of cut way up on the side of a mountain, past West Fork, one where we had to do a lot of stabilization work to secure the lanes. Standing on that mountainside on a clear day, you could see Old Main on the northern horizon. Old Main and Kimpel Hall, where I taught English and writing in the spring and fall, and where I took boisterous, heady, punishing writing workshops from Bill Harrison, Jim Whitehead, Skip Hays, Joanne Meschery and John Williams. That view assured me I was working on what would become one of the most beautiful stretches of Interstate in America. And being a native Ozarker, it really meant a lot to be there.

Now, when I drive that stretch to come back to Fayetteville for book signings at Nightbird Books, I have a lot of difficulty. I get very emotional. I know we all get more sentimental as we age, but I don't fight this sentiment. I was born in Springfield, Missouri; I am native to the Ozarks. I miss the Ozarks terribly, and in many ways I became a writer on those mountains while working on that Interstate.

(continued on page 10)

NILLES: Your book, *Sandy and Wayne*, is a novella. Explain the difference between a novel and a novella

YATES: A novella is too long to be a short story, and too short to be a novel. The Book of Job in the Bible is novella length. Novellas are almost impossible to publish. Magazines say the novella is too long; agents and editors at publishers say it is too short. This one, *Sandy and Wayne*, won the Knickerbocker Prize and was published in *Big Fiction Magazine*. And then out of the blue a year or so after that, I get an email from someone named Dane Bahr in Seattle at Dock Street Press. He wants to publish *Sandy and Wayne* as a standalone book. Unheard of — this stuff never happens!

NILLES: *The book is a story that originates from your time with the AHTD. Where did you get the idea to write it?*

YATES: In the early 1990s it was rare for a woman to be a lead inspector, or to be even a survey crew chief. But I had the great fortune of serving and being supervised by two of the best. I found them to be extraordinary people, absolutely holding their own in a dusty, grueling, crude, muscular male world. I thought quite highly of them. I'll never forget them, their diligence, patience, courage and skill. In a space before my collection, *Some Kinds of Love: Stories* won the Juniper Prize and was published by University of Massachusetts Press, I was thinking about those two women and that heavy construction, highway world. And at the same time I really longed to write a novella. "Bartleby, the Scrivener," "Stationmaster Fallmerayer," "Ward 6," "Old Mortality," "Legends of the Fall" — these novellas taught me such a great deal, I wanted to try to give one back. And I wanted to write a long country music love song, too. So then I made up a character named Sandy, and gave her an old Ozark last



Interstate 49 during construction

name, Coker, a name that goes all the way back to the first Ozarker ever written about by Henry Rowe Schoolcraft. The rest rolled out like a smooth two-lane down an easy slope.

NILLES: *I think readers will find the story interesting because it is as much about work as it is about love. Would you agree?*

YATES: Tom Nissley, who owns Phinney Books in Seattle, said this about *Sandy and Wayne* when he named it the New Book of the Week in the store's January 4, 2016, newsletter: "It's so rare to find fiction about everyday work, aside from office satires and the usual glamorously improbable professions, that opening up a novella that concerns the Arkansas Highway and Transportation Department, and specifically the contract for Highway Job AR 4005, feels like a thrilling revelation. It turns out to be a romance too (Sandy is a highway construction inspector and Wayne is a contractor's foreman), but there remains a romance in the work as well, and the fact that Sandy and Wayne are so good at their jobs makes them compelling characters with something truly at stake when they decide whether to stick together. It's a fresh and thoughtful tale."

NILLES: *What's next? Are you currently working on your next novel?*

YATES: I'm finishing work on the draft of a novel manuscript, a kind of horror story/gothic turned upside down. It's called *The Legend of the Albino Farm*. It's very strange, a little heartbreaking. There is a lot of family love in it but, alas, no surveying, no blasting, no excavating. Just fire, rampaging Goths, and an Irish Catholic family beset by a curse, a lie that Springfield, my hometown, insisted on telling about their homeplace.

Yates has an M.F.A. in Creative Writing from the University of Arkansas and has written four books of fiction including *Sandy and Wayne*, *Morkan's Quarry*, *The Teeth of the Souls* and the Juniper Prize-winning *Some Kinds of Love: Stories*. His novella, *Sandy and Wayne*, was chosen by author Lauren Groff for the *Big Fiction Magazine* Knickerbocker Prize. Yates has also been the recipient of fellowships from the Arkansas Arts Council and the Mississippi Arts Commission. He serves as Assistant Director/Marketing Director at University Press of Mississippi. ***Sandy and Wayne* is available online at Amazon.com and from Dock Street Press at DockStreetPress.com. ■**

AHTD RECEIVES PERPETUAL PAVEMENT AWARD FOR U.S. HIGHWAY 62



THE ASPHALT PAVEMENT ALLIANCE (APA) HAS RECOGNIZED EIGHT STATE DEPARTMENTS OF TRANSPORTATION, INCLUDING ARKANSAS, WITH THE 2015 PERPETUAL PAVEMENT AWARD FOR HIGH QUALITY, LONG-LIFE ASPHALT PAVEMENTS.



The award is presented to state transportation departments and local agency road owners for well performing asphalt pavements that are at least 35 years old with proven high-quality structural design. To earn the award, the pavement must have not suffered a structural failure, and it should have an average interval between resurfacing of no less than 12 years. The road must demonstrate the characteristics expected from a long-life, perpetual pavement design: excellence in design, quality in construction and value to taxpayers.

The Arkansas State Highway and Transportation Department was named a winner for a three-mile, two-lane section of U.S. Highway 62 located in Carroll County near Berryville.

"The Perpetual Pavement Award has come to represent the best in initial pavement design, construction practices and routine maintenance activities," stated Scott Bennett, Arkansas State Highway and Transportation Department Director. "This section of Highway 62 just east of Berryville opened in 1971 and has only received two standard maintenance overlays in 44 years. It has performed well and we thank the Asphalt Pavement Alliance for recognizing our Department and the excellent qualities this road exhibits. It means a great deal to our Department to be recognized as an Asphalt Pavement Alliance Perpetual Pavement Award recipient for a sixth time."

Recognition is given to Vu Nguyen, Engineer II, in the Asset Management Section of the System Information and Research Division, for his hard work and research in the Perpetual Pavement Award application process.

The other seven winners were Departments of Transportation in Alabama, Florida, Michigan, Minnesota, Pennsylvania, South Carolina and Tennessee.

Winning agencies are honored by their local state asphalt pavement association and are presented with an engraved crystal obelisk. The names of the winning agency and the winning projects are also added to a plaque on permanent display at the National Center for Asphalt Technology (NCAT) Research Center at Auburn University.

Engineers at the NCAT located in Auburn, Alabama, evaluated the nominations and validated the results for the eight award winners. Since the awards were first presented in 2001, 108 pavements in 30 U.S. states and one Canadian province have been honored with the award.

The APA is a partnership of the Asphalt Institute, National Asphalt Pavement Association and the State Asphalt Pavement Associations. ■

DON'T MISS

Vimeo.com/AHTD/SearcyBypass

FOR VIDEO COMPLEMENT TO THIS STORY!



FIRST SEARCY BYPASS SECTION OPENS WITH DEDICATION

BY GLENN BOLICK

AHTD Director Scott Bennett



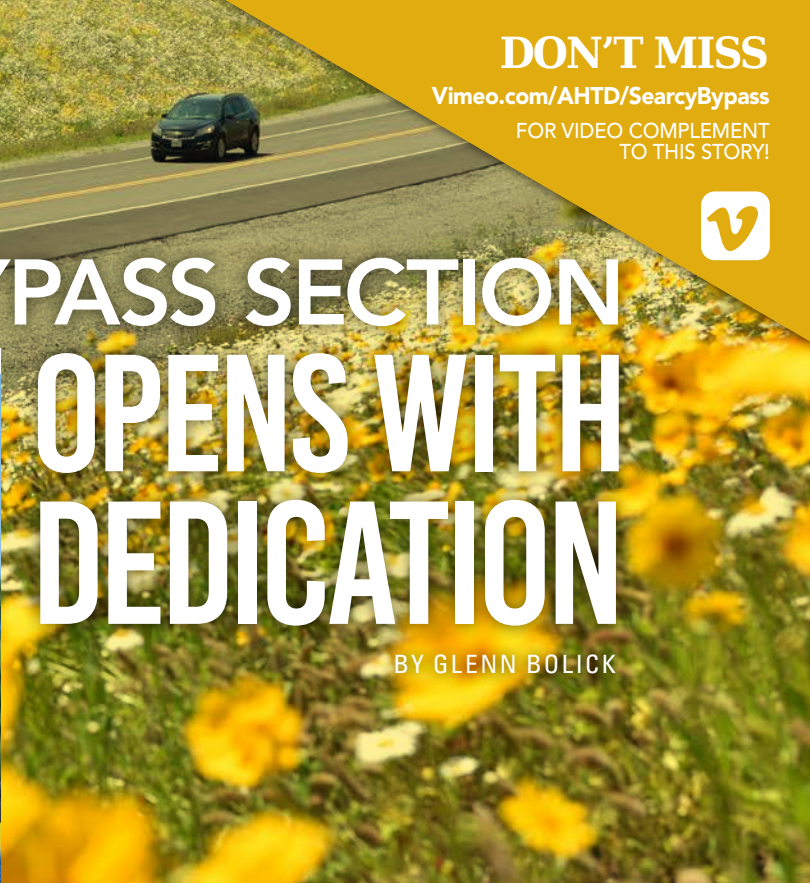
WHAT BETTER DAY TO DEDICATE THE FIRST SECTION OF THE STATE HIGHWAY 13 EXTENSION IN SEARCY THAN ON FRIDAY THE 13TH? There wasn't anything eerie on May 13th as Searcy Mayor David Morris welcomed a large crowd to officially dedicate and open the first of three sections that will make up the 13-mile, two-lane Searcy Bypass.

Arkansas State Highway and Transportation Department (AHTD) Director Scott Bennett noted that planning for the bypass began with a 2004 Commission Minute Order.

"This section we are opening today was the first to be awarded," said Bennett. "The \$16.4 million contract was awarded to the Rogers Group in September of 2012. The last section will begin construction this summer."

The Searcy High School Band provided entertainment as the crowd arrived and then White County Judge Michael Lincoln gave an invocation and the colors were presented by the Northstar Emergency Medical Services, Searcy Police and Fire Departments and the White County Sheriff's Office.

Former Governor and lifelong Searcy resident Mike Beebe was on hand and noted that highway construction not only can take a long time from idea to fruition, but it also takes a lot of people



Highway Department and local officials cut the ribbon on the Searcy Bypass.

working together to make it happen. He praised the work of local elected officials and also praised former Highway Commissioner Cliff Hoofman who was also at the event.

Highway Commission Chairman Dick Trammel noted that the City of Searcy and White County have each contributed \$3 million toward funding of the estimated \$50 million bypass.

"If it weren't for this working partnership, this bypass would still be looking for financing to complete," Trammel added.

The first section combines five miles of reconstructed, existing State Highway 13 with new location connecting State Highway 267 on the southern end to State Highway 36 to the north and was awarded in 2012 for \$16.4 million.

The second section is 4.2 miles of new location connecting State Highway 16 to U.S. Highway 67 north of town. That \$16.3 million contract is under construction by McGeorge Contractors and is expected to be completed in late 2017 or early 2018.

The third and final section is for the 3.7 miles between Highways 16 and 36. Estimated cost is \$15 to \$20 million and is scheduled to receive bids this summer. ■



Governor Asa Hutchinson signed the new Arkansas Highway Improvement Act on May 23rd.

GOVERNOR HUTCHINSON SIGNS NEW HIGHWAY FUNDING BILL

BY DAVID NILLES

THE GOVERNOR'S CONFERENCE ROOM AT THE STATE CAPITOL WAS THE SETTING ON MAY 23RD AS GOVERNOR ASA HUTCHINSON SIGNED INTO LAW THE ARKANSAS HIGHWAY IMPROVEMENT PLAN OF 2016.

The Governor signed the bill on the final day of a three-day special session of the legislature which was scheduled to consider his highway funding plan as well as other matters.

"I want to congratulate Senator Bart Hester, lead Senate sponsor of the highway bill, as well as Representative Andy Davis, the lead sponsor of the bill in the House, for their magic of working this bill through the session," said Governor Hutchinson. "I think it was great team work."

The Governor continued by thanking AHTD Director Scott Bennett as well as all members of the Highway Commission.

"Everyone made a difference in getting this passed," he added.

On December 4, 2015, the President signed into law the Fixing America's Surface Transportation (FAST) Act, which authorizes five years of Federal Highway funding for Federal Fiscal Years 2016-2020. In general, federally funded projects require a twenty percent state fund match. Due to a variety of reasons that included an increase in Federal Highway funds combined with a decrease in State Highway revenue to the Department, this resulted in a projected shortfall of \$50 million annually to match Federal Highway funds. This equates to an average forfeiture

of \$200 million per year in Federal Highway funds. The end result would have been a total of \$250 million of highway projects that could not be implemented annually in Arkansas.

"It is vitally important that Arkansas be in a position to match Federal Highway funds, the majority of which are generated in Arkansas through the Federal Motor Fuel Tax, sent to Washington and then returned to Arkansas by specific Federal Program formulas. Federal Highway funds that cannot be matched are returned to Washington to be redistributed to other states that have the matching funds available" Director Bennett explained.

The Arkansas Highway Improvement Plan of 2016 addresses the AHTD's most critical, immediate need to match all available Federal Highway funds provided by the FAST Act. "Passage of the Governor's proposal allows Arkansas to fully utilize and not forfeit available Federal Highway dollars, something that is clearly in the best interest of our citizens of the great State of Arkansas, the motoring public and our highways," Director Bennett stated.

"Looking at this highway bill, it is historic in nature because it allocates surplus revenues to the Highway Department,"

Hutchinson said about the plan. "This has never been done in this fashion where it is an ongoing formula for moving surplus revenues to the Department. It also takes Treasury interest earnings and other funds and moves them over to the Highway Transfer Fund for use by the Highway Department. The key is that it is a plan that allows us to meet the Federal match that will ultimately result in \$1 billion in highway improvements over five years."

The bill represents a unique solution for a unique challenge that the AHTD faced. The Legislature and the Governor's Working Group on Highway Funding met that challenge with a result that did not raise taxes.

"The plan is a five year plan that carries us through the length of the Federal Highway legislation and the need that we have for matching funds. You have revenue streams that have never existed before for the Highway Department," Hutchinson concluded. "This is what I would consider a success and I am delighted with this highway bill."

AHTD Director Scott Bennett added "Once Washington enacted the FAST Act, that put the burden back on us to come up with additional revenue to match the Federal funds that became available for Arkansas' highways. We commend and thank the Governor and the legislature for their efforts to address this funding shortfall." ■

DON'T MISS

Vimeo.com/AHTD/LyndalWaits

FOR VIDEO COMPLEMENT TO THIS STORY!



SAYING GOODBYE TO FRITO PIE

LYNDAL WAITS RETIRES AFTER 42+ YEARS WITH THE AHTD



NO ONE CAN BLAME District Five Engineer Lyndal Waits for being ready to retire last month. After all, he had been with the AHTD for 42 successful years. And, most of that time was spent in Batesville, not only doing a great job for the Department, but making his community a better place as well.

LOOKING BACK AT HIS CAREER

"I started working fulltime for the Department in May of 1975 and before that, I was a summer intern for five summers at the Jonesboro and Paragould Resident Engineer Office," Waits recalls. "I think I've been District Engineer for over 21 years. Half of my career has been as District Engineer so that seems really weird. I've been here in Batesville since 1984."

The way the Department does business has changed over those many years and Waits reflected on a few examples.

"The process hasn't change very much in its basic core, but the electronics world has certainly changed everything," he stated. "District Engineers used to always go to

our bid lettings. We would have a chance to visit and watch the proceedings. Now, we have electronic bidding and I probably haven't been to a letting in over a year. Contract administration and how we track our jobs has changed quite a bit as well.

When I make a slide rule joke now, nobody knows what I'm talking about! When I was in college, I had to take a slide rule test. Before I graduated, the advent of the calculator came along. I did get to finish with calculators.

The electronic measuring devices that we use now on projects are amazing. You have graders and dozers with blades that are manipulated by satellites. They give you an amazing level of precision.

The bad part is that we have GPS on our cars now and we have computers keeping our time with Kronos. I'm just joking. These advancements have made our jobs much more efficient."

THE REWARDS OF THE JOB

Over his years at the Department, Waits has been involved in many projects that have made travel easier for motorists in District Five.

"It's nice to make a difference in people's lives and to be able to make their highways safer," Waits comments. "We've had so many projects that have decreased congestion or made our intersections safer. We installed quite a few left turn lanes and short three-lane sections just to help people in their daily travels. I've enjoyed being able to be a part of that. On the maintenance side, we take pride in how well we respond to the public's wants and needs. Sometimes we can't meet all of their requests, but we try to do as much as we can."

Some of the larger projects Waits saw completed during his career come to mind as well.

"I think the extension of Highway 67 is one of my favorite projects," Waits reflected. "When I came over here, it was widened to Bradford, and now the widening has extended north of Newport by about 20 miles. I understand this August they are going to open up the next section up to Hoxie. I've enjoyed seeing that progress through the years.

The White River Bridge was interesting and unique as well. I've been involved in three White River Bridge projects. The one southeast of Newport on Highway 67, and the Guion Bridge on Highway 58 in IZard and Stone Counties. And now, we are doing the replacement of the Highway 367 Blue Bridge down at Newport.

I would say that the one project that has impacted me personally is the five-lane Highway 167 from Bald Knob to Batesville. It's just an unbelievably wonderful thing to have had happen for Batesville and the north central part of the State. It's really been an economic engine for the area. And now, it's continuing northward. We have ten miles of projects going on from Batesville to Cave City. It will have a big impact on Independence County and the people who live in the Cave City area. They come to Batesville to work, shop and go to medical facilities. The highway has had a positive impact on all of that!"

GETTING INVOLVED IN THE BATESVILLE COMMUNITY

When Waits wasn't at the District Headquarters or on a job location somewhere, you could probably find him busy with one of many civic organizations he was involved with. The walls in his office were decorated with numerous plaques given to him for his outstanding service around town.

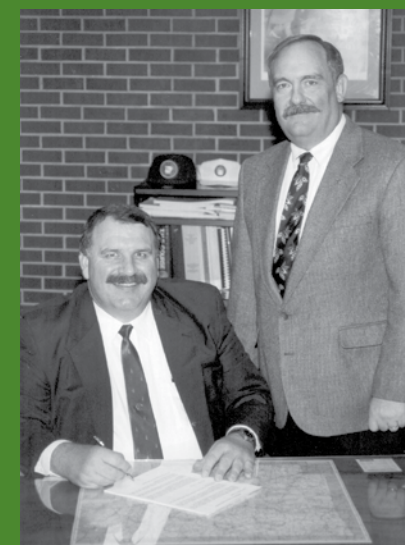
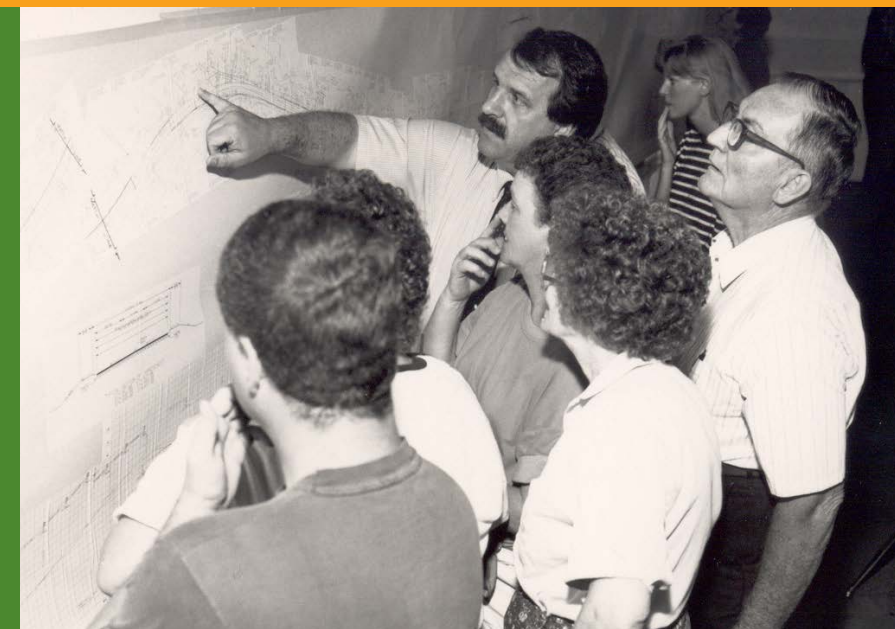
"I started to look for something to do during the summers," Waits recalls.

Greene County Fine Arts Council provided an outlet.

"They always had a huge summer musical and getting involved gave me something to do. I've done 17 stage productions and been in a lead role in three of them. I don't understand how I inflicted that pain upon myself! You're up on that stage trying to remember your lines and sing notes that are close to what they should be. It's pretty scary."

Waits had the lead role in South Pacific and The Pajama Game and, in 2003, was the lead in Annie playing Daddy Warbucks.

(continued on page 16)



"I shaved my head but kept my mustache," he recalls. "I may have been the only Daddy Warbucks in history to have a moustache. My family was adamant that I keep my moustache."

"Once my kids started coming along, I had to let the arts slide a little, but it seems to be in good hands," Waits says

In addition to his work on the stage, Waits was involved in the visual arts as well. He was chair of the Greene County Fine Arts Council for five years and then was instrumental in helping to found the Batesville Area Arts Council.

"The arts seem to be in pretty good hands here in town" he reflects. "My primary goal was to get all of the funding into one place. They are doing a tremendous job without me. It is much more wonderful now and I'm glad I got out of their way."

The AHTD's involvement with the United Way means a great deal to Waits as well.

"I've always been really proud of District Five's involvement in the annual United Way campaign," Waits adds. "We've always represented a substantial part of the Department's total giving amount. And, we were always in a battle with the Right of Way Division as to who would be the top giver. I hope the success continues after I leave."

FRIDAY NIGHTS AT PIONEER STADIUM

On Friday nights during high school football season, you'll find Waits in the stadium press box serving as the stadium announcer for the Batesville High School Pioneers.

"I didn't want my announcer role to be a bland job," Waits admits.

In addition to telling the crowd what down it is, who caught the ball and who threw the ball, Waits has coined a few phrases that have become institutional and earned him a nickname.

"I always start the evening with 'Its Friday night football in Pioneer Stadium.' Also, because my daughter was in the band, I wanted to mention the concession stand because the band is involved in that operation. So I started doing a commercial



for them. Usually, in the last few minutes of the first half whenever a team calls a time out, I do a commercial that starts out with a joke. It's usually a corny joke. Every now and then there is a homerun joke in there but usually they're pretty sorry and they are good groaners and the crowd appreciates it. I can't tell you how many times people have told me they always wait for that part of the game to happen. So I tell the joke and I relate the commercial to whoever the joke is about and tell the crowd that they are at the game tonight because you know if it is Friday night, you should be at Pioneer Stadium. I say they are enjoying the food at the concession stand and I finish it by saying, 'and be sure to get my personal favorite...' and then I pause and I am drowned out by the crowd that says "Frito Pie!"

Waits has become known as "Frito Pie" around town.

He once met the quarterback for the Hope High School football team who was curious about the subject.

"That quarterback told me 'Mr. Waits, that was the worst game I've ever played. You all were too tough for us.' He paused and then he said, 'And what's the deal with Frito Pie?'"

That's pretty bad when you have the opposing team asking what that's all about. That year I did get to announce the band at War Memorial Stadium in Little Rock during the championships and I finished it with "now where can I go get a Frito Pie?"

Waits was a major player in bringing youth football to Batesville as well.

"There were lots of folks in town who said, 'Man I wish we had something here.'



(Top) Waits points proudly at the Equipment Operators' Roadeo Team Champion Trophy. (Bottom Left) Waits accepting the Team Champion award for District Five in 2015. (Bottom Right) District Five once again won the Roadeo Team Champion Award in June 2016.

Our kids had been going to Cave City for their Mighty Might football program. A friend of mine had a son who was a 4th grader. I said, 'If you'll help me on the football side, you and I can work on it.' I set up the rules and scoured the Internet. We tried to keep it low key and fun for the kids. We taught the fundamentals and Coach King at the high school gave me his play book. Something he has regretted to this day!"

THE SMELL OF GOOD BARBEQUE

Folks in Batesville know a thing or two about good barbeque. Waits was a key player in the early days of the Batesville Ozark Hawg BBQ Championship Contest. He was an original committee member and served as chair of the event from 2001 to 2010.

"It was a fundraiser for the Kiwanis Club. The founder, Dr. Jim Stalker, asked me to be a part of the team and we traveled to some barbeque contests to see how it was done. From 1991 to 2009 we held our contest here in Batesville. I took over as chair for many years and helped put it on. It's a great thing for the community and we raised over \$200,000. It was a great experience and I do miss it.

For the last four or five years, they have been doing 'Smoking on the White.' Every time the end of March rolls around and I'm down by Riverside Park I just hurt when I smell that good barbeque in the air. I sure do miss those days of smoking that barbeque and the great smells of the early morning. It was nice!"

THE AHTD'S EQUIPMENT ROADEO

Every year when the Department holds its statewide Equipment Roadeo, you'll find Waits on hand helping to pull it off without a hitch.

"I got involved in about 1993 when Ray Woodruff was the Chair. He was our Excel score sheet guru and the keeper of the program."

Waits has been involved ever since. Now he is going out on top because District Five won the State Champions title last year.

"I got the shock of my life when we won," he recalls. "That was a first for District Five. I am coming down to cheer District Five on this year. Maybe they will win it again for Bruce Street."

Waits was instrumental in the startup of Regional Roadeo as well, serving as the chair.

"We went to Lake Village and met folks from the Mississippi Department of Transportation. Together, we started the Regional Roadeo and it has turned out to be a great success. It was just us and Mississippi for a little while but our intent was to involve teams from all of our SASHTO states and we are getting close. We are up to about ten states now."

LOOKING AT RETIREMENT

As you read this article, Waits is already enjoying his retirement. When we wrote this story, we had to ask Lyndal what he would do once he closed his career out at the AHTD.

"It's going to be different and it really does seem weird," Waits reflects. "Just the fact that the magazine crew is here doing a story is weird. It's been a good run and I have enjoyed it. We have really great people here in District Five and they are just a super bunch to work with. I will certainly miss the day-to-day contact with everybody.

I'll continue doing all of the community things I've always been involved in and maybe some new ones. Someone asked me if I was going to quit doing the stadium announcing and I said, 'No, I'm just retiring from work!' And I love work. I never had too many bad days. I've survived!"

Enjoy a bird's eye view of Lake Dardanelle from high atop Mount Nebo.



Cornwell House at Mount Nebo State Park



Beautiful, rustic cabins are available for rent at Mount Nebo.



Lake Dardanelle State Park Visitor Center

WEEKEND

ROAD TRIP:

RUSSELLVILLE

BY DAVID NILLES

THIS SUMMER'S WEEKEND ROAD TRIP TAKES US TO THE ARKANSAS RIVER VALLEY, THE TOWNS OF RUSSELLVILLE AND DARDANELLE, AND THE SURROUNDING AREA.

It is here that the Ozark and Ouachita Mountains meet along the shores of the Arkansas River. This area is also referred to as the Tri Peaks area because within the river valley stand Mt. Nebo, Mount Magazine and Petit Jean Mountain. Our journey includes one of those mountains as well as lakes, history, the arts and entertainment.

This road trip begins with a bird's-eye view of Russellville, Dardanelle and the valley floor from high atop Mt. Nebo at **Mt. Nebo State Park**. In 1933, a portion of the mountain was chosen as

a park site. Native stone and logs from the mountain were used by the Civilian Conservation Corps to construct many of the park's bridges, trails, rustic-style cabins and pavilions. For campers, the park offers 34 campsites with a beautiful view beyond the mountain. There are also 15 fully-equipped cabins for rent, complete with fireplaces and kitchens. The accommodations make a great headquarters for the weekend.

For hikers, fourteen miles of trails encircle Mount Nebo and take visitors to the east and west ends of the mountain.

The highlights are Sunrise and Sunset Points, both perfect places to take in the view. For mountain biking enthusiasts, the 4 1/2-mile Bench Trail is a fairly level route along a natural terrace that encircles Mount Nebo. And speaking of biking, the Visitor's Center offers bike rentals, perfect for taking advantage of the mountain's relatively flat top. After a good hike or bike ride, a swimming pool awaits to cool visitors down. Tennis courts, picnic areas and a playground also are found on the mountain top. Opening soon is the **Cornwell House**, built in 1889 as part of the Arkansas Summer Normal School program. The park is located seven miles west of Dardanelle on Highway 155. Trailers over 24-foot long

aren't recommended due to the hairpin curves zigzagging up the mountain.

If lakeside camping sounds more appealing to you, then head down the mountain to **Lake Dardanelle State Park**. Lake Dardanelle is a 34,300-acre reservoir on the Arkansas River. These two water resources have put this area into the national spotlight as a major bass fishing tournament site. The State Park offers two areas on the lake: one park site is at Russellville, and the other is located at Dardanelle. Both the Russellville (main park) and Dardanelle locations offer camping, boat ramps, pavilions, picnic sites, restrooms and bathhouses with hot showers.

The Russellville site also features

an impressive **Visitor Center** on the lakeshore that overlooks Lake Dardanelle. Exhibits and touch screen kiosks share information about the park, the area's water resources and its history. The highlight is an aquatic exhibit featuring six aquariums that hold fish found in the waters of the surrounding area.

Another unique facility in the Russellville main area is the park's 1,861-square-foot fishing tournament weigh-in pavilion, a world-class facility and the first of its kind in the nation that serves as a staging area for tournaments. Near the pavilion there is also a covered fishing pier, a popular place for bank fishing, sightseers and

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Camping at Lake Dardanelle State Park
Photo Courtesy AR Parks & Tourism

photographers because of its sweeping view of the lake and Mount Nebo. Hike a trail, rent a kayak, listen to a nature program by park interpreters or take a guided lake tour. It all adds up to a great place to enjoy the outdoors! To reach the park, follow Marina Road off of Highway 64.

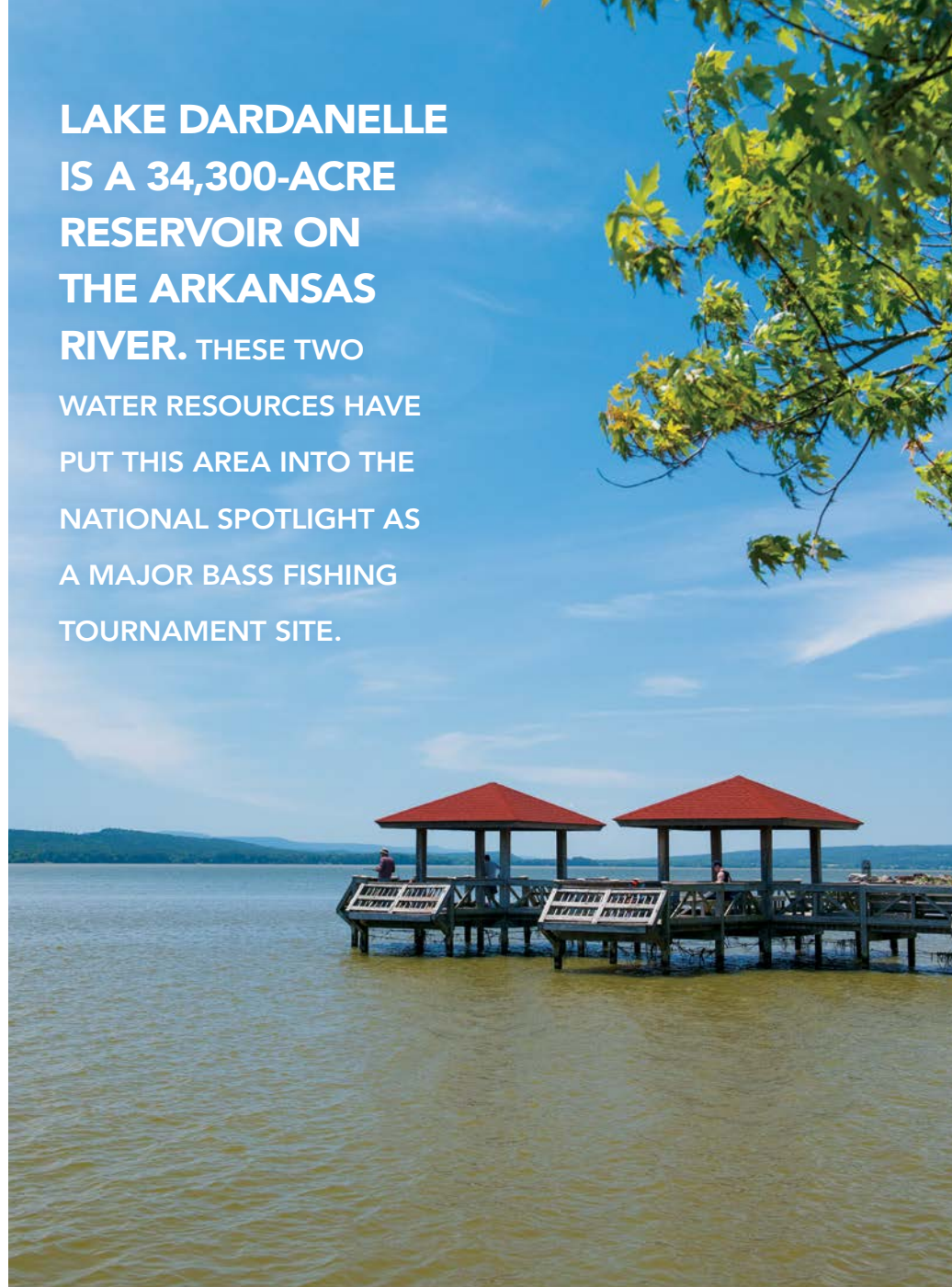
Heading into the heart of Russellville, it's time for some fun at **Hourglass Escape Rooms**. Escape rooms are a new form of live action entertainment that have become a worldwide phenomenon. For one hour in one room, you and your crew will race against the clock, solving puzzles and cracking codes in hopes of escaping the room before time runs out. Each room is themed and your objective can vary from finding the antidote to searching for stolen art or solving a murder. There are several difficulty levels and anywhere from two to twenty people can play in your room, depending on the room you choose. It's a race against the clock, but don't worry, they will let you out! The fun can be found at 2606 W. Main Street. You'll want to call 479-567-1068 to book your room.

For railroad buffs, be sure to see the **Russellville Depot** while in the downtown area. Built in 1916, this rehabilitated Missouri-Pacific train station is listed on the National Register of Historic Places and features railroad memorabilia and a visitor's center. The depot is located at 320 W. C Street.

Russellville offers an opportunity to take in the visual arts at the **River Valley Arts Center**. Galleries at the Center offer works of art by local artists as well as rotating exhibitions by national artists. The works of Christine Hendrix are being featured this month. Art classes for kids and adults are also offered for those interested in expressing their creativity. The Arts Center is located at 1001 E. B Street.

To learn more about the Arkansas River in this area, allow some time at

LAKE DARDANELLE IS A 34,300-ACRE RESERVOIR ON THE ARKANSAS RIVER. THESE TWO WATER RESOURCES HAVE PUT THIS AREA INTO THE NATIONAL SPOTLIGHT AS A MAJOR BASS FISHING TOURNAMENT SITE.



the **Arkansas River Visitor Center**. The theme of this Visitor Center is "Renaissance of a River". Interpretive exhibits tell the story of the development of the River Valley from the time when Native Americans were the sole occupants of this area up to the present. The center also offers wildlife exhibits, hands-on exhibits and great views of the river. The area was once a bustling town and riverport. It was the center of the Western Cherokee Nation and included the community of Norristown. The Center is located at 1598 Lock and Dam Road and is open Monday through Saturday.

When hunger strikes and you're ready for a meal, try the **Old South Restaurant**. Built in 1947, the building features an Art Modern-style design and is listed on the National Register of Historic Places. Not much has changed since it was built. In addition to neon lights on the building, round windows, aluminum fixtures and padded booths typical of the era, the menu features great breakfast, lunch and dinner items. Be sure to leave room for their banana pudding! The restaurant is located at 1330 E. Main Street.

From Russellville, we'll head just east to Pottsville to take in some history of the area at the **Potts Inn Museum**. The major attraction here is the Greek Revival Architectural style home built in the 1850s by Kirkbride Potts. Potts was one of Arkansas' earliest settlers to this area. The home housed his family and also served as an inn for travelers on the Butterfield Stagecoach Line. In fact, Potts Inn is the only surviving stagecoach stop on the Butterfield Overland mail route in Arkansas. Tours of the home are available and you will see many furnishings in the home that were owned by the Potts family. Also found among the log structures on the grounds is an exhibition of dolls that features an exact replica of each of the First Ladies of the United States and the First Ladies' of Arkansas inaugural ball gowns.

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Another area features one of just a few known hat museums in the United States with examples covering over 100 years. Indian artifacts and antique farm equipment are also on view. Located right next door to the city of Russellville, the Potts Inn Museum is located just off of Highway 64 at 15 E. Ash Street and is open Wednesday through Saturday.

Our last stop in the River Valley is just eight miles down the river from Dardanelle at the **Holla Bend National Wildlife Refuge**. The refuge covers 7,055 acres and was established in 1957 when the bend in the river where it is situated was cut off by the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers in an effort to improve navigation and prevent flood damage.

The refuge's primary purpose is to provide a winter home for thousands of ducks and geese that use the Mississippi Flyway each year for migration. During these spring and fall migrations as many as fourteen species of ducks and four kinds of geese will stop over at the refuge. During the winter, it is not uncommon for the refuge to host up to 100,000 ducks and geese at once. Bald eagles can be seen in the winter from December through February. Spring brings thousands of

neo-tropical migratory songbirds that use the refuge as a rest area on their journey from Central and South America. Many species of vireos, warblers, buntings and orioles inhabit the woodlands, during this time. Herons, egrets and other wading birds feed in shallow pools and alligators can be seen in the refuge lakes and ponds. Other wildlife in the area may include deer, beavers, otters, coyotes and bobcats.

A great way to see the refuge is by taking the auto tour route. Informational panels along the way assist in learning more about the area. The refuge is open to visitors daily during daylight hours seven days a week and the headquarters is open Monday - Friday from 7:00 a.m. to 3:30 p.m. The best times to see wildlife are early morning and early evening.

To get to the refuge, take Highway 7 South out of Dardanelle to Highway 155 East and go approximately four miles to the refuge entrance.

That brings us to the end of this road trip, but for those with more time on their hands, think about visiting the other two "Tri Peaks" in the area. Mount Magazine is within sight distance to the west, and Petit Jean is just a few minutes' drive from Holla Bend to the east. ■

The Potts Inn Museum also houses one of just a few known hat museums in the United States.



Take a swim in the Mulberry River during the Homegrown Music Festival.



OUT & ABOUT

CALENDAR OF EVENTS AROUND THE STATE

As you travel Arkansas over the next two months, consider checking out some of the listed events. Our State is full of interesting things to do, no matter which highway you find yourself driving. For additional event listings, check Arkansas.com/events.

* **HOMEGROWN MUSIC FESTIVAL:** The Mulberry River region's first sustainable music and camping festival featuring music by Leftover Salmon, The Wood Brothers, Town Mountain and many more groups. There will also be workshops, late night jams, hands-on activities and plenty of hiking, biking and floating. • JULY 21 - 23

* **CAVE CITY WATERMELON FESTIVAL:** Feast on the world's sweetest watermelons and enjoy watermelon games, an auto show, a tractor show, a WetZone for kids and music by Marty Stuart & His Fabulous Superlatives and many more. • AUGUST 11 - 13

* **METEOR SHOWER MANIA:** View shooting stars from the middle of Lake Maumelle! Join a park interpreter on this guided cruise to learn about stars and constellations, then see the annual Perseid meteor shower. Advance payment and registration are required. • AUGUST 12 - 13

* **WHITE RIVER DAYS:** Celebrate the history of the White River! The weekend's events focus on the ecology, history and prehistory of this beautiful area of northern Arkansas. Explore the river on guided canoe, kayak and johnboat floats. • SEPTEMBER 1 - 5

THROUGH AUGUST 7
58TH ANNUAL DELTA EXHIBITION
Arkansas Arts Center
Little Rock, AR

JULY 14 - 24
110° IN THE SHADE
South Arkansas Arts Center
El Dorado, AR

JULY 21 - 23 *
HOMEGROWN MUSIC FESTIVAL
Byrd's Adventure Center - Highway 215
On the Mulberry River near Ozark, AR

AUGUST 4 - 7
MARY POPPINS
Arkansas Public Theatre
Rogers, AR

AUGUST 11 - 13 *
37TH ANNUAL CAVE CITY WATERMELON FESTIVAL
Cave City Park
Cave City, AR

AUGUST 12 - 13 *
METEOR SHOWER MANIA
Jolly Rogers Marina
Pinnacle Mountain State Park, AR

AUGUST 26 - 27
41ST ANNUAL QUEEN WILHELMINA ROD RUN
Downtown Mena
Mena, AR

SEPTEMBER 1 - 5 *
WHITE RIVER DAYS
Bull Shoals-White River State Park
Bull Shoals, AR

Holla Bend National Wildlife Refuge



Holla Bend is home to deer and many other types of wildlife.



In winter, it is not uncommon for Holla Bend to host up to 100,000 migratory birds at once.
Photo Courtesy AR Parks & Tourism

Watermelon Fest



Meteor Mania



White River





AHTD AFTER-HOURS

MIKE ERBY:

LIFTING THE BIG IRON

BY DAVID NILLES

Mike Erby competing in 1994 when he set a State record in his weight class.



Arkansas Highways editor David Nilles and AHTD photographer Rusty Hubbard traveled to Nashville to learn more about Erby and his love for keeping in great shape.

NILLES: *When did you first become interested in weightlifting?*

ERBY: I've always had an interest in it. I'd see other guys lifting big weights and I'd think, man I wish I could do that. I became active in 1989 and found a local trainer. His name is Bill Taylor and he got me started. He continued as my trainer for 20 years. If it wasn't for him, I wouldn't have enjoyed such success.

I started training and going to meets and was learning along the way. I went from a 500 pound squat to a 700 pound squat in less than one year. I was lifting weights seven days a week. Three years later, I was lifting more weight than the guys I had admired. If you set your mind to anything, you can do it. But I also think it's a God-given gift. I started right after high school and now I'm 49 years old, and I've never stopped.

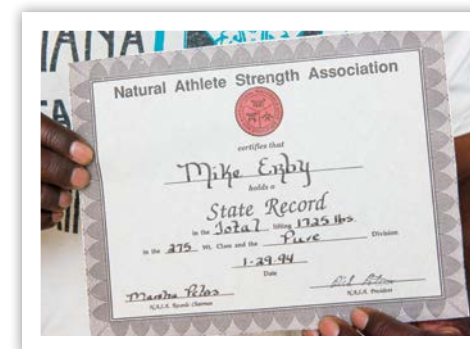
NILLES: *Did you play any other sports growing up?*

ERBY: I played football... nose guard and a little fullback in high school. Plus I ran track. I wasn't this big in high school. I probably weighed 160 pounds. I started weight lifting and I gained a hundred pounds in less than one year.

NILLES: *How often do you work out?*

ERBY: I used to work out seven days a week. That was when I was training hard and going to meets. Now, I work out about five days a week and it takes me about an hour each time. What got me to the strength I am today is squatting, dead lifting and the bench. I don't do a lot of extra stuff. I'll alternate between leg days and bench days. On my leg day, I squat and do leg extensions and some pull downs. On my bench day I also do curls and dips. That's it and then I'm out of there! But I do it all with big weights and that's what helps me. I've had big time success doing my training my way.

Mike's hard work has paid off when it comes to competitions. He has won over 100 trophies and holds numerous State records.



ERBY: Bill Taylor and I were going to competitions every other week. We went to Little Rock, the Air Force Base, Blytheville, Dallas, St. Louis, we did it all. I've been invited to compete in Russia twice. I didn't make the trip but Bill went and he said if I had gone, I would have blasted through the competition.

Looking to the future, there is a competition bracket for lifters age 50 and over and I've been considering that.

I would like to compete when I reach that age because I'm as strong as ever. I still can hold my own in the younger bracket, but if it's easier to hold my own in the next bracket, then why not?

NILLES: *Have you participated in other competitions as well?*

ERBY: I've been involved in Strong Man competitions. In those events, I have lifted wooden poles similar to telephone poles to a vertical position; I've flipped tractor tires and even pulled a fire truck full of water.

Erby has shared his success in weightlifting with others in his community that are interested in the sport. The Power Shack is open every day and he estimates 35 to 40 lifters come to train.

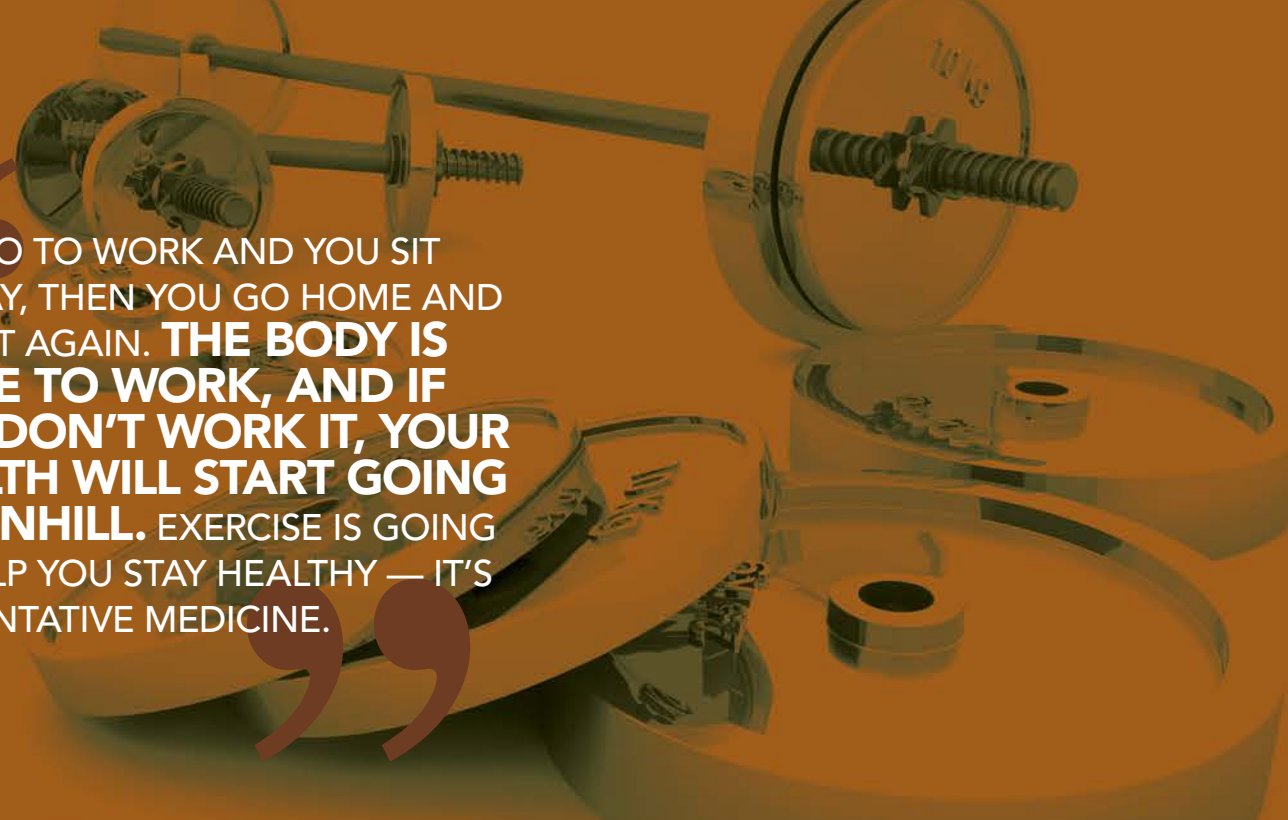
ERBY: My weight lifting is different and my gym is different. You go into some gyms and they have a lot of machines mixed in with the free weights. That's fine, but when

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MIKE ERBY IS A MAINTENANCE AIDE III AT DISTRICT THREE'S AREA MAINTENANCE OFFICE IN NASHVILLE. Mike has been on the job with the Department for 26 years. When he's not preparing his road crew, making sure their equipment is in perfect working order or setting up work zones, chances are you'll find him lifting weights at his gym in Nashville, called the Power Shack. He's as successful at the gym as he is in his job, winning multiple State titles and landing in the list of the Top 100 weight lifters in the country. At age 49, his numbers reflect his success. He can bench press 600 pounds, squat 900 pounds and dead lift 800 pounds.



“YOU GO TO WORK AND YOU SIT ALL DAY, THEN YOU GO HOME AND YOU SIT AGAIN. **THE BODY IS MADE TO WORK, AND IF YOU DON'T WORK IT, YOUR HEALTH WILL START GOING DOWNHILL.** EXERCISE IS GOING TO HELP YOU STAY HEALTHY — IT'S PREVENTATIVE MEDICINE.”



a person walks into my gym, everything is free weights. It just works better. Machines balance themselves, but with free weights, you've got to balance that weight yourself. If you want to get bigger and stronger, then you have to lift and you have got to go up in the weight you lift. The small poundage isn't going to get it. Some of the younger lifters are different in that they want it right then, but they don't want to work for it. In order for you to get strong, you have got to lift heavy weights, that's all there is to it. When people come into my gym, they work with me. We don't play around or do a bunch of talking, we lift those weights!

NILLES: *Do you follow a specific diet?*

ERBY: I don't really follow a certain diet. I think if you work out the way you are supposed to work out, then all the calories that you eat will burn right off. You can eat what you want to eat but you have to lift weights and you have to exercise like you should. I have a big appetite, and 25 pieces of fish and french fries are nothing. My appetite is out of this world but I just burn it right off with the heavy weights in the gym.

Exercise is the key for everyone. I think a person needs to get some kind of exercise,

even if it's just walking a mile every other day. A lot of illness comes from just sitting still, not being active. You go to work and you sit all day, then you go home and you sit again. The body is made to work, and if you don't work it, your health will start going downhill. Exercise is going to help you stay healthy — it's preventative medicine. The body is built to move around. In addition, I don't drink and I don't smoke. If you treat your body right, it's going to treat you right. I enjoy training people and sharing that philosophy with them.

NILLES: *Have you ever suffered any injuries in your workouts?*

ERBY: You know what really scares me today is the thought of breaking something. When you go into the gym, you've got to be intense. You can't be playing around with that kind of weight or you're going to get hurt. I did have 300 pounds fall across my face one time. I was training and all of the sudden, my arm just gave out. I was trying to hold the weight up and my shoulder popped. I had to get stitches on my face and they did an operation on my eyes but now you can't tell any difference. The doctor said that he couldn't believe that the tendon didn't tear away from my bone. So he just

let it heal up. I did lose some strength in that arm. That's the first time I have ever been hurt lifting weights. That was a couple of year ago. I still feel as strong as ever today. I'm still going to lift weights and think about competing after the age of 50 because I've been waiting to be in that next age bracket.

I've done all of this weight lifting with one disadvantage. I only have nine toes. I'm doing it without a big toe on one foot. That's why I say it's a God-given gift. I tell guys I'm missing a toe and they can't believe it until I pull off my shoe. They'll ask me how I am balancing that much weight with only nine toes.

NILLES: *Does being in such good shape have benefits at home and work when it comes to lifting things?*

ERBY: Oh yes, big time! If people work out or go walking regularly, they can perform in their job better. I can put out an entire load of coal mix, it may take all day, but we get it out. The better shape you are in, the more work you can get done. When you work out, it makes your job easier. If I'm going to stay on the job 35 or 40 years, I'm going to keep myself up in order to keep going!

Erby was serving as a flagger three years ago when he was struck by a car traveling 50 miles per hour.

NILLES: *Because you and your crew are out on the road every day, let's talk about safety on the job.*

ERBY: I've always kept safety in mind out there. Our crews welcome the safety training that we participate in and we need that. We commend the Department for that training. You have drivers out there that are texting and talking on the phone which means they're not paying attention. Regarding my accident, I was flagging and I had stopped a car. Another car running about 60 miles per hour, rear-ended the stopped car, which then ran into me. The impact of that car had me flying. All I remember was that I was up in the air, and I saw blue sky. And that was it! The Highway Patrol officer on site said I was flying like Superman. When I hit the ground, I bounced and the rear ended car traveled right past me. I jumped up and I looked around and everyone was running towards me. It startled me because I didn't know what was going on. Being hit had temporarily knocked me silly. Unbelievably, I had no serious injuries!



Mike Erby shares his passion for weight training with others at his gym, The Power Shack.

Erby has shared his love for weight lifting with others by appearing on television in his hometown of Nashville, doing exhibitions at locations such as Walmart and at area churches.

His success in the sport has not only provided him with health advantages and years of enjoyment, today through his work at Power Shack, he is sharing his love of the sport with a whole new generation of weight lifters in the Nashville area.

When not busy at Power Shack, you'll find Erby involved with the Relay for Life. And rumor has it, he's one heck of a good barbeque cook, sharing his barbeque with his community. ■

ARKANSAS' Great Outdoors

ARKANSAS HAS AN ABUNDANCE OF BEAUTIFUL PLACES WHERE TRAVELERS CAN ENJOY THE OUTDOORS. We invited AHTD employees to capture images of those places recently. On the next several pages, we share some of the wilderness areas they have discovered.



LESLIE SUNRISE
Searcy County

photo by:
Diana Wilks
Section Head, Cultural Resources



CREEK ROOT
Madison County

photo by:
Richard Thomas
Utility Coordinator II

BLUE MOUNTAIN LAKE
Yell County

photo by:
Esther Hamm
District 4
Area Headquarters Attendant



RIVER BRIDGE SUNRISE
Interstate 430
Pulaski County

photo by:
Luann Glenn
District 6
Construction Aide I



LEE CREEK
Crawford County

photo by:
Richard Thomas
Utility Coordinator II



MALLARD LAKE MOONRISE
Mississippi County

photo by:
Retired Cpl. Rob Samons
Arkansas Highway Police

ARKANSAS' Great Outdoors



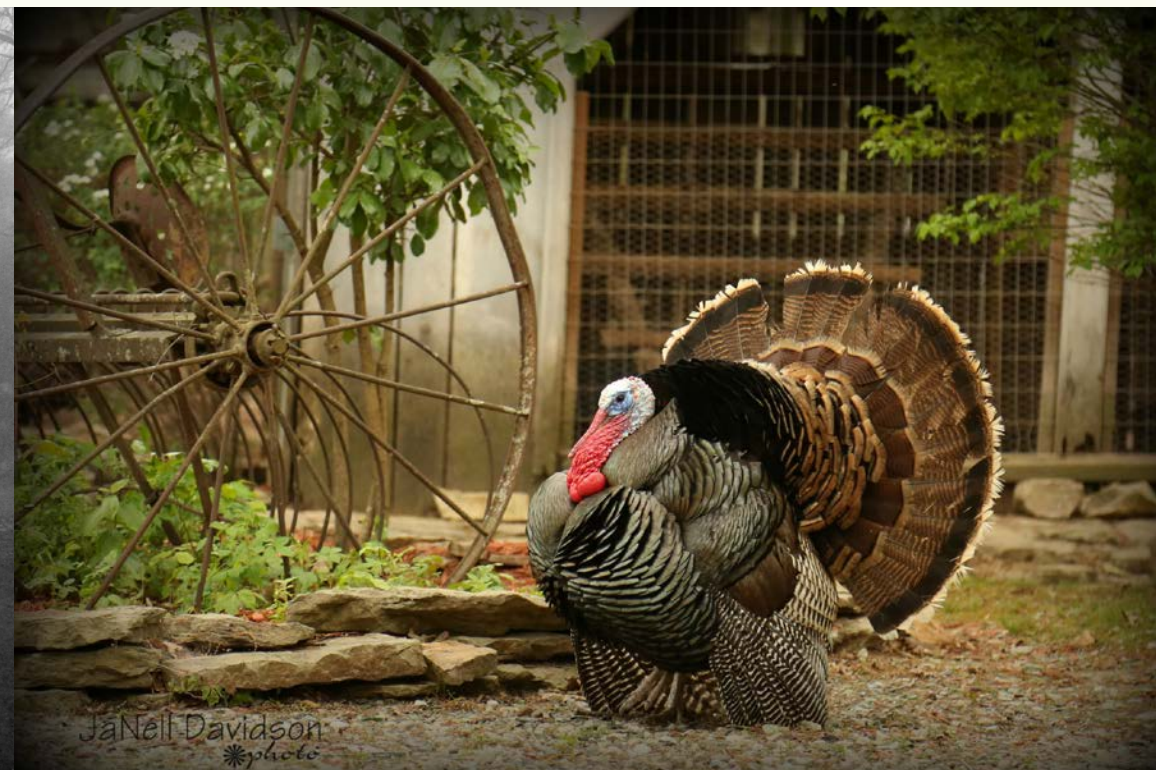
MORNING FOG
Ozark National Forest
Pope County

photo by:
Luann Glenn
District 6
Construction Aide I



GASTON'S TURKEY
Baxter County

photo by:
JaNell Davidson
District 9
Office Administrative Assistant V





ICY WINTER AFTERNOON
Mississippi County

photo by:
Retired Cpl. Rob Samons
Arkansas Highway Police



BEAVER LAKE HERON
Benton County

photo by:
Diana Wilks
Section Head, Cultural Resources



Highway 92 in
north central Arkansas



Highway 62
in Benton County

AHTD RECIPIENT OF QUALITY IN CONSTRUCTION AWARDS

THE ARKANSAS STATE HIGHWAY AND TRANSPORTATION DEPARTMENT was the recipient of two awards from the National Asphalt Pavement Association (NAPA) recently.

The 'Quality in Construction' awards recognize excellence in asphalt pavements for 2015. For the year, NAPA honored 205 projects completed by 79 companies with the award.

"The asphalt pavement industry is committed to building quality pavements that deliver high performance and drivability to the public," said Michael Cote, NAPA 2015 Chairman. "All contractors' projects earning a Quality in Construction Award are measured against industry best practices designed to live up to our promise. I'm honored to say that in earning a 2015 Quality in Construction Award, contractors have met or exceeded these rigorous standards."

The AHTD was presented awards for improvements on State Highway 92 in Conway, Van Buren and Cleburne Counties and for U.S. Highway 62 from Avoca to Garfield.

The project on Highway 92 included the expansion of two

major box culverts (with excavation and embankment work) and the resurfacing of 26 miles of the highway. The improvements extend from Highway 16 near Greers Ferry Lake westward to State Highway 9 at Center Ridge. The contractor for the project was Rogers Group Inc. of Conway. It was substantially completed in September of last year. Cost of the project was approximately \$4.8 million.

In Benton County, the Highway 62 project widened six miles of the roadway to five lanes.

The improvements extend from Andy Jack Road, just north of Avoca, to near Wimpy Jones Road in Garfield. Hutchens Construction Company of Cassville, Missouri, was the contractor for the project. Work was completed in October of 2015 for \$23.2 million.

"It's an honor to receive these awards from the Asphalt Pavement Association," commented AHTD Director Scott Bennett. "We congratulate the contractors for their exemplary work which put these Arkansas highways in the national spotlight and will provide the safest roadways possible for years to come." ■

LARRY DICKERSON

CLOSES THE BOOKS

ON A THREE-DECADE CAREER

BY DAVID NILLES



Larry Dickerson (center) with members of the portfolio management team.

IT'S IMPORTANT TO GET TO KNOW ALL OF THE EMPLOYEES THAT WE HAVE AT THE DEPARTMENT AND TO MAKE SURE OUR MANAGERS KNOW WHO THEY ARE WORKING FOR.

JUST LAST MONTH, LARRY DICKERSON SAID “GOODBYE” TO A LONG, SUCCESSFUL CAREER AT THE AHTD AND “HELLO” TO A WELL-DESERVED RETIREMENT. Dickerson had most recently served as Executive Secretary for ASHERS (Arkansas State Highway Employees Retirement System) and Division Head of the Retirement Division but his career with the Department goes back almost 30 years.

Dickerson began employment with the Arkansas State Highway and Transportation Department in July of 1987 as Assistant Fiscal Officer. He was promoted to Chief Fiscal Officer at the beginning of 1988.

Dickerson had this to say about the role of the Chief Fiscal Officer and his team.

“We are in charge of payroll, accounts payable, accounts receivable, financial statements and Federal Aid billing. I also assist the Director in presenting the budget for the biennial legislative session at that particular time of year. The role hasn’t changed much over the years. There have been more programs added, such as

the year we picked up the Transportation Safety Agency. That brought their programs in. It was an example of the consolidation of State government, and we picked up those roles through attrition. We brought them in to Highway Police and other areas. It was a nice process to go through and watch how it worked out.”

Dickerson held the position of Executive Secretary for the Arkansas State Highway Employees Retirement System as well.

“I was officially appointed to that position on January 1, 1988. But with the growth in the retirement plan and IRS regulations and everything that needed to be done to offer a better product



(L. to R.) Emanuel Banks and Larry Dickerson discuss retirement board business.

to the employees and to maintain the plan’s liability, the position needed to be separate. We were able to make it an independent position during the legislative session before last, and I took that title in March of 2015.”

Most of the focus of the Executive Secretary of ASHERS is on the Retirement System’s portfolio.

“We have three money managers that work for the Department and they do a very good job,” Dickerson says of the portfolio. They include CastleArk

Management, LLC, Meridian Investment Advisors and Garcia Hamilton & Associates. “It’s a team process, it’s not Larry Dickerson picking and choosing stocks, thank goodness! It’s professionals that do that.”

The value of the portfolio has risen tremendously. When started, it was valued at \$227 million. Today, through April of 2016, the market value has risen to \$1.3 billion.

Dickerson reflected on the work he was doing in that position just prior to retirement.

“When you get into the retirement side, it’s one of the most challenging jobs that you can have because of the responsibility to the people that you are working with. It’s very rewarding knowing that you are in a position to help the families of our employees. It’s important to get to know all of the employees that we have at the

Department and to make sure our money managers know who they are working for. They’re working for the men and women that are out there doing maintenance and construction on our roadways. Our team appreciates all of the hard work that all of our people do. That’s what we have been able to accomplish with these managers. It is truly an extension of our highway employees that we work with.”

Dickerson was asked what is going through his mind as he looks forward to retirement.

“I’ve learned through this job that you have to have something lined up. You can’t sit idle once you retire. I plan to do things that I’ve always enjoy doing. I’m looking forward to getting involved again with some of my hobbies.

It’s a hard decision to decide when to retire. The DROP made it a lot easier and with Tier Two it became even easier.

We would have people come in to our office thinking they were ready to go. Then, you could bet on it, we wouldn’t see them again for another 12 months. It’s a hard decision to make. It’s a personal decision and I’ve heard, and think it to be true, that you will know when it is time to go. Once you go and get out there, you think, I should have gone two years earlier!”

Before being interviewed for this story, Dickerson stated that he had time to reflect on his years with the AHTD and what they meant to him overall.

“One of the most rewarding things I experienced working at the Department was the opportunity to see the benefits of an employee population that has become diversified over the years. It has enriched my life working with such a diverse group of people. We have come a long way since the days when we were all growing up.”

Prior to coming to work at the AHTD, Dickerson worked with the Arkansas Legislative Audit for 13 years. In total, Dickerson is completing 42 years with the State of Arkansas.

He is a 1970 graduate of Little Rock McClellan High School and a 1974 graduate of the University of Arkansas at Little Rock earning a bachelor’s degree in Accounting. Dickerson is a Certified Public Accountant. ■

AHTD ANTI-LITTERING EFFORTS RECOGNIZED

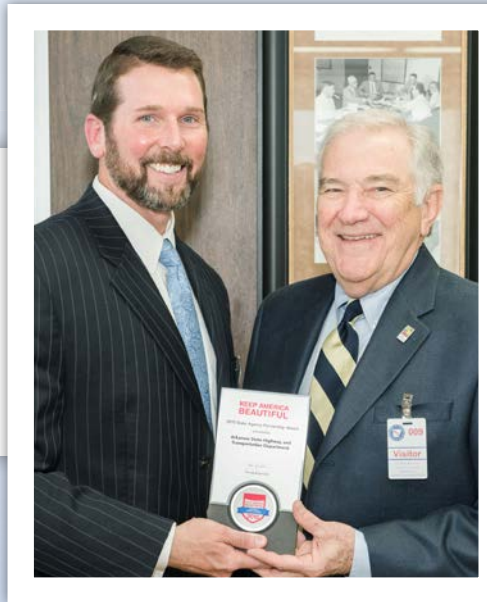
The Arkansas State Highway and Transportation Department has received the 2015 State Agency Partnership Award from KEEP AMERICA BEAUTIFUL INC., the nation's premier community environmental improvement organization. The AHTD was nominated for the award by the Keep Arkansas Beautiful Commission (KAB).

"Our mission is to inspire and educate individuals to prevent litter, to recycle and to keep Arkansas beautiful," wrote Robert Phelps, executive director of KAB, in the nomination. "We accomplish this through behavioral changes shaped by our promotional messages and activities, demonstrating positive environmental values that citizens can adopt and live out. We are dependent on and grateful for our partnership with the Arkansas State Highway and Transportation Department."

The AHTD earned the national recognition for its outstanding and ongoing support of litter prevention projects and programs across the State. The Department is a lead sponsor of the **Great Arkansas Cleanup**, an annual Statewide litter-pickup campaign promoted by KAB. This sponsorship helps provide more than 14,000 volunteers with cleanup materials such as gloves and safety vests.

The AHTD promotes a litter-free Arkansas by operating the **Litter Hotline**, a toll-free phone number where Arkansans can anonymously report littering; by providing trash receptacles at rest areas across the State; and by featuring anti-litter messages on State highway maps.

The Litter Hotline averages 100+ calls per week and sends reported vehicle owners a letter reminding them that littering is illegal and has harmful consequences for Arkansas' environment and economy. The hotline number is 866-811-1222. Or, you can report littering online at IDriveArkansas.com.



(L. to R.) AHTD Director Scott Bennett and Executive Director of the Keep Arkansas Beautiful Commission Robert Phelps.

Look for the online report form under the "Contact" icon.

"Each year, we see decreases in litter reports and the volume of our pickup campaign activities, as well as increased growth in volunteers in our programs," Phelps added. "The ongoing AHTD partnership contributions continue to help us, and Arkansas, achieve these accomplishments."

Phelps presented the award to the Arkansas State Highway Commission at its meeting April 20th in Little Rock.

"Partnering with Keep America Beautiful and the Keep Arkansas Beautiful Commission has allowed us to have an impact on communities across Arkansas when it comes to being good stewards of the environment," stated AHTD Director Scott Bennett. "The Arkansas State Highway and Transportation Department has partnered with the **Keep Arkansas Beautiful Commission** for over 15 years. We appreciate

this recognition and are proud to be involved in this shared mission with them."

In addition to litter cleanup, the two agencies have also partnered in "Wildflowers Forever," a program that has raised awareness of and support for the proliferation of Arkansas native wildflowers on road right-of-ways and medians across the State.

Established in 1953, Keep America Beautiful provides the expertise, programs and resources to help people end littering, improve recycling and beautify America's communities.

According to the Keep America Beautiful website, the organization and its partners strive each and every day, to help turn public spaces into beautiful places, helping to drive positive social, environmental and economic change. ■



Dear AHTD,

I live in North Little Rock and from my kitchen window I could see an AHTD crew working on John F. Kennedy Boulevard yesterday. What a hard working bunch of individuals! Temperatures were in the high 90's and I don't think that even slowed them down. I could not believe when I woke up this morning and saw that JFK Boulevard is now open for traffic. I just wanted to let them know that they are appreciated and at least this citizen of North Little Rock is impressed.

Thanks Again,

Janet Nydegger
North Little Rock, Arkansas

FREEDOM OF INFORMATION

Regarding road construction project BB0109 in Crittenden County, Arkansas — I sincerely thank you for allowing me to review the subject road construction project file for my clients pursuant to my Freedom of Information Act request. I certainly want to complement the employees in Mr. Ron Price's section for their cooperation and assistance in helping me to wade through and copy the numerous documents.

You are congratulated for having established a very good office work environment and a well-oiled team of public servants.

Sincerely Yours,
Bruce D. Brooke, Esq.
Memphis, Tennessee

INTERSTATE OASIS

We recently stopped at the rest area on Interstate 40 West near mile marker 243 (near Forest City), and I was absolutely awe struck by the landscaping. Whoever is responsible for this gorgeous oasis deserves to be recognized. The hours of hard physical work that must have gone into this area is incredible, and I just wanted to say thank you for brightening my day with this artistic jewel. I was unable to find any signage referring to which group has undertaken this project. Would you please pass my appreciation along to the talented grounds crew?

Sincerely,
Sara Caulk
Fayetteville, Arkansas

PERFECTLY CLEAN REST AREA

I just wanted to let someone know about the rest area on Interstate 55 just outside of West Memphis. I travel quite a lot, and have to tell you that this rest area is AMAZING! It is ALWAYS perfectly clean, and the staff, especially the cleaning ladies, are very nice! BEST rest area I have ever seen! Please pass this message along to employees. You are doing something right!

Kate Porterfield
Boonville, Missouri

BEAUTIFUL REST AREA

I am very pleased with the landscaping at the rest area near Crowley's Ridge on Interstate 40. It presents a very pleasant image for visitors to this state. Thanks to the people responsible.

Sallye Waddell



OLD RIVER BRIDGE ARTICLE

Great to see the Old River Bridge in (the March issue of) your very well done Highway magazine. Thanks for including this story.

My Very Best,
Congressman French Hill
U.S. Representative for Arkansas

SAFER INTERSECTION

I write to express Faulkner County's appreciation for your outstanding leadership and attention to detail for State roads in our County.

Your responsive approach for reworking the Skunk Hollow Road Intersection with State Highway 286 was a good example to address the safety for the public we serve.

I am proud of the working relationship we have with the State Highway and Transportation Department.

Thank you,
Jim B. Baker
Faulkner County Judge
Conway, Arkansas

INTERSTATE MEDIAN CABLING

I just wanted to say a quick thanks to you and your staff for making the statewide interstate median cabling project a reality. While I thankfully have not seen it 'in action,' I have seen where it has already saved countless lives. Please encourage your staff to continue these sort of efforts on behalf of all those in this great state!

Respectfully,
Andrew Moffitt

SOUTHWEST TRAIL ARTICLE

I really enjoyed your article on the Southwest Trail in the May issue of your magazine. It was an important route for hundreds of people who immigrated to Texas in the early 1800s from Kentucky, Tennessee, Missouri and the Arkansas Territory. At Fulton, Arkansas, the Southwest Trail connected with an early route I have researched and written a book to tell the story. More information is at www.trammelstrace.com.

Gary Pinkerton
Houston, Texas

SKILLED PRESENTATION

In April, I attended a joint meeting of the Safety Management and Maintenance & Technology Councils of the Arkansas Trucking Association (ATA) in Little Rock. During the meeting, AHP Patrol Officer First Class Matthew VanWinkle gave a presentation regarding Level One inspections which provided an overview of the equipment items checked at roadside and inspection facilities. While I was fairly familiar with the content of his presentation, what stood out to me was the presenter.

PFC VanWinkle had full command of the room and did so effortlessly. His down to earth yet professional demeanor had everyone paying close attention to rather technical information many would consider boring and monotonous.

After the presentation in the ATA Conference Room, we went outside and PFC VanWinkle, along with two Arkansas Road Team Drivers, demonstrated an inspection on a tractor trailer. Even in a noisy, busy environment in downtown Little Rock, it was clear that VanWinkle's knowledge and ability to clearly communicate with the public is one of his strong points.

From my experience, complaints on officers can sometimes outnumber compliments, so I wanted to take the opportunity to bring this young man's outstanding performance to your attention.

Sincerely,
Paul M. Claunch
Regional Director,
HELP Inc.

ARKANSAS WELCOME CENTERS

They're positioned at strategic locations across the State, welcoming motorists to Arkansas. Attractive and inviting places to take a break from the road. They are the State's thirteen Arkansas Welcome Centers (AWC). Each Center is open 8:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. daily (6:00 p.m. during summer months). Restrooms are available at all hours. An interactive map of AWC locations can also be seen at IDriveArkansas.com. Just click the "Traveler Information" tab.



1. BELLA VISTA — HIGHWAY 71 B

13750 Visitors Center Drive
Bella Vista, AR 72714
Phone: 479-855-3111

2. BLYTHEVILLE — INTERSTATE 55

5241 Interstate 55
Blytheville, AR 72315
Phone: 870-762-2512

3. CORNING — HIGHWAY 67

6717 Highway 67
Corning, AR 72422
Phone: 870-857-6014

4. EL DORADO — HIGHWAYS 82 & 167

3315 Junction City Highway
El Dorado, AR 71730
Phone: 870-881-9160

5. HARRISON — HIGHWAY 65 N

3391 Highway 65 N
Harrison, AR 72601
Phone: 870-741-3343

6. HELENA-WEST HELENA — HIGHWAY 49

1506 Martin Luther King Jr. Drive
Helena, AR 72342
Phone: 870-338-7602

7. LAKE VILLAGE — HIGHWAYS 65 & 159

3697 S. Highway 65 82
Lake Village, AR 71653
Phone: 870-265-5832

10. TEXARKANA — HIGHWAY 71

12555 Highway 71
Texarkana, AR 71854
Phone: 870-772-7511

8. MAMMOTH SPRING — HIGHWAY 63 N

17 Highway 63 N
Mammoth Spring, AR 72554
Phone: 870-625-7364

9. SILOAM SPRINGS — HIGHWAYS 412 W & 59

2000 Highway 412 West
Siloam Springs, AR 72761
Phone: 479-524-4445

11. TEXARKANA — INTERSTATE 30

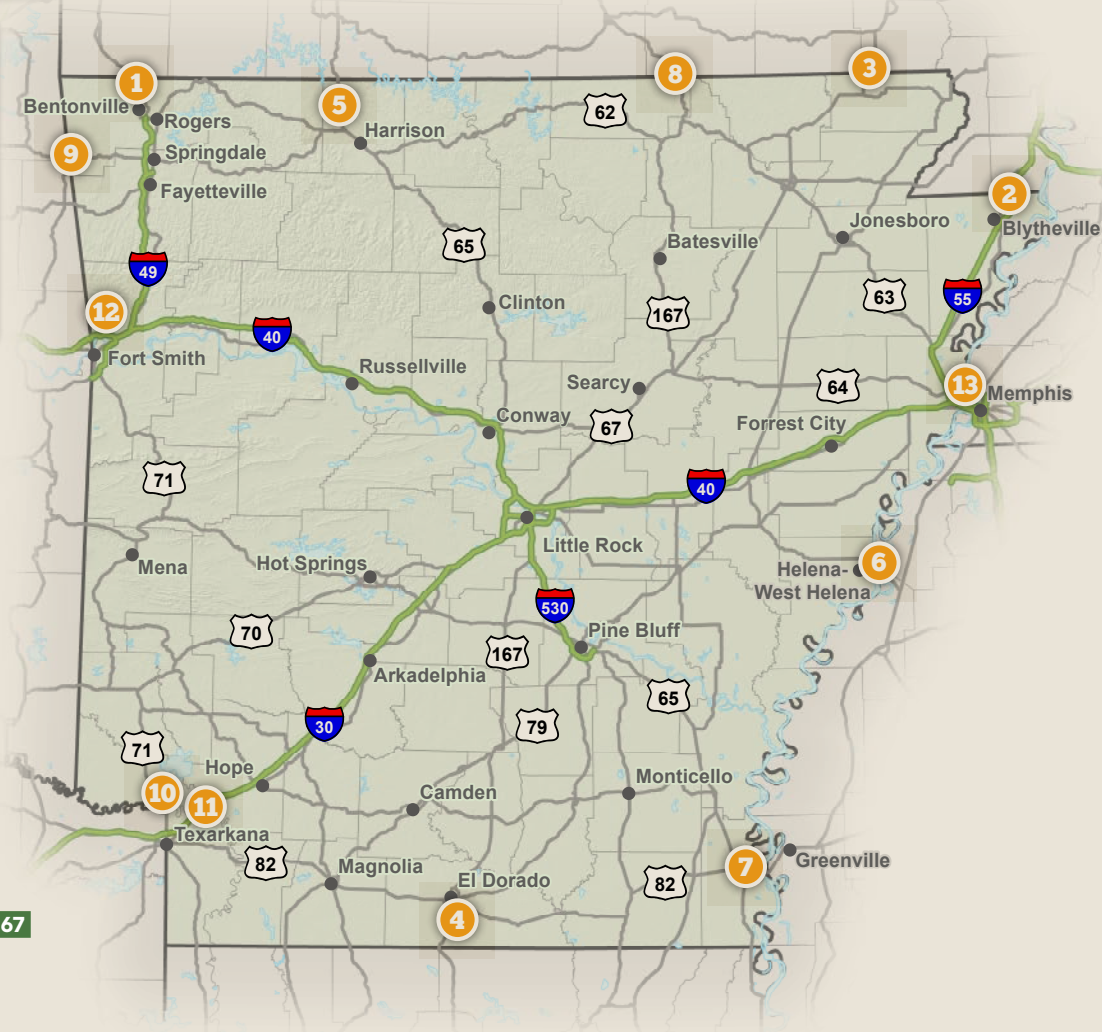
10000 Interstate 30
Texarkana, AR 71854
Phone: 870-772-4301

12. VAN BUREN — INTERSTATE 40

2915 Interstate 40
Van Buren, AR 72956
Phone: 479-474-9515

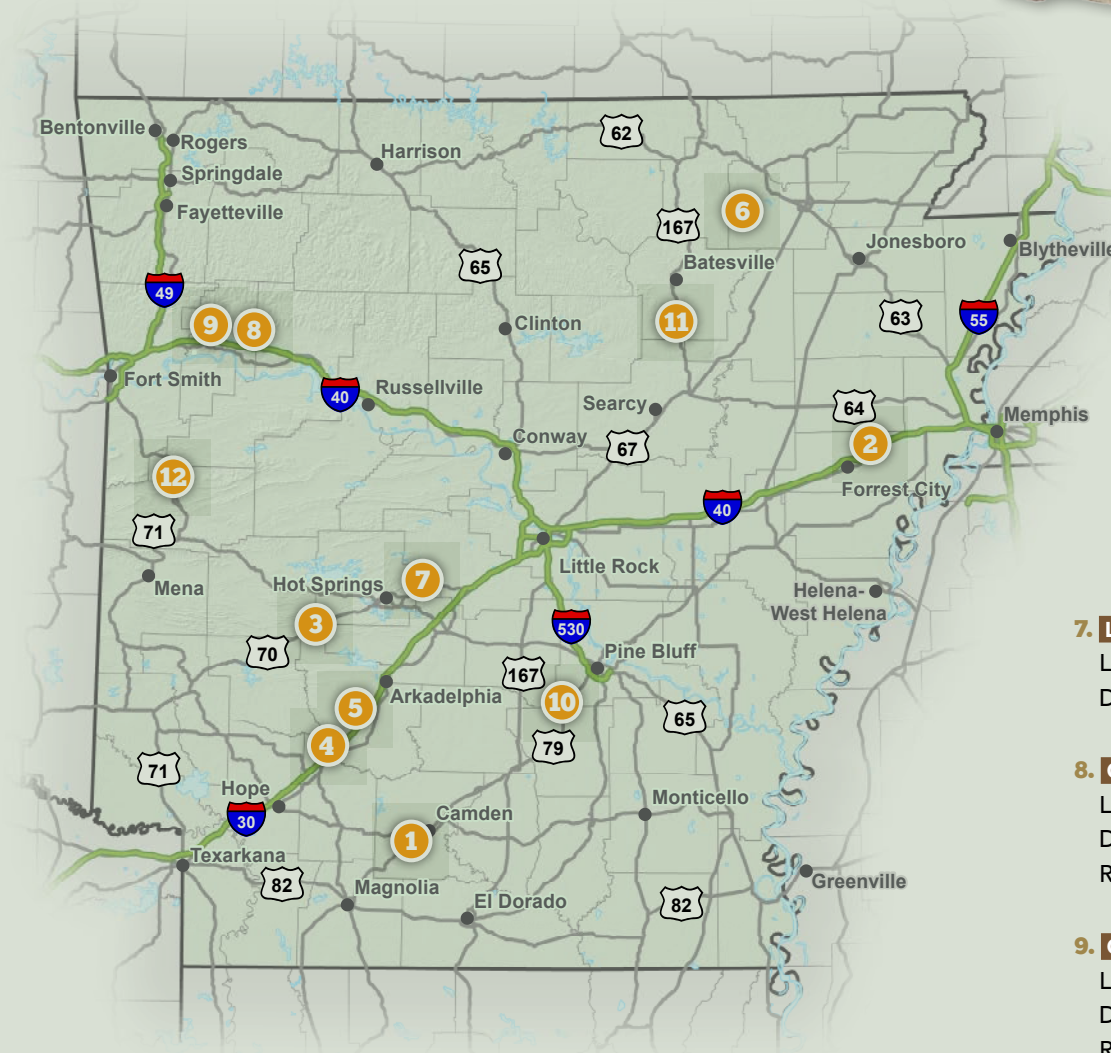
13. WEST MEMPHIS — INTERSTATE 40

704 East Service Road
West Memphis, AR 72301
Phone: 870-735-3637



In addition to Arkansas Welcome Centers, travelers will find Rest Areas at locations across the State. Each location offers restrooms and picnic tables, and like our Welcome Centers, is a great place to rest and enjoy some time off of the road.

ARKANSAS REST AREAS



1. BUENA VISTA - HIGHWAY 79

Location: 1 mile south of the intersection with Highway 376
Direction: Both

2. FORREST CITY - INTERSTATE 40

Location: Mile marker 242.6
Direction: Westbound
RV and Truck parking, Vending

3. GLENWOOD - HIGHWAY 70

Location: 1.8 miles east of Highway 70B
Direction: Both
RV and Truck parking

4. GURDON - INTERSTATE 30

Location: Mile marker 57.5
Direction: Westbound
RV and Truck parking, Vending

5. GURDON - INTERSTATE 30

Location: Mile marker 56.1
Direction: Eastbound
RV and Truck parking, Vending

6. IMBODEN/BLACK ROCK - HIGHWAY 63

Location: 1.2 miles north of Highway 117
Direction: Both
RV and Truck parking

7. LONSDALE - HIGHWAY 70

Location: 5.2 miles east of Highway 70B
Direction: Both

8. OZARK - INTERSTATE 40

Location: Mile marker 35.3
Direction: Eastbound
RV and Truck parking, Vending

9. OZARK - INTERSTATE 40

Location: Mile marker 36.5
Direction: Westbound
RV and Truck parking, Vending

10. RISON - HIGHWAY 79

Location: Intersection of Highway 79 and 212
Direction: Both

11. SALADO CREEK - HIGHWAY 167

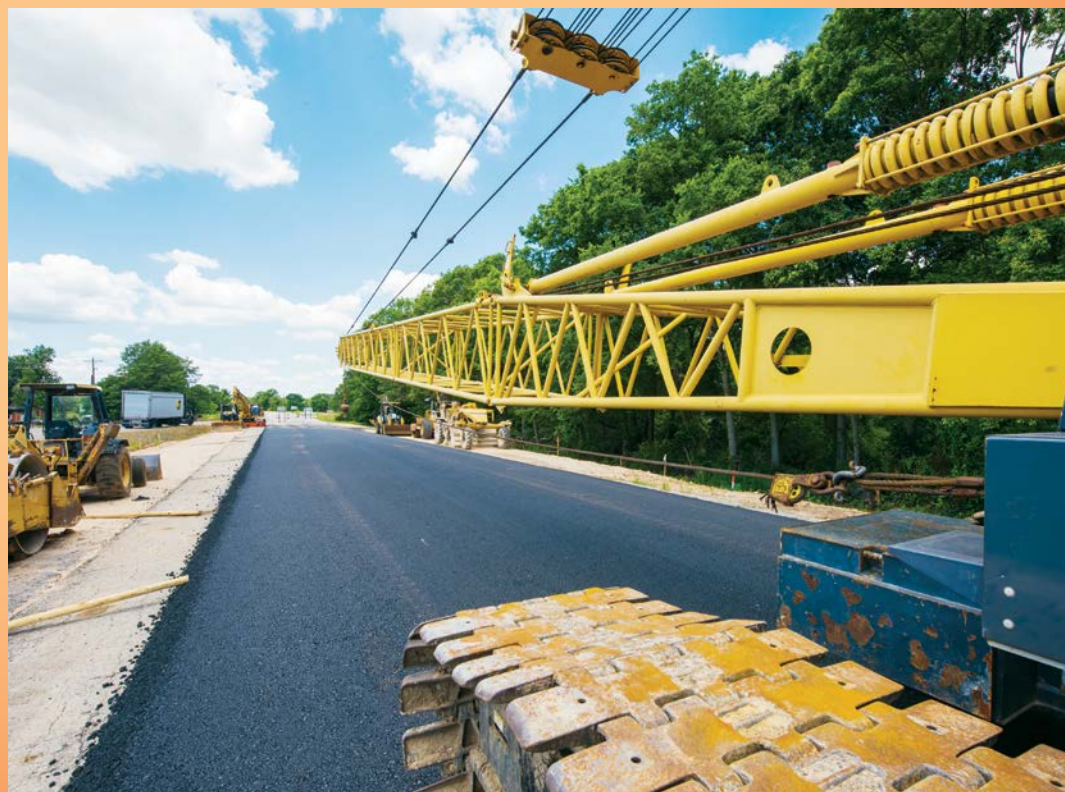
Location: 4.3 miles north of Highway 87
Direction: Both
RV and Truck parking

12. WALDRON - HIGHWAY 71

Location: .8 miles north of Highway 71B
Direction: Both
RV and Truck parking

DISTRICT 1

CONSTRUCTION



CORNER

Construction crews in Monroe County are close to completing a project on U.S. Highway 70 in the area of Brinkley. The work is replacing four bridge structures with three concrete box culverts and one continuous composite bridge.

The work is located between State Highway 17 and the St. Francis county line and is being administered out of the Resident Engineer 13 Office at Wynne.

The job was awarded to Simco, Inc. of North Little Rock in late 2014 for \$5.9 million. Despite a wet fall and spring, work has progressed well and the project is running ahead of schedule. The improvements are expected to be finished this month. **■**

AHTD PEOPLE

The AHTD employs approximately 3,700 people. We welcome our new employees, congratulate others on promotions and service, and say goodbye to those retiring.

AHTD
PEOPLE

NEW EMPLOYEES

COMPUTER SERVICES • Nathan Hill, Applications Developer II

CONSTRUCTION • Julian Ward, Estimates Technician; Kyle Covington, Engineer; Landon Meeks, Engineer; Selvin Walker, Construction Helper; Travis Yates, Construction Helper; Ethan Higgins, Construction Helper

HUMAN RESOURCES • Krista Hanson, Office Administrative Assistant II; Rita Schmeckenbecher, Office Administrative Assistant II

MAINTENANCE • Joseph Mulnik, Engineer; Glen Bass, Sign Erector

PROGRAM MANAGEMENT • Flavia Paolucci-Jacobs, Office Administrative Assistant V

RADIO COMMUNICATIONS • Brandy Kane, Telecommunications Operator

TRANSPORTATION PLANNING & POLICY • John Lasley, Engineer
DISTRICT ONE • David Rose, Guard; Charles Riley, Maintenance Aide I

DISTRICT TWO • James Chaney, Skill Trades Trainee; Darryl Hawkins, Rest Area Attendant; Jarryus Hampton, Maintenance Aide I; Alvin Hill, Maintenance Aide I; Eric Green, Maintenance Aide I; Cedric Wade, Maintenance Aide I

DISTRICT THREE • Kardareous Coleman, District Caretaker; Pamela Smithpeters, Guard; Layton Medlen, Maintenance Aide I; Laci Culpepper, Maintenance Aide I

DISTRICT FOUR • Bradly Harris, Maintenance Aide I; James Whitlock, Maintenance Aide I; Dakota Bunch, Maintenance Aide I; David Carlton, Maintenance Aide I; George Avellaneda, Maintenance Aide I; Michael Barnum, Maintenance Aide

DISTRICT FIVE • Lauren Vinson, District Caretaker; Cody Chestnut, Maintenance Aide I; Joshua Simmons, Maintenance Aide I

DISTRICT SIX • Heather Pledger, Storeroom Assistant; Jeffery Mayweather, Maintenance Aide I; Reginald Fudge, Maintenance Aide I; Jabari Jones, Maintenance Aide I; Maurice Williams, Maintenance Aide I; Philip Graves, Maintenance Aide I; John Isbell, Maintenance Aide I

DISTRICT EIGHT • Sonya Whittenburg, District Office Manager; Tommy Bull, Maintenance Aide II; Cloyal Krigbaum, Maintenance Aide I

DISTRICT NINE • Angela Johnson, District Caretaker

DISTRICT TEN • Alex Reece, Maintenance Aide I; Tyler Collingsworth, Maintenance Aide; Brandon Anderson, Maintenance Aide; James Chandler, Maintenance Aide I; Jerome Tramble, Maintenance Aide I; Billy Jones, Maintenance Aide I

PROMOTIONS

BRIDGE • Luke Bailey, Senior Bridge Design Engineer; Eric Romero, Bridge Design Engineer

CONSTRUCTION • John Bledsoe, Jr., Advanced Construction Field Engineer

ENVIRONMENTAL • Mary Pearson, Environmental Analyst III

HEAVY BRIDGE MAINTENANCE • Monty Frazier, Statewide Bridge Inspector

ROADWAY DESIGN • Matthew Hammond, Design Engineer; Kevin Wang, Engineer I

SURVEYS • Valarie Nichols, Photogrammetry Lab Supervisor

SYSTEM INFORMATION & RESEARCH • Justin Lester, Engineer I

TRANSPORTATION PLANNING & POLICY • Benjamin Whatley, Engineer I

DISTRICT ONE • Clifton Henley, Construction Aide I; Kendrick Lee, Maintenance Aide II; Bobby Stephens, Maintenance Aide II; Marty Walker, Maintenance Aide II

DISTRICT TWO • Brandon Cowling, Maintenance Aide II; Wayne Givens, Motor Patrol Operator/Finish; Kenneth Jackson, Maintenance Aide II; Andrew Jones, Maintenance Aide II; Adam Stuart, Senior Mechanic; Justin Wilson, Senior Mechanic

DISTRICT THREE • Japheth May, Maintenance Aide II

DISTRICT FOUR • Brian Miles, Construction Aide II

DISTRICT FIVE • Alan Love, Bridge Repairer I; Adam Pankey, Engineer I

DISTRICT SIX • Rickie Bratton, Jr., District Bridge Inspector; Ethan Clark, Construction Field Engineer; Larry Clark, Rest Area Attendant; Samuel Davies, Engineer I; Preston Finch, Maintenance Aide II; Richard Harrison, Maintenance Aide II; Clarence Roberts, Maintenance Aide II; Newton Stokes, Maintenance Aide III

DISTRICT SEVEN • Andrew Hanna, Engineer I; Jaleen Henry, Maintenance Aide II; Patrice Johnson, Maintenance Aide II

DISTRICT EIGHT • Joshua Jones, Maintenance Aide II; Mark McClanahan, Assistant Bridge Inspector; Gordon Parham, Area Maintenance Supervisor; Hector Warnick, Maintenance Aide II

DISTRICT NINE • William Gann, Maintenance Aide II; David Green, Equipment Maintenance Supervisor; Gary Hopkins, Crew Leader; Joshua King, Advanced Construction Field Engineer

DISTRICT TEN • Larry Harris, Crew Leader; Bryce Reeks, Engineer I

SERVICE

ARKANSAS HIGHWAY POLICE • Nicholas Phillips, AHP Corporal, 30 yrs; Louis Hatchett, AHP Corporal, 15 yrs; William Scott, Jr., AHP First Lieutenant, 15 yrs; Clyde Crookham, Jr., AHP Sergeant, 15 yrs; Ricky Smith, AHP Corporal, 15 yrs; Gregory Massey, AHP Corporal, 15 yrs; James Ludwig, AHP Corporal, 15 yrs; Timothy Gushing, AHP First Lieutenant, 15 yrs; Larry Curtis, AHP Corporal, 15 yrs

BRIDGE • Kyle Yeary, Staff Bridge Design Engineer, 15 yrs

CHIEF ENGINEER'S OFFICE • Leslie Goshien, Administrative Assistant I, 15 yrs

COMPUTER SERVICES • Margaret Hance, Lead Section Analyst, 30 yrs

CONSTRUCTION • Hulet Jacobs, Senior Construction Materials Inspector, 30 yrs; Dorothy Rhodes, Advanced Construction Field Engineer, 25 yrs; Cory Shaw, Construction Aide II, 10 yrs; Daniel Courtney, Resident Engineer, 10 yrs

ENVIRONMENTAL • Robert Reed, Environmental Scientist I, 15 yrs

FISCAL SERVICES • Robbie Howlett, Insurance Account Coordinator, 5 yrs

HEAVY BRIDGE MAINTENANCE • Kevin Milligan, Assistant Bridge Inspector, 5 yrs

HUMAN RESOURCES • Carroll Lathan, Safety Inspection Officer, 25 yrs; Shannon Peebles, PAHR Administrator, 10 yrs

MAINTENANCE • Joe Sarnini, State Maintenance Engineer, 30 yrs; Paul Dorsey, Electrical Plumbing & Mechanical Repairer, 25 yrs; Rickey Ring, Sign Crew Leader, 20 yrs

MATERIALS • Raymond Tinsley, Staff Geotechnical Engineer, 15 yrs

PUBLIC INFORMATION • Glenn Bolick, Special Project Coordinator, 15 yrs

RIGHT OF WAY • Keith Mashburn, Senior Utilities Coordinator, 5 yrs; Deborah Nance, Administrative Assistant III, 5 yrs

STATE AID • Phillip Ammons, Staff Design Engineer, 25 yrs

SURVEYS • Jon Holcomb, Surveys Crew Chief, 25 yrs; Nancy Barnett, Surveys Technician I, 5 yrs

SYSTEM INFORMATION & RESEARCH • Lindsay McCarthy, Highway Performance & Needs Analyst I, 10 yrs

TRANSPORTATION PLANNING & POLICY • Bill Ryan, Administrative Officer III, 30 yrs

DISTRICT ONE • Tony Palmer, Motor Patrol Operator/Finish, 25 yrs; Helen Kennon, Guard, 10 yrs

DISTRICT TWO • John Moorehead, Crew Leader, 20 yrs

DISTRICT THREE • Ryan Lovell, Motor Patrol Operator/Finish, 15 yrs; Brian Maroon, Maintenance Aide III, 5 yrs

DISTRICT FOUR • Jamie Dewitt, Area Headquarters Attendant, 20 yrs; Travis Evans, Hydraulic Excavator Operator/Finish, 20 yrs; Phillip Snodgrass, Maintenance Aide III, 15 yrs; Robert Mason, Rest Area Attendant, 10 yrs

DISTRICT FIVE • Bobby Wilkerson, Bridge Repairer II, 30 yrs; Floyd Haley, Assistant Bridge Inspector, 20 yrs; Jon Jones, Crew Leader, 15 yrs

DISTRICT SIX • John Caldwell, Crew Leader, 30 yrs; Vincent Turner, Maintenance Aide II, 25 yrs; Ronnie Bashaw, Motor Patrol Operator/Finish, 15 yrs; James Webber, Maintenance Aide II, 10 yrs; Dean Teague, Maintenance Aide II, 10 yrs; Leslie Cole, Area Headquarters Attendant, 5 yrs

DISTRICT SEVEN • Charlie Ryder, Sealing Job Superintendent, 25 yrs; Monte Launius, Bridge Repairer II, 5 yrs

DISTRICT EIGHT • Thale Keisling, District Construction Engineer, 25 yrs; Jimmy Daniel, Bridge Repairer II, 20 yrs; James Bean, Maintenance Aide II, 5 yrs

DISTRICT TEN • Randal Cooper, Storeroom Supervisor, 35 yrs; Lenny Fulco, Motor Patrol Operator/Finish, 20 yrs; James Ingram, Maintenance Aide III, 10 yrs; Windell Rawls, Senior Mechanic, 5 yrs; Kim Reeves, Lowboy/Float Truck Driver, 5 yrs; Sim Rice, Senior Mechanic, 5 yrs

RETIREMENT

DISTRICT TWO • Vernon Fisher, Area Maintenance Supervisor, 36+ yrs

DISTRICT FIVE • Russell Moore, Senior Inspector, 28+ yrs

DISTRICT SIX • William Richmond, Maintenance Aide III, 28+ yrs

DISTRICT EIGHT • Brigitte Roberson, Resident Office Technician, 28+ yrs

MEMORIALS

ARKANSAS HIGHWAY POLICE • Preston B. Lucas, 6/5/2016, retired

EQUIPMENT & PROCUREMENT • Helen Lois Latture, 6/4/2016, retired

FISCAL SERVICES • Nora A. Forte, 5/27/2106, retired

MATERIALS • Bobby G. Kessinger, 5/30/2016, retired

DISTRICT ONE • Joe Willie Washington, 5/26/2016, active

DISTRICT NINE • Vernon L. Terpening, 6/8/2016, retired

DISTRICT TEN • Harold W. Blackwell, 6/8/2016, retired





Arkansas State Highway and
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