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COVER PHOTOS:

Front and Back:
State Highway 425 in Ashley County

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DISCOVERING CAREERS AT THE

NATIONAL SUMMER TRANSPORTATION INSTITUTE



ARDOT's Scott Smallwood, Environmental Analyst I, speaks to high school students participating in the Summer Transportation Institute at UALR.

HE COLLEGE OF ENGINEERING AND INFORMATION
TECHNOLOGY AT THE UNIVERSITY OF ARKANSAS AT LITTLE
ROCK PRESENTED ITS NATIONAL SUMMER TRANSPORTATION
INSTITUTE IN JUNE.

The Institute is an interactive, two-week residential program for high school students that explores various transportation fields and careers (land, water, air and safety). The program encourages students to pursue transportation-related courses of study at the college level. Classes in science, math and technology provide the necessary foundation to understand the concepts that students utilize during field excursions, projects, labs and hands-on activities related to transportation.

During a lunch session at the Institute, ARDOT's Scott Smallwood, Environmental Analyst I, gave the students a presentation on the role of the Environmental Division at the Department.

"I want them to learn who we are, what we do and why it is important," Smallwood shared.

His presentation also provided an opportunity to share some flint points and pottery pieces found at several highway project sites across the State.

Later in the week, students also had a chance to visit with ARDOT's Johnathon Mormon, District Six Maintenance Engineer, and Courtney Rome, Bridge Design Engineer. Field excursions were taken to the ARDOT Central Office and to the Broadway Bridge construction site in downtown Little Rock/North Little Rock, among other places.



FYI: The ARDOT Cafeteria Plan

AVE YOU THOUGHT ABOUT ARDOT'S CAFETERIA PLAN? If not, here's what the Plan offers our employees.

The Plan is an IRS-approved way for you to pay fewer tax dollars. If you pay all or some of the premiums for your Department-sponsored insurance plan, then you may want to enroll.

The Cafeteria Plan allows you to pay for your share of those premiums with before-tax dollars. In other words, the money used to pay for those premiums is never taxed.

How much you save depends on how much you earn, the cost of your premiums and what you pay in income taxes.

Also available to employees is a Flexible Spending Account. This is a pre-tax benefit account used to pay for eligible medical, dental and vision care expenses that aren't covered by your insurance plan. Simply decide how much to contribute, and funds are withdrawn from each paycheck for deposit into your account before taxes are deducted. The Flexible Spending account is easy



to use; a benefits card associated with your account can be used to pay for hundreds of eligible healthcare products and services for you, your spouse and your dependents. You can save an average of 30% on a wide variety of eligible healthcare expenses.

Cafeteria enrollment for 2018 will be held during the month of October.

More detailed information on the Cafeteria Plan and the Flexible Spending Account is available by contacting the ARDOT Insurance Office at 501-569-2417. ◆

*PLEASE NOTE that if you are enrolled in a Health Savings account, you cannot have a Medical Flexible Spending account. We will talk more about this during the Annual Enrollment meetings, please plan to attend one of the Statewide meetings.

IMPORTANT INSURANCE INFORMATION



T'S THAT TIME OF YEAR AGAIN.
Time to start planning for open
enrollment. October 1st – 31st, 2017, is
open enrollment for all insurance benefits
and the cafeteria plan for the 2018 plan
year. This is the only time in the year
to make changes to your benefits plan.
During this time you can add, drop, cancel
or enroll in our group health, life, dental,
vision, etc.

The State and Public School Health Insurance Board met on June 20th, 2017,

and voted to make no changes to rates or benefits for the health insurance for 2018.

Please watch for any updates regarding other benefits (dental, vision, etc.) via email in the coming weeks.

Also, review the open enrollment meeting schedule and make time to attend one of the meetings around the State scheduled for September 13th – October 16th.

Remember, you and your spouse (if covered) need to have a wellness visit

and take the online health assessment before October 31st, 2017, to qualify for the 2018 discount. Please visit *www. arbenefits.org* to print the list of covered services for a wellness visit. You can access the online health assessment at *https://www.guidanceresources.com* or by calling 1-877-247-4621.

If you have any questions, please contact the Group Insurance office at 501-569-2420. ◆

ARKANSAS HIGHWAY POLICE



OT EVERYONE THAT GOES SHOPPING AT A BASS PRO SHOP MAKES THE TRIP IN A LIMOUSINE ESCORTED BY THE ARKANSAS HIGHWAY POLICE (AHP). But that's what a Jonesboro teen experienced thanks to the efforts of the AHP and Make-A-Wish Mid-South.

Make-A-Wish recipient Matthew is an avid outdoorsman who suffers from a life-threatening medical condition.

The efforts of the AHP made sure his special wish was granted by providing for a shopping spree at the Bass Pro Shop at the Pyramid in Memphis. The trip to Memphis from Jonesboro was taken in a limousine with a police escort to the Bass Pro front door.

Inside, Matthew enjoyed a party with family members and received several gifts, including a shopping spree in the 535,000-square foot store.

Matthew's mom said his ultimate goal was to fix up his truck and to get some new fishing equipment.

Make-A-Wish grants the wishes of children with life-threatening medical conditions. Each year, Make-A-Wish Mid-South fulfills the wishes of more than 240 children across the region with help from organizations like the Arkansas Highway Police and their Cops on Bulls event.

(Top) AHP Officers stand with Make-A-Wish recipient, Matthew, at the front entrance of the Bass Pro Shop in Memphis, Tennessee.

(Bottom Right) Arkansas Highway Police present Make-A-Wish Mid-South with a donation check for \$35,000 that was a result of the AHP Bass Classic and Cops on Bulls.





Matthew enjoyed a shopping spree, as well as catching a fish at the indoor pond in Bass Pro Shop's Memphis store.



STATES CONVERGE ON SEVIERVILLE for REGIONAL ROADEO



NDIVIDUAL WINNERS FROM ARDOT'S 2017 ANNUAL EQUIPMENT OPERATORS ROADEO MADE A MUCHANTICIPATED TRIP TO SEVIERVILLE, TENNESSEE, IN LATE SEPTEMBER TO COMPETE IN THE FIFTEENTH ANNUAL SOUTHEASTERN REGIONAL EQUIPMENT OPERATORS SAFETY CONFERENCE AND ROADEO.

This year's host was the Tennessee Department of Transportation. The aim of the conference was to provide safety training and to promote skill advancement for employees whose jobs require the operation of heavy equipment. As such, the primary goal was to increase the safety awareness level of heavy equipment operators working in or around work zones.

Participants attended specific safety training classes at the conference, but the feature event for many was the Equipment Operators Regional Roadeo competition. Winners from statewide Roadeos in Arkansas, Georgia, Kentucky, Louisiana, Mississippi, North Carolina, South Carolina, Tennessee, Virginia and West Virginia competed this year. All states that competed are members of the Southern Association of State Highway and Transportation Officials (SASHTO).

Competition at the Roadeo was held in six categories: Tractor Trailer with Lowboy Trailer, Single Axle Dump Truck, Tandem Axle Dump Truck, Tractor with Mower, Backhoe and Motor Grader.

After a full day of competition, the Tennessee Department of Transportation came out as this year's Roadeo Champions. South Carolina came in second and our team from ARDOT came in third.

Congratulations go to ArDOT'S Lance Baker, Maintenance Aide II in District Nine. Lance finished first in the Motor Grader competition.

Making the trip to Sevierville to compete were: Kyle Jones, Theodore Pulley and Charcel Warren from District 1; Serrita Pense from District 4; Brad Fulks, Johnny Jason and Brandon Love from District 5; Jeremy Evans from District 7; Lance Baker, Chad Foster

ARDOT REGIONAL ROADEO CONTESTANTS

(Above, L. to R.): Johnathan Scott, Chad Foster, Jeremy Evans, Lance Baker, T.J. Pulley, Kyle Jones, Brad Fulks, Johnny Jason, Brandon Love, Serrita Pense, Charcel Warren, Ethan Norman.

(Below): Lance Baker, Maintenance Aide II in District Nine, finished first in the Motor Grader competition.

and Ethan Norman from District 9; and Johnathan Scott from District 10.

"The Regional Roadeo is a great opportunity to come together for helpful training, friendly competition and comradery," ARDOT Director Scott Bennett stated. "Our team members always do a first class job of representing the Department. We are very proud of their accomplishments, and we congratulate them on their third place finish."

Department employees serving as judges this year included: Stacey Caplener from District 5; Larry



Fleming from District 1; Zane Green from District 9; Alicia Hunt, Kristi Marshall, Travis Nelson and Eddie Tanner from Human Resources; and Kenneth Tucker from District 4. Tara Robinson from Human Resources served as a scorekeeper.

Filling the role of ARDOT representatives were Carla Edwards of Human Resources, Steve Lawrence from District 9 and Rex Vines from District 1. Danny Keene and Doug Hicks from Equipment & Procurement served as officials, and Joe Sartini from Maintenance served as dignitary for the Department.

Arkansas will be hosting the 2018 Southeastern Regional Equipment Operators Training Conference and Roadeo on September 3-6 of next year. The event will be held in Rogers at the Embassy Suites Northwest Arkansas and John Q. Hammons Convention Center.

THE GREAT ARKANSAS CLEANIUP

ACH FALL, ARKANSAS
VOLUNTEERS AND
ORGANIZERS COME
TOGETHER TO IMPROVE THEIR
COMMUNITIES BY PARTICIPATING
IN THE "GREAT ARKANSAS
CLEANUP."

Beginning September 9th, the Keep Arkansas Beautiful Commission (KAB) has been encouraging Arkansans to organize a cleanup in their own community or participate in a cleanup of their choice.

Last year's "Great Arkansas Cleanup" featured over 140 community events across the State involving more than 7,000 Arkansans, who picked up more than 210,000 pounds of litter and collected over

900,000 pounds of bulky waste, from roughly 1,735 miles of roadway and waterway.

"With the assistance of volunteers and cleanup organizers, we can aid in the preservation of communities across Arkansas," said Liz Philpott, volunteer program manager at KAB. "We encourage Arkansans to participate in a local Great Arkansas Cleanup event and help us improve the communities we care about in Arkansas."

Those who would like to coordinate an event in their community or volunteer for a local event can email info@keeparkansasbeautiful.com or call toll-free 888-742-8701.





Organizers may visit *KeepArkansasBeautiful.com* to access free promotional tools such as a cleanup instructional video and printable publicity materials. KAB will also provide cleanup materials and supplies such as T-shirts, trash bags, gloves and safety vests to local events, while supplies last.

ARDOT encourages our Adopt-A-Highway volunteer groups to get involved in the Great Arkansas Cleanup by coming together for a pick-up this fall. Or, if you aren't currently involved in the Adopt-A-Highway program and would like to adopt a mile of highway, call Holly Butler at 501-569-2227 for more information.

Together, we can keep our Arkansas roadsides, rivers, lakes and streams cleaner, giving everyone who lives here and those who visit a good impression of "The Natural State." The 2017 Great Arkansas Cleanup runs September 9th through October 31st. ◆

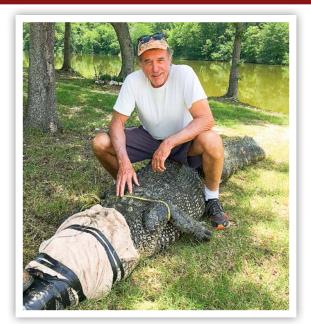
ECLIPSE DAY AT











OW DO YOU GET RID OF UNWELCOME GUESTS ON YOUR FARM? Just ask Highway Commissioner Robert S. Moore, Jr. of Arkansas City. This alligator took a liking to his pond. Moore pulled him out of the pond with his truck, then secured him and sent him far away to a more suitable area. The gator was 11-feet, 4-inches in length, weighed approximately 500 pounds and was at least 25-years-old.







Upcoming Dates to **REMEMBER**

WHAT'S AHEAD

OCT. 12-22

 Arkansas State Fair State Fair Grounds, 2600 Howard Street Little Rock, AR

OCT. 18 // WEDNESDAY

 Arkansas State Highway Commission Meeting Central Office, Little Rock 10:00 a.m.

NOV. 15 // WEDNESDAY

 ARDOT Bid Letting Central Office, Little Rock 10:00 a.m. and 1:30 p.m.



MARK YOUR CALENDAR! SPIRIT DAY



Student Intern Orientation 2017

Y RACHEL ZIMMERMAN



NGINEERING STUDENTS FROM 10 UNIVERSITIES
GATHERED IN ARDOT'S CENTRAL OFFICE
ON JULY 12TH FOR A TWO-DAY INTERN
ORIENTATION.

The Engineering Student Intern Orientation is held every summer for college students interning with the Department who are interested in starting a career in transportation. A total of 47 interns heard from Chief Engineer Emmanuel Banks, Department Director Scott Bennett and Personnel Officer Alicia Hunt about engineering job opportunities the Department has to offer.

Banks welcomed the students and discussed his time with ARDOT. He said he remembers his 30 years of service fondly, due to the the family environment of the Department which he called both "relaxed" and "respectful."

Bennett opened the floor for questions and outlined his path at the Department, where he started as a summer intern. He answered questions about education, tests and scholarships, and added a few anecdotes from his years of service. He encouraged the interns to work hard and "make yourself promotable."

Bennett was clear that grade point average alone will not secure an engineering job at ARDOT.

"One of the things we look at is character," he said, reminding the interns the work they are doing now will be evaluated if they want a job at the Department in the future.

With the final question, "What advice do you have for us?" Bennett answered quickly. "Get some good, practical experience," he said, "which is exactly what you're doing right now." Almost all of the interns are currently working at Resident Engineer offices around the State and learning firsthand what it takes to succeed.

Alicia Hunt discussed the benefits ARDOT offers, which she called "extremely competitive" with private engineering firms.

After the initial meeting, the interns attended a casual dinner where they had the chance to interact with employees from the Engineering Division. The following morning, the interns toured the Central Office. Some went on general Department-wide tours while others took tours specific to the areas they were most interested in.

Natalie Scaggs, a senior at the University of Arkansas studying civil engineering, enjoyed her time at the intern orientation, saying "It's been really helpful for me. There's so much to learn."

Her interest in engineering blossomed from her time growing up in Bentonville and watching the city grow. "I get to see bridges and tunnels and I get



Natalie Scaggs, senior civil engineering student at the University of Arkansas.

to be a part of seeing it change and develop."

Talent Acquisition Coordinator Carla Edwards organized the orientation and said, "We had a great group of interns this year, and they all seemed very interested in learning more about what the Department has to offer. Hopefully we will see many of them back here as full-time employees in the future."

HE SILOAM SPRINGS POLICE CAMP GIVES SCHOOLAGE CHILDREN THE OPPORTUNITY TO SEE WHAT LAW ENFORCEMENT PERSONNEL DO ON A DAILY BASIS. Various agencies gave presentations at the camp and it helped the kids better understand that not all law enforcement is the same and each branch has a different role to play. Private First Class Jonathan Beshears of the Arkansas Highway Police spoke on how they conduct commercial vehicle inspections and how that improves road safety and reduces accidents. He addressed weight enforcement and showed the students how commercial vehicles are weighed. The students were given a tour of the unit and were able to ask questions.







ARDOT PEOPLE

NEW EMPLOYEES

BRIDGE • Kylie Farrar, Engineer

COMPUTER SERVICES • Joseph Reindle, Hardware Technician; Douglas Sapp, Hardware Technician

CONSTRUCTION • Adam Benzabeh, Engineer

EEO/DBE . Kimbriana Collins, Office Aide

PUBLIC INFORMATION ● Laura Vaughn, Community Relations Manager

SURVEYS • Walter Chamberlain, Surveys Aide; Tanner Huggins, Surveys Aide; Andrew Littleton, Surveys Aide; Eli Loyd, Surveys Aide

TRANSPORTATION PLANNING & POLICY • Megan Smith, TP&P Fiscal Coordinator

DISTRICT ONE • Joshua Hamilton, Maintenance Aide I

DISTRICT TWO • Dan Pride, Jr., Maintenance Aide I

DISTRICT FIVE • Daniel Smith, Maintenance Aide I

DISTRICT SIX • James Lee, Maintenance Aide I; Margaret Mueller, Rest Area Attendant; Rashad Dismuke, Maintenance Aide I; Martez Nelson, Maintenance Aide I; James Thompson, Jr., Maintenance Aide I

DISTRICT EIGHT • Jeffrey Gunnels, Maintenance Aide I; Ronald Henson, Maintenance Aide I

DISTRICT NINE • Micarlee Davis, Maintenance Aide I

PROMOTIONS

CONSTRUCTION • John Bledsoe, Jr., Senior Engineer

MATERIALS • Philip Tanner, Staff Engineer

DISTRICT THREE • Phillip Brady, Bridge Repairer

DISTRICT FOUR • Shannon Turner, Crew Leader; Serrita Pense, Crew Leader

DISTRICT FIVE • Joseph Waldrip, III, Sign Erector; Brian Heier, Maintenance Aide III

DISTRICT EIGHT • Christopher Boren, Maintenance Aide II

SFRVICE

ARKANSAS HIGHWAY POLICE ● Nancy Harmon, AHP Second Lieutenant, 30 yrs; Eric Mitchell, Administrative Aide I, 20 yrs

CONSTRUCTION • Charles Williams, Construction Aide II, 35 yrs; Russell Deckard, Construction Project Coordinator, 30 yrs; David Corbin, Advanced Estimates Technician, 25 yrs; Jeff Adams, Resident Engineer, 25 yrs; David Bushey, Resident Engineer, 25 yrs; Carrie Chudy, Resident Office Technician, 15 yrs

EQUIPMENT & PROCUREMENT • Cynthia Spencer, Storeroom Supervisor, 20 yrs; Stefan Brown, Station Attendant, 5 yrs

FACILITIES MANAGEMENT • Ray Gruver, Jr., Facilities Management Section Head, 40 yrs

RIGHT OF WAY • Connie Skinner, Utility Coordinator II, 5 yrs

STATE AID • Steve Morgan, Senior Design Engineer, 25 yrs

SURVEYS • Tom Elkins, Assistant Division Head, 25 yrs; Timothy Magie, Surveys Aide III, 10 yrs

SYSTEM INFORMATION & RESEARCH • Shelby Ingle, Transportation Management Analyst I, 5 yrs

TRANSPORTATION PLANNING & POLICY • Ted English, Administrative Officer III, 25 yrs; Matthew Penix, Public Transportation Asset Specialist I, 10 yrs

DISTRICT TWO • Gerald Butcher, Area
Maintenance Supervisor, 30 yrs; Bryant Cain,
Area Maintenance Supervisor, 25 yrs; Kyle
Bryant, Maintenance Aide II, 25 yrs; David Grice,
Area Maintenance Supervisor, 20 yrs; Kristopher
Rutherford, Assistant Bridge Inspector, 5 yrs

DISTRICT THREE • William Dickson, Maintenance Aide II, 5 yrs

DISTRICT FOUR • Shirley Lewis, Office Administrative Assistant V, 30 yrs

DISTRICT FIVE • David Spinks, Maintenance Aide II, 40 yrs; Anthony Comer, Area Maintenance Supervisor, 25 yrs; Michael Crumley, Maintenance Aide III, 20 yrs; Randy Zeigler, Maintenance Aide II, 15 yrs; Johnny Satterwhite, Mechanic, 10 yrs

DISTRICT SIX • Ronnie Veazey, Crew Leader, 35 yrs; Steven Lane, Maintenance Aide III, 30 yrs; Adam Jackson, Maintenance Aide III, 10 yrs; Joseph Rapier, Bridge Repairer II, 10 yrs; Courtney Edwards, District Clerk, 5 yrs; Jonathon Ritchie, Crew Leader, 5 yrs; Matthew Robbins, Maintenance Aide II, 5 yrs

DISTRICT SEVEN • James Caldwell, District Permit Officer, 30 yrs; Kevin Means, Maintenance Aide III, 25 yrs

DISTRICT EIGHT • Randy White, Maintenance Aide III, 20 yrs; Kim Fryar, Area Headquarters Attendant, 20 yrs; Helen Allred, Guard, 15 yrs; Scott Craig, Welder, 15 yrs; Stephen Bonds, Maintenance Aide II, 5yrs; Angela Carmack, Maintenance Aide II, 5 yrs

DISTRICT NINE • Anthony Huber, Maintenance Aide II, 5 yrs

DISTRICT TEN • Belinda Tippitt, Area Headquarters Attendant, 15 yrs; Ruth Bibler, Janitor, 5 yrs

RETIREMENT

FACILITIES MANAGEMENT • Thomas Cecil, Central Office Facilities Manager, 38+ yrs

SURVEYS • Michael Masingill, Surveys Crew Chief, 25 vrs

DISTRICT THREE • Wayne McCoy, Maintenance Aide II, 20+ yrs; Charles Williams, Construction Aide, 35 yrs

DISTRICT SIX • Alfred Barnes, Maintenance Specialist, 10+ yrs; Ronnie Veazey, Crew Leader, 35 yrs; William Davis, Maintenance Specialist, 29+ yrs

DISTRICT SEVEN • Karen Hammonds, Maintenance Aide II, 13+ yrs

DISTRICT TEN • Randy Still, Advanced Engineer, 33+ yrs

MEMORIALS

John Faubus, 9/8/17, retired

DISTRICT THREE• Erie Collums, 8/25/17, retired **DISTRICT FOUR•** Larry Neff, 8/26/17, retired;

DISTRICT EIGHT • Donald Cowen, 8/14/17, retired





*PLEASE NOTE: "Around the Department" announcements and photos will appear in the next issue of the CenterLine. We apologize for the delay in the publishing of this information.



The Arkansas Department of Transportation (Department) complies with all civil rights provisions of federal statutes and related authorities that prohibit discrimination in programs and activities receiving federal financial assistance. Therefore, the Department does not discriminate on the basis of race, sex, color, age, national origin, religion (not applicable as a protected group under the Federal Motor Carrier Safety Administration Title VI Program), disability, Limited English Proficiency (LEP), or low-income status in the admission, access to and treatment in the Department's programs and activities, as well as the Department's hiring or employment practices. Complaints of alleged discrimination and inquiries regarding the Department's nondiscrimination policies may be directed to Joanna P. McFadden Section Head – EEO/DBE (ADA/504/Title VI Coordinator), P. O. Box 2261, Little Rock, AR 72203, (501)569-2298, (Voice/TTY711), or the following email address: Joanna.McFadden@ardot.gov. Free language assistance for Limited English Proficient individuals is available upon request. This notice is available from the ADA/504/Title VI Coordinator in large print, on audiotape and in Braille.