



INSIDE: NEW ACCOUNTING SYSTEM • HEALTH INSURANCE REMINDERS • REGIONAL ROADEO • MORE

CENTERLINE CENTERLINE

NEWSLETTER

OCTOBER 2019

ARKANSAS DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION

FRONT COVER: STATE HIGHWAY 9, NORTH OF PARON, ARKANSAS.

BACK COVER: FALL FOLIAGE ON U.S. HIGHWAY 23.



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CALENDAR OF EVENTS

OCTOBER 23 WEDNESDAY

Arkansas State Highway
Commission Meeting
Central Office - Little Rock
9:30 AM

NOVEMBER 1 FRIDAY

ARDOT Spirit Day

NOVEMBER 3 SUNDAY

Daylight Saving Time Ends

NOVEMBER 6 WEDNESDAY

ARDOT Bid Letting
Central Office
Little Rock
10:00 AM & 1:30 PM

NOVEMBER 11 MONDAY

Veterans Day - Offices Closed

NOVEMBER 28 & 29 THURSDAY & FRIDAY*

Thanksgiving - Offices Closed
*Governor pending

SPIRIT DAY IS NOVEMBER 1

BY DAVID NILLES

Sports fans everywhere are enjoying another exciting football season, which means it is time for ARDOT staff to celebrate Spirit Day 2019!

Mark your calendar for Friday, November 1. This is the day our Districts, Divisions, RE Offices and Maintenance Headquarters will turn lunchtime into spirit time by enjoying home-cooked tailgate food, wearing team colors, decorating the office in football style and enjoying plenty of sports talk.

Don't forget to bring a camera and send some Spirit Day photos to the Public Information Office so they can include a selection of photos in the December issue of the *CenterLine*. Photos should be submitted as color, high resolution, digital images saved as JPEG format. Low-resolution images or ones taken with a cell phone are discouraged, as they will not print clearly. Email digital photos to Marrissa.Miller@ardot.gov.

Pull out your favorite jersey and recipe, then enjoy a Spirit Day lunch on November 1! ♦



NEW ACCOUNTING SYSTEM ON THE BOOKS

BY SHARON SMITH

In the last *CenterLine* edition, we introduced our new Oracle Enterprise-wide Financial System that will benefit all ARDOT employees. In this edition, we want to update you on the progress we are making.

We are developing ARDOT's system with a continuous improvement approach—this means that the team develops the system in steps, improving on the functionality each time. Our core leads from ARDOT, working with our CherryRoad implementer, have developed and reviewed the first example of what the system will look like. We are excited about what we are seeing!

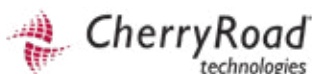
We are committed to creating a system that makes sense and feels familiar to ARDOT employees while taking advantage of Oracle Cloud offerings. We have maintained our General Ledger accounts with only slight updates (for those of you who work with these accounts). For our larger audience, expense reimbursement will be performed through the system. To ease the process of submitting requests, we will have the capability to include rules that check that the expense meets our policies. The system then generates notifications to expedite the approval process.

There will also be standards to establish purchasing, grants, and contracts and bar code scanning solutions for stock inventory. Our leads have reported that Oracle is very user-friendly, resulting in more automation and less paper in the future.

We also want to remind you that each District and Division



has a Change Champion whose role is to keep you informed, allow you to provide feedback, and answer any questions you may have. If you have not met your Change Champion, or are not certain who it is, please reach out to Paulette Rice at Paulette.Rice@ardot.gov to find out. Stay tuned! ♦



IMPORTANT HEALTH INSURANCE REMINDERS

It's once again that time of year to start planning for open enrollment. Open enrollment for the 2020 health insurance plan year will be from October 1 – 31, 2019.

Employees are able to make the following changes during open enrollment:

- Enroll into the plan
 - Add/drop spouse and/or dependents
 - Change plan level
 - Cancel coverage
- Members who do not elect any changes during open enrollment will keep their current coverage for the

2020 plan year. Changes made during enrollment go into effect January 1, 2020.

Please remember to do your online health assessment, your wellness visit, and enroll in the tobacco cessation program (if applicable) by October 31, 2019.

EMPLOYEE ONLY	w/ wellness	DIFFERENCE FROM 2019 RATES (PER PERSON)	w/o wellness
Premium	\$56.66	\$2.70	\$94.16
Classic	\$25.14	\$1.20	\$62.64
Basic	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$37.50

EMPLOYEE & SPOUSE

Premium	\$204.99	\$9.76	\$242.49
Classic	\$131.42	\$6.26	\$168.92
Basic	\$71.64	\$3.41	\$109.14

EMPLOYEE & CHILD(REN)

Premium	\$113.58	\$5.41	\$151.08
Classic	\$59.19	\$2.82	\$96.69
Basic	\$15.23	\$0.73	\$52.73

EMPLOYEE & FAMILY

Premium	\$261.91	\$12.47	\$299.41
Classic	\$165.47	\$7.88	\$202.97
Basic	\$86.87	\$4.14	\$124.37

SUPPLEMENTAL BENEFITS:

The supplemental benefits (Dental, Vision, Life, Aflac, etc.) enrollment will be from September 1 – October 31, 2019. Remember this is the only time of the year to make changes, cancel or add these benefits. Please make time to review your benefits and make any changes necessary before October 31, 2019.

SECTION 125 CAFETERIA PLAN:

All employees must complete a Cafeteria plan form each year. These forms are pre-printed and were sent to you in late September. Forms are due back in the Group Insurance office no later than October 31, 2019.

We will be sending out reminders and essential information through email as it comes closer to time. Please make sure to read all correspondence for important information. If you have any questions, please contact the insurance office at 501-569-2420 or email ronda.walthall@ardot.gov. ♦



COMPLETE YOUR ONLINE HEALTH ASSESSMENT!

Be sure you have completed your Online Health Assessment for this year. It must be completed by October 31 through the Health Advantage My Blueprint portal. Members who need assistance accessing their My Blueprint account can contact Health Advantage at 1-800-482-8416.

Here are instructions for completing your assessment:

1) Go to myblueprint.healthadvantage-hmo.com, or click the Sign In icon on the Health Advantage homepage at healthadvantage-hmo.com to sign in

or create an account.

2) After accessing My Blueprint, click the Menu icon at the top left corner of the page. Select the Healthy Living link located in the Health & Wellness section of the menu.

3) Once the Healthy Living tab is selected, click the button to go to the HealthConnect Blue dashboard. The first time HealthConnect Blue is accessed, terms and conditions will need to be accepted on the next page.

4) After the terms and conditions are accepted, members will go to the HealthConnect Blue dashboard

and can access the link for the online health assessment.

5) Upon completion of the health assessment, members will receive a personal plan to improve their health.

Members who test positive for nicotine will once again be able to successfully complete the wellness program by completing one of the tobacco cessation programs before October 31, 2019. A telephone program is available at 1-877-300-9103. An online program can be accessed at myblueprint.healthadvantage-hmo.com. ♦

AHP INSPECTION COMPETITION

BY BRITNI PADILLA-DUMAS

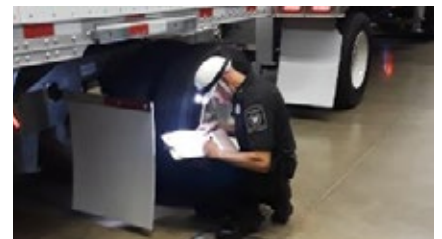


(L. to R.) FRONT ROW: PFC Justin Parrish, PTL Austin Ardwin, PFC Andrew James, SGT Fidel Caballero, PFC Evan Austin, PFC Josh Graves, PFC Brandon Bybee, PFC Matthew Wren. BACK ROW: CPL Will Smith, CPL Stephen Jones, CPL James Cooper, CPL John Clark, PFC Seth Debord, PFC Marc Winkler, PFC Jonathan Beshears, PFC Rogan Ross

The Arkansas Highway Police held its 16th Annual Training/Inspection Competition on July 11th in Rogers, Arkansas. Sixteen officers competed to represent Arkansas at the National level in Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania.

Private First Class Andrew James of

AHP District 2 was the overall Grand Champion and went on to compete in the North American Inspectors Championship. PFC James placed third in the North American Standard Level 1 Inspection and received 7th overall out of 51 contestants. ♦



MAKING WISHES COME TRUE

BY DAVID NILLES

Arkansas Highway Police recently presented Make-A-Wish Mid-South with a check for \$26,000. The funds were raised at the 8th Annual Cops on Bulls event held in Fort Smith on June 22.

The day included barrel racing, mutton busting, calf riding, wild cow milking and the grand finale – members of law enforcement riding bucking bulls.

Every 34 hours, Make-A-Wish Mid-South grants the wish of a child diagnosed with a life-threatening medical condition. The organization grants 15,000 wishes each year. ♦



(L. to R.) Major Jeff Bickerstaff, First Lieutenant Brian Harwood, Corporal Charlie Tolliver, First Lieutenant Brad Perkins, Leslie Humphrey and Esther Schroeder of Make-A-Wish and Chief Jay Thompson.

2019: TRANSPORTATION CONFERENCE & EQUIPMENT EXPO

BY DAVID NILLES



New ideas in the field of transportation provided the focus for the 108th Transportation Conference and Equipment Expo presented by ARDOT's Transportation Research Committee. A total of 286 ARDOT employees, consultants and transportation officials gathered at the Hot Springs Convention Center in August to learn about new cutting-edge technologies, policies and

procedures when it comes to the world of research.

"We had a record-breaking turnout despite having to reschedule the conference due to the historic flooding in June," Staff Research Engineer Elisha Wright-Kehner commented.

"This conference allows for transportation professionals to be exposed to multiple innovative topics across the transportation field. Officials can network and share experiences that foster future innovation."

The focus of the conference was research as it applies to highways—how we build them, repair them, those who use them and the challenges and changes to be faced in the world of transportation as we plan for the future.

The conference kicked off with multiple workshops covering pavement preservation, transportation management plans and mainstream ethical issues that frequently arise in all phases of transportation engineering practice. General sessions provided an opportunity to learn more about recovery from natural disasters

such as that experienced by the North Carolina Department of Transportation where recent storms left damages totaling nearly half a billion dollars. Participants also heard from the Texas Department of Transportation and how their teams dealt with Hurricane Harvey.

In the days that followed, participants attended sessions to learn more about pavement preservation, ARDOT's new Traffic Management Center, Single-Point Urban Interchanges, the effects of tree canopy on highway pavements, smarter work zones, accelerated bridge construction and much more.

When not attending sessions, participants had the opportunity to visit with representatives from 39 design and construction companies who had booths in the exhibitors' area of the conference.

"The inclusion of the equipment expo to this year's TRC lineup proved to be a valuable addition," Wright-Kehner added. "ARDOT's Equipment Managers are planning to have their summer annual meeting in combination with the TRC Conference next year as well." ♦

BLANKENSHIP RECEIVES PATRIOT AWARD

BY DAVID NILLES



(L. to R.) James Pulliaum of ESGR, Ryan Blankenship, Jeff Adams, Cody Bennett and Elvin Tate of ESGR.

The Employer Support of the Guard and Reserve (ESGR) surprised District One Staff Engineer Ryan Blankenship with the Patriot Award on July 25.

ESGR is a Department of Defense organization established to promote cooperation and understanding between Service members and their civilian employers and to assist in the resolution of conflicts arising from the employee's military commitment.

The award is presented to employers or supervisors who show support for members of their staff that are serving in the National Guard or Reserve. Recipients show their support of those employees through a wide range of measures including flexible schedules, time off prior to and after deployment, caring for families and granting leaves of absence if needed.

Blankenship was nominated for the award by Engineer Cody Bennett in the RE 13 Office in Wynne. In addition to his career with ARDOT, Bennett has served in the National Guard for just over ten years.

"I felt Ryan deserved this honor because he has been very accommodating when I have had to leave ARDOT to go on military orders," Bennett shared. "I have only been with ARDOT for two and a half years and have been called on orders totaling nearly a year of that time. Usually when I have to leave, it comes with very short notice and little time for Ryan to prepare to cover my absence. Not to mention when I do leave, it has commonly been during our busiest time of the year. When I am called to orders, he asks my family to let him know if

we need anything. Some employers might become frustrated with an employee being in and out with the Guard like I am, but since I have been working here I never receive any downgrade in work environment or relations within the office. When I come back from orders, I get filled in on what I missed or what has changed, and work continues as if I had never left. The whole office pitches in when I leave and covers down on my responsibilities like its second nature for them, no questions asked, or complaints. Resident Engineer Office 13 has been a great work environment since the start and I couldn't ask for better."

The award was presented to Blankenship by Elvin Tate, Employer Initiative Program Director for ESGR and James Pulliaum, Military Outreach Director for ESGR. ♦

ARDOT PLACES 3RD AT REGIONAL ROADEO

BY DAVID NILLES

Biloxi, Mississippi, was the destination for individual winners from ARDOT's 2019 Annual Equipment Operators Roadeo. Their mission was to compete in the 17th Annual Southeastern Regional Equipment Operators Training Conference and Roadeo.

Hosting the conference this year was the Mississippi Department of Transportation. The purpose of the event was to promote skill advancement for employees whose jobs require the operation of heavy equipment, to increase safety awareness of employees working in or around work zones, to increase employee morale and to recognize the best equipment operators in a friendly, competitive atmosphere.

The feature event for many was the Equipment Operators Regional Roadeo competition. Winners from statewide competitions in Arkansas, Georgia, Kentucky, Louisiana, Mississippi, North Carolina, South Carolina, Tennessee and Virginia came together to show their skills.

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.

A full day of competition concluded with the Tennessee Department of Transportation being crowned Roadeo Champions. Second place went to the Mississippi Department of Transportation and ARDOT came in third place. Only five points separated the top three teams.

Congratulations go to ARDOT's Keith Carpenter for placing first in the Tandem Axle Dump Truck competition and to Ethan Norman for coming in first in the Backhoe category. In addition, Johnny Jason finished third in the Lowboy competition.

ARDOT'S Regional Roadeo team included T.J. Pulley from District One, John Harvey from District Two, Johnny Jason, Brian Johnson and Nick Rushing from District Five, Fredrick Livingston from District Six,

David Pruitt from District Eight, and Jeff Upton, Keith Carpenter, Andy Dotson, Chad Foster and Ethan Norman from District Nine.

"We congratulate our Regional Roadeo team for their accomplishments this year and for making the top three," ARDOT Director Scott Bennett commented. "We thank them for doing such a great job of representing ARDOT during their stay in Biloxi."

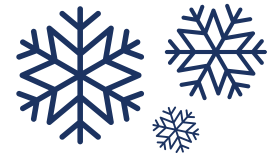
Staff members serving as judges this year included Steve Frisbee, Zane Green, Kristi Marshall, Travis Nelson, Laura Rankin, Eddie Tanner, Jayson Thompson, Desmond Williams, Crystal Woods and Deric Wyatt. Serving as officials were Danny Keene, Steve Lawrence and Joe Sartini. Chris Lusk served as a scorekeeper.

Next year's Regional Equipment Operators' Training Conference will be hosted by the Louisiana Department of Transportation & Development. ♦



ARDOT's regional roadeo team: (L. to R.) TJ Pulley, Keith Carpenter, Johnny Jason, John Harvey, Chad Foster, David Pruitt, Ethan Norman, Andy Dotson, Joey Livingston, Jeff Upton, Nick Rushing and Brian Johnson.

ARDOT WINTER WEATHER POLICY



BY DAVID NILLES



Ice and snow damage on U.S. Highway 45 in 2009.

Gone are the hot days of summer. With cooler weather here and winter approaching, here is a reminder of ARDOT's Winter Weather Policy.

The Department's primary mission centers around maintaining safe highways for the traveling public and our responsibilities during winter storms are critical to that mission. Therefore, the Department does not suspend its operations due to inclement weather.

Essential personnel are expected to report to work for their regular schedule or a modified inclement weather schedule, even in situations when the Governor declares State offices are closed due to inclement weather. When winter weather is predicted, essential personnel are required to provide a phone number where they can be reached during non-working hours. Employees may use this on-call time to engage in personal activities of their choosing, but they must be accessible by telephone at all times and able to report for duty within one hour of notification.

When the severity of weather conditions causes State offices to be

officially closed, dismissed early or have a delayed opening, non-essential personnel should look for information on closings on local radio and television stations. Employees may also access the Arkansas State Government website at www.arkansas.gov for the most up-to-date information regarding office closings or call the Governor's inclement weather line at 501-682-2ICE (2423).

When the Governor declares that the Inclement Weather Policy is in effect, this usually means there will be a delayed start due to bad weather conditions, typically two hours. The number of inclement weather hours granted will be calculated in relation to the announced delayed start time and 8:00 a.m. In these situations, non-essential employees are expected to report to work no later than the delayed start time, which is typically 10:00 a.m. unless otherwise specified. Non-essential employees who work a flexible schedule other than 8:00 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. should adjust their arrival time accordingly. Those who report to work after the

delayed start time or who do not report to work at all, will be charged a combination of inclement weather hours and annual leave.

When the Governor or Director declares an early dismissal due to inclement weather conditions, non-essential employees will be notified that they may leave work early. The number of hours of inclement weather leave granted to employees on such days will be based on the time of dismissal in relation to 4:30 p.m. Those who depart before the official dismissal time will be charged a combination of inclement weather hours and annual leave from the time they depart to the official dismissal time.

When State offices are closed for an entire day due to inclement weather, non-essential employees are not expected to report to work. On those occasions, all employees will be granted eight hours of inclement weather leave.

For more details on the inclement weather policy, refer to a copy of the ARDOT Personnel Manual or access the manual online at www.ardot.gov. ♦

VOLUNTEERS PROVIDE HELP IN EMERGENCIES

BY DAVID NILLES

“Be Prepared.” That is the motto of the Boy Scouts of America and also perfectly sums up the role of two volunteer groups at the Department — ARDOT’s Emergency Response Coordinators and Assembly Area Coordinators.

Who Are They?

This group of 130 volunteers are trained and ready to respond to any disaster or emergency situation that may occur at the Department during work hours. The potential emergencies include such incidents as fires, tornados, earthquakes, bomb threats, active shooter and medical emergencies. The coordinators’ job is to make sure any staff member who needs medical attention in an emergency gets help immediately. They also coordinate evacuating ARDOT offices in case of emergency.

Patrick Thomas, ARDOT’s Emergency Response Coordinator,

has good things to say about these volunteers who make sure things go as smoothly as possible in a chaotic situation.

“The Department is fortunate to have a very good group of volunteers that are really enthused about this program. We have some who have previous military experience or EMT (emergency medical technician) experience. Others received their training when they began the program. They are a great group of volunteers who are level headed and calm, and who can carry out their duties during an emergency.”

What are some of the duties of these volunteers? For **Emergency Response Coordinators:**

- If a fire occurs, determine if the fire is on their floor or annex and notify the Radio Room.
- Ensure employees evacuate the building in a quiet and orderly manner.

- Ensure all disabled employees are assisted.
- Sweep the assigned area to make sure all employees have left the building.
- For a tornado or earthquake, check each office and restroom for injured employees and provide care before notifying higher authorities. Then follow evacuation procedures.
- For a bomb threat, follow designated emergency evacuation plans.
- For medical emergencies, call 911, inform the Lobby Security Desk of the emergency location and call the emergency contact for the employee. Proceed with First Aid/CPR training for the emergency at hand.
- For an active shooter, follow training provided by the Arkansas Department of Emergency Management.



(L. to R.) FRONT: Jodi Shell, Douglas Beaty, Valarie Nichols, Jordan Bittle, Manjusha Vadakke Veetil, Michelle Estlinbaum, Erin Dixon, Kenneth Redus, Patrick Thomas. MIDDLE: Julian Ward, Korey Pough, Jeremy Plummer, Tara Dixon, John Spears, Ted English, Ron Fields, Brook Norris
BACK: Greg Davis, Chuck Holland, Chris Dailey, Mark Green, Roger McManus, Kenjuan Washington, Wayne Whitley.



Some duties of the **Assembly Coordinators** are:

- Once employees have reported to their outdoor assembly area, receive reports from the Emergency Response Coordinators as to the status of each floor or annex.
- Direct Division Heads and Section Heads to account for their employees and report any who are missing or injured.
- List injured or missing personnel and request medical assistance for those requiring assistance.
- Report any unusual incidents to higher authorities.
- Keep employees in the assembly area until instructions are received from higher authorities.

Once properly trained, volunteers may keep their position for as long as they wish to perform the duties.

"We lose some volunteers to retirement, others may get promoted within the Department,"

Thomas explained. "There are some volunteers that started when the program began that are still serving today and they are still just as enthusiastic about it."

Coming Soon To All ARDOT Employees

Previously in place only at Central Office, the program is expanding. The Department has rolled out Phase Two to include each of ARDOT's ten Districts.

"Initial meetings began this year," Thomas shared. "I went to each of the Districts and explained what the program was going to offer. They were very receptive to it. The first meetings to train volunteers began in September."

Thomas is excited to see the program grow.

"I am so happy to be a part of what is already in place and now we can extend our services to the Districts. I acknowledge Ken Jordan

and Bethany Swindell who laid the foundation for this program in 2007. I want to say thank you to Crystal Woods, Eddie Tanner and Alicia Hunt for giving me the opportunity to lead this program. Last but not least, a special thanks to the volunteers who take the time to perform the duties of these positions. They are the program and without them this valuable resource would not be available to the Department."

Other Departments of Transportation across the country now have similar programs in place.

"I think DOTs across the country understand how important the services of these volunteers are," Thomas stated.

"Our employees are here on a daily basis. There is always the possibility of an injury or incident. These volunteers can provide immediate first aid help while waiting for 911 to arrive. Our volunteers provide that crucial initial response."

(continued on page 12)

EMERGENCY RESPONSE COORDINATORS

District 1	Cannon Callicott
District 2	Royce Edmonson Brandy Tucker
District 3	Sherry Steward
District 4	Kenneth Tucker
District 5	Jamie Kelly
District 6	Shelly Bradley
District 7	Aline Nutt
District 8	April Smith Cedric Cursh Debbie Blalock
District 9	Zane Green
District 10	John Abanathy
Central Office	Maddison Wendland Mark Green Jodi Shell Wayne Whitley Alan Pinkerton Corey Key Luke Bailey George Davison, III Roger McManus Greg Davis Steven Abed Chuck Holland Eleanor Goins Krista Sides Casey McCarthy Tara Dixon Brook Norris Jordan Bittle Ted English Ron Fields Shelly Troutman Chris Dailey Robert Fuhler Karla Sims Jim Tadel Robert Kesl
Materials	Paul Tinsley
Maintenance	Kris Treadway
Equip. &Proc.	Kenjuan Washington

ASSEMBLY AREA COORDINATORS

District 1	Needra Session
District 2	Sandy Pendergrass
District 3	Melanie Lauterbach
District 4	John Boggs
District 5	Jimmy Beams
District 6	Patricia Fletcher-Kester
District 7	Lindsey Dow
District 8	Sonya Whittenburg Jacob Tisdale Jodi Mahan
District 9	Renae Whiteside
District 10	Maddie Drum
Central Office	Eddie Tanner 1st Lt. Brian Harwood David Hall Dana Smith Marty Pledger Danny Keene

ASSISTANT RESPONSE COORDINATORS

District 1	Matt Emberton Jim Moore
District 2	Thomas Drye Tim Kelly
District 3	Levi Vancamp Tim Dougan
District 4	Shane Reeves
District 5	Josh Fick Pam Hays
District 6	Michelle Garcia
District 7	Charles Craig Therese Purifoy
District 8	Kenny Caldwell Jeremy Ford
District 9	Robbie Moore
District 10	John McDowell Alecia Simpson

Central Office

Isaac Hill
Ronda Walthall
Michelle Estlinbaum
Manju Vadakke Veetil
LeAnn Chadwick
Brandi Mayhan
Leslie Coddington
Josef Lilly
Korey Pough
Kevin Wang
Erin Dixon
Ken Redus
David Dawson
Julian Ward
Tim Yu
Britni Padilla-Dumas
Monica Saffle
John Spears
Charles Brewer
Douglas Beaty
Jeremy Plummer
Josilyn Mitchell
Sergeant John Lamb
Mary Pearson
Sarah DeVries
Eric Benson
Valerie Nichols

Materials

Danielle Herron

Maintenance

Michael Kelly
Brandon Lumpkin

Equip. & Proc.

Harvey Hargrove

ASSISTANT ASSEMBLY AREA COORDINATORS

District 1	Darlene Riley Brook Hively
District 2	Carter Davis Becky Wynn
District 3	Will Cheatham Charlene Haynes
District 4	Lee Dewey
District 5	Darrin Rendleman Sherry Stout
District 6	Destiny Lamon
District 7	Michael Mason Jennifer Bryant
District 8	Eric Kennedy Curtiss Watkins Rusty Deckard
District 9	Justin Sams
District 10	Mike Cooper Stephanie Ward
Central Office	Patrick Thomas Tom Elkins Sharelle Brown Krystin Bunch Mark Holloman

THANKS TO OUR VOLUNTEERS!





1. BRIDGE: Rick Ellis, Division Head, presented multiple service awards. Chris Williams, Senior Bridge Design Engineer, receives his 10-year Service Award; Dennis Vire, Staff Structure Engineer, receives his 35-year Service Award; David Plugge, Senior Bridge Design Engineer, receives his 40-year Service Award. (L. to R. Chris Williams, Dennis Vire, Rick Ellis and David Plugge)

2. LEGAL: (L. to R.) Maria Schenetzke, Deputy Chief Counsel, receives her 35-year Service Award from Rita Looney, Chief Legal Counsel.

3. DISTRICT 1: (L. to R.) Russell Smith, Welder, and Talela White-Lynch Maintenance Aide II, received their 5-year Service Awards.

4. DISTRICT 1 (L. to R.) Doris Boswell, Maintenance Aide II, receives her 10-year Service Award from Kevin Seals, Construction Inspector, and Don Moore, Area Maintenance Supervisor (not pictured).

5. DISTRICT 1: (L. to R.) Joshua Nicholson, Permit Officer, and Sonya Rose, Construction Materials Inspector, receive their 15-year Service Awards.

6. DISTRICT 2: (L. to R.) Eugene Ward, Maintenance Aide II, receives his 5-year Service Award from Johnny Winfield, Area Maintenance Supervisor.

7. DISTRICT 2: (L. to R.) Louis Dow, Lead Bridge Repairer, receives his 10-year Service Award from Charlie Morrison, Bridge Job Superintendent.

8. DISTRICT 2: (L. to R.) William Linder, Area Maintenance Supervisor, receives his 15-year Service Award from Tim Kelly, District Maintenance Engineer.

9. DISTRICT 2: (L. to R.) Todd Tooke, Construction Inspector, receives his 20-year Service Award from Daniel Courtney, Resident Engineer.



10. DISTRICT 4: (L. to R.) Bashar Qedan, Resident Engineer, presents Dalton "Blake" Grigg, Construction Aide, with his 5-year Service Award.

11. DISTRICT 4: (L. to R.) Terry Bartlett, Maintenance Aide II, receives his 5-year Service Award from Mike Ward, Area Maintenance Supervisor.

12. DISTRICT 4: (L. to R.) Kenneth Gentry, Area Maintenance Supervisor, presents Jimmie Jetton, Crew Leader, with his 15-year Service Award.

13. DISTRICT 4: (L. to R.) John Swaffar, Maintenance Aide II, receives his 5-year Service Award from Mike Ward, Area Maintenance Supervisor.

14. DISTRICT 4: (L. to R.) Nathan Reed, Maintenance Specialist, receives his 15-year service award from Jerry Trotter, Area Maintenance Supervisor.

15. DISTRICT 6: (L. to R.) Shelly Bradley, Office Manager, presents Destiny Lamon, Bookkeeper, with her 20-year Service Award.

16. DISTRICT 7: (L. to R.) Euclid Elliot, Area Maintenance Supervisor, presents Michael Parker, Maintenance Aide II, with his 5-year Service Award.

17. DISTRICT 7: (L. to R.) Euclid Elliot, Area Maintenance Supervisor, presents King D. Montgomery, Maintenance Aide II, with his 5-year Service Award.

18. DISTRICT 7: (L. to R.) John Wayne Hughes, Construction Aide, receives his 5-year Service Award from Joe Plyler, Resident Engineer.



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19. DISTRICT 7: (L. to R.) Rickie Bratton, District Bridge Inspector, receives his 15-year Service Award from Todd Russell, District Construction Engineer.

20. DISTRICT 7: (L. to R.) Bart Berry, Crew Leader, receives his 20-year Service Award from Bobby Hall, Area Maintenance Supervisor.

21. DISTRICT 7: (L. to R.) Jimmy Reynolds, District Bridge Inspector, presents Jermy Purifoy, Assistant District Bridge Inspector, with his 20-year Service Award.

22. DISTRICT 7: (L. to R.) Euclid Elliot, Area Maintenance Supervisor, receives his 30-year Service Award from Drew Hoggard, District Maintenance Engineer

23. DISTRICT 7: (L. to R.) Johnny Risher, Area Maintenance Supervisor, receives his 40-year Service Award from Drew Hoggard, District Maintenance Engineer.

24. DISTRICT 9: (L. to R.) Bruce Davis, Maintenance Aide II, receives his 5-year Service Award from Dennis Drewry, Maintenance Job Superintendent.

25. DISTRICT 9: (L. to R.) Lisa Pytel, Maintenance Aide II, receives her 5-year Service Award from Dennis Drewry, Maintenance Job Superintendent.

26. DISTRICT 9: (L. to R.) Chanda Ramsey, Maintenance Aide II, receives her 10-year Service Award from Dennis Drewry, Maintenance Job Superintendent.

27. DISTRICT 9: (L. to R.) Jamie Begley, Maintenance Specialist, receives his 10-year Service Award from Dennis Drewry, Maintenance Job Superintendent.



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28. DISTRICT 9: (L. to R.) Zane Green, Equipment Maintenance Supervisor, presents David Clark, Mechanic, with his 15-year Service Award.

29. DISTRICT 9: (L. to R.) Gabe Hensley, Crew Leader, receives his 15-year Service Award from Dennis Drewry, Maintenance Job Superintendent.

NOTEWORTHY

FAMILY FOCUS



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1. HUMAN RESOURCES: Emerson Blakley and Merritt Katherine Wendland, born June 18, 2019, are the daughters of Maddison and Spencer Wendland (Human Resources, Construction). They are also the granddaughters of Sharon Blakley (Legal) and nieces of Danielle Herron (Materials) and Greg Wendland (Materials).

2. DISTRICT 2: Kaitlyn May Vance was born to Haley Creppel & Joe Vance on July 9, 2019, at 3:29 a.m. She weighed 7 lbs. 14.1 ozs. and was 20 1/2 inches long. She is the first granddaughter of Mathew & Jodie Creppel; Mathew is a Crew Leader.



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3. DISTRICT 5: Harbor Lackey was born on July 31, 2019. He weighed 8 lbs. 7 oz. and was 21 inches long. He is the grandson of Michael Lackey, Sealing Job Superintendent.

4. DISTRICT 5: Samuel Freeman obtained his Eagle Scout Rank on August 24, 2019, during his Eagle Scout Court of Honor. He is a boy scout in Troop 754 in Heber Springs. He is the son of Robyn Freeman, Area Headquarters Attendant, in Cleburne County.



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5. DISTRICT 9: Jarrod Brightwell, Advanced Construction Field Engineer, and his wife Hayley, welcomed baby boy Judah Lee Brightwell on July 18, 2019. Judah weighed 8 lbs. 11 ozs. and was 20.5 inches long.



NEW EMPLOYEES

BRIDGE • Hong Yi, Engineer

ENVIRONMENTAL • Ricardo Ramirez Jr., Public Involvement Specialist; Devin Sorrows, Intern; Triecia Taylor, Office Aide

INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY • Tanner Edwards, Intern; Rufus Hardin, Hardware Technician

MAINTENANCE • Teresa Wolfe, Office Aide

MATERIALS • Masan Brown, Intern

PROGRAM MANAGEMENT • Josue Castellanos Barba, Intern

RADIO • Christy Vick, Communication Operator

RIGHT OF WAY • Angela Elliott, ROW Plans Designer; Ga'Nesha Skerrett, Office Aide; Keyma Thompson, Office Aide

ROADWAY DESIGN • Christina Childress, Intern; Jacob Head, Engineer

SURVEYS • Dustin Catlett, Intern

SYSTEM INFORMATION & RESEARCH Hannah Allen, Intern; Jeffrey Storment, Intern; Christina Childress, Intern

TRANSPORTATION PLANNING & POLICY Madeline Colclasure, Seasonal Employee; Brendan Hagemeyer, Intern

DISTRICT 1 • Aniya Williams, Rest Area Attendant; Christopher Clark, Intern; Kali Dunn, Intern; Talal Esmail, Intern

DISTRICT 2 • Earven Eshmelek-Malakyah, Maintenance Aide I; Attris Scales, Maintenance Aide I; Isaac Martinez, Intern

DISTRICT 3 • Alexander Bradley, Maintenance Aide I; Paul Melton, Maintenance Aide I; Nicholas Walker, Maintenance Aide I; Tristen Hatfield, Intern; William Popp, Intern; Alexander Thurber, Intern

DISTRICT 4 • Jason Kendrick, Maintenance Aide I; Landon Price, Maintenance Aide I; Justin Price, Maintenance Aide I; Charles Smith, Maintenance Aide I; Alexis Cotton, Intern; Tanner Turben, Intern; Ever Villalobos, Intern

DISTRICT 5 • Byron Johnson, Maintenance Aide I; Daniel McMasters, Maintenance Aide I; Isreal Meza, Maintenance Aide I; David Morrow, Maintenance Aide I; Lance Smith, Maintenance Aide I; Virginia Lantz, Intern; Jonathan Sorensen, Intern; Ian Thompson, Intern

DISTRICT 6 • Bryant Goodman, Maintenance Aide I; Stephan McIntire, Sign Erector; Corey Thomas, Maintenance Aide I; Mir Ali, Intern; Sydney Bratton, Intern; Yessenia Gonzalez, Intern; Britt Hall, Intern

DISTRICT 7 • Byron Allen, Maintenance Aide I; Todd Nichols, Maintenance Aide I; Cory Bryant, Construction Aide; Jarrett Elliott, Intern; Lizbeth Juarez-Bartolo, Intern; Allie Perry, Intern; Joshua Walker, Engineer

DISTRICT 8 • Audrey Davis, Maintenance Aide I; Cory Peel, Maintenance Aide I; Mason Keeling, Intern; Garrett Wallace, Intern; Benjamin Whiting, Intern

DISTRICT 9 • Sherri Bolyan, Maintenance Aide I; Edward Griffith, Maintenance Aide I; Lauren Lowery, Intern; Jacob Holt, Intern; Hunter Lipton, Intern; Katelynn Morgan, Intern; Montrell Plummer, Intern

DISTRICT 10 • Erick Carpenter, Maintenance Aide I; Larry Flanrey, Maintenance Aide I; Leon Jacobs, Maintenance Aide I; Timothy Nix, Intern; Stephen Teasley, Intern

PROMOTIONS

CONSTRUCTION • Thaddeus Lybrand, Engineer; Joseph McGhee, Construction Aide; Lucas Turner, Assistant Resident Engineer

FACILITIES MANAGEMENT • Mina Awadalla, Facilities Management Engineer

FISCAL SERVICES • Mistica Martin, Retirement Specialist; Latina Sisco, Assistant Section Head-Reports & Costs

HEAVY BRIDGE • Jerry Honeycutt, Crew Leader

MAINTENANCE • James Steele, Lead Storeroom Assistant

MATERIALS • Tracy Henderson, Geotechnical Drill Party Chief

RIGHT OF WAY • William Reynolds, Lead Beautification Coordinator

TRANSPORTATION PLANNING & POLICY Inderpreet Farmhan, Senior Transportation Planner; Zhiqiong Hou, SR Transportation Planning Engineer

DISTRICT 1 • Jimmy Cullen, Crew Leader; Meverly Isabell, Rest Area Attendant

DISTRICT 2 • Brandon Cowling, Maintenance Specialist; Anthony Hurley, Bridge Repairer

DISTRICT 3 • Timothy Hall, Maintenance Aide II

DISTRICT 4 • AJ Churchman, Maintenance Aide II; Pascal Harrison, Rest Area Attendant- CDL; Thomas Tucker, Maintenance Specialist

DISTRICT 5 • Walker Durham, Maintenance Aide II; Jeremy Freeman, Maintenance Aide II; Cecil Meggs Jr., Area Maintenance Supervisor; Catrina Sullivan, Area Maintenance Supervisor

DISTRICT 6 • Rodger Dean, Bridge Repairer; Cleveland Gilliam, Rest Area Attendant- CDL; Zachary Hitt, District Clerk; Doyle Stivers, Maintenance Aide II

DISTRICT 7 • Weston Fitzgerald, Maintenance Aide II; Jeffrey Russell, District Construction Engineer

DISTRICT 8 • Jacob Biffle, Bridge Repairer; Jason Hughey, District Engineer; Nicholas Pfeifer, Bridge Repairer

DISTRICT 9 • Kenda Arentsen, Maintenance Aide II; Robert Kahle, Maintenance Aide II; Benjamin Kerwood, District Permit Officer; Courtney Mullins, Tractor Trailer Driver; Andrew Tennant, Maintenance Specialist

DISTRICT 10 • James Jordan, Maintenance Aide II

SERVICE

ARKANAS HIGHWAY POLICE • Matthew Ross, Law Enforcement Officer, 5+



yrs; Evan Austin, Law Enforcement Officer, 5+ yrs; Marshall Ashcraft, Law Enforcement Officer, 5+ yrs; Stacy Cantrell, Law Enforcement Officer, 5+ yrs; Ryan Grisham Sr., Law Enforcement Officer, 5+ yrs; Robert Pauley, Law Enforcement Officer, 5+ yrs; Brandon Clark, Law Enforcement Officer, 5+ yrs; Brian Sturdivant, Law Enforcement Officer, 5+ yrs; Nathan McCollum, Law Enforcement Officer, 5+ yrs; Joseph McCollum, Law Enforcement Officer 5+ yrs; Matthew Wren, Law Enforcement Officer, 5+ yrs; Jonathan Beshears, Law Enforcement Officer, 5+ yrs

ASSISTANT CHIEF ENGINEER'S OFFICE
Nancy Gambill, Staff Engineer, 5+ yrs

BRIDGE • David Plugge, Sr. Engineer; 40+ yrs

CONSTRUCTION • Terri Penland, Construction Office Specialist, 15+ yrs

EQUIPMENT & PROCUREMENT • James Koder, Carpenter, 5+ yrs

HEAVY BRIDGE MAINTENANCE • Sam McIntare, Heavy Bridge Maintenance Superintendent, 15+ yrs

INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY • David Kaufman, System Support Technician, 5+ yrs

LEGAL • Mark Umeda, Staff Attorney, 10+ yrs

MATERIALS • Elvis Richmond, District Materials Supervisor, 30+ yrs

PROGRAM MANAGEMENT • Tammy Goshien, Advanced Program Management Specialist, 35+ yrs

RADIO • Larry Coatney, ITS Specialist, 10+ yrs

SYSTEM INFORMATION & RESEARCH
Loretta McEntire, Data Collection Technician, 30+ yrs; Ernest Pointer III, Data Collection Technician, 10+ yrs

SURVEYS • Christopher Melhorn, Staff Engineer, 10+ yrs

DISTRICT 1 • Jeffery Collier, Area Maintenance Supervisor, 35+ yrs; Roger Johnson, Construction Inspector, 25+ yrs; Sonya Rose, Construction Materials Inspector, 15+ yrs; Doris Boswell, Maintenance Aide II, 10+ yrs; Kevin Seals, Construction Inspector, 10+ yrs; Theodore Pulley, Maintenance Aide II, 5+ yrs

DISTRICT 2 • Gregory Loomis, District Bridge Inspector, 30+ yrs; Maurice West JR, Maintenance Specialist, 30+ yrs; Terence Loudermilk, Maintenance Aide II, 5+ yrs

DISTRICT 3 • Ernie Sorrells, Area Maintenance Supervisor, 30+ yrs; Joe Dorman, Area Maintenance Supervisor, 30+ yrs; Joe Daniels Jr., Area Maintenance Supervisor, 25+ yrs; Gary Efird, Maintenance Aide II, 15+ yrs; Colin Nine, Construction Inspector, 15+ yrs; Christopher Taylor, SR Engineer, 5+ yrs

DISTRICT 4 • Jennifer Salazar, Crew Leader, 15+ yrs; Lendal Williams Jr., Maintenance Specialist, 10+ yrs

DISTRICT 5 • Tyler Carl, Maintenance Aide II, 15+ yrs; Jon Anderson, Construction Aide, 5+ yrs

DISTRICT 6 • Robert Arguello, Construction Project Coordinator, 30+ yrs; Norman Walker, Maintenance Aide II, 5+ yrs; David Parks, Maintenance Aide II, 5+ yrs; Stewart Smith, Maintenance Aide II, 5+ yrs

DISTRICT 7 • Kennedy Porchia, Maintenance Aide II, 15+ yrs; Gregory Strange, Crew Leader, 15+ yrs; Paul Parnell, Maintenance Specialist, 10+ yrs; Sam Biggers, Mechanic, 5+ yrs

DISTRICT 8 • Roger Elder, Crew Leader, 40+ yrs; Lesia Reeves, Area Headquarters Attendant, 20+ yrs; Mark McClanahan, Assistant Bridge Inspector, 15+ yrs; Joann Bowles, Maintenance Specialist, 15+ yrs; Paul Burris, Tractor Trailer Driver, 15+ yrs; Justin Huffman, Mechanic, 5+ yrs; Jacob Tisdale, Storeroom Assistant, 5+ yrs; Steven Pierce, Maintenance Specialist, 5+ yrs

DISTRICT 9 • Thomas Taylor, Area Maintenance Supervisor, 30+ yrs; Rickey Clark, Construction Materials Inspector, 30+ yrs; Brady Vanhook, Maintenance Aide II, 5+ yrs; Derek Stroot, Maintenance Specialist, 5+ yrs

DISTRICT 10 • Christopher Clifford, Maintenance Job Superintendent, 25+ yrs; Christopher Kelly, Maintenance Specialist, 20+ yrs; David Herko, Maintenance Aide II, 5+ yrs; Alexander Helms, Maintenance Aide II, 5+ yrs

RETIREMENT

ARKANSAS HIGHWAY POLICE • Daniel Morales, Law Enforcement Officer, 26+ yrs

EQUIPMENT & PROCUREMENT • Judith Orrick, Buyer, 34+ yrs

DISTRICT 1 • Roger Johnson, Construction Inspector, 25+ yrs

DISTRICT 2 • Joseph Kasiah, Maintenance Aide II, 6+ yrs

DISTRICT 3 • Johnny Mauldin, Maintenance Specialist, 29+ yrs; Eugene Greenwood Jr., Maintenance Specialist, 15+ yrs

DISTRICT 6 • Richard Odom, Electrical Plumb & Mech Rep, 15+ yrs; Norman Walker, Maintenance Aide II; 5+ yrs

DISTRICT 8 • John Mullis, District Engineer, 35+ yrs; Hershell Cotton, Construction Inspector, 10+ yrs

MEMORIALS

CONSTRUCTION • Jessie Williams Jr., 7/23/2019, retired; Richard Busby, retired, 7/26/2019

INTERNAL AUDIT • Hugh Murray, 7/26/2019, retired

MATERIALS • George Green, 9/11/2019, retired; Terrell Watts, 9/17/2019, retired

PLANNING • Doyle Watson, 8/9/2019, retired; Robert Shelton, 8/31/2019, retired

DISTRICT 3 • Wendell Murray, 8/11/2019, retired

DISTRICT 4 • Melvin Health, 7/19/2019, retired

DISTRICT 5 • James Brinkley, 8/8/2019, retired

DISTRICT 6 • Earl White, 7/20/2019, retired; Richard Mays, 8/3/2019, retired; David Jackson, 8/11/2019, retired

DISTRICT 7 • Dennis Carpentar, 7/19/2019, retired; Donald Fain, 8/4/2019, retired; Hugh Leamons Jr., 9/12/2019, retired

DISTRICT 8 • Charles Loyd, 8/21/2019, retired



ARKANSAS DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION | OCTOBER 2019

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