



# The CenterLine

Arkansas State Highway and Transportation Department

April 24, 2003

## Security Advisory

During this period in which the Homeland Security Advisory System is on everyone's mind, it is important that all employees in Department facilities be properly identified.

Since our security personnel cannot know each employee, it is important that all District and Central Office employees display their identifications badges at all times. The badge must be worn so that the photo ID is clearly visible. For the safety and security of employees, persons entering AHTD facilities, or property, may be subject to security checks when appropriate.

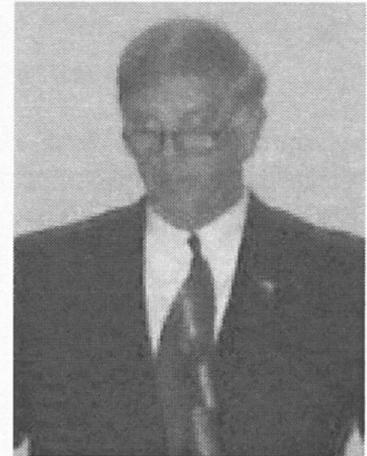
Your assistance, cooperation and vigilance in this matter are appreciated. With your help, the Department can make a positive impact toward the continued safety and security of employees, the public and the State's transportation system.

## AHTD and DBE

The AHTD's Disadvantaged Business Enterprise (DBE) Program conducted a seminar recently at the Riverfront Wyndham.

Director Dan Flowers addressed developing a partnering agreement between the AHTD and the Arkansas DBE Contractors Association, and shared the Department's DBE history and commitment to the DBE program.

Sandra Otto, Administrator for the Arkansas Division of the Federal Highway Administration (FHWA), presented FHWA's role with the DBE program. Approximately 50 people attended the seminar.



Director Dan Flowers speaks at the DBE Seminar in North Little Rock.

## Employee Benefit Update...

The Employee Benefit Division advises you of a change to the voluntary, pilot mail service prescription benefit. Effective May 1, 2003, the structure will change from two co-payments for a 90-day supply of medication, to three co-payments per 90-day supply of medication. All other guidelines will remain the same.

Additionally, an enhancement to the pharmacy benefit program is announced. Effective May 1, 2003, members may pick up a 90-day supply of medication at their retail pharmacy for three co-payments. Prior to using this benefit, you must follow these guidelines:

1) Obtain two 30-day supplies of medication or two fills at your participating pharmacy.

2) Please remember to keep your receipts or other proofs of purchase.

If medication is still required after the two 30-day supplies or two fills, ask your doctor to write a prescription for up to a 90 day supply with as many as three refills.

The list of medications covered under this benefit is the same as the list of covered medications for the mail order benefit.

Some medications are excluded from this benefit. For a complete list, or more information, call Advance PCS toll-free at 1-877-456-9586 or visit

<http://ar.advancecerx.com>

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# ROADEO NEWS...

Semi-final competitions for the 2003 AHTD Equipment Rodeo Finals will be held on the following dates:

**District 9      May 6**

**District 10      May 1**

Appropriate Division Heads and all District Engineers will be contacted by the Training and Safety Section to coordinate the semi-final competitions. The Finals will be held at the Central Shops in Little Rock on June 12, 2003. District 1, 3 and 8 semi-finals have been held. Results are below:

## **District 1:**

### Tractor/Lowboy

1st Place - Russell Curbo  
2nd Place - Harold Mullins  
3rd Place - Jerry Mitchell

### Tandem Axle Dump Truck

1st Place - Johnny Light  
2nd Place - Charles White  
3rd Place - Stanley Bennett

### Single Axle Dump Truck

1st Place - Wayne Hamilton  
2nd Place - Jeremy Rogers  
3rd Place - Edgar Starks

### Tractor/Mower

1st Place - Earnest Rose  
2nd Place - Jimmy Pulley  
3rd Place - Joey Henson

### Backhoe

1st Place - Michael Howard  
2nd Place - Manford Ferrell  
3rd Place - John Pruett

### Motor Patrol

1st Place - Robert Gray  
2nd Place - Joey McClanahan  
3rd Place - Rommie Harris

## **District 3:**

### Tractor/Lowboy

1st Place - Joe Stone  
2nd Place - Stanley Rogers  
3rd Place - Theresa Bohannon

### Tandem Axle Dump Truck

1st Place - Pat Edmonson  
2nd Place - Kenneth Adams  
3rd Place - Bobby Sharp

### Single Axle Dump Truck

1st Place - Chad Townsend  
2nd Place - Jim Bob Lamb  
3rd Place - Larry Hovarter

### Tractor/Mower

1st Place - Willie Martin  
2nd Place - Jeremy Kennzell  
3rd Place - Shane Buck

### Backhoe

1st Place - David Morton  
2nd Place - Rodney Shelton  
3rd Place - Patty Wicker

### Motor Patrol

1st Place - Richard Kidd  
2nd Place - David Holden  
3rd Place - Billy Langston

## **District 8:**

### Tractor/Lowboy

1st Place - Juan Hernandez  
2nd Place - Jim Standridge  
3rd Place - Paul Charton

### Tandem Axle Dump Truck

1st Place - Tommy Houghton  
2nd Place - Jay Rankin  
3rd Place - Charles Farrow

### Single Axle Dump Truck

1st Place - C.D. Horn  
2nd Place - Crystal Gipson  
3rd Place - Gordon Parham

### Tractor/Mower

1st Place - Josh Bryant  
2nd Place - Randy Tankersley  
3rd Place - William "Buddy" Shipp

### Backhoe

1st Place - Larry Brazil  
2nd Place - Michael Roberts  
3rd Place - Scott Craig

### Motor Patrol

1st Place - Dennis Langston  
2nd Place - Danny Duvall  
3rd Place - Darrell Carter

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# New Jacksonville Railroad Overpass Dedicated



Commissioner Carl Rosenbaum (center) helps cut a ribbon on the new overpass with (l. to r.) Commissioners Jonathan Barnett, Buddy Benafield, Director Dan Flowers and Jacksonville Mayor Tommy Swaim.

Highway Department Director Dan Flowers, Commission Chairman Buddy Benafield and

Commissioners Carl Rosenbaum and Jonathan Barnett met atop the newly constructed railroad overpass in Jacksonville on April 17 as dignitaries dedicated the structure with a ribbon cutting.

The \$3.2 million job was awarded to Joyner, Ford and Burke in August 2001.

Jacksonville Mayor Tommy Swaim led the contingent as a large local crowd attended the ceremony. Emergency vehicles lined each side of the ribbon as the Mayor officially connected the two sides of the railroad tracks.

With local expenditures on surrounding construction, the Mayor noted the total cost of the project exceeded 5 million dollars.



## New Acts Improve Retirement Options

Two new acts, approved by the Legislature, will improve the retirement options of the Arkansas State Highway Employees Retirement System (ASHERS).

Act 205 changes the way Retirement Options A and B are calculated. Currently, both options are set percentage reductions from straight life. This act uses actuarially determined tables that are based on the age of the employee and the age of the named beneficiary at the time of retirement.

Option A will still be the calculated amount guaranteed for 120 months. Option B will continue to give the named beneficiary  $\frac{1}{2}$  of the Option B amount for the remaining life of the beneficiary.

The ASHERS is in the process of recalculating the retirement benefit for all persons retired and in the Deferred

Retirement Option Plan (DROP) under Retirement Options A and B. The new annuity amount will be based on these calculations. There will be no retroactive restatement of benefits. Retirees will see this change in benefit on their July check.

The ASHERS is working with Computer Services to put a screen on the Intranet site that will allow employees to see how this change might affect them. The screen will show what the percentage was under the old law and what it will be under the new law.

The second act, Act 776, authorizes the ASHERS Board to adopt changes in the DROP. The Board has adopted a two-tiered plan effective July 1, 2003. Tier 1 is the traditional 5-year plan where the employee calculates their retirement benefit and has

90% of this amount deposited into their DROP account. The employee does not pay the 6% contributory amount and the AHTD does not match their salary.

The new Tier 2 option allows an employee to continue working after the initial 5-year period as long as that person is less than 65 years of age. The employee will resume paying the 6% contributory amount and the AHTD will match this with 6.9%. The amount of money deposited into the employee DROP account will be reduced to 79%. There is no recalculation of retirement benefit under this plan.

Under Tier 2, the employee must cease their employment at age 65. The Act requires the benefit to be cost neutral to the retirement system.



# Bloodborne Pathogens: Be Aware and Be Safe

Are you concerned about being exposed to a Bloodborne Pathogen Disease like Hepatitis B (HBV) or the Human Immunodeficiency Virus (HIV) during the performance of your job? What exactly is a bloodborne pathogen and should you be concerned?

If your job duties include cleaning restrooms, collecting trash, picking up litter or personal contact with an infected person, you are at risk!

A bloodborne pathogen is a microorganism found in human body fluids, including blood, that can cause disease. We need to learn to protect ourselves from serious diseases.

AHTD's Bloodborne Pathogen Exposure Control Plan is an excellent resource in providing awareness and protection information. The plan's objective is to provide employees with information to eliminate or minimize exposure to blood and other infectious body fluids.

Some basic points to remember from the Exposure Control Plan include:

## **1** *Practice Universal Precautions:*

If you believe the substance is blood or other body fluids, assume it is and that it is contaminated. When these precautions are in place, all means available should be used to avoid contact with the substance.

## **2** *Primary Modes of Transmission:*

The most common is parenteral entry into a person's body by a needlestick, a cut/open wound or through contact of the mucous membrane area, i.e. eyes, nose, mouth. The pathogen must enter the body for infection to occur. They are not transmitted by touch or casual contact with another person's intact skin. Your skin is your first line of defense. Avoid unprotected contact with these substances.

## **3** *Be Cautious When Handling Trash*

That includes litter or general restroom cleanup. Watch for needles, broken glass, etc., that could penetrate your skin. When carrying trash in a bag, hold the bag away from your body to avoid potential contact with sharp objects that may protrude from the bag. Use mechanical means to pick up suspected infectious substances when possible, i.e. shovels and litter grabbers.

## **4** *Have a First Aid Kit*

Be familiar with the contents of your first aid kit and maintain it well. The orange-colored items are for bloodborne pathogen control and include fluid impervious gloves, gown, shoe

covers, face shield and a fluid absorbent powder. A 1-10 solution of household bleach and water will neutralize these viruses rendering them noninfectious. This is not part of the kit but can be kept in a spray bottle.

## **5** *Practice Good Personal Hygiene*

Wash your hands with water and soap or an antiseptic cleanser before eating, applying make up, etc.

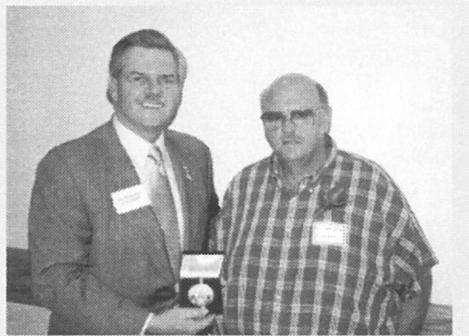
## **6** *Take the First Step*

It's up to you to know the risks of exposure to bloodborne pathogens and to take precautions to protect yourself and others. The Department's ultimate goal is to provide a safe work place for employees, but we need your help. For more information, review the Department's Bloodborne Pathogen Exposure Control Plan or ask your supervisor for more information.



***Be in the know,  
be alert and stay  
safe!***

## William Caton Named 2002 Jefferson Award Regional Winner



Lt. Governor Rockefeller (left) presents the Jefferson Award to William Caton.

Congratulations to William Floyd Caton, Distributor Roller Operator in the Miller County Maintenance Crew, for receiving a Jefferson Award for his volunteer work at the Texarkana Baptist Orphanage. The awards are presented by The American Institute for Public Service and recognize outstanding achievement in public service and community service.

Caton is the youngest of three siblings. Due to the loss of their parents, he and brother Jerry were placed in the Texarkana Baptist Orphanage in 1965.

Following graduation from Arkansas High School in Texarkana, Caton began employment with the Arkansas State Highway and Transportation Department. He is still there after twenty plus years.

Caton's appreciation for the orphanage and the children there never waned over the years. He was granted, permission to use land belonging to the Home to build his own home. He and his brother Jerry lived there until Jerry's death in 1996.

Since entering the workforce, Caton has used evenings and weekends to volunteer his time to the orphanage. He is especially helpful in maintaining the farm acreage and cattle. At any time of

the day or night, Caton will respond to a call for help.

His pleasant personality boosts morale among the house parents and other employees. His camaraderie with the children is invaluable. Kids are not at the orphanage long before they know William. They feel as though they can reach out to him, since he was there before them.

In addition to tending the land, Caton delivers goods, drives children, runs farm equipment, bails hay and repairs fences.

During the last 35 years, many administrators, employees and children have come and gone. Caton remembers most of them. Most of them remember him as well. In fact, many remain in contact with him.

Caton refuses pay for his many good deeds for the Home and its children, even when it costs him to perform the deed. He shares his pleasant personality with everyone.

Caton is a blessing to many adults, but more so to the children. Because of his positive outlook on life, the burdens of countless children have been lifted and the work of employees made easier.

In the course of the 95-year history of Texarkana Baptist Orphanage, it is safe to say that no one has risen to the height of William Caton in volunteering time and effort.

# AHTD People

## NEW EMPLOYEES

### CONSTRUCTION

Barry Harris, Timmy Hart, Gary Murphy, Lana Sullens, Const. Helpers I  
Derik Miller, Construction Helper II  
Michael Wood, Civil Engr. Technician

### FISCAL SERVICES

Emily Boggs, Accounting Assistant

### HUMAN RESOURCES

Ron Kimsey, Elec. Pl. & Mech. Repairer

### INTERNALAUDIT

Michael Hyde, Chief Auditor

### MATERIALS

James Watkins, General Laborer

### RIGHT OF WAY

Ashley January, Administrative Aide I

### DISTRICT 1

David Davenport, David Jordan, Single Axle Truck Drivers  
Eddie Brown, Station Attendant  
Julius Miller, Jr. Mechanic

### DISTRICT 2

John Harvey, Bobby Jacks, Mark Pumphrey, Single Axle Truck Drivers  
Valerie Davis, Trumorrow Rainey, Deborah Roberts, General Laborers

### DISTRICT 3

Ricky Branham, General Laborer

### DISTRICT 4

Chris Holloway, Steve Hunt, General Laborers

### DISTRICT 6

Raymond Edwards, Gary Hobbs, Single Axle Truck Drivers

### DISTRICT 8

Kelly Goates, Personnel Clerk

### DISTRICT 9

Melissa Weaver, District Receptionist  
Brian Willis, Single Axle Truck Driver

### DISTRICT 10

Lance Cook, Bobby Hice, Jr., Charlotte Latham, Kimberly Walters, General Laborers

## PROMOTIONS

### COMPUTER SERVICES

Raymond Leung, Automation Engr. II

### HEAVY BRIDGE

Leonard Robinson, Bridge Repairer I

### HUMAN RESOURCES

Deb Dyer, Personnel Auditing Clerk

# AHTD People

## MAINTENANCE

**Shane Foust, Joshua Phillips**, Single Axle Truck Drivers

## MATERIALS

**Bernard Eldridge**, Materials Technician II  
**Laura Johnson**, Chemist II  
**Christopher Wells, Khari Withers**, Materials Technicians II

## PLANNING AND RESEARCH

**Terry Vittitow**, Cartographer II

## REPRODUCTION

**Mark Green**, Reproduction Technician  
**Faye Shook**, Administrative Aide I

## ROADWAY DESIGN

**Linda Gunn**, Sr. Design Engineer  
**Keli Higginbotham**, Civil Engineer I  
**John Mathis**, Staff Design Engineer

## DISTRICT 2

**Kyle Bryant**, Multi-Axle Truck Driver  
**Roy Clark**, Single Axle Truck Driver  
**Daniel Harris**, Adv. Const. Field Engr.  
**James Harvest**, Rest Area Attendant  
**Dalene Stain, Todd Tooke**, Const. Aides II

## DISTRICT 3

**Charles Bradley**, Paver Operator  
**William Harding**, District Const. Engr.

## DISTRICT 4

**Wade Askins**, Maintenance Aide I  
**Robert Dean III**, Single Axle Truck Driver  
**Rebecca McCall**, Multi-Axle Truck Driver  
**Terrell Moore**, Bridge Repairer I  
**Jerry Shaffer**, Maintenance Aide II  
**Gary West**, Senior Inspector

## DISTRICT 5

**Steven Davis**, Maintenance Aide II  
**Heath Everett**, Maintenance Aide I

## DISTRICT 6

**Bruce Anthony Jr.**, Street Sweeper Opr.  
**Lawrence Hobbs, Jr., Aaron Ring**, Maintenance Aides II  
**William Lindsey, Mark Trickey, Jeffrey Williams**, Const. Project Coordinators

## DISTRICT 8

**Darrell Carter**, Motor Patrol Opr.-Finish  
**Rickey Garrett, Sr., James Guinn**, Single Axle Truck Drivers  
**Jimmy Jackson**, District Caretaker  
**Terry Jones**, Backhoe/Frontend Ldr. Opr.

## DISTRICT 9

**William Cox**, Maintenance Aide II

## DISTRICT 10

**James Adams**, Maintenance Aide II  
**Elvis Richmond**, Sr. Const. Matl. Insp.

## RETIREMENTS

**Bobby Reynolds**, D8 Multi-Axle Truck Driver with 30+ years  
**Gerald Wilkerson**, D9 Sr. Mechanic with 30+ years

**Rayburn Gipson**, D8 Distributor/Roller Opr. with 29+ years

**James Goff**, D4 Sr. Insp. with 26+ years

**Charles Fowler**, D6 Motor Patrol Opr. - Finish with 22+ years

**Robert Bynum**, D10 Lowboy or Float Truck Driver with 16+ years

**Jerry Wylie**, AHP Corporal with 16+ yrs.

## SERVICE

### 35 YEARS

**James Squires, Jr.**, Senior Designer

### 25 YEARS

**Linda Price**, Admin. Asst. I  
**Ala Mae Flenory**, Bookkeeper  
**Rickie Sharp**, Area Maintenance Supv.  
**Chris Johnson**, Maintenance Job Supt.  
**Nellie Erwin**, Crew Leader  
**Sammie Holten**, Area Maintenance Supv.  
**John Hayes**, Area Headquarters Attendant  
**Bill Currie III**, Area Maintenance Supv.  
**Donny Parish**, Inspector  
**Joseph Tomboli**, Sr. Const. Material Insp.  
**Michael Jester**, Sr. Inspector  
**Jon Waldrip**, Admin. Officer III

### 20 YEARS

**Gary English**, Traffic Investigator  
**Larry Golden**, Sr. Mechanic  
**Michael Jones**, Automation Engineer IV

### 15 YEARS

**Louise Mills**, ROW Negotiator  
**William Person**, AHP Patrol Officer, 1st Class  
**John Fleming**, Sr. Environmental Scientist  
**Stanley Pense**, Motor Patrol Oper.-Finish  
**Donie Bray**, Multi-Axle Truck Driver  
**Dale Smith**, Senior Mechanic  
**Thomas Smith**, Distributor/Roller Operator  
**Larry Patterson**, Crew Leader  
**Jerry Campbell**, Sign Crew Supervisor  
**Sylvia Hight**, Area Headquarters Attendant  
**Arlis Johnson**, Motor Patrol Operator-Finish  
**Bobby Helms**, Distributor/Roller Operator  
**Timothy Chambers**, Backhoe/Frontend Loader Opr.  
**Paul Athey**, Senior Mechanic  
**Edith Korcheck**, Office Admin. Asst. V  
**Jackie Villines**, Motor Patrol Operator  
**Larry Floyd**, Multi-Axle Truck Driver  
**Kendall Marshall**, Construction Aide II  
**Timothy Eaker**, Inspector  
**Russell Moore**, Senior Inspector  
**Julia Coffman**, Hydraulics Docu. Specialist  
**Larry Lanes**, Admin. Assistant III

### 10 YEARS

**Casey Hansen**, AHP Sergeant  
**Jeffrey Holmes**, AHP Sergeant  
**William Williams**, Maintenance Aide II

### 5 YEARS

**Ronnie Burks**, AHP Chief  
**Terry Harris**, Single Axle Truck Driver  
**Ricky Milligan**, Parts Runner  
**John Burton**, Bridge Repairer I  
**Cathie Zachry**, District Receptionist

## MEMORIALS

**William Vance**, Dist. 10, March 3, 2003  
**R.B. Runions**, Maintenance, March 5, 2003  
**Shannie Crain**, Dist. 2, March 9, 2003  
**Henry C. Gray**, Director, March 20, 2003  
**Earnest Arnett**, Dist. 3, March 25, 2003  
**John M. Shastid**, Dist. 4, March 28, 2003  
**Allen Ederington**, Dist. 7, March 29, 2003

## ACTIVE DUTY

### Arkansas Highway Police

**James Clark**, November 1, 2002  
**Shawn Foust**, February 5, 2003  
**Danny Williford**, March 19, 2003

### Maintenance

**Michael Brown**, January 28, 2003

### Permits

**Henry Lewis**, January 28, 2003

### Planning and Research

**Kimberly Sanders**, December 9, 2002  
**Reggie Smith**, February 10, 2003

### DISTRICT 1

**Lenora Wilson**, October 4, 2002  
**Gary Morton**, January 30, 2003

### DISTRICT 2

**Andrew Maddox**, January 30, 2003  
**Larry Crow**, February 11, 2003

### DISTRICT 4

**Brandon Bowen**, September 3, 2002  
**Marvin Risley**, September 3, 2002

### DISTRICT 6

**Andre Jackson**, February 12, 2003

### DISTRICT 8

**Cecil Long**, January 22, 2003  
**William Alvey**, March 15, 2003  
**Donnie Duvall**, March 15, 2003

### DISTRICT 9

**Nathaniel Day**, January 28, 2003  
**Ronald Sligar**, October 7, 2002  
**Ashley Hale**, March 15, 2003  
**Larry Richard**, March 15, 2003  
**Steven Halsted**, March 15, 2003  
**Randall Williams**, March 15, 2003

### DISTRICT 10

**Rufus Mitchell**, February 10, 2003  
**Willie Mitchell**, February 10, 2003  
**Elvis Richmond**, February 10, 2003  
**W. C. Tobar**, February 10, 2003

Correspondence should be directed to:

AHTD Public Affairs Office,  
P.O. Box 2261

Little Rock, Arkansas 72203-2261

ARKANSAS STATE HIGHWAY COMMISSION

J.W. "Buddy" Benafield, Chairman  
Mary P. "Prissy" Hickerson, Vice Chair  
Jonathan Barnett Carl S. Rosenbaum  
R. Madison Murphy  
Dan Flowers, Director