



The CenterLine

Arkansas State Highway and Transportation Department

December 18, 2003

Road Crews Ready for Winter



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Controlling snow and ice on Arkansas' highways is a multi-million dollar job for AHTD. In fact, over \$3 million has been spent in each of the past several years, not counting the \$7.5 million we spent at the ice-ravaged end of 2001.

Everyday equipment is utilized to combat the ice and snow during the winter season as the Department prepares for the elements. Dump trucks transform into snowplows and salt spreaders with some customizing, and motor graders

are used to clear roadways. Equipment operators simply adjust their schedules and the conditions they work in.

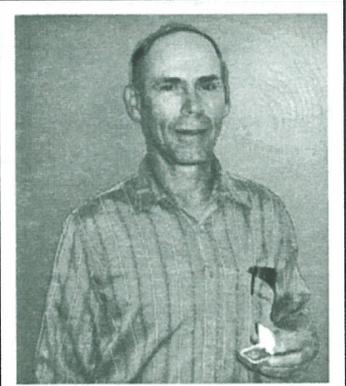
Remind the public whenever you can that oftentimes crews are out very early in the morning "pre-treating" the roads. By the time rush hour comes, we may have already been treating roads for hours.

Chemicals and abrasives are the major products used to treat the roads, and Districts pay close

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Maintenance: (l.) Mickey Satterwhite, Striping Zoner II, receives his 10-year service award from Tony Evans, Staff Maintenance Engineer.

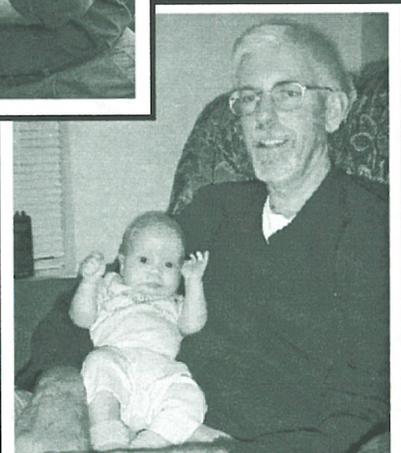
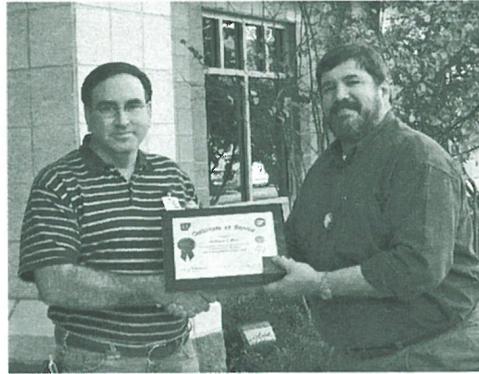


District 4 - Gary Greene, Inspector, recently received his 25-year service pin.



District 4 - Mark Williams, Bridge Superintendent, went hunting in Newfoundland, Canada and got this Caribou with his bow.

Materials: (l.) William J. Pay, District Materials Supervisor, is presented his 15-year award and service pin by Materials Division Head Jerry R. Westerman.



District 2 - Ernie Westfall, District Construction Engineer with his first granddaughter, Harleigh Power, born August 26, 2003.



Maintenance - Roy Treadwell and daughter Jacy with 10-point buck, scored 140 weighed 225 lbs.



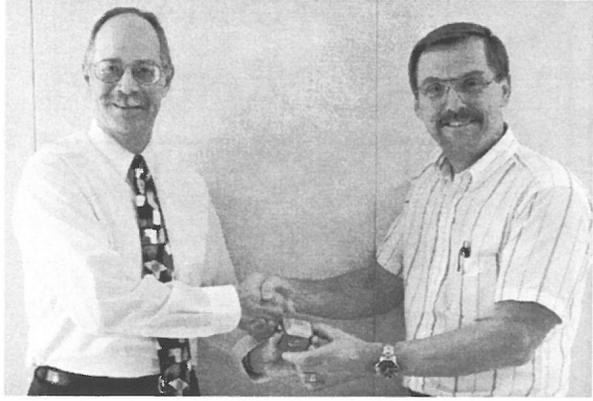
District 3 - (l.) Don Donaldson, District Engineer presents Bobby Bailey, Area Maintenance Supervisor with his 25-year service pin.

District 4 - Presentation of service pins: (l. to r.) Nick Mings, Area Maintenance Supervisor, 20 years; Clinton Isaacs, Area Maintenance Supervisor, 25 years; L.G. (Buddy) Turner, District Bridge Insp., 30 years; Dean Nichols, Resident Engineer 25 years; Harold Beaver, District Engineer.



Equipment & Procurement - (l.) Doug Nielsen, Division Head, presents to Kenneth Parker, Equipment Specialist, his 25-year service pin.

Equipment & Procurement - (l.) Doug Nielsen, Division Head, presents to Mike Dudoich, Division Office Manager, his 25-year service pin.



District 6 - Kim Barksdale, daughter of Freddie Hall (Retired) and Grace Hall (Area Station Attendant) District 6 North Little Rock, shot this 10-point on the second day of the season in Stone County.

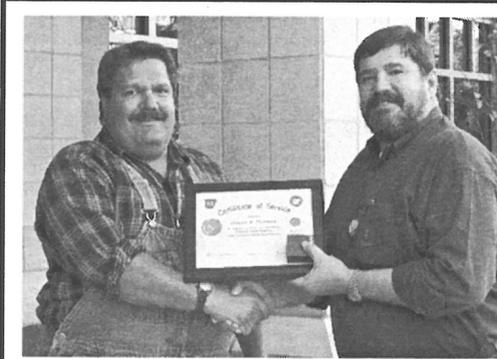


Materials: (l.) Orville Wiggins, District Laboratory Technician is presented his 30-year service pin by Materials Division Head Jerry R. Westerman.



Materials: (l.) Steve Davidson, District Laboratory Technician, is presented his 5-year award and service pin by Materials Division Head Jerry R. Westerman.

Arkansas Highway Police- (l.) Jan Weinberg, AHP First Lieutenant, presents 15-year service award and pin to Sergeant Bob Scott.



Materials: (l.) Donnie Thornton, Geotechnical Drill Operator, is presented his 10-year award and service pin by Materials Division Head Jerry R. Westerman.



District 3 - Willie Martin, Multi-Axle Truck Driver, did well in his deer hunting, with a doe and a 12-point buck.

Human Resource - Logan Reed Cohen, 5 lbs., 6 oz., 14 inches, was born on November 12, 2003, to Joshua Cohen, Mail Clerk.



District 3 - (l.) Kenny Bennett, District Maintenance Engineer, presents Rick Bailey, Area Maintenance Supervisor, his 15-year service pin.

*The Arkansas State
Highway Commission
and Director
wish you a safe
and happy holiday season!*



*J.W. "Buddy" Benafield,
Chairman;
Prissy Hickerson,
Vice Chairman;
Jonathan Barnett;
Carl Rosenbaum;
R. Madison Murphy
&
Dan Flowers
Director of Highways
and Transportation*

Holiday Reminder

Wednesday, December 24
and Thursday, December 25,
2003 are state holidays for
Highway and Transportation
Department employees in
observance of Christmas Eve
and Christmas Day.

Thursday, January 1,
2004, is a state
holiday in
observance of New
Year's Day. Have a
safe and happy
holiday season!

Monday, January 19,
2004, is a state holiday
in observance of Martin
Luther King, Jr. Day.
All work will be
suspended except for
cases of emergency.

United Way

Employees Make United Way Campaign A Success

Congratulations to our AHTD employees who participated in this year's United Way campaign.

As the campaign came to a close, a total of 469 employees had made a pledge, bringing the Department's total amount raised to \$19,645. This year's total surpasses last year's amount by approximately \$3,000.

The Central Office led the way by raising \$12,218. Among the Districts, top honors went to District Five with \$2,620.

A special thanks is given to our District coordinators listed below for their hard work in making the campaign such a success!

Mike Tackett, Bridge; Tammy Caple, Computer Services; Brenda Walden, Construction; William McAlexander, Environmental; Teri McConnell, Equipment & Procurement; Cindy Nutt, Fiscal Services; Sharon Faust, Arkansas Highway Police; Carla Edwards & Meredith Owen, Human Resources; Shirley Wesson, Internal Audit; Bruce Hurlbut, Legal; Margaret Besancon, Maintenance; Danya Steele, Materials; Kristie Wilbanks & Kim Wroten, Planning & Research; Pat Bending, Programs & Contracts; Jimmie Sneed, Public Affairs/10th Floor; Bob Colford, Right of Way; Tammy Jernigan & Jennifer Williams, Roadway Design; Phillip Ammons, State Aid; Mitzi Dunn, Surveys; Sharon Sullivan, Training & Safety; Needra Sisson, District 1; Bettye Carter-Johnson, District 2; Ala Mae Flenory, District 3; Mary Bryant, District 4; Lyndal Waits, District 5; Karen Colclasure, District 6; Sam Bradshaw, District 7; Nancy Keeling, District 8; Debra Meyer, District 9; and Steve Leath, District 10

AHTD Road Conditions

Motorists interested in weather-related road conditions have the following resources available to them for checking adverse weather conditions on the Arkansas State Highway System.

Information on specific highway closures due to construction-related activities may be obtained by contacting the [Contract Engineer](#) or the Public Affairs Office at 501-569-2327.

Motorists may call **501-569-2374** or **Toll Free: 1-800-245-1672** any time day or night to receive the latest information on weather-related road conditions. A recorded message with highway conditions is updated frequently during adverse weather.

Construction & Maintenance Related Lane Closures and Width Restrictions	Weather Related Road Conditions														
<p>Interactive Map</p> <p>This map displays active lane closures and width restrictions on major routes within the State. For a listing of lane closures and width restrictions due to construction or maintenance-related activities on all highways in Arkansas, as well as pending closures or restrictions, please see the text report.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> By Map of Major Routes with Lane Closures 	<p>Interactive Map</p> <p>The interactive map displays the latest reported weather-related road conditions on major routes during inclement weather periods.</p> <p>The interactive map requires the first time user to download a free OGB Viewer (3 MB - requires approximately 10-15 minutes to download).</p> <p>Click here for instructions!</p> <p>Click here to go directly to the Map!</p> <p>For a graphic map in JPE format (faster download without interactive functions) Click here!</p>														
<p>Text Report</p> <p>A tabular report of routes and conditions (The quickest way to get information).</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> By Text Listing of all Lane Closures 	<p>Text Report</p> <p>A tabular report of routes and conditions (The quickest way to get information).</p> <p>Click here!</p>														
<table border="1"> <tr> <td>Home</td> <td>News</td> <td>Roads</td> <td>Contracts</td> <td>Maps</td> <td>Publications</td> <td>Employment</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Calendar</td> <td>Programs</td> <td>Permits</td> <td>Info</td> <td>About</td> <td>Search</td> <td>Links</td> </tr> </table>	Home	News	Roads	Contracts	Maps	Publications	Employment	Calendar	Programs	Permits	Info	About	Search	Links	
Home	News	Roads	Contracts	Maps	Publications	Employment									
Calendar	Programs	Permits	Info	About	Search	Links									

Area Road Conditions

For employees traveling over the holidays, the following is a list of telephone numbers that may be useful during adverse weather.

Road conditions for surrounding states:

Tennessee	800-342-3258
Oklahoma	405-425-2385
Texas	800-452-9292
Mississippi	601-359-7001
Missouri	800-222-6400
Louisiana	225-379-1202

**Arkansas road conditions:
www.arkansashighways.com**

Over the Counter Drugs Approved for Reimbursement in Cafeteria Plan

AFLAC Administrative Services/FLEX ONE® is pleased to announce new guidance from the IRS, Revenue Ruling 2003-102, which permits over-the-counter (OTC) drugs for “medical care.” As a result of a new interpretation of applicable federal laws OTC drugs may now be paid for with pre-tax dollars through your flexible spending account. AFLAC Administrative Services/FLEX ONE® will consider eligible OTC drugs purchased on or after September 3, 2003, for reimbursement.

In order for an OTC drug to be eligible for reimbursement, it must be for “medical care.” Medical care means the drug or service is needed to treat a medical condition. Examples of OTC drugs include:

- Allergy medicine
- Cough/cold medicine
- Pain relievers (aspirin, Tylenol®, etc.)

Receipts must clearly indicate the name of the medicine or it will be denied. OTC drugs purchased for personal/cosmetic-related reasons (e.g., Retin-A® for anti-aging treatment) or which are merely beneficial for good health (e.g., vitamins and nutritional supplements) will not qualify.

AFLAC also has a convenient direct deposit program, “Redi-Flex.” With Redi-Flex, your qualified unreimbursed medical/dependent daycare reimbursements are deposited into your checking or savings account. Direct deposit helps avoid lost or stolen checks and mail delays. Most importantly, with direct deposit, your money will be there when you need it. By participating in the Redi-Flex program, processing for your reimbursements may be reduced by half. You may obtain a Redi-Flex form by contacting AFLAC at 1-877-353-9487 or visiting www.aflac.com.

For further assistance, contact AFLAC Administrative Services at 1-877-353-9487.

Twenty-Seven Pay Days in 2003

Payroll will be processed so that checks are mailed and direct deposits made by Wednesday, December 31, 2003.

Due to the timing of this last check, there will be 27 pay periods shown on your W-2 this calendar year.

The check received on December 31, 2003, will not have any “flexible spending account deductions” for medical or daycare expenses. All insurance deductions will be made and pre-taxed on this check. The January 15, 2004, check will be the first deduction for spending accounts in the new year.

Road Crews Ready for Winter

(continued from front page)

attention to the weather conditions to determine the correct procedure. Magnesium chloride is a liquid de-icer used to pre-treat and calcium chloride is used when temperatures drop below 20 degrees. Salt and sand are what the public sees us doing the most – coming after pre-treats.

Last year we used over 125,000 tons of chemicals and over 30,000 cubic yards of abrasives to clear the roads.

As the snow and ice season comes in be sure to utilize the Department's Weather Related Road Conditions Map located on the web page for all the latest information. From outside the AHTD system, simply go to www.arkansashighways.com, choose "Roads" from the menu and then click on the weather condition map.

Districts update the weather condition map throughout the day. It's a great place for the general public to go for information – be sure to tell them how to get there.

DIS To Upgrade Computer System

During the holidays, DIS will take advantage of the down time to perform computer system upgrades the week of December 22, 2003.

This means that the AHTD will not be able to process any type of payments that week. Please be aware that this means travel reimbursements, vendor invoices and payments to contractors submitted on or after December 19, 2003, will not be processed until Tuesday, December 30, 2003, at the earliest.

AHTD People

NEW EMPLOYEES

ENVIRONMENTAL

Eric Sanders, Single Axle Truck Driver

DISTRICT 1

Shannon Sandage, Single Axle Truck Driver
Donald Nelson, Single Axle Truck Driver

DISTRICT 2

Rory Benson, General Laborer
Donnie Burns, Single Axle Truck Driver
Robert Gray, General Laborer
Stacy Linder, District Receptionist

DISTRICT 3

James Koontz, General Laborer
Eric Sanders, Single Axle Truck Driver

DISTRICT 4

Melissa Batt, District Caretaker
William Jones, General Laborer

DISTRICT 5

Ryan Herndon, Single Axle Truck Driver
Lindsey Jasper, Single Axle Truck Driver
Charles Tate, Single Axle Truck Driver

DISTRICT 6

Nathan Shaw, General Laborer

DISTRICT 7

David Johnson, Single Axle Truck Driver
Richard Long, Single Axle Truck Driver

DISTRICT 8

Darrell Barnes, Single Axle Truck Driver
Norma Cothren, General Laborer
Kyle Goss, Jr., Crew Leader

DISTRICT 9

Judy Harris, District Receptionist

PROMOTIONS

INTERNAL AUDIT

Vicki Haydon, Staff Admin. Asst.
Corey Key, Senior Internal Auditor

LEGAL

Barbara Batiste, Staff Attorney
Charles Dirden, Staff Attorney

ARKANSAS HIGHWAY POLICE

Norris Calaway, Sr., Arkansas Highway Police Sergeant

REPRODUCTION

Bill Schulze, Senior Reproduction Operator
Dewayne Stokes, Senior Reproduction Operator

COMPUTER SERVICES

Jack Koba, Computer Technician III

MATERIALS

Odell Johnson, Office Admin. Asst. III

PLANNING & RESEARCH

Paul Carr, Data Collection Supervisor
Ron McInturff, Data Collection Technician

MAINTENANCE

Bobby Estes, Paint Transport Truck Driver

PROGRAMS & CONTRACTS

Katherine Hamilton, Program Contract Spec. II
Everlena Owens, Office Admin. Asst. V

DISTRICT 1

John Clegg, Station Attendant II

DISTRICT 3

James Blackwell, Construction Helper II
Corey Chandler, Construction Helper II
Linda Shelton, Maintenance Aide II

DISTRICT 4

Yvonne Blair, Area Headquarters Attendant
Timothy Combs, Single Axle Truck Driver
Paul Pratt, Maintenance Aide II

PROMOTIONS (CONT.)

DISTRICT 5

Jonathan Bacon, Construction Aide I
Ronald Harrison, Senior Const. Mat'l. Insp.
David Norris, Engineer I
Timothy Wilson, Construction Aide I

DISTRICT 6

Alice Balding, Maintenance Aide II
Sandra Chapman, Inspector
Joseph Fullen, Construction Aide III
John Hill, Motor Patrol Operator-Finish
Estel Taylor, Distributor Operator

DISTRICT 7

Ginger Jones, Construction Aide III
Kathy Mitchell, Distributor/Roller Operator

DISTRICT 8

Paola Carr, Construction Field Engr. I
James Rankin, Backhoe/Front End Loader Oper.

DISTRICT 9

Shirley Gray, Field Clerk II
Robert Moore, Civil Engineer I
Clifton Wood, Multi-Axle Truck Driver

SERVICE

35 YEARS

Eddie Deckard, Construction Project Coord.

30 YEARS

Terry Hardison, Laboratory Coordinator
Lester Mathis Jr., Backhoe/Front End Loader Opr.

25 YEARS

James Boyce, AHP Sergeant
Pam Edwards, Data Processing Manager
Kenneth Fore, Crew Leader
George Franks, Jr., AHP Captain
William Nickels, Dozer Operator-Finish
Johnny Turley, Maintenance Aide II

20 YEARS

Sheryl Fletcher, Office Admin. Asst. V
Roger Specking, Bridge Job Superintendent

15 YEARS

Barbara Cox, Office Admin. Asst. II
Ross Henry, Guard
Clifford Roland, Motor Patrol Operator
Mary Shaw, Resident Office Tech.
Hobort Watson, Dozer Operator-Finish

10 YEARS

Brenda Bates, Multi-Axle Truck Driver
Don Glover, Maintenance Aide I
Mike Hill, Senior Bridge Design Engineer
Thomas Hodge, Senior Mechanic
Jimmy Kendall, Jr., Backhoe/Front End Loader Op.
Shannen Ray, Maintenance Aide II
Patricia Rimmer, Rest Area Attendant

5 YEARS

Michael Haggard, Multi-Axle Truck Driver
Tracy Heard, Bridge Repairer I
Ernie Hunt, Maintenance Aide I
William Jernigan, Resident Office Tech.
Marcus Johnson, Sign Maker II
Andrew Maddox, Motor Patrol Operator
Darsha Tipton, District Bookkeeper

RETIREMENTS

ACTIVE

DISTRICT 7

Jefferson Blackwell, Single Axle Truck Driver, 7+ yrs.

ARKANSAS HIGHWAY POLICE

Jim Vinson, Administrative Assistant III, 14+ yrs.

REPRODUCTION

Jerry Heffington, Reproduction Technician, 34+ yrs.

DISTRICT 9

Freddie Ficht, Motor Patrol Operator-Finish, 29+ yrs.
Joe Truoiolo, Backhoe/Front End Loader Op., 14+ yrs.

DECEASED

DISTRICT 10

Thomas Rorex, Elec. Pl. & Mech. Repairer, 18+ yrs.

MEMORIALS

Benny L. Bowers, 11/24/03, Active

John R. Bradley, 11/08/03, Retired

Alice D. Dillin, 10/08/03, Retired

Charles M. Gibson, 11/11/03, Retired

Virgil L. Greer, 11/12/03, Retired

Lloyd E. McFall, 11/23/03, Retired

James A. Parker, 11/08/03, Retired

ACTIVE DUTY

ARKANSAS HIGHWAY POLICE

James Clark*, Nov. 1, 2002
Shawn Foust*, Feb. 15, 2003
Henry Lewis*, Jan. 28, 2003
Jack P. Stepp, Oct. 12, 2003

ENVIRONMENTAL

Bart M. Dudley, Oct. 13, 2003

PLANNING & RESEARCH

Kimberly Sanders*, Dec. 9, 2002
Reggie Smith*, Feb. 10, 2003

REPRODUCTION

Mark D. Green, Oct. 13, 2003

MAINTENANCE

Michael Brown*, Jan. 28, 2003
Bishop Terrell, Oct. 13, 2003
Kennedy D. Ezell, Oct. 13, 2003

DISTRICT 1

Lamaris Mitchell, Oct. 13, 2003
Lenora Wilson*, Oct. 4, 2002
Mel T. Fowler, Oct. 13, 2003
Gary Morton*, Jan. 30, 2003

DISTRICT 2

Andrew Maddox*, Jan. 30, 2003
Leoyd Robinson, Oct. 8, 2003
Larry Crow*, Feb. 11, 2003

DISTRICT 5

Greg Hellman*, Oct. 6, 2003

DISTRICT 6

Andre Jackson*, Feb. 12, 2003
Alfred Langhorn, June 5, 2003

DISTRICT 8

Michael H. Bunton, Oct. 13, 2003
William T. Fales, Oct. 13, 2003
Cecil Long*, Jan. 22, 2003

DISTRICT 9

Nathaniel Day*, Jan. 28, 2003

DISTRICT 10

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

* Indicates orders received

The CenterLine



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 Chairman
Jonathan Barnett Carl S. Rosenbaum
R. Madison Murphy
Dan Flowers, Director