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Severance Tax Increase To Benefit Arkansas' Highways

In a three-day special legislative session that ended April 3rd, Arkansas' legislators voted to support Governor Mike Beebe's plan to raise the severance tax on natural gas in the state. The tax increase means the Arkansas State Highway and Transportation Department will now receive additional funds for much needed road improvements.

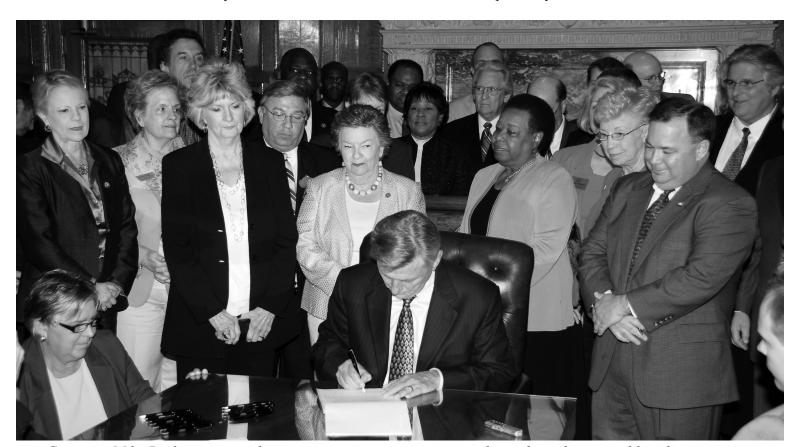
This is the first increase in Arkansas' severance tax in 50 years.

Arkansas' rate had been one of the lowest in the country. The tax increase is expected to raise \$57 million in 2009 and increase to \$100 million by 2013. Ninety-five percent of the tax revenue will go to road improvements. Of that, 70 percent will go to state highways, 15 percent to county roads and 15 percent to city streets.

"Highways are an essential part of economic development," stated Governor Beebe. "This measure will provide necessary revenue for road improvements across the state."

The remaining five percent raised from the tax will go to general revenue and the Department of Environmental Quality.

With the additional funding, the Commission will focus on improving the Arkansas Primary Highway Network, which carries 92% of the traffic on the 16,440-mile state highway system.



Governor Mike Beebe signs into law a severance tax increase passed in a three-day special legislative session.

April 2008 • Arkansas State Highway and Transportation Department

Work Zone Awareness Week Celebrated

The Arkansas State Highway and Transportation Department joined other Departments of Transportation across the country in celebrating Work Zone Awareness Week, April 7th -April 11th.

Contractors from around the state ioined AHTD staff in kicking off the event on Highway 70 (East Broadway) in North Little Rock where a major widening project is underway.

District Six Engineer Mike Sebren reminded motorists that with the warmer weather, more construction workers will be on our highways in construction zones. Sebren urged motorists to slow down, pay attention to road signs, obey flaggers and stay alert to activities in the construction zone.

D. B. Hill, III, of the Arkansas Division of Associated General Contractors reminded motorists

workers will be in construction zones.

"Contractors place a premium on motorists to be more alert in work States each year.

that with the warmer weather, more zones and help us make them a safer place for everyone."

Approximately 1,000 people die worker safety," Hill stated. "I urge in work zone accidents in the United



AHTD District Six Engineer Mike Sebren addresses participants at a Work Zone Safety Week news conference held in North Little Rock on April 7th.

ESP Is In Your Near Future

The upcoming economic stimulus payments will be issued to taxpayers according to the last two digits of the main filer's Social Security number. Those who use direct deposit will begin receiving payments by May 2nd. Paper checks will be mailed beginning May

Those who file a return after April 15 will receive their economic stimulus payment, but a return must be filed by October 15th in order to receive your stimulus payment this year.

If you filed a 2007 Federal Tax Return by April 15, 2008, and			
onted to receive a refund by direct	onted to receive a refund by		

deposit and		check and	
The last two digits of your Social Security Number are	Your Economic Stimulus Payment will be transmitted by	The last two digits of your Social Security Number are	Your Economic Stimulus Payment will be transmitted by
00 - 20	May 2	00 - 09	May 16
21 - 75	May 9	10 - 18	May 23
76 - 99	May 16	19 - 25	May 30
IRS I		26 - 38	June 6
		39 - 51	June 13
		52 - 63	June 20
Department (of the Treasury	64 - 75	June 27

Internal Revenue Service

76 - 87

88 - 99

AHTD Recognized by Pathfinder, Inc.

The Arkansas State Highway and Transportation Department was recognized recently for its work with Pathfinder, Inc. of Jacksonville.

Pathfinder has worked with the AHTD for 20 years in the battle against roadside litter. Residents of Pathfinder play a vital role in the battle by picking up trash along our highways on a regular basis.

Pathfinder Contracts Administrator Bruce Foutch and several Pathfinder residents visited the AHTD District Six office on February 7th to present the Department with a plaque for its cooperation with the organization.

"We appreciate the tremendous work that Pathfinder has done over the years," stated AHTD Director Dan Flowers. "They have done an excellent job in helping us keep our interstates litter free."

Pathfinder is a non-profit organization that provides educational and vocational opportunities for the mentally disabled in Arkansas. In 1971, Pathfinder had an initial enrollment of six students in Jacksonville. Today it serves well over 600 individuals daily across the state.



Bruce Foutch of Pathfinder, Inc. (right) presents District Six Engineer Mike Sebren (middle) and AHTD Director Dan Flowers (left) with a plaque for the Department's work with Pathfinder.



Pathfinder residents visited the District Six office in February to present the Department with a plaque in appreciation of the Department's work with the organization.

Department Holds Conference On Sign Maintenance

maintenance conference held at the Central Office in Little Rock on March 13th. The meeting was presented for District Engineers, Maintenance Engineers, Area Supervisors and Sign Crew Supervisors who are involved with highway compliance regulations regarding minimum levels of sign signing across the state.

The conference allowed staff to learn more about what each person's responsibility is when it comes to keeping highway signage in the best shape possible.

"Ninety percent of our signing is in good shape, as good as any state surrounding us," AHTD Deputy Director and Chief Engineer Frank Vozel told participants. "Today we want to emphasize some things we can do in order to do an even better job."

Properly maintained highway signs are vital due to safety and liability reasons and for the information they provide to motorists.

"Damaged or downed signs give the the public a bad perception of the Department," Vozel told the group.

Participants saw a presentation by Tony Evans, Staff Maintenance Engineer, on the various types of damage that highway signs are susceptible to including vehicle crashes, vegetation, fading and vandals. Pat Sullivan, Staff Maintenance Engineer, shared methods for keeping signs

Approximately 130 AHTD employees attended a sign in top shape and the Department's responsibility for sign maintenance. Tony Sullivan, Assistant State Maintenance Engineer, discussed route logging, replacement of aging signs and new Federal Highway Administration retroreflectivity.

> A sign's retroreflectivity has to do with how well a sign can be seen after dark when illuminated by a vehicle's headlights. Retroflectivity for all ground signs must be in compliance within seven years, overhead signs within ten



Tony Sullivan, Assistant State Maintenance Engineer, addresses participants at the Sign Maintenance Conference held at the AHTD Central Office in March.

July 4

July 11



Employee: Joseph Paul "Joey" Muscalino, Crew Leader in District 1, Phillips County

Length of Service: 32+ years

Job Duties: My job is to make sure crews have all the materials and tools they need for the job assignment each day and that they perform safely and correctly. In the summer, I supervise the mowing crew. When my supervisor is off, I do the paperwork and take care of anything that comes up.

Favorite Part of the Job: My co-workers would say my favorite part of the job is "lunch time," however, my favorite parts of the job are doing snow & ice removal and being able to get along with everybody.

Background: I graduated from Barton High School in 1975, and studied welding at Phillips College. I began work for the AHTD in September of 1975, with a starting salary of \$2.50 an hour as a Truck/Tractor Driver. After several years, I worked at the Tourist Information Center when it first opened, then I was the Area Headquarters Att. for 15 years. I have held my present title as Crew Leader for five years.

Family: My wife, Cassandra, and I have been married for 23 years. I have a son, Aaron and a daughter, Courtney (husband Tad) and two grandchildren - Jolie and Drew Dillard.

Hobbies/Interest: I enjoy music, fishing, tennis and beating the guys at golf. I am the last of the "old school employees" on my crew now, and, I've seen a lot of changes and a lot more paperwork. But, for the most part, I've enjoyed my job and the people around me and I'm ready to retire.

Catastrophic Leave Donations Encouraged

A reminder to all employees that you can donate unused leave hours to the Catastrophic Leave Bank.

All AHTD employees are reminded to check their vacation leave balances and consider making a donation.

The Department has a policy that allows employees to donate a portion of their accrued annual and sick leave to the Catastrophic Leave Bank for use by employees in need.

Again this month we visit with an employee that has had an occasion to use the Leave Bank - Jimmy Graham, Crew Leader in Scott County, District 4.

"I lacerated my eye while using a table saw at home back in 2006. I had just taken off my safety glasses,

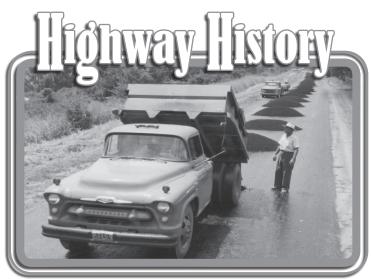
then decided to make one more cut. I sure do regret that mistake!

I was off with my eye injury for nine months. It took three surgeries before I was completely healed.

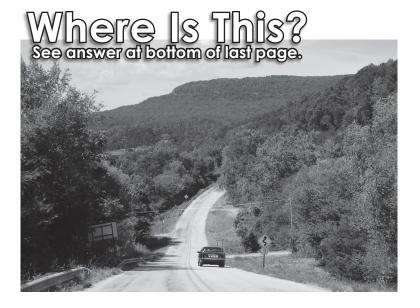
I am so glad that I donated to Catastrophic Leave all those years. It was well worth it. The way I look at it, Catastrophic Leave is the cheapest insurance you can buy. I want to encourage everyone to consider donating. It was one of the smartest things I've ever done. My family would have had a hard time making it without a paycheck for nine months."

If you are going to lose some hours, consider giving them to the Leave Bank so that someone else can use them. For further information, contact the Human Resources Office at 501-569-2451.





Paving Highway 144 south of Lake Village in 1960.



4

Heart Walk is April 26th

The American Heart Association's annual Heart Walk is a great way to enjoy a spring morning outdoors and raise money for a worthy cause at the same time.

This healthy, fun family event promotes physical activity as part of a heart-healthy lifestyle and raises funds for research and programs to fight heart disease, stroke and other cardiovascular diseases. These diseases are our nation's number one killer, claiming more than 870,000 Americans a year.

The American Heart Association is the largest voluntary health organization working to reduce disability and death from cardiovascular diseases and stroke. The association is currently funding approximately \$2.1 million in cardiovascular research and education in Arkansas.

The Heart Walk plays a big part in supporting their efforts and the AHTD is getting involved again this year. Employees are invited to join the AHTD team and raise donations. Make plans to come to the North Shore River Walk in North Little Rock on April 26th for the walk itself.

For one AHTD employee Sara Danchenko, heart disease hits close to home. Her 15 month old daughter, Bindi, is a heart disease survivor.

"When I was pregnant with Bindi, I thought I knew just fight against heart disease." what to expect," says Sara. "Everything about the pregnancy looked normal but that changed after my delivery. The doctor heard a heart murmur and sent Bindi for an EKG and chest X-ray. Soon we learned that Bindi had a congenital



Fifteen-month-old Bindi Danchenko is a heart disease survivor and the daughter of Sara Danchenko, AHTD Chemist I.

birth defect known as Hypoplastic Left Heart Syndrome, which basically means she was born with half a working heart. She had open-heart surgery one week later, the first of three major surgeries scheduled. A heart transplant in the future is a real possibility."

Sara and her family participate in the Central Arkansas Heart Walk and have formed a team this year. Together, the AHTD and the Danchenkos can make a difference in the

If you are interested in being involved in the 2008 Heart Walk or want to make a donation, call Sara at 501-569-2199 or David Nilles at 501-569-2508.





District 1: Jolie Dillard will graduate Pre-K and brother Drew Dillard will graduate Kindergarten this spring. They are the grandchildren of Joey Muscalino, Crew



District 8: Paul and Shari Russenberger married November 10th in Virginia Beach, Virginia. Paul is the son of Frank Russenberger, District 8 Engineer.



John Mitchell were married in December 2007. Shelly is the daughter of Jimmy Reynolds, Inspector. John has been an Engineering Intern in RE 73.





Roadway Design: Phil McConnell, Assis- Bridge Repairer I, received tant Chief Engineer - Design, presents Jennifer Williams, Consultant Coordinator, with her 15-year service award.



his 10-year service award.



District 10: Receiving 20-year service awards were (l. to r.) Keith Allbritton, Inspector; Timothy Eaker, Senior Inspector; and Larry Floyd, Multi-Axle Truck Driver.



District 7: (l. to r.) Johnny Risher, Area Maintenance Supervisor, receives his 15year service award from Randy Wesley, Maintenance Aide I

District 1: Receiving 15-year service

awards were (l. to r.) Edward Smith,

Grubbs, Area Headquarters Att..

Multi-Axle Truck Driver; and Brenda



District 1: Receiving 5-year service awards were (front, l. to r.) Betty Lee Motorist Assistance Patrol Operator; Ronnie Reel, Backhoe/Front End Loader Operator; Judy Freeman, Single Axle Truck Driver; (rear, l. to r.) John Hartsell, Jr., Advanced Construction Field Engineer; Roger Dale Spence, Construction Materials Inspector; Steve Pierce, Bridge Repairer I; and Lilburn Morelock, Multi-Axle Truck Driver.



District 1: (l. to r.) Michael Howard, Maintenance Aide II, received his 10-year service award from Rex Vines, District Construction Engineer.





District 9: (l. to r.) Ronald Collins, Backhoe/Front End Loader Operator, received his 5-year service award from Don Baker, Area Maintenance Supervisor



Maintenance Supervisor, received his 20year service award from Steve Lawrence, District Maintenance Engineer.



District 10: Receiving 5-year service awards were (l. to r.) Regenia Lan-

Rosalind Highfill, Field Clerk II; Christopher Kidd, Construction Field

Engineer II; Gary Murphy, Construction Aide II; and Bobby Hice, Jr.,

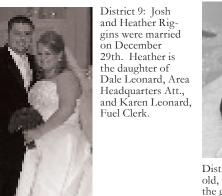
drum, Office Administrative Assistant V; Ronald Stewart, Rest Area Att.;

District 1: Receiving 20-year service awards were (l. to r.) Kenny Smith, Crew Leader; Mike Trussell, Area Headquarters Att.; Elmer Callahan, Maintenance Aide II; and Harold Mullins, Sealing Job Superintendent.





District 2: (l. to r.) Tom Simpson, Permit Officer, and friend Michael Halman of Star City with two Osceola turkeys taken on the opening day of the Florida turkey season



District 5: Sky Nicole Hill, 2 1/2 months old, was born December 23rd. She is the granddaughter of Patricia Blake, Single Axle Truck Driver.



District 8: Rowan Phillip Boozer was born on February 20th. He is the grandson of Janet Boozer, Bookkeeper.



District 5: (l. to r.) James Merriman, Finish Dozer Operator, and Billy Calkin, Single Axle Truck Driver, took the "Polar Bear Plunge" February 23rd into the White River with other members of the Bubba Motorcycle Club. They raised nearly \$1,000.00 in their pink tutus for Special Olympics.

new employees



CONSTRUCTION -Samantha Knight, Const. Helper I, RE #55

EQUIPMENT & PRO-CUREMENT - Thomas Penn, Storeroom Assistant I

RIGHT OF WAY - Betty Hunt, Administrative Aide IV

SURVEYS - Andrew Grimes, Surveys Helper

DISTRICT 1 - Derl Futrell, Mechanic - Michael Johnson, Sgl. Axle Truck Dr.

DISTRICT 2 - Lawrence Crift, General Laborer - Charles Dabner, General Laborer - Angela Glover, District Receptionist - Bobby Trotter, General Laborer

DISTRICT 4 - Marion Rouell, General Laborer - Daniel Ward, General Laborer

DISTRICT 5 - Johnny Jason, Sgl. Axle Truck Dr. - Tim Parker, General Laborer - Dennis Perry, Sgl. Axle Truck Dr. - George Taylor, Welder - Tina Walker, Gen. Laborer

DISTRICT 8 - Nitishia Snyder, General Laborer - Alan Truong, General Laborer

promotions

BRIDGE - Dan Devore, Advanced Bridge Design Engineer - Dale Heft, Advanced Bridge Design Engineer

CONSTRUCTION - Miyoshi Lasker, Advanced Estimates Technician - Spencer Wendland, Advanced Estimates Technician

HEAVY BRIDGE - Sam McIntare, Bridge Repairer II - Dibbon Wright, Bridge Repairer II

INTERNAL AUDIT - Tamekia Dedner, Administrative Asst. I - Alicia Garrett, Staff Administrative Asst. - Vicki Haydon, Asst. Chief Auditor

MATERIALS - Rodney Catlett, Materials Technician II

DISTRICT 1 - Joe Hall, Crew Leader - Robert Karnes, Jr., Backhoe/FEL Op. - William Kinard, Sr., Roller Op. - Ricky Reel, Jr., Sgl. Axle Truck Dr., Crittenden - Virgie Walton, Distrib. Op.

DISTRICT 2 - James Ball, Maint. Aide I, Chicot - Charles Farrer, Sgl. Axle Truck Dr. - Stephen Green, Sgl. Axle Truck Dr. - Dorothy Hargraves, Distrib./Roller Op., Chicot - Samuel Washington, Sgl. Axle Truck Dr., Chicot - Royce Wilson, Sgl. Axle Truck Dr., Drew

DISTRICT 3 - Paula Chesshir, Field Clerk II, RE #31 - Nicholas Green, Maint. Aide I, Miller - Chad Hodges, Crew Leader

DISTRICT 4 - Greg Farris, Asst. District Bridge Insp. -Jerry Howe, Crew Leader - Brandon Jones, Distrib./Roller Op., Scott - Frederick Trent, Maint. Aide I, Crawford - Thurman Watkins, Distrib./Roller Op., Scott

DISTRICT 5 - Coleen Stevens, Personnel Clerk

DISTRICT 6 - Joseph Carter, Sr., Backh./FEL Operator, Lonoke - Kevin Pfeiffer, Sgl. Axle Tr. Dr., Pulaski - Teddy Puckett, Motor Patrol Operator, Lonoke - Freddie Scott, III, Sgl. Axle Tr. Dr., Lonoke - Tony Skarda, Backh./FEL Operator, Prairie

DISTRICT 7 - Ricky Cummings, Street Sweeper Op. - Raymond Garcia, Bridge Repairer II - Lillian Nutt, Storeroom Asst. II

DISTRICT 8 - Barry Clark, Area Maint. Supervisor, Faulkner - Brigitte Roberson, Construction Aide III, RE #86 - Julie Storbakken, Construction Aide I, RE #86

DISTRICT 9 - Courtney Gray, Maint. Aide I, Searcy - Michael Wiseman, Backhoe/FEL Op.

DISTRICT 10 - Matthew Larue, Maintenance Aide II, Randolph

service

ARKANSAS HIGHWAY POLICE - Ron Burks, Chief Arkansas Highway Police, 10 yrs. - Jeff Holmes, Ark Hwy Police First Lieut., 15 yrs. - William Person, Ark Hwy Police Patrol Officer 1CL, 20 yrs.

CHIEF ENGINEER - Linda Price, Admin. Assistant I, 30 yrs. - Jennifer Williams, Civil Engr. V, 15 yrs.

CONSTRUCTION - Timothy Eaker, Sr. Insp., 20 yrs., RE #06 - Michael Jester, Sr. Insp., 30 yrs., RE #73 - Chris Kidd, Const. Field Engineer II, 5 yrs., RE #06 - Derek Miller, Const. Mat. Insp., 5 yrs., RE #34 - Russell Moore, Sr. Insp., 20 yrs., RE #52 - Gary Murphy, Const. Aide II, 5 yrs., RE #05 - Donny Parish, Insp., 30 yrs., RE #64 - Joseph Tomboli, Sr. Const. Mat. Insp., 30 yrs., RE #65

ENVIRONMENTAL - John Fleming, Sect Head - Special Studies, 20 yrs.

EQUIPMENT & PROCUREMENT - Larry Golden, Sr. Mechanic, 25 yrs.

HUMAN RESOURCES - Ron Kimsey, Elec. Pl. & Mech. Repairer, 5 yrs.

INTERNAL AUDIT - Mike Hyde, Chief Auditor, 5 yrs.

PLANNING & RESEARCH - Jon Waldrip, Sect. Head - Traffic Safety, 30 yrs.

PROGRAMS & CONTRACTS - Larry Lanes, Admin. Asst. III, 15 yrs.

ROADWAY DESIGN - Julia Coffman, Roadway Designer, 20 yrs. - Gary English, Sr. Designer, 25 yrs. - Michael Jones, Automation Engineer IV, 25 yrs.

DISTRICT 2 - John Harvey, Backhoe/FEL Op., 5 yrs.

DISTRICT 3 - Ricky Branham, Multi-Axle Truck Dr., 5 yrs. - Ala Mae Flenory, Office Admin. Asst. V, 30 yrs.

DISTRICT 4 - Steve Hunt, Bridge Repairer I, 5 yrs.

DISTRICT 5 - Rickie Sharp, Area Maintenance Supervisor, 30 yrs. - Thomas Smith, Multi-Axle Truck Dr., 20 yrs. - Dale Smith, Sr. Mechanic, 20 yrs.

DISTRICT 6 - Jerry Campbell, Sign Crew Supervisor, 20 yrs. - Ricky Milligan, Motor Patrol Op., 10 yrs. - William Williams, Maintenance Aide II, yrs.

DISTRICT 7 - Bobby Helms, Distrib./Roller Op., 20 yrs. - Arlis Johnson, Crew Leader, 20 yrs. - Lewis McAllister, Rest Area Att., 5 yrs. - James Watkins, Motorist Assistance Provider, 5 yrs.

DISTRICT 8 - Paul Athey, Sr. Mechanic, 20 yrs. - Timothy Chambers, Maintenance Aide II, 20 yrs. - Kelly Goates, Sgl. Axle Truck Dr., 5 yrs. - John Hayes, Area Headquarters Att., 30 yrs.

DISTRICT 9 - Kelly Rogers, Area Headquarters Att., 10 yrs. - Jackie Villines, Motor Patrol Op.-Finish, 20 yrs. - Brian Willis, Maintenance Aide II, 5 yrs.

DISTRICT 10 - Larry Floyd, Multi-Axle Truck Dr., 20 yrs. - Bobby Hice, Jr., Mechanic, 5 yrs.

retirement

MATERIALS - Orville Wiggins, District Laboratory Technician, 34+ yrs.

DISTRICT 1 - Ronald Ellis, Dist. Bridge Insp., 35+ yrs.

DISTRICT 4 - Edith Magee, Crew Leader, 16+ yrs.

DISTRICT 5 - V. Gammill, Multi-Axle Tr. Dr., 6+ yrs. - Harry Hohenstein, Insp., 22+ yrs.

active duty

As of 4/14/08, the AHTD had 18 employees serving active duty in the United States military. Dates denote the deployment or return date.

DEPLOYED:

 $\bf ARKANSAS$ HIGHWAY POLICE - Shawn Foust, AHP Sergeant, 8/4/07

DISTRICT 1 - James Barte, Senior Inspector, 2/19/08

DISTRICT 4 - Nathan Reed, Multi-Axle Truck Dr., 10/3/05 - Kevin Tucker, Bridge Repairer I, 10/1/07

DISTRICT 5 - Greg Hellmann, Insp., 10/1/07 - David Smith, Inspector, 10/1/07

DISTRICT 6 - Shirley Hammett, Area Headquarters Attend., 7/20/04

DISTRICT 8 - Michael Bunton, Asphalt Tank Truck Dr., 10/1/07 - James Harris, Motor Patrol Op., 10/1/07

DISTRICT 9 - Ashley Hale, Ferry Boat Pilot, 9/5/07 - Douglas Henry, Sgl. Axle Truck Dr., 10/1/07 - Eric Jaeger, Maint. Aide I, 8/30/06 - Joseph Ragland, Maint. Aide I, 10/1/07 - Cameron Whitney, Sign Erector, 10/9/07 - Randall Williams, Ferry Boat Pilot, 9/10/07

DISTRICT 10 - Donald Evance, Const. Aide I, 10/1/07 - Rufus Mitchell, Rest Area Att., 10/1/07 - Elvis Richmond, Sr. Const. Mat. Insp., 10/1/07

RETURNING:

PLANNING & RESEARCH - Kimberly Sanders, Transportation Planner, 5/5/08

DISTRICT 4 - Brandon Bowen, Sr. Mechanic, 3/31/08,

memorials

FISCAL SERVICES - Jack L. Keilch, 4/8/08, Retired - Julius C. Sears, 3/26/08, Retired

DISTRICT 1 - Johnny L. Anderson, 3/22/08, Retired - Willie L. Jones, 4/4/08, Retired

DISTRICT 3 - Monroe P. Black, 3/9/08, Retired

DISTRICT 4 - Mondell Aynes, 3/3/08, Retired

DISTRICT 5 - Russell Hightower, 3/19/08, Active

DISTRICT 6 - Jimmy B. Key, 3/15/08, Retired

DISTRICT 7 - Robert Cottrell, 3/20/08, Retired - Robert Hunter, Jr., 3/15/08, Retired

DISTRICT 10 - Fred C. Gross, 3/23/08, Retired - James E. Travis, 3/25/08, Retired

Highway 327 at Parthenon in Newton County.

"Where Is This?"