

# CenterLine

DECEMBER 2008



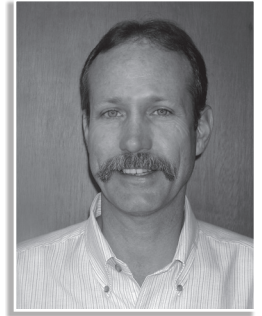
*The  
Arkansas  
State  
Highway  
Commission  
and  
AHTD  
Director*



*wish you a safe and  
happy holiday season.*

## RESIDENT ENGINEER PROMOTIONS

Mark Simecek was promoted to Resident Engineer in Camden this month. Simecek has a bachelor's degree in civil engineering from the University of Arkansas at Fayetteville. He is a Registered Professional Engineer.



*Mark Simecek*

Simecek began his career with the Department in July of 1998 as a Civil Engineer Technician for the Bridge Division. One year later, he was promoted to Civil Engineer I. In June of 2000, Simecek transferred to the Hot Springs Resident Engineer Office and advanced to Construction Field Engineer I. He was promoted to Construction Field Engineer II in November of 2001 and transferred to the Little Rock Resident Engineer Office in January of 2002. Simecek obtained his current position of Assistant Resident Engineer in Camden in September of 2002.

Tim Kelly was promoted to Resident Engineer at the Resident Engineer Office in Monticello in October. Kelly has a bachelor's degree in civil engineering from the University of Arkansas. He is a Registered Professional Engineer.



*Tim Kelly*

Kelly worked for the Department as an Engineering Intern prior to being hired in a full-time position as a Civil Engineer I at the Resident Engineer Office in El Dorado in January of 1997. In 1998, he was promoted to Construction Field Engineer I and then to Construction Field Engineer II in 1999. He advanced to the title of Assistant Resident Engineer at the Resident Engineer Office in McGehee in 2001. Kelly obtained his current position of Resident Engineer in August of 2002.



**Employee:** Ed Randall, Senior Inspector for RE 65, Little Rock, District 6

**Length Of Service:** 31 Years

**Job Duties:** I perform inspections on highway construction projects. I also assist contractors and keep a good working relationship with their job superintendents. I also serve as an EEO Officer where I keep up with contracts for compliance with Federal Labor Laws.

**Favorite part of the job:** I enjoy working outside on different projects and meeting people.

**Background:** I grew up in a small town in south Arkansas named Hampton. I finished high school there and then served in the Army for ten years. After the Army, I attended Southern Arkansas University Tech in East Camden and got a two-year college degree there. I was hired by the AHTD in June of 1977.

**Family:** I've been married for 28 years to Jo Ann. We have one son named Joe. We also have three grandchildren, including one set of twins. The twins are five years old and named Joshua and Justin. Our grandson Joe, Jr. is six years old.

**Hobbies:** I have only one hobby, the "grands", and that is a full time job all by itself.

## SPECIAL OLYMPICS PRESENTATION

The Arkansas Highway Police (AHP) continues to be recognized as the Top Law Enforcement Agency in the state supporting Special Olympics Arkansas. Throughout 2008, AHP personnel raised funds by hosting a softball tournament, golf tournament and truck convoy. As a result of the fundraising events, members of AHP were able to present Bobby Doyle, Executive Director of Special Olympics Arkansas, with a check in the amount of \$30,000.

"It's not enough to remember the less fortunate in our thoughts alone, we must remember them by our deeds," stated AHP Chief Ron Burks. "By supporting Special Olympics Arkansas, thousands of special athletes are able to continue their quest to participate in an Olympic-style event. The hard work and dedication of many AHP personnel continues to help bring a special victory to these extraordinary athletes throughout Arkansas."

Special Olympics currently serves in excess of one million persons with mental and physical disabilities in over 200 programs in more than 150 countries worldwide. Special Olympics Arkansas currently serves over 14,000 Arkansans with disabilities.



*(l. to r.) Chief Ron Burks; PFC Joy Bean; Colleen McClure; Bobby Doyle, Director Special Olympics Arkansas; Capt. Jay Thompson; and Capt. Don Hastings at the check presentation.*

## United Way Campaign Raises \$31,600

Congratulations to all AHTD employees that worked on, or made contributions to, the Department's United Way campaign this year. Because of your hard work and support, we had another successful year.

In addition to individual giving, this year's campaign saw a wide variety of imaginative events held to raise donations. At the end of the campaign, the total amount raised by the Department was \$31,600.

Thanks to Tara Robinson of the Human Resources Division in the Central Office for serving as the statewide campaign coordinator again. Campaign coordinators

this year were Varyne Beckett, Patti Bryant, Langston Carr, Karen Colclasure, Michelle Davenport, Linda Faulkenberry, Al Mae Flenory, Leslie Goshen, Norma Johnson, Nancy Keeling, Glinda Kidd, Shirley Lewis, Collen McClure, Shelly Morrow, Alene Nutt, Margarita Olive, Judith Orrick, Cindy Plunkett, Tara Robinson, Tom Simmons, Needra Sisson, Jimmie Sneed, Tammy Spencer, Mike Tackett, Johnna Thomas, William Townsend, Lorie Tudor, Lyndal Waits, Melissa Weaver, Cindy Webb and Scott Wroten.



# CONSTRUCTION CORNER

Crews completed a project in April near Bonanza, just south of Fort Smith, to realign a section of Highway 45 at Backbone Mountain. The old highway looped around the east side of the mountain. This project, utilizing Federal Safety Funds, provided for the realignment of a 1.2-mile section of the highway. The improvements straightened the road by using a 160-foot high cut through the mountain north of Sebastian Lake. This provides a much safer, more direct route for motorists.

In addition to straightening the roadway, the project also realigned and made grade modifications at the intersection of Highway 45 and Bethel Road, south of the lake, to provide for a safer intersection.

The job was awarded to Hill Brothers Construction and Engineering Company of Faulkner, Mississippi, in January of 2006 for \$7,085,137. Work began in March of that year. The Resident Engineer on the project was Dean Nichols.



# DISTRICT FOUR

## 2009 Dates to Remember

### State Employee Holidays in January

### Arkansas Highway Commission Meetings & Letting

New Year's Day  
January 1st

Martin Luther King, Jr. /  
Daisy Gatson Bates Day  
January 19th

January 7  
February 25  
April 8  
May 20  
July 8  
August 19  
October 14  
December 9

**Where Is This?**  
See answer at bottom of last page.





Arkansas Highway Police: (l. to r.) Captain Jay Thompson presents Regina Duncan, Office Administrative Assistant III, with her 5-year



Arkansas Highway Police: (l. to r.) Major Paul Claunch presents Pat Brown, Administrative Aide II, with her 5-Year service award.



Heavy Bridge: (l. to r.) Jeffery Honeycutt, Crew Leader, receives his 10-year service award from Glenn Cheatham, Heavy Bridge Maint. Engr.



Maintenance (l. to r.) Mike Hill, Staff Heavy Bridge Maintenance Engineer, receives his 15-year service award from Glenn Cheatham, Heavy Bridge



Planning & Research: (l. to r.) Larry Newman, Cartographer Supervisor, receives his 35-year service award from Alan Meadors, Division Head.



Public Affairs: Cole Daniel Ort, grandson of Randy Ort, Public Information Coordinator, was born on November 20th, weighing 8 lbs., 3 oz., and



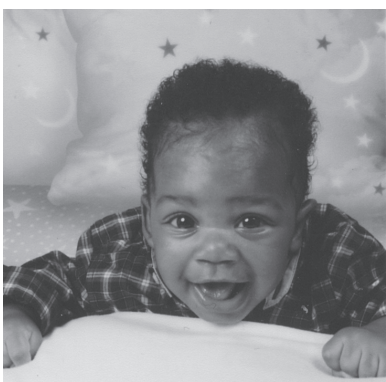
Public Affairs: Sage Connley Russell, grandson of Shelli Russell, Public Affairs Specialist, was born on December 2nd, weighing 8 lbs., 4 oz., and measuring 19



Right of Way: Chad Marsh, Realty Appraiser II, tried surfing on a recent trip to Hawaii



Roadway Design: Keli Higginbotham, Senior Design Engineer was married October 18th to Abram Wylie in a Pine



District 2: Reginald Lee, IV, grandson of Felicia Spicer, Crew Leader, was born June



District 2: Boe Collins Mitchell, grandson of Deborah Cotton, Single Axle Truck Driver, was born July 24th.



District 2: (l. to r.) Debra Pruitt, Area Maintenance Supervisor, presents Shadie Harris, Jr., Distributor Operator, with his 15-



District 4: Shannen Ray, Area Maintenance Supervisor, received her 10-year service award.



District 5: Receiving their 35-year service awards were (l. to r.) Michael Lackey, Sealing Job Superintendent; Terry Sipes, Senior Construction Material Inspector; and Ronald Satterwhite, Asst.



District 5: Receiving their 30-year service awards were (back, l. to r.) Patty Jackson, Field Clerk II; Billy Clemons, Backhoe/Front End Loader Op.; Michael Lassiter, Maint. Job Supt.; and Randy Rector, Maint. Aide I; also receiving service awards were (front, l. to r.) Stanley Glover, Resident Engineer, 25 years; Barry Hutson, Area Hq. Attendant, 30 years; and Gregory Hellman,



District 5: Receiving their 5-year service awards were (back, l. to r.) Anthony Gilmore, Rest Area Attendant; Ryan Herndon, Single Axle Truck Driver; Roosevelt Brandon, Multi-Axle Truck Driver; and Sondra Grider, Resident Office Tech.; Receiving his 20-year service award was (front) Byron Price, Senior Construction



District 7: (l. to r.) Chasity Turner and Alyssa Crawford, daughters of Jeff Turner, District Sealing Crew, show their awards from the CCRC 2008 horse show.



District 7: Alaina Crawford, daughter of Jeff Turner, Motor Patrol Operator - Finish, killed these two deer on November 12th. They were her first



District 7: Alyssa Crawford, daughter of Jeff Turner, Motor Patrol Operator - Finish, killed this deer Nov 9th.



District 4: Chase Hale, age 7, killed this 9-point buck during the 2008 Youth Hunt in Scott



District 7: (left) Ken Frazier, husband of Gail Frazier, Resident Engineer, killed this 11-point buck the second day of bow season.

(right) Gail's daughter, six-year-old Kiara killed this doe November 11th, during the youth hunt.



District 7: (l. to r.) Gayle Johnson, Crew Leader, receives his 20-year service award from William "Hicky" Hickman, Area Maintenance Supervisor.



District 8: (l. to r.) David Tolleson, Resident Engineer, presents Joe Knight, Advanced Construction Field Engineer, with his 10-year service award.



District 8: (l. to r.) David Tolleson, Resident Engineer, presents Bazzel Bates, Inspector, with his 15-year service award.



District 8: (l. to r.) David Tolleson, Resident Engineer, presents Brigitte Roberson, Inspector, with her 20-year service award.



District 8: (l. to r.) David Tolleson, Resident Engineer, presents Bill Linton, Advanced Construction Field Engineer, with his 10-year service award.



District 8: Scott Mullis, District Engineer (left) and Monty Scott, Equipment Maintenance Supervisor (right), present Jimmy Jackson, District Caretaker (center) with his 10-year service award.

## new employees

**ARKANSAS HIGHWAY POLICE** - Melanie Hardy, Motor Carrier Safety Spec. I

**CONSTRUCTION** - Peggy Owenby, Field Clerk I, RE 34

**MAINTENANCE** - Paul Powell, Sign Erector

**PROGRAMS & CONTRACTS** - Anita Wilburn, Office Administrative Assistant I

**DISTRICT 1** - Daniel Draper, Single Axle Truck Driver - Leary Ford, Single Axle Truck Driver - Edna Parker, Single Axle Truck Driver - Timothy Willis, Single Axle Truck Driver

**DISTRICT 2** - Justin Witcher, General Laborer

**DISTRICT 3** - Jack Rogers, Single Axle Truck Driver

**DISTRICT 5** - Paul Strecker, III, Single Axle Truck Driver

**DISTRICT 6** - Zak Chumney, General Laborer - Reginald Clark, General Laborer - John Smith, Single Axle Tr. Dr.

**DISTRICT 7** - Terry Bryant, Welder

**DISTRICT 9** - Patricia Brown, Single Axle Tr. Dr. - Earl Curtis, Single Axle Tr. Dr. - Timothy Edgmon, Parts Runner

## promotions

**ARKANSAS HIGHWAY POLICE** - Scott Fraley, Second Lieutenant - Nancy Harmon, Second Lieutenant

**ENVIRONMENTAL** - Karla Sims, Environmental Analyst I

**HEAVY BRIDGE** - William Reed, Crew Leader

**SURVEYS** - Timothy Magie, Surveys Aide I - Kevin Meyer, Surveys Aide II

**DISTRICT 1** - Anthony Flex, Bridge Rep. I - Pamela Frazier, Distrib./Roller Op., Cross Co. - Logan Hardin, Const. Field Eng. II, RE 13 - Willie Holdem, Const. Aide II, RE 11 - Jonathan Holland, Const. Aide II, RE 14 - Fayrene Lamastus, Bh./Front End Loader Op., Cross Co. - Joshua Nicholson, Const. Aide II, RE 11 - Sonya Rose, Const. Aide II, RE 14

**DISTRICT 2** - William Granderson, Civil Engineer I, RE 24 - Joshua Walker, Construction Field Eng. II, RE 23

**DISTRICT 3** - Kenneth Adams, Shop Supv. - Jacob Adcock, Single Axle Tr. Dr., Miller Co. - Bryan Bass, Sign Erector - Christopher Eachers, Multi-Axle Tr. Dr., Nevada Co. - James Faulkner, Multi-Axle Tr. Dr. - Kim Green, Const. Helper II, RE 31 - Aaron Morton, Bh./Front End Loader Op., Nevada Co. - Scott Neely, Single Axle Tr. Dr. - Jeremy Thomas, Asst. Res. Eng., RE 34 - Carla Walls, Single Axle Tr. Dr., Miller Co.

**DISTRICT 4** - William Jones, Distributor Operator - Kristopher McCullah, Distributor Operator - Joseph Parrish, Backhoe/Front End Loader Op., Franklin Co.

**DISTRICT 5** - Anthony Comer, Crew Leader, White Co. - Christina Hampton, Personnel Clk. - Doris Phillips, Area Hq. Att., White Co. - Darrell White, Const. Aide II, RE 55

**DISTRICT 6** - Kevin Pfeiffer, Maint. Aide I, Pulaski Co.

**DISTRICT 7** - Matthew Childers, Sgl. Axle Tr. Dr., Ouachita Co. - Chad Launius, Multi-Axle Tr. Dr. - Joshua

Purifoy, Multi-Axle Tr. Dr., Ouachita Co. - Carol Richard, Lowboy/Float Tr. Dr. - Catherine Wilson, Sgl. Axle Tr. Dr., Ouachita Co.

**DISTRICT 8** - Marty Powell, Maintenance Aide II, Faulkner Co. - Larry Ragsdale, Roller Operator, RE 82 - David Wyers, Senior Inspector, RE 82

**DISTRICT 9** - Billy Bower, Single Axle Truck Driver, Boone Co. - Everett Burr, Sign Crew Supervisor - Rick Cline, Area Headquarters Attendant, Madison Co.

**DISTRICT 10** - L. Collins, Single Axle Truck Driver, Mississippi Co. - Travis Henderson, Multi-Axle Truck Driver, Mississippi Co. - Tim Tackett, Single Axle Tr. Dr., Poinsett

## service

**ARKANSAS HIGHWAY POLICE** - Pat Brown, Administrative Aide II, 5 yrs.

**COMPUTER SERVICES** - Tammy Caple, User Support Liaison, 30 yrs. - Perry Comithier, System Support Technician I, 20 yrs.

**CONSTRUCTION** - Levar Brown, Construction Aide I, RE 05, 5 yrs. - Britney Burns, Construction Field Eng. II, RE 95, 5 yrs. - Steve Davidson, Construction Materials Insp., RE 62, 10 yrs. - Corey Reed, Construction Aide I, RE 05, 5 yrs.

**HEAVY BRIDGE MAINTENANCE** - Jeffrey Honeycutt, Crew Leader, 10 yrs.

**INTERNAL AUDIT** - Alicia Garrett, Staff Adm. Asst., 10 yrs.

**MAINTENANCE** - Tony Sullivan, State Maint. Eng., 30 yrs.

**MATERIALS** - Donnie Thornton, Geot. Drill Op., 15 yrs.

**PROGRAMS & CONTRACTS** - Trey Foster, Programs & Contracts Eng. I, 5 yrs.

**ROADWAY DESIGN** - Brian Bettinardi, Adv. Design Eng., 5 yrs. - Ishwor Gurung, Adv. Design Eng., 5 yrs.

**SURVEYS** - Miles Patton, Surveys Crew Chief, 35 yrs.

**DISTRICT 3** - Eugene Greenwood, Jr., Motor Patrol Operator, 5 yrs. - Deborah Stueart, Crew Leader, 30 yrs. - William Turner, Jr., Multi-Axle Truck Driver, 15 yrs. - Patty Wicker, Maintenance Aide II, 15 yrs.

**DISTRICT 4** - Melissa Batt, Maintenance Aide II, 5 yrs.

**DISTRICT 6** - Joylyn Marshall, Maintenance Aide I, 5 yrs. - John McDorman, Asst. Dist. Bridge Inspector, 10 yrs. - Allen Spinks, Maintenance Aide II, 5 yrs. - Roger Starling, Backhoe/Front End Loader Op., 5 yrs.

**DISTRICT 7** - Karen Hammonds, Single Axle Tr. Dr., 5 yrs.

**DISTRICT 8** - Darrell Barnes, Multi-Axle Truck Driver, 5 yrs. - Gary Hicks, Senior Mechanic, 5 yrs.

**DISTRICT 9** - Scott Burleson, Maint. Aide I, 5 yrs. - Teddy Widner, Shop Supv., 30 yrs. - Jody Williams, Single Axle Truck Driver, 5 yrs.

**DISTRICT 10** - James Hastings, Storeroom Assistant I, 30 yrs. - Rochelle Moore, Distributor/Roller Operator, 5 yrs. - Evelyn Watson, Maintenance Aide I, 20 yrs.

## retirement

**STATE AID** - George Patterson, Senior Mech., 23+ yrs.

**DISTRICT 6** - Calvin Hill, Jr., Dist. Bridge Insp., 32+ yrs.

**DISTRICT 7** - Marvin Hunter, Maint. Aide II, 32+ yrs.

**DISTRICT 9** - Larry Wheeler, Motor Patrol Op.-Fin, 34+ yrs.

**MAINTENANCE** - Pat Sullivan, Staff Maint. Eng, 35+ yrs.

**PLANNING & RESEARCH** - Bobbie White, Trans. Management Analyst II, 22+ yrs.

## memorials

**STATE AID** - James M. Garrett, 12/7/08, retired

**DISTRICT 1** - Sam McFadden, 11/20/08, retired

**DISTRICT 2** - James A. Sinks, 11/26/08, retired

**DISTRICT 4** - Willie W. Dow, 11/21/08, retired

**DISTRICT 5** - Stokely V. Qualls, 12/14/08, retired

**DISTRICT 9** - Brion S. Cray, 12/10/08, retired

**DISTRICT 10** - Charles S. Hopper, 11/29/08, retired

## active duty

As of 12/15/08, the AHTD had 19 employees serving active duty in the United States military. Dates denote the deployment date.

**ARKANSAS HIGHWAY POLICE** - Shawn Foust, Sergeant, 8/4/07

**MATERIALS** - David Kraft, Geot. Drill Party Chf., 1/2/08

**DISTRICT 1** - James Barte, Senior Insp., 2/19/08

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

**DISTRICT 5** - Greg Hellmann, Inspector, 10/1/07 • David Smith, Inspector, 10/1/07

**DISTRICT 6** - Shirley Hammett, Area Hq. Att., 7/20/04

**DISTRICT 8** - Michael Bunton, Asphalt Tank Truck Driver, 10/1/07 • James Harris, Motor Patrol Operator, 10/1/07 • Cornell Newsome, Single Axle Truck Driver, 05/07/08

**DISTRICT 9** - Ashley Hale, Ferry Boat Pilot, 9/5/07 • Douglas Henry, Single Axle Truck Driver, 10/1/07 • 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, Con. Aide I, 10/1/07 • Rufus Mitchell, Rest Area Att., 10/1/07 • Elvis Richmond, Sr. Construction Mat. Insp., 10/1/07

## "Where Is This?"

Highway 5 in Baxter County

