



Center Line

APRIL 2010

19 Graduate from Highway Police Training Program

March 19th was graduation day for 19 new Arkansas Highway Police Patrol Officers (PTL). The class of recruits celebrated eight weeks of training with a graduation ceremony at the AHTD Central Office in Little Rock.

AHP Chief Ron Burks welcomed the graduates and their families, as well as friends that had come to see the ceremony.

“We appreciate the dedication and commitment of this class and congratulate you for your accomplishments,” Burks stated.

AHTD Director Dan Flowers told the group “I know by the large crowd what great support these graduates have.”

“The Department will do all we possibly can to provide you with what you need to do your job well,” Flowers added. “We look forward to the good work you will do for the people of Arkansas.”

Awards were presented to two graduates. PTL Ruddy Short was recognized for the top score in firearms. The Academic Excellence Award was presented to PTL Justin Smith.

The graduation class included Latoya Best, Marlin Brown, Brandon Dehart, Richard Friend, Alex Gamble, Robert Garrett, Jessie Grigsby, Douglas Lafferty, Latonio Lawson, Wesley Lovette, Quincy Lyons, Cameron Petross, Phillip Russell, Ruddy Short, Justin Smith, Stephen Tate, Christina Thurby, Sherman Whittle and Charla Woodruff.

Today, the Arkansas Highway Police is a nationally recognized leader in the fields of drug interdiction, motor carrier safety and hazardous materials enforcement and training.



(l. to r.) AHTD Director Dan Flowers, AHP Chief Ron Burks and other AHP officials with the newest officers of the Arkansas Highway Police.

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2010 ROADEO SEMI-FINALS

DISTRICT 3 MARCH 18

	TRACTOR/ LOWBOY	TANDEM AXLE DUMP TRUCK	SINGLE AXLE DUMP TRUCK	TRACTOR/ MOWER	BACKHOE	MOTOR PATROL
1ST PLACE	David Gaylord	Gerald Walker	Rick Williams	Dwain Rosenbaum	Larry Otwell	Eugene Greenwood
2ND PLACE	Steven Muldrew	Randy Roden	Kriste Jameson	Adrian Alvarez	Bradley McJunkins	Andy Boyd
3RD PLACE	Charles Branham	Bobby Sharp	Todd Rucker	James Pinkerton	Rodney Shelton	Robert Leamons

DISTRICT 8 MARCH 30

1ST PLACE	Darrell Barnes	Randall Burris	Scott Blair	Randall Burris	Kevin Jones	Dennis Langston
2ND PLACE	Michael Bunton	Jose Villasenor	Dale Charlat	Randy Tankersley	Trey Martinez	Larry Brazil
3RD PLACE	Curtis Shewmake	Jimmy Harris	Terri Sheets	David Duvall	Paul Charton	Kyle Ritchie



Employee: Freddie J. Ridenhour, Maintenance Aide II
District 4 – Scott

Length of Service: 14 years

Job Duties: I am responsible for setting up job sites requiring road maintenance and for supervising small groups of workers performing tasks such as road repair, mowing and equipment maintenance.

Favorite part of the job: Working with the men and women assigned to Scott County. They are a fun bunch to work with. I also enjoy competing in the statewide and regional Rodeo events where I have had the opportunity to meet many very nice and friendly people...not only from Arkansas, but from many other states as well. (Some whom I dread seeing during competition, but they're nice and friendly anyway. LOL!!)

Background: I began working with the Department in 1996 as a Single Axle Truck Driver/Mower Operator. Since then, I have held the titles of Distributor/Roller Operator, Maintenance Aide I and Area Headquarters Attendant. I currently hold the position of Maintenance Aide II.

Family: I am married to a very wonderful woman, Cheril Ridenhour, who is also employed by the AHTD, District 4, RE 41. We have six children: Celeste, Shawn, Stephanie, Kansas, Christa and Colton. We also have four grandchildren: Brady, Brooke, Caden and Connor.

Hobbies: I enjoy farming. Cheril and I operate a breeder poultry house and raise registered Polled Hereford cattle. I also enjoy horseback riding, fishing, hunting and camping. The most enjoyable thing I do is getting to spend time with my wife and kids. There is never a boring moment!

Flowers Named President Of Engineering Group

AHTD Director Dan Flowers was named president of the Arkansas Academy of Civil Engineering for 2010-2011 at the group's annual meeting held in Fayetteville on April 10th.

The Academy was founded in 1980 and its membership is comprised of alumni of the University of Arkansas Department of Civil Engineering as well as honorary members who have been chosen in recognition of their accomplishments.

The Academy recognizes graduates of the Department for sustained and outstanding contributions to the civil engineering profession and for supporting the school's civil engineering students and faculty.

The group provides guidance and counsel to the Department chairman, faculty and students. In addition, the Academy of Civil Engineering provides over \$60,000 annually for scholarships to University of Arkansas students studying civil engineering.

Flowers' term will last for one year.



(l. to r.) Former Academy President Stewart Noland of Crist Engineers, Inc. with AHTD Director Dan Flowers.

DID YOU KNOW?

Travel on the U.S. highway system has increased five-fold during the past 50 years. It has increased from 600 billion miles driven in 1956 to 2.9 trillion in 2009. As the population grows, and the economy expands, travel will climb to nearly 4.5 trillion miles per year by 2050.

what's COOKING

This month's recipe is from Latoya Best in the Highway Police Division.

Three Layer Pie

- Graham Cracker Crust
- Pudding Mix of your choice (vanilla, chocolate, strawberry, etc.)
- Whipped Cream
- Assorted Toppings (pecans, strawberries, etc.)

Layer chocolate, vanilla and one other pudding flavor of your choice to complete three layers in the pie crust.

Let your pie chill in the refrigerator for about 15 to 20 minutes. Remove from refrigerator.

Spread whipped topping on top and other assorted toppings of your choice.

Ready to serve.

Please submit your recipe for possible publication in the CenterLine. Mail it to Shelli Russell, P.O. Box 2261, Little Rock, AR 72203-2261 or email it to shelli.russell@arkansashighways.com.

CONSTRUCTION CORNER DISTRICT 9



A project underway in Bentonville will widen 2.5 miles of Highway 102 to five lanes. Highway 102 is a major east-west route connecting Bentonville to Centerton. The route carries 22,000 vehicles per day, and the widening will improve the flow of traffic in the area. The project begins at S. Walton Boulevard (Highway 71B) in Bentonville and continues westward toward the intersection with Greenhouse Road. The \$9.2 million project was awarded to Jimmy Jones Excavation, Inc. of Berryville, Arkansas, in July of 2008 and work began in September of that year. Work is just over 50% complete and should be finished in late summer of 2011. The Department is partnering with the City of Bentonville on the project.

What Health Insurance Reform means to you



The EBD has extensively reviewed the "Patient Protection and Affordable Care Act," that was signed into law by President Obama on March 23, 2010.

We are proud that many of the provisions required by the law have been incorporated into the ARBenefits Health Plan for some time, especially those that will go into effect the earliest.

Those provisions include:

- No pre-existing conditions
- Dependent age limit up to age 26 without regard to student status
- Short waiting period of 30 days
- No cancellation of coverage due to illness
- No lifetime cap on coverage

There are other provisions that could affect the Plan over the next several years. EBD will continue to study the law and its requirements, and will design the plan accordingly.



DEPUTY DIRECTOR/CHIEF ENGINEER: (center) Louise Watts, Administrative Assistant I, retired with 35+ years of service. Louise shows off her retirement cake with Deputy Director/Chief Engineer Frank Voziel (l.) and Director Dan Flowers (r.).



LEGAL: (l. to r.) Highway Commission Chairman Carl Rosenbaum congratulates Robert L. Wilson, Chief Legal Counsel, in recognition of his years of service in transportation law. Wilson was recently profiled by the Transportation Research Board in their publication *TR News*.



HEAVY BRIDGE MAINTENANCE: Bill Ritchie, Heavy Bridge Maintenance Supervisor, shows off his new grandson, Scout, born February 16th, weighing 8 lbs., 2 oz.



HIGHWAY POLICE: Tiffany Lee, daughter of Vicky Lee, will attend the University of Arkansas at Fort Smith in the fall. She has earned an Academic Excellence Scholarship.



DISTRICT 2: Carson Lamb, son of Lee Lamb, Maintenance Aide, was born September 25th, 2009. Carson is now 7 months old.



DISTRICT 2: This crew helped with an ice storm in 2009 in District 9's Mountain Home area. They are (bottom, l. to r.) David Alverson, Kirk Howard, Kirk Chidester, Johnny Brown and Craig Uranga; (top, l. to r.) Richie Hopper and Steve Farrer.



DISTRICT 3: Aspen Easter, daughter of Douglas Easter, Distributor Operator, is graduating from Prescott Middle School this year.



DISTRICT 6: (l. to r.) Doug Hicks, Equipment Maintenance Supervisor, presents Kim Staton, Station Attendant, with her 20-year service award.



DISTRICT 7: (l. to r.) Randy Stinnett, Sealing Job Superintendent, presents Pat Burns, Distributor Operator, with her 15-year service award.



DISTRICT 7: (l. to r.) Cedric Burriss, Motor Patrol Operator-Finish, receives his 20-year service award from Randy Stinnett, Sealing Job Superintendent.



DISTRICT 7: (l. to r.) Jeff Turner, Motor Patrol Operator-Finish, receives his 20-year service award from Randy Stinnett, Sealing Job Superintendent.



DISTRICT 7: (l. to r.) Lane Brian, Spreader Operator, receives his 10-year service award from Randy Stinnett, Sealing Job Superintendent.



DISTRICT 7: Zakiah Henry, granddaughter of Patricia Burns, Distributor Operator, will graduate from kindergarten from Yocum Academy Elementary School this year.



DISTRICT 9: (l. to r.) Ed Watts, Area Maintenance Supervisor, presents Donald Flowers, Motor Patrol Operator-Finish, with his 10-year service award.



DISTRICT 9: (l. to r.) Ed Watts, Area Maintenance Supervisor, presents Kirk Watts, Multi-Axle Truck Driver, with his 5-year service award.



new employees

CONSTRUCTION - Angela McMiller, Field Clerk I, RE 61 - Luke Stovall, Construction Aide II, RE 62 - Michelle Parker, Construction Aide II, RE 94

HUMAN RESOURCES - Elizabeth Miles, Office Administrative Assistant

SURVEYS - Michael Lindsey, Surveys Helper

DISTRICT 2 - Sammie Green, General Laborer - Randall Hollis, Single Axle Truck Driver - Dock Simpson, Single Axle Truck Driver - Charles May, Single Axle Truck Driver

DISTRICT 5 - Steve Sutton, General Laborer

DISTRICT 6 - Caleb Bryant, Single Axle Truck Driver

DISTRICT 9 - Courtney Hudson, District Receptionist

promotions

ENVIRONMENTAL - Amber Besancon, Administrative Aide II - Eric Sanders, Environmental Technician

HEAVY BRIDGE - Kennedy Ezell, Bridge Repairer II

PLANNING & RESEARCH - Ron Reed, Accident Coding Clerk

RIGHT OF WAY - Dale Hodges, ROW Engineering Spec. - Gene Kuettel, Jr., Section Head - Utilities

ROADWAY DESIGN - Julie Coffman, Senior Designer

DISTRICT 3 - Albert Anderson, Roller Operator, RE 52 - Timothy Owens, Street Sweeper Operator, Hempstead Co.

DISTRICT 4 - Christina Simmons, Single Axle Truck Driver, Logan Co.

DISTRICT 5 - Bryan Anderson, Construction Aide III - Jimmy Weaver, Area Maintenance Supervisor, Stone Co. - Stephen Clark, Maintenance Aide II, Jackson Co.

DISTRICT 6 - Ronnie Bashaw, Maintenance Aide II, Hot Spring Co.

DISTRICT 7 - Gregory Strange, Dozer Operator - Finish

DISTRICT 8 - Robert Parker, Jr., Rest Area Attendant, Pope Co. - Thomas Fisher, Advanced Construction Field Engineer, RE 84

DISTRICT 10 - Brandon Sutton, Construction Aide III, RE 06 - Brittany Monette, Roller Operator - Cedrick Jones, Single Axle Truck Driver, Mississippi Co. - Christopher Kelly, Motor Patrol Operator - Finish, Craighead Co. - Christopher McMillon, Roller Operator - Larry Brown, Single Axle Truck Driver, Mississippi Co. - Tonya Rucker, Construction Aide III, RE 04

service

CONSTRUCTION - Bryan Anderson, Construction Aide III, 20 yrs., RE 52 - Clint Morris, Construction Aide I, 5 yrs., RE 92 - Daniel Huett, Construction Field Engineer II, 5 yrs., RE 34 - Danny Sikes, Construction Aide III, 10 yrs., RE 73 - Loretta Jones, Resident Office Tech., 25 yrs., RE 86 - Regina McDowell, Construction Aide I, 10 yrs., RE 34

ENVIRONMENTAL - Kristine Spears, Environmental Analyst III, 5 yrs.

FISCAL SERVICES - Lanecia Weston, Office Administrative Assistant V, 10 yrs.

HIGHWAY POLICE - Ruddy Short, Patrol Officer, 5 yrs.

MAINTENANCE - Bishop Terrell, Sign Maker II, 10 yrs. - Gary Hester, Striping Machine Driver, 10 yrs.

SURVEYS - Charles Starks, Photogrammetry Specialist, 30 yrs. - Steven Wrigley, Surveys Crew Chief, 25 yrs. - Timothy Shaw, Surveys Aide III, 30 yrs.

DISTRICT 1 - Alton Chapman, Backhoe/Front End Loader Operator, 10 yrs. - Benford Adell, Single Axle Truck Driver, 15 yrs. - Bobby McGee, Station Attendant II, 5 yrs. - Danny Glenn, Elec. Pl. & Mech. Repairer, 25 yrs. - James Hinton, Single Axle Truck Driver, 5 yrs. - Juanita Tilghman Mendez, Maintenance Aide I, 15 yrs. - Stanley Myers, Rest Area Attendant, 5 yrs. - William Ewing, Motor Patrol Operator, 10 yrs.

DISTRICT 2 - Norman Rochelle, Motor Patrol Operator-Finish, 30 yrs.

DISTRICT 3 - Chad Hodges, Crew Leader, 15 yrs. - Charles Fritts, Senior Mechanic, 15 yrs. - Jerry Holden, Motor Patrol Operator-Finish, 30 yrs. - Jodi Salisbury, Area Headquarters Attendant, 15 yrs. - Larry Burke, Area Headquarters Attendant, 15 yrs.

DISTRICT 4 - James Graham, Crew Leader, 30 yrs. - Ronnie Pastille, Backhoe/Front End Loader Operator, 25 yrs.

DISTRICT 5 - Michael Foster, Maintenance Aide I, 10 yrs. - Stephen Clark, Distributor/Roller Operator, 15 yrs.

DISTRICT 6 - Jason Bryant, Assistant Bridge Inspector, 5 yrs. - Lawrence Hobbs, Jr., Maintenance Aide II, 10 yrs. - Stanley Rogers, Sealing Job Superintendent, 20 yrs. - Tommie Kitchens, Motor Patrol Operator-Finish, 20 yrs. - Travis Billingsley, Backhoe/Front End Loader Operator, 15 yrs. - Wayne Story, Backhoe/Front End Loader Operator, 5 yrs.

DISTRICT 7 - Carl Garlington, Single Axle Truck Driver, 5 yrs. - Leonard Crain, Bridge Repairer II, 15 yrs. - Raymond Prescott, Maintenance Aide II, 25 yrs. - Ronnie Harcrow, Maintenance Aide I, 5 yrs. - Sharod Ricks, Multi-Axle Truck Driver, 5 yrs.

DISTRICT 9 - Cameron Whitney, Maintenance Aide II, 5 yrs. - Courtney Gray, Maintenance Aide I, 5 yrs. - James Keeton, District Permit Officer, 15 yrs. - Ralph Fulton, District Engineer, 40 yrs.

DISTRICT 10 - Emily Coleman, Single Axle Truck Driver, 5 yrs. - Jeffery Armstrong, Multi-Axle Truck Driver, 10 yrs. - William Putman, Multi-Axle Truck Driver, 10 yrs.

retirement

DISTRICT 1 - Ben Simmons, Street Sweeper Operator, 5+ yrs.

DISTRICT 3 - Richard Lowe, Rest Area Attendant, 21+ yrs.

DISTRICT 4 - Billy Law, Motor Patrol Operator, 8+ yrs.

DISTRICT 5 - Ronald Harrison, Senior Construction Material Inspector, 25+ yrs.

DISTRICT 6 - Gary Collatt, Construction Aide II, 17+ yrs.

DISTRICT 10 - Darrell Campbell, Crane Operator - Finish, 14+ yrs. - Marsha Montgomery, Maintenance Aide I, 7+ yrs.

memorials

EQUIPMENT & PROCUREMENT - Maurice D. Head, 3/12/10, retired

HIGHWAY POLICE - Grover C. Carney, 4/11/10, retired

RIGHT OF WAY - Chad A. Marsh, 3/31/10, active

SURVEYS - William O. Bryant, 3/24/10, retired

DISTRICT 2 - James C. Smith, 3/27/10, retired

DISTRICT 3 - Dale F. McKinney, 4/3/10, retired - Forrest T. Owens, 3/23/10, retired - Willie H. Shepard, 3/17/10, retired - Charles F. Sowell, 3/27/10, retired

DISTRICT 4 - Horace R. Corder, 3/4/10, retired - Eddie Dean Sampley, 3/28/10, retired - Arvil C. Smith, 3/7/10, retired

DISTRICT 5 - Danny T. Fleetwood, 3/13/10, retired

DISTRICT 6 - Norman O. Post, 4/13/10, retired

DISTRICT 9 - Gillis Phil Taylor, 3/27/10, retired

active duty

As of 04/14/10, the AHTD had 9 employees serving active duty in the United States military. Dates denote deployment.

HUMAN RESOURCES - Travis Nelson, Safety Inspection Officer, 7/15/09

DISTRICT 1 - Ricky Benson, Construction Helper II, 10/5/05

DISTRICT 4 - Nathan Reed, Multi-Axle Truck Driver, 10/3/05 - Donald R. Ullrich, Jr., Roller Operator, 5/5/10

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

DISTRICT 9 - Ashley Hale, Ferry Boat Pilot, 9/5/07 - Douglas Henry, Single Axle Truck Driver, 10/1/07

DISTRICT 10 - Robert Martin, General Laborer, 5/28/09 - Dustin Miller, Bridge Repairer, 11/11/09