



Center Line

MAY 2011

Floodwaters Cover Highways in Arkansas

As if tornados weren't enough for Arkansans to deal with this spring, heavy rains in April and early May forced the closure of numerous highways across the state as floodwaters rose onto highways in the eastern delta and central Arkansas.

A total of 82 sections of highways, including Interstate 40 and Highway 67/167, were closed by AHTD officials due to water on the roadways during the month of May.

"We had to close highways in 17 counties as floodwaters began to rise," stated Emanuel Banks, Assistant Chief Engineer for Operations.

The closing that had the greatest impact on motorists was Interstate 40, between Hazen and Brinkley. It was closed in both directions as the White River rose out of its banks in Prairie County. It marked the first time ever the highway has been closed due to flooding. AHTD officials worked with Departments of Transportation in Tennessee, Missouri, Oklahoma, Texas, Louisiana and Mississippi to warn motorists coming into Arkansas of upcoming detours routing traffic out of the flooded areas.

"Interstate 40 in that area handles approximately 30,000 vehicles a day. At least 50% of those are trucks," added Banks. "The situation had a huge impact that affected traffic for several days."

Another major highway that was overrun by water was Highway 67/167, just south of Jacksonville. The detour meant longer commutes for motorists coming in and out of Little Rock from Jacksonville and cities to the north.

The closed highways around the state resulted in a high volume of telephone inquiries to the Department. Staff at



Highway 67/167 covered by water just south of Jacksonville.

Central Office responded to the conditions by setting up a telephone bank to handle the onslaught of calls from motorists.

Volunteers from each division in the Central Office were recruited to answer phone calls throughout Mother's Day weekend and the early days of the following week.

"We had a dozen telephones in our temporary phone bank and operators were kept busy for days," stated Ralph Hall, Assistant to the Director.

Over six days, the phone bank received just under 15,000 inquiries regarding flooded highways.

In the Public Affairs Office, a series of news conferences was coordinated to keep the media informed of flooding conditions on Interstate 40 and resulting detours. In addition, up-to-the-minute road conditions were available to the public on the Department's webpage at www.arkansashighways.com.

Though Interstate 40 and Highway 67/167 opened again in the week that followed, a long list of flooded highways and a high volume of telephone calls kept AHTD staff busy for several weeks after the storms passed through.



Volunteers work the telephones in the Central Office auditorium.

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SPECIAL INSERT:
2011
GRADUATES

Price Promoted To Assistant Division Head

Brenda Price has been named Assistant Division Head for the Environmental Division.

Price has a Bachelor's Degree in Biology and a Bachelor's Degree in Chemistry, both from Henderson State University.

Price began her employment with the Department in 1983 as a Chemist I in the Materials Division.

A year later, she advanced to Chemist II. She transferred to the Environmental Division in 1992 as a Beautification Coordinator. In 1993, she was promoted to Environmental Analyst II and attained the title of Administrative Assistant II in 1995. Price became an Environmental Scientist I in 1997 and was promoted to Administrative Officer III in 2001. She advanced to Section Head of National Pollutant Discharge Elimination System (NPDES) in July of 2003. Prior to her new position as Assistant Division Head, she held the position of Section Head – Assessments.



Employee: Mike Nelson, Welder, District 7

Length of Service: 32 years, 7 months

Job duties: I repair all equipment that needs welding. I also fabricate parts that the District needs and perform repairs on bridges.

Favorite part of the job: Designing and fabricating parts and equipment that the District needs.

Background: I started as a welder for the Department in October of 1978. For the most part, I have stayed in that position in the District shop.

Family: My wife's name is Jo Ann. We have one son, Brian; two stepdaughters, Belinda and Joy; one granddaughter, Rachael; and three grandsons, Phillip, Logan and Heath.

Hobbies/Interests: I enjoy hunting, fishing, camping and traveling.

ANNUAL EQUIPMENT OPERATORS ROADEO IS JUNE 16TH

Here are Semi-Final Results:

	DISTRICT 4 March 29	DISTRICT 5 April 5	DISTRICT 9 May 10
TRACTOR/LOWBOY			
3RD PLACE	Dwight Coutcher	Rick Herring	Justin Reynolds
2ND PLACE	Billy Bower	Keith Skelton	Keith Carpenter
1ST PLACE	TERRAL SCROGGINS	SHON GRIFFIS	DONNIE BILLUPS
TANDEM AXLE DUMP TRUCK			
3RD PLACE	Wayne Adams	Joshua Musick	Terry Sartin
2ND PLACE	Yvonne Blair	Brad Fulks	Brandon Morgan
1ST PLACE	JESSE EASOM	JOHNNY RAPER	ROWAN DUNN
SINGLE AXLE DUMP TRUCK			
3RD PLACE	Jack Stratdman	C.D. Hall	Scott Willis
2ND PLACE	Fred Ridenhour	Vince Headley	Cliff Moore
1ST PLACE	DANNY LOYD	JAMES MOODY	DARRELL CANION
TRACTOR/MOWER			
3RD PLACE	Darren Smith	Sherman Rucker	Bobby Young
2ND PLACE	Fred Ridenhour	Rodney Barnett	Jeff Miles
1ST PLACE	JEREMIAH JACKSON	STEVE SUTTON	TRAVIS SWANSON
BACKHOE			
3RD PLACE	Jonathan Chambers	Ryan Herndon	Cameron Whitney
2ND PLACE	Bruce Summers	Jon Jones	Aaron Worsham
1ST PLACE	LEWIS JAMES	EVAN HIGGINBOTTOM	KENNY RILEY
MOTOR PATROL			
3RD PLACE	Brad McCurry	Joe Gilbert	Jasper Spradling
2ND PLACE	Jerry Trotter	Willie McCord	Darren Ramsey
1ST PLACE	JIMMIE JETTON	NICK RUSHING	JIMMY HOLT

what's COOKING

This month's "What's Cooking" recipe is from...

Debbie Pate • District 3.



Kool-Aid Pie

- 8 ounces of Cool Whip
- 2 packages of Kool-Aid (any flavor)
- 1 can Eagle Brand milk
- 1 graham cracker pie crust

In a medium bowl, mix Cool Whip, Kool-Aid mix and Eagle Brand milk. Pour into pie crust and refrigerate until set – about one hour. Optionally, add fruit to the filling, or decorate the top with it. Serves 6 to 8.

Please submit your recipe for possible publication in the *CenterLine* to: Shelli Russell, P.O. Box 2261, Little Rock, AR 72203 or shelli.russell@ahtd.ar.gov.

ELECTION

Don't forget to cast your vote for the Board of Trustees of the Arkansas State Highway Employees Retirement System. Ballots must be mailed before June 14th.

CONSTRUCTION CORNER DISTRICT 3



Grading and structure work continues on two projects in Miller County on the new four-lane, divided Highway 71 on new location between Texarkana and Shreveport, Louisiana. The project pictured here is 1.7 miles in length and extends from County Road 2 to Doddridge. Eutaw Construction Company, Inc. of Aberdeen, Mississippi, was awarded the contract in July of 2009 for \$8.1 million. Work is approximately 80% complete. The project utilizes ARRA funds and is anticipated to be complete during the summer of 2011.

Better Buckle Up!

The Arkansas Highway Police Division will be involved in the upcoming National Click It or Ticket Campaign that runs from May 23 – June 6, 2011. Along with other local and state law enforcement agencies, AHP officers will be enforcing the state's mandatory seat belt law in an effort to increase compliance and to prevent serious injuries and fatalities on our highways.



(l. to r.) PFC Sharlote Mixon, SGT Vicky Lee and PFC Daniel Morales.



Director's Office: (center) Doris Mixon, Administrative Assistant I, retired after 37+ years with the Department. Doris is pictured with husband, Charlie (l.) and Director Dan Flowers (r.)



Environmental: Graciana Sims was born January 12th to Karla Sims, Environmental Analyst I. She weighed 4 lbs., 13 oz. and measured 18 inches.



Highway Police: (l. to r.) Inspector Jerry Johnson retired with 26+ years. He is pictured receiving his retirement plaque from Major Paul Claunch.



Highway Police: (l. to r.) Sgt. James "Buckie" Thomas of AHP Special Services, receives his 20-year service award from Major Paul Claunch.



Highway Police: (l. to r.) Sgt. William Scott of AHP Special Services, receives his 10-year service award from Major Paul Claunch.



Highway Police: (l. to r.) DeVaughn Stephens, Motor Carrier Safety Auditor, receives his 5-year service award from Major Paul Claunch.



District 2: (l. to r.) Arthur Gatewood, Single Axle Truck Driver, receives his 5-year service award from Debra Pruitt, Area Maintenance Supervisor.



District 2: (l. to r.) Karen Avants, Area Headquarters Attendant, receives her 5-year service award from Debra Pruitt, Area Maintenance Supervisor.



District 2: (l. to r.) Francisco Freeman, Maintenance Aide I, receives his 5-year service award from Debra Pruitt, Area Maintenance Supervisor.



District 3: Receiving their 15-year service awards were (l. to r.) John Burdue, Senior Mechanic; Reginald Easter, Lowboy/Float Truck Driver; and J. Bo Jones, Crew Leader.



District 3: (l. to r.) Kenny Bennett, District Maintenance Engineer, presents David Morton, Crew Leader, with his 20-year service award.



District 3: (l. to r.) Chuck Tallman, Senior Inspector, receives his 25-year service award from Jason Efrid, Resident Engineer.



District 3: (l. to r.) Paula Chesshir, Field Clerk II, receives her 5-year service award from Jason Efrid, Resident Engineer.



District 3: (l. to r.) Mindy Simmons, Construction Aide I, receives her 5-year service award from Jason Efrid, Resident Engineer.



District 3: (l. to r.) Jerry Reeves, Senior Mechanic, receives his 10-year service award from Kenny Bennett, District Maintenance Engineer.



District 4: (l. to r.) William "H" Boswell, Senior Mechanic, receives his 25-year service award from Mark Simpson, District Shop Supervisor.



District 5: Receiving service awards were (l. to r.) Ronnie Sutherland, Multi-Axle Truck Driver, 10 years; Clay Hazelwood, Multi-Axle Truck Driver, 10 years; Garry Cooper, Paver Operator, 15 years; and Wayne Rush, Crew Leader, 25 years.



District 5: Receiving their 5-year service awards were (l. to r.) Justin Rush, Single Axle Truck Driver; Russell McBride, Single Axle Truck Driver; and Rebecca Bohannon, Single Axle Truck Driver.



District 5: Temprence Wadkins was born January 28th weighing 7 lbs., 6.5 oz. She is the granddaughter of Clay Hazelwood, Multi-Axle Truck Driver.



District 6: (l. to r.) Terry Trotter, Area Maintenance Supervisor, presents Jason Berry, Motor Patrol Operator-Finish, with his 15-year service award.



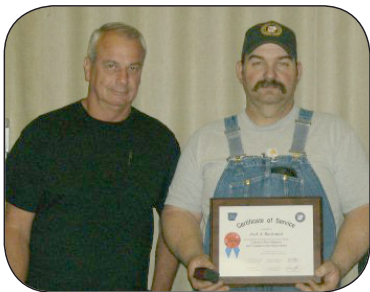
District 6: (l. to r.) Terry Trotter, Area Maintenance Supervisor, presents Norman Edge, Street Sweeper Operator, with his 10-year service award.



District 6: (l. to r.) Terry Trotter, Area Maintenance Supervisor, presents Sonya Gentry, Rest Area Attendant, with her 10-year service award.



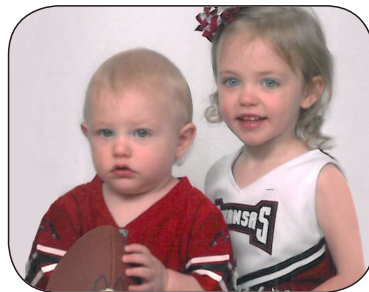
District 7: (l. to r.) Bruce Pepper, Area Maintenance Supervisor, presents Nathan Thomason, Maintenance Aide I, with his 10-year service award.



District 8: (l. to r.) Monty Scott, Equipment Maintenance Supervisor, presents Jack Bocksnick, Senior Mechanic, with his 20-year service award.



District 8: (l. to r.) Monty Scott, Equipment Maintenance Supervisor, presents Will Lang, Janitor, with his 5-year service award.



District 9: (l. to r.) Mason Gray, 1 year old, and Makayla Gray, 3 years old, are the children of Courtney Gray, Maintenance Aide I, and her husband Michael.



District 9: (l. to r.) Stacy Burge, Resident Engineer, presents Diane Tomlinson, Resident Office Technician, with her 30-year service award.



District 9: (l. to r.) Ricky Dodson, Sealing Job Superintendent, presents Dustin Bryant, Asphalt Tank Truck Driver, with his 5-year service award.



District 9: (l. to r.) Melvin Duncan, Multi-Axle Truck Driver, receives his 5-year service award from Ron Stanfill, Area Maintenance Supervisor.



District 9: (l. to r.) Stacy Burge, Resident Engineer, presents Robert Moore, Assistant Resident Engineer, with his 10-year service award.



District 10: (l. to r.) Kendal Ashby will graduate from Corning High in May. He is the son of Phyllis Ashby, Distributor Operator.

AHTD PEOPLE • EMPLOYEE STATISTICS FOR APRIL 2011

new employees

CONSTRUCTION • SHERRY OSBAN, FIELD CLERK I, RE 05

ENVIRONMENTAL • RAYNARD HEAGGANS, ENVIRONMENTAL FIELD TECH II

DISTRICT 1 • JANET ADDISON, SINGLE AXLE TRUCK DRIVER • WALLACE FLIE, SINGLE AXLE TRUCK DRIVER

DISTRICT 4 • RODNEY BARKER, SINGLE AXLE TRUCK DRIVER • WILLIAM DAVIS, GENERAL LABORER

DISTRICT 5 • DANIEL MCCORD, SINGLE AXLE TRUCK DR.

DISTRICT 8 • JAMES BEAN, SGL. AXLE TRUCK DR. • ANTHONY COWELL, SGL. AXLE TRUCK DR. • SAMUEL GULLEDGE, SGL. AXLE TRUCK DR. • GLENN LONG, MECHANIC

DISTRICT 9 • JOHN WATTS, BODY REPAIRER AND PAINTER

DISTRICT 10 • TERRANCE HEARD, GENERAL LABORER • DAPHNE PHIPPS, STOREROOM ASSISTANT I

promotions

BRIDGE • CARL FUSELIER, DIVISION HEAD

MATERIALS • WILLIAM LINDSEY, DISTRICT MATERIALS SUPERVISOR

PLANNING & RESEARCH • DAVID SISKOWSKI, ENGINEER III • GREG WALLIS, ADMINISTRATIVE OFFICER II

ROADWAY DESIGN • KELI WYLIE, STAFF DESIGN ENG.

DISTRICT 1 • RICHARD BIRKHEAD, BACKHOE/FRONT END LOADER OP., WOODRUFF CO. • DORIS BOSWELL, MAINT. AIDE I, WOODRUFF CO. • DEMETRICE DOTSON, CONST. FIELD ENG. I, RE 11 • DENNIS FORREST, MAINT. AIDE II, PHILLIPS CO. • ROMMIE JACKSON, MAINT. AIDE II, PHILLIPS CO. • ANTHONY JAMES, AREA MAINT. SUPV., CRITTENDEN CO. • ROBERT JOHNSON, DISTRIB. OP. • STANLEY NEAL, BACKHOE/FRONT END LOADER OP., WOODRUFF CO. • AARON VOWELL, ADV. CONST. FIELD ENG., RE 14 • WILTON WARREN, SIGN ERECTOR

DISTRICT 2 • ROBERT BROWN, SGL. AXLE TRUCK DR., JEFFERSON CO. • DERRICK DUTTON, SGL. AXLE TRUCK DR., JEFFERSON CO. • RICKY OWENS, SGL. AXLE TRUCK DR., DREW CO. • TYLER WELLS, MAINT. AIDE I, ASHLEY CO.

DISTRICT 3 • RYAN LOVELL, MOTOR PATROL OPERATOR - FINISH, SEVIER CO. • FRANCISCO RODRIGUEZ, BACKHOE/FRONT END LOADER OPERATOR, NEVADA CO. • MINDY SIMMONS, CONSTRUCTION AIDE II, RE 31

DISTRICT 4 • ALEX CHARITY, SINGLE AXLE TRUCK DRIVER, CRAWFORD CO. • MATTHEW KILDOW, SINGLE AXLE TRUCK DRIVER, WASHINGTON CO. • DAVID LAWSON, BRIDGE REPAIRER I • D. SUMMERS, HYDRAULIC EXCAVATOR OPERATOR - FINISH

DISTRICT 5 • DIANA CONVERSE, SINGLE AXLE TRUCK DRIVER, WHITE CO. • STEVE SUTTON, DISTRIBUTOR/ROLLER OPERATOR, STONE CO.

DISTRICT 6 • ROBERT FINNELL, BACKHOE/FRONT END LOADER OPERATOR • JIMMY KINGSBY, DISTRIBUTOR OPERATOR • LANCE ZENO, DISTRIBUTOR OPERATOR

DISTRICT 7 • LEE HOLMAN, SGL. AXLE TR. DR., DALLAS CO. • BLAKE JACKSON, SGL. AXLE TR. DR., CLEVELAND CO. • TOMMIE KITCHENS, CREW LEADER, CLARK CO. • LIMON ROBERTSON, III, MULTI-AXLE TRUCK DRIVER, CLARK CO.

DISTRICT 8 • SHAWN BOSTIAN, SGL. AXLE TRUCK DRIVER, CONWAY CO. • STEVEN PIERCE, CREW LEADER, POPE CO.

DISTRICT 9 • CHANDA HORTON, MULTI-AXLE TRUCK DRIVER, SEARCY CO.

DISTRICT 10 • DAVID DANAHO, BACKHOE/FRONT END LOADER OPERATOR, GREENE CO.

service

BRIDGE • CHARLIE HART, BRIDGE MANAGEMENT ENGINEER, 30 YRS.

CONSTRUCTION • BRIAN BRATCHER, INSP., RE 55, 20 YRS. • ANTHONY CUNNINGHAM, CONST. AIDE I, RE 82, 15 YRS. • TERRI INMAN, RESIDENT OFFICE TECH, RE 06, 10 YRS. • ROBERT MOORE, ASSISTANT RESIDENT ENGINEER, RE 92, 10 YRS. • JENNIFER POWELL, CONST. AIDE I, RE 06, 5 YRS. • CHARLES TALLMAN, JR., SENIOR INSP., RE 31, 25 YRS.

DIRECTOR • JIMMIE SNEED, ADMIN. ASSISTANT I, 15 YRS.

ENVIRONMENTAL • CLINT HUTCHESON, ENVIRONMENTAL ANALYST III, 15 YRS. • STEVEN IMHOFF, SECTION HEAD – CULTURAL RESOURCES, 10 YRS.

HIGHWAY POLICE • JOHN GERLOFF, GUARD, 5 YRS. • CAPTAIN DON HASTINGS, 40 YRS. • CHRIS WILLIAMS, PERSONNEL CLERK, 5 YRS.

PROGRAMS & CONTRACTS • DWAN MOORE, REPRODUCTION TECH, 5 YRS.

SURVEYS • ROBERT BLANKENSHIP, SURVEYS CREW CHIEF, 10 YRS. • DAVID HALL, JR., ENGINEER I, 5 YRS. • PAUL WOMACK, SURVEYS CREW CHIEF, 25 YRS.

DISTRICT 1 • MARK SOUTH, SENIOR MECHANIC, 20 YRS.

DISTRICT 2 • SHERRY MIESNER, PERSONNEL CLERK, 10 YRS. • WALLACE SIMMONS, MOTOR PATROL OP. - FIN., 5 YRS.

DISTRICT 3 • ALVIN VAUGHN, AREA MAINT. SUPV., 40 YRS.

DISTRICT 4 • WILLIAM BOSWELL, SR. MECHANIC, 25 YRS. • JERRY HOWE, CREW LEADER, 10 YRS. • MARK WILLIAMS, BRIDGE JOB SUPT., 35 YRS.

DISTRICT 5 • WALTON FULKS, MOTOR PATROL OPERATOR, 5 YRS.

DISTRICT 6 • JOHN BALLINGER, MAINT. AIDE II, 15 YRS. • JASON BERRY, MOTOR PATROL OP. - FINISH, 15 YRS. • SONYA GENTRY, REST AREA ATTENDANT, 10 YRS. • VINCENT TURNER, BACKHOE/FRONT END LOADER OP., 20 YRS.

DISTRICT 7 • ANN CARTER, AREA HQ. ATTENDANT, 15 YRS.

DISTRICT 8 • JACK BOCKSNICK, WELDER, 20 YRS. • DAVID DUNCAN, MAINTENANCE AIDE I, 5 YRS. • WILL LANG, JANITOR, 5 YRS. • JERRY WILLIAMS, AREA MAINT. SUPV., 40 YRS. • DON WILLIAMS, SHOP SUPV., 25 YRS.

DISTRICT 9 • MELVIN DUNCAN, MULTI-AXLE TRUCK DRIVER, 5 YRS. • RUSSELL MORGAN, BACKHOE/FRONT END LOADER OPERATOR, 15 YRS.

DISTRICT 10 • ELAINE BRYANT, MAINTENANCE AIDE I, 10 YRS. • JAMES GREEN, REST AREA ATTENDANT, 10 YRS. • ROBERT LOSH, BRIDGE REPAIRER I, 15 YRS. • JEFFERY RAWLS, CRANE OPERATOR - FINISH, 10 YRS. • JACK WOLF, SENIOR MECHANIC, 10 YRS.

retirement

BRIDGE • PHIL BRAND, DIVISION HEAD, 38+ YRS.

DISTRICT 2 • NORMAN ROCHELLE, MOTOR PATROL OPERATOR – FINISH, 31+ YRS.

DISTRICT 4 • SHARON SUMPTER, FUEL CLERK, 26+ YRS. • MARK WILLIAMS, BRIDGE JOB SUPERINTENDENT, 34+ YRS.

DISTRICT 5 • CAROLYN CRAFTON, FIELD CLERK II, 23+ YRS.

DISTRICT 8 • DENNIS JAMES, CONSTRUCTION PROJECT COORDINATOR, 37+ YRS. • JOHN MAGIE, AREA MAINTENANCE SUPERVISOR, 31+ YRS. • PATSY MOORE, RESIDENT OFFICE TECH, 41+ YRS.

DISTRICT 9 • SHARON ANDERSON, JANITOR, 11+ YRS. • GARY DOVING, MAINTENANCE AIDE II, 33+ YRS.

SURVEYS • MILES PATTON, SURVEYS CREW CHIEF, 37+ YRS.

memorials

COMPUTER SERVICES • CARLOTTA VAUGHAN 4/14/11, RETIRED

CHIEF ENGINEER • BROOKS O. NICHOLS, 4/27/11, RETIRED

FISCAL SERVICES • F. LEE WAGNER, 4/15/11, RETIRED

HUMAN RESOURCES • FRANK KNOWLES, 4/22/11, RETIRED

MAINTENANCE • JOSEPH V. PIERSON, 5/4/11, ACTIVE

DISTRICT 1 • BILLY E. MEACHUM, 4/26/11, RETIRED • JOHNNIE WILLIAM BALL, 5/12/11, RETIRED

DISTRICT 3 • TALMAGE O. SNOW, 4/11/11, RETIRED

DISTRICT 4 • LEON A. MCDANIEL, 4/17/11, RETIRED

active duty

As of 5/19/11, the AHTD had 1 employee serving active duty in the United States military. Deployment dates noted.

DISTRICT 9 • DOUGLAS HENRY, SINGLE AXLE TR. DR., 10/1/07