



CenterLine

AUGUST 2012

Engineering Intern Orientation is a Learning Opportunity



Erin Buchanan is an engineering student at the University of Arkansas and will graduate in May. This summer she is working as an intern for the AHTD in RE Office #65 in Little Rock. On July 12th and 13th she joined 45 other interns for the Department’s annual Engineering Intern Orientation.

The orientation is an opportunity for Department summer interns across the state to come together to learn more about the role of engineers at the Department from those who are already on the staff. Participants also learn more about the transportation industry and job opportunities available within the Department.

“I greatly enjoy the RE Office,” says Buchanan about her summer work. “I have learned so much about constructability and how workers actually put our plans on the road. I have accompanied inspectors and engineers on site, learning what is required of the Department, also some things about assurance testing and implementation of plans. I have also picked up a little about computerized report programs.”

Attending the orientation has been a learning experience for Buchanan and other interns like her.

“Working in the District Office, you aren’t aware of everything else that goes on at the AHTD. We learn a lot

(Interns — continued on pg 2)

TOP: Erin Buchanan, RE Office #65 in Little Rock.

BOTTOM: Mark Evans, Staff Pavement Management Engineer in the Planning & Research Division explains the ARAN vehicle to a group of interns.



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about construction, but very little about things such as research, for example. The orientation was an opportunity to learn more about the Department as a whole. It was also really great to get an explanation of Department benefits and opportunities.”

The first day of orientation included a Department overview and panel discussions from the administrative, planning, design and operations branches. Participants also learned about benefits of employment with AHTD and the types of opportunities that await students upon graduation. Dinner at Cozymel’s wrapped up the first day. The second day featured tours of the various divisions and a look at different types of equipment used to monitor traffic and assess road conditions.

Buchanan is majoring in civil engineering, “hopefully with an emphasis in transportation or geometric design.”

“I always liked math and taking things apart,” she adds. “My older brothers are both engineers.”

When asked if she was considering a career with the Department Buchanan stated, “I have definitely considered a career here. I think the Department provides a very noble service and has a huge responsibility to creatively spread a relatively small amount of money to fix a pretty vast highway system. I think it would be exciting and interesting to be a part of such a great office.”

A major role of the intern orientation is to share that bigger picture of employment with the Department and introduce the opportunities that wait.

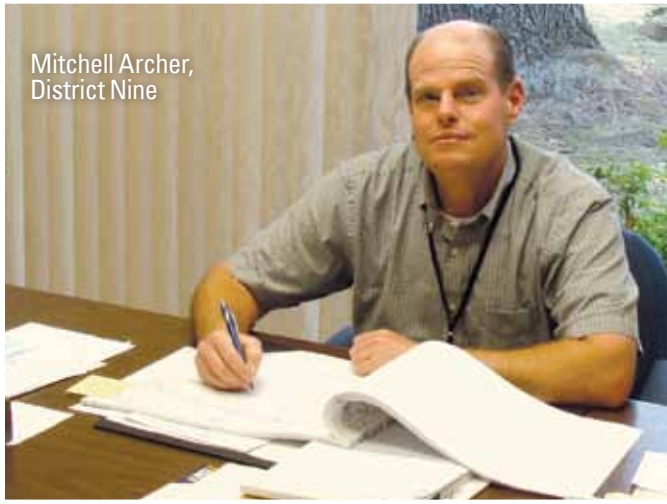


(L. to R.) Interns Ashley Smith, Kenneth Banga and Erin Buchanan learn more about roadway design from David Baker, Advanced Design Engineer in the Roadway Design Division.

The 2012 engineering student interns class (listed alphabetically) includes Beth Allen, Kenneth Banga, Derec Bass, LaDarien Beene, Brian Biehler, Erin Buchanan, William Burks, Ryan Carr, Ethan Clark, Taylor Clark, Tanner Clement, Jarrett Cooper, Richard Corbyn, Amanda Crosby, Nick Dail, Amanda Elzey, Stuart Etheridge, Tyler Feemster, Kris Flath, Chris French, Patrick Jones, Hunter Lake, Steven Lewis, Kayleigh Lincomfelt, Tyler Norton, Seth Parish, Nikki Patke, Nicholas Polk, Justin Ray, Eric Romero, Alex Roofe, Sam Rothove, Matthew Rowe, Maggie Schroeder, Ashley Smith, Braden Smith, Melana Snow, Madison Strutman, Anamaria Torres, Jeffrey Turk, Lucas Turner, Jeremy Waits, Matt Wallace, Ronald Watkins, Simon Wiley and Charles Zarden. ♦



Mitchell Archer,
District Nine



Retirement Board Election Results

Congratulations to Mitchell Archer for being re-elected as a member of the board of the Arkansas State Highway Employees Retirement System.

Archer is District Construction Engineer for District 9. He has been with the AHTD since 1985. He has a Bachelor of Science degree in agriculture from the University of Arkansas and is a Registered Professional Engineer. His two year term on the board began July 1st of this year and will run through June 30, 2014.

In addition to Archer, other members of the board include Scott Bennett, Frank Vozel, Jacob Weston (retiree member) and Larry Dickerson. ♦

Group Insurance and Cafeteria Plan Reminder



Please remember that if you are enrolled under the cafeteria plan and make a change to your group insurance because of a Family Status Change, that you only have 30 days to complete the forms and provide the documentation. If you need a copy of the Change in Status form or need additional information, please contact the Group Insurance office at 501-569-2417. ♦



James Braden, Assistant Division Head of Right of Way

James Braden Named Assistant Division Head of Right of Way

James Braden was named Assistant Division Head of the Right of Way Division effective July 12th.

Braden began working for the AHTD in August of 1987 as a Realty Appraiser I in Right of Way. He advanced to Realty Appraiser II less than a year later. In July of 1990, he moved to the position of Relocation Coordinator. Braden attained his previous position as Section Head of Relocation in April of 2008.

Braden has a bachelor's degree in marketing from the University of Central Arkansas. ♦



Tom Simpson, D2 Permit Officer, applies some finishing touches to a wood duck.

HOBBY Blossoms Into A BUSINESS For **Tom Simpson**



Tom Simpson, Permit Officer in District Two, has always had a general interest in art. He is also an avid outdoorsman. It is just that combination of interests that led him years ago into yet another hobby, that of taxidermy.

"When I consider my love of hunting and fishing and my interest in art, it was a perfect combination for getting involved in something like this," Simpson states.

Taxidermy, from the Greek word for "moving of skin", is the art of preparing, stuffing and mounting the skins of animals for display. Simpson has been at it since 1997 and has a large shop on his property where he has become quite proficient at his hobby. He has been so successful at learning the process that it has become more than a hobby and has now blossomed into a successful business for him. He currently has work lined up in his shop on animals from hunts in Arkansas, Texas, Missouri and Kansas.

"I learned how to do this work from spending time with other taxidermists and by reading books and watching videos," Simpson says.

His shop is filled with racks of paint, refrigerators and special equipment he uses in the taxidermy process. On a rack hanging from the ceiling are the antlers of 15 to 20 deer, all waiting to be completed. Waterfowl hang on the walls.

The list of different animals Simpson has completed over the years is long and includes deer, fish, snakes, bobcats, bear, mink, ducks, geese, pheasants, quail, wolf, pine marten,

squirrel, elk, moose, antelope, coyote and bison. He has completed hundreds of animals.

The process for completing an animal differs depending on what he is working on. Work on a deer, for example, would include many steps including the skinning of the animal, removing the flesh from the hide or "fleshing", tanning the hide, thinning, mounting the hide onto what is called a form, which gives the animal's body its shape and then the finish work. Finish work involves the many different types of paint applications and the addition of features such as artificial eyes.

"I use replicas for such things as eyes and teeth. The supply houses I order from offer a broad spectrum of choices. They are very realistic and will not deteriorate over time."

Such supplies can be ordered on the Internet from a variety of taxidermy supply houses.

The amount of time it takes for Simpson to complete a project depends on the piece. Prices Simpson charges his customers for his work depends on the piece as well.

"In general, it ranges from one hundred dollars for something like a fish, to as much as a few thousand for larger pieces like a moose," Simpson states.

CONSTRUCTION

DISTRICT 5 CORNER



The widening of Highway 167 (N. St. Louis Street) in Batesville continues this summer. The improvements will make the roadway five lanes. Work begins at Highway 69 and continues northward to Highway 394. In addition to the widening of the roadway, a new traffic signal is being installed at the intersection of N. St. Louis Street and Highway 25/69 (White Drive). The job was awarded to White River Materials, Inc. of Batesville, Arkansas, in January of 2011. The contract amount was \$6.89 million. The project is approximately halfway finished and should be completed in the spring of 2013. ♦



Simpson prepares to mount a deer hide onto what is called a form, which gives the animal's body its shape.

When asked what the oddest thing was he has ever worked on Simpson replied, "A pine marten I took in Colorado while on a bow hunt for elk."

Taxidermists have all kinds of groups at their fingertips to help them with their trade. Among them is the National Taxidermist Association founded in 1972. The Association endorses education, solidarity and standards for the entire taxidermy industry to embrace. As members, taxidermists must obtain all applicable licenses, cooperate with all wildlife officials and advise clients of all game laws and regulations, maintain a clean shop and clearly define all rates for service, among other things. Simpson is a member of the Association.

The Association hosts a number of helpful conventions and seminars throughout the year on things such as how to prepare horns and antlers, eye setting, air brush techniques and fish painting, just to name a few.

There are also magazines specifically aimed at taxidermists. Among them are *Taxidermy Today*, a how-to magazine for taxidermists providing educational and informational needs for enthusiasts. Ads in the magazine feature forms for such large animals as elephants, bears and alligators.

Simpson plans to be involved in the business for years to come.

"I plan to extend my shop someday to include an office and showroom where I can meet with customers to discuss pieces and display some of my work," Simpson states. And one day when he retires from the AHTD, he knows taxidermy will become full time for him.

"Most people move out of something when they retire. This is something I can move into and expand when I leave the AHTD." ♦

the Staff Minute

**EMPLOYEE:****MATT LARUE**

Maintenance Aide II, District 10

LENGTH OF SERVICE: 15 years

JOB DUTIES: My main duty is keeping the tractors and bush hogs running. I also supervise crews during hot mix patching, pothole repair, backhoe work and many other maintenance jobs.

FAVORITE PART OF THE JOB: Working outdoors and working with the people on my crew.

BACKGROUND: I was born and raised in Hanford, California, and moved to Arkansas in 1994. After finishing school, I went to Black River Vo-Tech where I studied Fire Science. I started working for the Department as a summer helper in Randolph County.

FAMILY: I have a wonderful wife Michaela and two sons: Joshua, who is five years old and Tristan, who is one year old. We are also expecting a new baby in February.

HOBBIES: I enjoy spending time with my family. I also enjoy anything outdoors, especially hunting and fishing. I like any kind of auto racing and spend a lot of time at the track.



Don Young • Central Office COWBOY CAVIAR

- 3 cans of black eyed peas, drained and rinsed**
- 1 can original Rotel, drained**
- 1 small can of sliced black olives, drained**
- 1 small can of chopped green chilies, drained**
- 1 can of Mexicorn, drained**
- 2 large jalapeños, seeded and diced**
- ½ purple onion, finely diced**
- 2 tbsp cilantro leaves, finely chopped**
- ½ yellow or orange bell pepper, finely diced**
- 2 cloves of garlic, minced**
- 1 bottle of Hendrickson's Special Dressing (sweet vinegar & oil with garlic and spices)**
- Kosher salt and pepper to taste**
- Optional – for extra spice, leave seeds in jalapeños*

Combine all ingredients and marinate in refrigerator for 24 to 48 hours. Serve cold with corn chips.

PLEASE SUBMIT YOUR RECIPE FOR
POSSIBLE PUBLICATION IN THE CENTERLINE TO:
PAULA CIGAINERO • P.O. BOX 2261 • LITTLE ROCK, AR 72203
OR PAULA.CIGAINERO@ARKANSASHIGHWAYS.COM

AHTD's Workforce Management Pilot is Here!

What's New with KRONOS?

The **KRONOS** Workforce Management System Implementation is in full gear! As we begin preparations for the September Go – Live, AHTD will pilot the new workforce management system to help employees adjust to the upcoming timekeeping changes!

What does the Pilot mean for me?

The AHTD Workforce Management team wants to make the transition from the existing timekeeping process to the new process as easy and as seamless as possible. It will also help the implementation team work out any kinks prior to official Go-Live. During the pilot period of this system implementation, AHTD employees will:

- Utilize both timekeeping methods to record time prior to actual System Go-Live in September.
- Note and keep track of any issues with recording time on the **KRONOS** Workforce Management System.
- Test their skills received during employee training.



As with any changes in processes, a few bumps in the road are to be expected. Don't let this discourage you because this is absolutely normal! Our expert team will be here to support you through this transition, guide you through the process, and answer any questions that you may have.

How was Training?

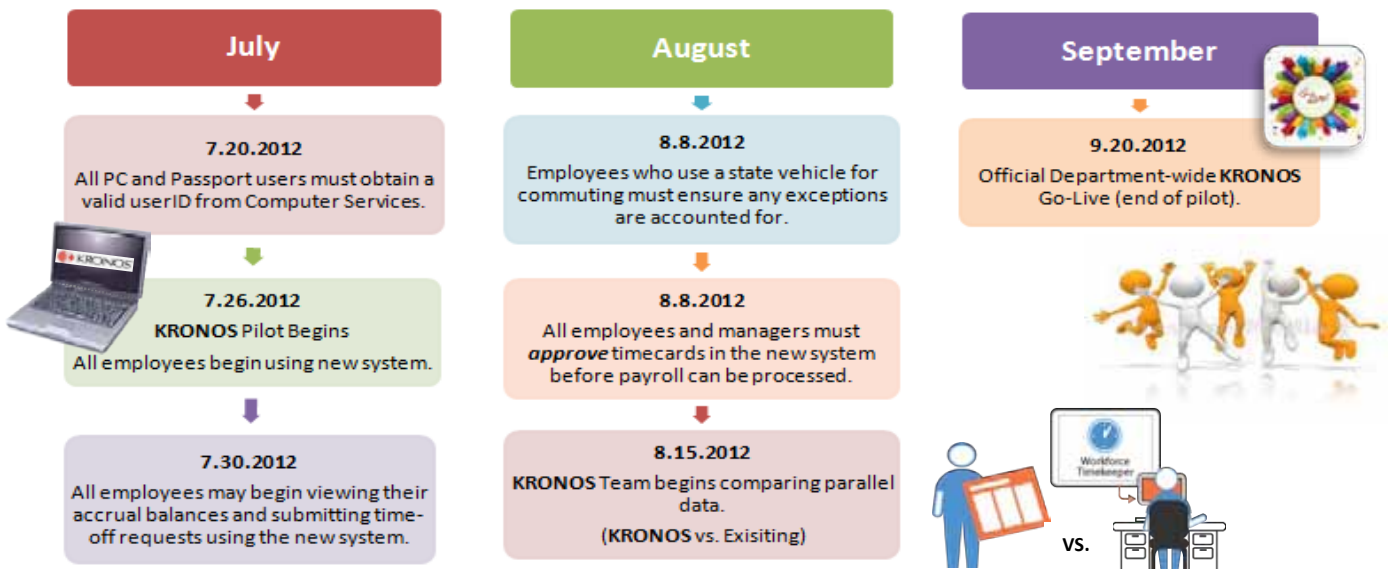
Did you have a chance to participate in the end-user and supervisor training hosted by AHTD? If so, your feedback is important to us. Let us know your thoughts by emailing us at:

KronosHelpDesk@ArkansasHighways.com

What's Next?

A quicker, seamless, and more efficient time management process is just around the corner! The timeline below represents the upcoming events and milestones we can all look forward to!

Workforce Management Project Timeline



Questions or Comments? Send us an email at: KronosHelpDesk@ArkansasHighways.com.



THE DEPARTMENT



BRIDGE: (L. to R.) Carl Fuselier, Division Head, presents Rick Ellis, Assistant Division Head, with his 20-Year Service Award.



MATERIALS: (L. to R.) Phil Temple, Testing Equipment Specialist, receives his 20-Year Service Award from Dwayne Cale, Staff Materials Engineer.



MATERIALS: (L. to R.) Dwayne Cale, Staff Materials Engineer, presents Chris Wells, Materials Technician III, with his 10-Year Service Award.



DISTRICT 4: Tina Sinclair, Area Maintenance Supervisor, Washington County - Area 2, receives her 15-Year Service Award.



DISTRICT 4: (L. to R.) Lee Dewey, Store Room Supervisor, presents Candice Rawson, Fuel Clerk, with her 15-Year Service Award.



DISTRICT 5: (L.to R.) Receiving their 10-Year Service Awards: Linda Kinsey, Area Headquarters Attendant – Sharp County and Karrie Ausbrooks, Construction Helper, R.E. 52. Receiving his 15-Year Service Award: Gary Grady, District Sign Erector.



DISTRICT 7: (L. to R.) Bryan Caldwell, District Permit Officer, receives his 25-Year Service Award from David Archer, District Construction Engineer.



DISTRICT 7: (L. to R.) Carl Bachelor, District Engineer, presents Randy Gates, Area Maintenance Supervisor for Union County, his 35-Year Service Award. Randy also enjoyed his retirement party recently.



DISTRICT 9: (L. to R.) Chris Seritt, Senior Inspector, receives his 25-Year Service Pin from Stacy Burge, Resident Engineer.



DISTRICT 9: (L. to R.) Lance and Josie Ragland welcome their new baby brother (front), Hudson, to the family. They are the children of Joey Ragland, Motor Patrol Operator, and his wife Michelle.

AUGUST

WHAT'S AHEAD

Upcoming Dates to Remember

2//THURSDAY

- Environmental Division: Location & Design Public Hearing – HWY 124 and HWY 326, Russellville Calvary Temple Assembly of God, 4-7:00 p.m.

9//THURSDAY

- Environmental Division: Location Public Hearing – HWY 65 Relocation, Conway Parks & Recreation Department, 4-7:00 p.m.

25-29//SATURDAY – WEDNESDAY

- SASHTO Annual Meeting, Charleston, SC

new employees

BRIDGE • Cory Galloway, Engineer

COMPUTER SERVICES • Henry Frasher, Hardware Technician I; Benjamin Meadors, Application Developer II

CONSTRUCTION • Jeffery Mitchell, Construction Helper; David Selby, Construction Helper; John Wamock, Construction Helper

PLANNING & RESEARCH • Gregory Cullum, Cartographer I; Jesus Martinez, Engineer

RIGHT OF WAY • Cora Skinner, Administrative Aide I

ROADWAY DESIGN • Shane Adams, Engineer; Claire Gauthreaux, Engineer

DISTRICT ONE • Joe Boykin, General Laborer

DISTRICT TWO • Calvin Barnett, General Laborer

DISTRICT THREE • Tony Disler, General Laborer; Karla Settlemoir, General Laborer

DISTRICT FOUR • Micah Green, General Laborer; Jack Edwards, General Laborer

DISTRICT SIX • Benjamin Blade Jr., Single Axle Truck Driver; Bryan Saunders, Welder; James Tarry, Single Axle Truck Driver

DISTRICT SEVEN • Brian Hampton, General Laborer; Devern Steelman, Single Axle Truck Driver; Clyde Lambert Jr., General Laborer; Cody Stell, General Laborer; Daniel Davis, General Laborer

DISTRICT EIGHT • John Morris, General Laborer; Angela Needham, General Laborer; James Craig Sr., Single Axle Truck Driver

DISTRICT NINE • Dustin Dowler, Single Axle Truck Driver

DISTRICT TEN • Gregory Wineland, Single Axle Truck Driver; Tavus Chandler, General Laborer; Anquion Williams, General Laborer

promotions

BRIDGE • Luke Bailey, Bridge Design Engineer

MAINTENANCE • Donald Black, Bridge Repairer I; Anthony Nelson, Bridge Repairer I; Gary Bennett, Staff Maintenance Engineer; Paul Forst, Striping Crew Supervisor

MATERIALS • Matthew Green, Engineer II

PLANNING & RESEARCH • Kassie Bornds, Publications Specialist; Zhiqiong Hou, Engineer III; David Laumer, Transportation Specialist

RIGHT OF WAY • Dewayne Stucks, Realty Appraiser II

ROADWAY DESIGN • Stephen Sichmeller, Engineer I; Brittany Williams, Engineer I

DISTRICT ONE • Mark English, Construction Aide I; Dennis Ugbara, Backhoe/Front End Loader Operator; Harold Wright, Maintenance Aide I; Richard Yocum, Senior Construction Materials Inspector

DISTRICT TWO • Dawn Boyd, Construction Materials Inspector; Boyce Cope, Construction Aide I; Ira Tillman Jr., Motor Patrol Operator

DISTRICT THREE • Christopher Knowles, Construction Project Coordinator; Brian Maroon, Street Sweeper Operator; Gregory Morris, Distributor/Roller Operator

DISTRICT FOUR • Chad Davis, Assistant Resident Engineer; Perry Dorr, Crew Leader; Jeremy Ganes, Single Axle Truck Driver; David Matevia, Backhoe/Front End Loader Operator; Jeremy Young, Single Axle Truck Driver

DISTRICT FIVE • William Evans, Senior Inspector; Gary Franks, Inspector; Joe Gilbert, Area Maintenance Supervisor; Evan Higginbottom, Crew Leader; Brad Langston, Senior Inspector

DISTRICT SIX • Harvey Hargrove, District Bookkeeper; William Reynolds, Single Axle Truck Driver

DISTRICT SEVEN • David Arnold, Maintenance Aide II; Jeff Eckhardt, Construction Project Coordinator

DISTRICT EIGHT • Gary Disney, Construction Aide II; Kyle Goss Jr., Area Maintenance Supervisor; Bobby Ward, Senior Inspector

DISTRICT NINE • Logan Brightwell, Motor Patrol Operator-Finish; Dennis Connors, Senior Mechanic; Clint Morris, Construction Aide II

DISTRICT TEN • Jarian Borders, Single Axle Truck Driver; Joana Smith, Single Axle Truck Driver; Paul Vaulner, Area Maintenance Supervisor

service

ARKANSAS HIGHWAY POLICE • Tommy Traywick, Arkansas Highway Police Corporal, 25 yrs.; David Harris, Arkansas Highway Police Sergeant, 20 yrs.

BRIDGE • Charles Ellis, Assistant Division Head, 20 yrs.

CONSTRUCTION • Brenda McConnell, Resident Office Technician, 25 yrs.; Christopher Seritt, Senior Inspector, 25 yrs.; Donald Henson Jr., Assistant Resident Engineer, 20 yrs.; Charles Jefferson, Construction Aide III, 20 yrs.; Athena Bright, Inspector, 20 yrs.; Mark Trickey, Assistant Resident Engineer, 20 yrs.; Phillip Rook Jr., Inspector, 10 yrs.; Thomas Fisher, Advanced Construction Field Engineer, 10 yrs.

CHIEF ENGINEER • Emanuel Banks, Assistant Chief Engineer - Operations, 25 yrs.

FISCAL SERVICES • Kera Crowder, Retirement Officer, 25 yrs.; Muriel Koehn, Administrative Aide I, 15 yrs.

MAINTENANCE • Joseph Hawkins, Advanced Traffic Engineer, 5 yrs.; Gary Vice, Paint Transport Truck Driver, 5 yrs.; Vincent Mitchell, Paint Transport Truck Driver, 5 yrs.

MATERIALS • Larry Ragsdale, District Laboratory Technician, 5 yrs.

PERMITS • Lisa Mann, Permit Technician, 15 yrs.

PLANNING & RESEARCH • Jack Koba, Information System Technician II, 15 yrs.

RIGHT OF WAY • Jeremy Tyler, Right of Way Plans Designer II, 5 yrs.

ROADWAY DESIGN • Tammy Jernigan, Senior Design Engineer, 15 yrs.

SURVEYS • David Rorex, Surveys Helper, 10 yrs.; Michael Kelly, Assistant Division Head, 10 yrs.

DISTRICT ONE • Tommy Halbert, Maintenance Job Superintendent, 30 yrs.; Phil Metcalf, Assistant Bridge Inspector, 25 yrs.; Needra Sisson, District Office Manager, 15 yrs.; Kelly Reddick III, Motor Patrol Operator, 10 yrs.; Laura Gasper, Multi-Axle Truck Driver, 5 yrs.

DISTRICT TWO • Jimmy Doss, Storeroom Supervisor, 25 yrs.; Melissa Starnes, Multi-Axle Truck Driver, 10 yrs.

DISTRICT THREE • Robert Buck, Distributor Operator, 10 yrs.

DISTRICT FOUR • Tim Henretty, Multi-Axle Truck Driver, 20 yrs.; Tina Sinclair, Area Maintenance Supervisor, 15 yrs.

DISTRICT FIVE • Gary Grady, Sign Erector, 15 yrs.; Karrie Ausbrooks, Multi-Axle Truck Driver, 10 yrs.

DISTRICT SIX • Victor Jordan, Distributor Operator, 10 yrs.; Robert Swaim, Multi-Axle Truck Driver, 10 yrs.

DISTRICT SEVEN • Jimmie Gates, Area Maintenance Supervisor, 35 yrs.; James Kilpatrick, Guard, 10 yrs.; Dennis Rogers, Storeroom Assistant I, 10 yrs.

DISTRICT EIGHT • David Teeter, Bridge Repairer II, 15 yrs.; Joshua Hawks, Backhoe/Front End Loader Operator, 5 yrs.

DISTRICT NINE • Sandy Perry, Rest Area Attendant, 25 yrs.; Steven Halsted, Crew Leader, 20 yrs.; Jeffery Miles, Maintenance Aide I, 15 yrs.; Leslie Griffey, Multi-Axle Truck Driver, 10 yrs.; Darrell Canion, Backhoe/Front End Loader Operator, 5 yrs.; Patricia Brown, Distributor/Roller Operator, 5 yrs.

DISTRICT TEN • Jade Price, Paver Operator, 15 yrs.; Katherine Griffin, Maintenance Aide II, 10 yrs.

retirement

BRIDGE • Deborah Mathis, Senior Bridge Design Engineer, 29+ yrs.

FACILITIES MANAGEMENT • Ronnie Eckhardt, Electrician, 28+ yrs.

INTERNAL AUDIT • Philip Device, Electronic Data Processing Auditor, 10+ yrs.

DISTRICT ONE • Phil Metcalf, Assistant Bridge Inspector, 25+ yrs.

DISTRICT TWO • Bobby King, District Caretaker, 5+ yrs.; Karen Avants, Area Headquarters Attendant, 7+ yrs.

DISTRICT SIX • Margaret Besancon, Office Administrative Assistant V, 25+ yrs.; James Highfill, Multi-Axle Truck Driver, 8+ yrs.; Tommy Manning, District Caretaker, 11+ yrs.; Eldon Young Jr., Rest Area Attendant, 15+ yrs.

DISTRICT SEVEN • James Watson, Maintenance Aide II, 41+ yrs.; Jimmie Gates, Area Maintenance Supervisor, 35+ yrs.

DISTRICT EIGHT • Kenneth George, Maintenance Aide II, 34+ yrs.

memorials

SURVEYS • Sam E. Sharp, 6/17/12, active

DISTRICT TWO • Beulah Crain, 6/25/12, retired

DISTRICT FIVE • James Marvin Cates, 7/8/12, retired

DISTRICT SEVEN • George Earl Griffis, 6/24/12, retired

DISTRICT EIGHT • Herbert Lee Underwood, 6/24/12, retired

DISTRICT NINE • Wallace E. Harrison, 7/13/12, retired

DISTRICT TEN • Donna K. Moore, 6/16/12, retired

active duty

As of 7/23/12, the AHTD has two employees serving active duty in the United States military. Deployment date noted.

MAINTENANCE • Dustin T. Smith, Sign Erector, 3/30/11

DISTRICT SEVEN • Abel Ayala, Maintenance Aide I, 3/13/12

