

New Message Boards Will Alert Motorists

Motorists traveling the highways in Central Arkansas have likely seen electronic message boards springing up over the last several months. Those new boards represent the second and final phase of an electronic message system for the Chemical Stockpile Emergency Preparedness Program (CSEPP) that will help motorists evacuate the Central Arkansas area in case of a catastrophic event at the Pine Bluff Arsenal.

The AHTD worked with the state Department of Emergency Management and the CSEPP, a federal program, on the project to improve safety in the area of the arsenal.

Phase One of the program erected signs on major routes in Jefferson and Grant Counties and the surrounding area where the CSEPP program is concentrated.

For Phase Two, signs are being constructed in Pulaski County on Interstates 30, 40, 430, 440 and 630 as well as on Highway 67/167. Once completed, they will be used to manage traffic flow in case of an accident at the Arsenal. In addition, they can be utilized as part of the Morgan Nick AMBER Alert System that broadcasts information about missing children. The signs will also be used to alert motorists to major traffic incidents and major road closures.

"Many of the message boards will be integrated with existing overhead signs," stated AHTD Director Dan Flowers. "Others will be stand alone signs in the median."

In addition to the electronic message boards, beacon lights will be erected at four CSEPP evacuation centers including Barton Coliseum in Little Rock, North Little Rock High School, the Arkansas Army National Guard Armory in Sheridan and the Pine Bluff Convention Center.

The AHTD received a grant for approximately \$4.5 million from the Arkansas Department of Emergency Management as part of the CSEPP to install the message boards. The AHTD has a \$2.2 million construction contract with Time Striping for Phase Two of the project. The signs should all be in place by March. Emergency responders will then conduct exercises to test the message system.

CSEPP also works closely with seven other sites in the United States where chemical stockpiles are stored.



Traffic passes underneath a new message board on Interstate 30 in North Little Rock.



This new message board on Interstate 430 in Little Rock is one of numerous boards being constructed in Central Arkansas.

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Surviving Retirement

Whether you are 35 or 55, you are probably looking forward to the day when you leave your office and enter retirement. But what faces many people is not dreams and possibilities, but dread and concern. After years of dedication to the job, they are presented with the realization that they will now support themselves and their family on their retirement income. With changes in the economy, rising healthcare costs and those on-going monthly expenses, how can anyone make their savings stretch for 20+ years?

The key to a comfortable retirement is to have a healthy retirement. Many people think that retirement planning is all about money, but a solid investment portfolio is only one part of the puzzle. Your health has as much to do with a quality retirement as the size of your pension. Even with the expansion of the Medicare program to include prescription drugs, much of the cost of your healthcare will come out of your personal savings. A survey conducted by Fidelity Investments in March 2006 said that a couple retiring today at age 65 would spend at least \$200,000 on health care expenses. Given the anticipated rate of healthcare inflation, that number will be significantly higher in just a few years.

So how can you plan for a healthy retirement? Take a few simple steps today, and you can greatly reduce your medical expenses in the years to come and provide a secure future for you and your family.

Step | Early Detection

Every member of the **ARHealth Plan** (the health insurance plan for the State and Public School Employees and Retirees) is entitled to certain preventive care services at no charge. Certain office visits, screenings and a variety of medical tests can be done on a regular basis and will help you and your doctor discover many medical conditions before they grow into a major problem.

Many people avoid the doctor's office, but studies have shown that early detection of a major illness will reduce medical costs down the road.

Step Regular Maintenance

Regular maintenance for your body is similar to the upkeep on a car. Like cars need oil changes and tire rotations, your body needs regular exercise and a healthy diet to greatly increase the quality of your overall health. To aid you in the process, **ARWellness** (the wellness program for **ARHealth** members) offers a program called **Balance®**. Administered by **Corphealth**, **Balance®** is designed by health experts who know how to help you succeed with your weight loss goals and create a customized plan to help you focus on the three keys to a successful weight loss program – mind, food, and body.

Step 3 Chronic Disease Management

Many of us face a daily battle with a life-long disease such as asthma, depression or diabetes, and if left unattended, the medical costs associated with these conditions can be significant. But these medical conditions don't have to control your life and with an effort to manage them, you can be on the road to a very healthy future. The benefit coordinator for your specific insurance plan can work with you and start you on the track for comprehensive case management. Active management of your specific medical condition is the key to controlling future costs.

Planning Ahead

Financial security through your personal savings and various retirement plans will significantly improve your quality of life after retirement. One such plan to build financial security is the **Arkansas Diamond**. Employees of the State of Arkansas can choose to participate in this deferred compensation plan and take advantage of payroll deductions and significant tax savings. By utilizing pre-tax contributions to your account, a \$100 contribution will only reduce your take home pay by about \$75, depending on your personal tax bracket. Your **Arkansas Diamond** plan will continue to grow as a tax-deferred account, meaning you will only pay taxes when you take a withdrawal.

Personal savings, pensions and a secure investment portfolio are very important to your retirement planning, but don't underestimate the impact of your personal health. Just like the benefits of compounding interest in a savings account, the sooner you start living a healthy life, the better the financial outlook for the future. **ARHealth** has a variety of programs designed to help you get and stay healthy. For more information on these and other programs, go to www.ARBenefits.org and click the option for ARWellness.





Employee: Brenda Flower, Crew Leader, District 9

Length of Service: 22+ Years

Job Duties: I supervise crew members to ensure all tasks are completed in a safe, timely manner and to help crew members improve motor and job skills. I also assist the Area Maintenance Supervisor in any necessary manner.

Favorite Part of the Job: I am very fortunate to have stumbled upon a great county and crew. I have developed working relationships with all of the crew members, and that

enables us to accomplish tasks more easily. Each member of the crew adds different talents and perspectives to the project at hand and influences decisions with their opinions on more effective or easier ways of completing a common goal. They are all assets to the crew in different ways; all members want the job to be completed correctly. Without the continued support of the crew, the persons in leadership positions would not be able to do their jobs efficiently.

Background: I am a 1984 graduate of Valley Springs High School. I worked for the AHTD as a crew member at the Area Headquarters in Jasper for 13 years before transferring to the District 9 Bridge Crew. I then transferred to the District Sealing Crew, and in September 2006, I was promoted to Crew Leader at the Huntsville Area Maintenance Headquarters.

Family: I've been married to Mike for 19 years. We have two sons, Travis, a senior at Harrison High School, and Bryce, an eighth grader at Harrison Junior High School.

Hobbies/Interests: Attending my children's basketball, football and baseball games while spending time with my family and friends is how I spend the bulk of my free time. I also enjoy watching horse races and camping outdoors with my family.

GRADUATION PHOTOS REMINDER

Please have your graduation photos in the Public Affairs Office by Friday, March 30 to be included in the 2007 Graduates issue of the CenterLine in May.

Information to be included with photo is as follows: Student Name, School Name (High School, College or Military only), Relation to Employee, Employee Name, and Employee District/Division.

SUBMIT THE PHOTOS:

(1) In person, (2) by interoffice or U.S. mail, or (3) by email to:
Shelli Russell, Public Affairs shelli.russell@arkansashighways.com
(501) 569-2573
Photos will be returned after the May issue is printed.

PHOTO FORMAT:

Emailed photos should be scanned at 300 dpi. Paper photos should be at least wallet size. To ensure quality, please do not send a printout of a picture. CDs and floppy disks will be accepted as well. If you have any questions about the format of a photo, please call or email.

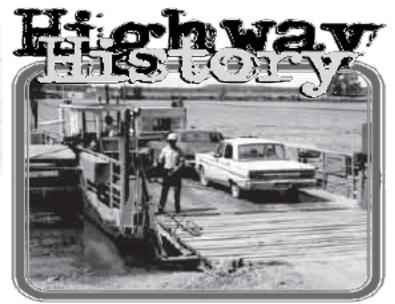
Daylight Saving Time Comes Early

The Energy Policy Act of 2005 changed the Daylight Saving Time (DST) dates in the United States to extend from the second Sunday in March to the first Sunday in November. This year, DST will

begin at 2:00 a.m. on Sunday, March

11th. Clocks should be turned forward one hour that evening.

Be aware that cellular phones, computers and other electronics that were programmed before this act went into effect, will likely duplicate rolling forward one hour when the formerly observed DST date arrives. You will need to roll those clocks <u>back</u> one hour on that formerly scheduled DST date of Sunday, April 1st (April Fool's Day). So check twice and don't be "fooled" Monday, April 1st when when your clock says you're late for work!



The Toad Suck Ferry on the Arkansas River at Highway 60 in 1970. Only one ferry remains in Arkansas, the Peel Ferry in Marion County crossing Bull Shoals Lake.





Human Resources: Addison Mae Avery, granddaughter of Linda Cuningkin, Central Office Receptionist, was born January 30th, weighing 9.2 pounds. Her parents, Greg and Sara Avery, live in Washington, D.C.



District 2: Arther Huggins, Hydraulic Excavator Operator, (middle) received his 30-year service award from Robert Kendall, Maintenance Job Superintendent (I.) and James House, District Engineer (r.).



Public Affairs: (I. tor.) Randy Ort, Public Information Coordinator, presents David Nilles, Administrative Assistant II, with his 5-year service award.



District 7: Receiving ambassador awards for retiring were (I. to r.) John Beasley, Carl Dean Pierce, Elma Thompson, John Trawick with Commissioner Madison Murphy, District Engineer Carl Bachelor and Director Dan Flowers.



District 2: (I. to r.) Tommy Simmons, Assistant Maintenance Supervisor, received his 35-year from James House, District Engineer.



District 6: Marilyn Brown, wife of Tommy Brown, Maintenance Aide II, holds his retirement cake. He has 30+ years of service.



District 7: David Culp, Lead Person and Josie Esquivel, Roller Distributor Operator married on January 12th. The Calhoun County Crew honored them with a cake and refreshments.



District 5: Adam Watson, a former Civil Engineer Intern, married Kala August 5th. Adam is the son of Danny Watson, Storeroom Assistant II.



District 5: Candence Alison Larey, 18 months, is the granddaughter of Rickie Sharp, Area Maintenance Supervisor.



District 6: (I. tor.) Norman Edge, Single Axle Truck Driver, received his 5-year service from Todd Nebling, Area Maintenance Supervisor.



District 4: (I. to r.) Roger Simpson, Motor Patrol Operator - Finish, received his 20year service award from Gene Roberts, Area Maintenance Supervisor.



Public Affairs: Receiving service awards from Randy Ort, Public Information Coordinator (middle), were Glenn Bolick, Administrative Assistant II (I.), 5 years, and John Jackson, Department Photographer (r.), 30 years.



District 4: Patsy Eastep, Distributor Roller Operator, received her 10-year service award from Gene Roberts, Area Maintenance Supervisor.



District 6: Sonya Gentry, Rest Area Attendant, received her 5-year service award from Todd Nebling, Area Maintenance Supervisor.



District 4: (I. to r.) Lance Drager, Distributor Roller Operator, received his 5-year service award from Gene Roberts, Area Maintenance Supervisor.



District 6: Receiving their service awards were (I. to r.) Doug Smith, Inspector, 20 years; Cole Bailey, Construction Helper II, 5 years; Jilanna Caldwell, Field Clerk II, 5 years; and Mason Pope, Assistant Resident Engineer, 5 years.



Public Affairs: Ellen Hill, Administrative Assistant II, received her 5-year service award from Randy Ort, Public Information Coordinator.



District 6: Deb Mealler, Rest Area Attendant, received her 5-year service award from Todd Nebling, Area Maintenance Supervisor.



District 7: Receiving service awards were (front row, I. to r.) Ann Carter, Area Headquarters Attendant; Rhonia Krisell, Personnel Clerk; Kaylene Flowers, Area Headquarters Attendant; Betty Sindle, Fuel Clerk; Roger Spakes, Distributor/Roller Operator; Kenny Freeman, Crew Leader; Bryan Ryder, Crew Leader; (backrow) Jacob Melson, Roller Operator; Ricky Anderson, Multi-Axle Truck Driver; Dennis Carpenter, Maintenance Aide II; Jewel "Butch" Williams, Senior Mechanic; John Mathis, Jr., Maintenance Aide I; Jermey Cain, Single Axle Truck Driver; and Michael Brown, Backhoe/Front End Loader Operator with Commissioner Madison Murphy, District Engineer Carl Bachelor, and Director Dan Flowers.



District 2: Gary West, Crew Leader, retiring with 28+ years, received his ambassador award from A.G. Bullock, Area Maintenance Supervisor.



District 10: The Sign Crew in District 10 won the Big Heart Award after having 80% participation in the Red Cross Blood drive, January 3rd, 2007. They are: (I. to r.) David Pratt, Barry Letson, Ben Denton and Angie Fender.



District 2: (I. to r.) James Dickson, Area Station Attendant, received his 20-year service award from A.G. Bullock, Area Maintenance Supervisor.



Maintenance: (I. to r.) Kevin Purifoy, Section Head - Communications, presented Richard Newcomb, Communications Maintenance Specialist, with his 5-year service award.



NEW EMPLOYEES

ARKANSAS HIGHWAY POLICE

Diane Gates, Permit Tech. Stacey Machado, Permit Tech.

CONSTRUCTION

Rodger Frost, Const. Helper I, RE 94 Andrew Hoggard, Civil Eng., RE 76 Cynthia Taffner, Const. Helper I, RE 94 Randal Weaver, Const. Helper I, RE 94

PLANNING & RESEARCH

Sarah Tamayo, Admin. Aide IV

RIGHT OF WAY

Chad Marsh, Realty Appraiser I

Aaron Hicks, Sgl. Axle Tr. Driver, Woodruff Randy Robinson, Sgl. Axle Tr. Driver

DISTRICT 2

Jerald Hopkins, Gen. Laborer, Desha

DISTRICT 4

Deidre Arendall, Gen. Laborer, Crawford Charles Brummett, Gen. Laborer, Crawford

DISTRICT 5

Charles Jason, Sgl. Axle Tr. Driver, Stone

Derek Bradley, Sgl. Axle Tr. Driver, Lonoke Lee Burrow, Gen. Laborer, Lonoke Kathy McIllwain, Sgl. Axle Tr. Driver, Lonoke Kenneth Stell, Sgl. Axle Tr. Driver, Pulaski

DISTRICT 8

Randall Burris, Gen. Laborer, Pope Juan Garcia, Gen. Laborer, Pope Timothy Johnson, Gen. Laborer, Pope Robert Pooler, Sgl. Axle Tr. Driver, Yell David Smith, Sgl. Axle Tr. Driver, Yell Ralph Stane, Sgl. Axle Tr. Driver, Conway Donnie Wallace, Sgl. Axle Tr. Driver, Conway

DISTRICT 9

Bradley Dorsey, Sgl. Axle Tr. Driver, Madison Justin Garrison, Sgl. Axle Tr. Driver

Jeff Atchley, Sgl. Axle Tr. Driver, Randolph Rick Micheli. Skilled Trades Trainee

PROMOTIONS

ENVIRONMENTAL

Meredith Owen, Env. Analyst I Benjamin Thomas, Env. Analyst I

MAINTENANCE

Brian Berthiaume, Traffic Designer

PLANNING & RESEARCH

Jack Koba, Info. Sys. Tech.II

ROADWAY DESIGN

Bryan Signorelli, Adv. HyDriver Des. Eng.

SURVEYS

Lynn Christie, Surveys Aide III Robert Peebles, Surveys Aide III Thomas Stevens, Surveys Aide III Joshua Thompson, Surveys Tech. II

Tina Jones, Field Clerk II, RE 11 Patricia Miles. Maint. Aide II. Crittenden

Subrinna Coleman, Sgl. Axle Tr. Driver, Drew Luther Drye, Adv. Const. Fld. Eng., RE 23 Shurun Jenkins, Sgl. Axle Tr. Driver, Ashley

Reginald Easter, Lowb./Float Tr. Driver

DISTRICT 4

Jessica Jackson, Civil Eng. I, RE 43 Brandon Jones, Sgl. Axle Tr. Driver, Scott Milton Sanchez, Sgl. Axle Tr. Driver, Sebastian Jeffrey Sims, Sgl. Axle Tr. Driver, Scott Cynthia Thompson, Dist./Roller Op., Crawford Jerry Trotter, Backh./F.E.L. Op., Franklin

DISTRICT 5

Jason Overturf, Civil Eng. I, RE 53

DISTRICT 6

David Craig, Sr. Insp., RE 61 Eric Paulus, Area Maint. Supv., Garland Michael Sebren, District Eng. William Stivers, Jr., Multi-Axle Tr. Driver, Lonoke James Webber, Multi-Axle Tr. Driver, Pulaski

DISTRICT 7

Roberto Hernandez, Bridge Repairer I Marion Howell, Bridge Repairer I

DISTRICT 8

Scott Blair, Dist./Roller Op., Perry James Bridges, Lowb./Float Tr. Driver Kenneth Caldwell, Backh./F.E.L. Op. Larry Hill, Backh./F.E.L. Op., Conway

DISTRICT 9

Sandra Chaffee, Dist./Roller Op., Benton Cody Hudson, Civil Eng. I, RE 94 Daniel Huett, Civil Eng. I, RE 94 Bryan Martin, Const. Aide I, RE 95 Ismael Montes, Backh./F.E.L. Op., Benton Robert Moore, Adv. Const. Fld. Eng., RE 92

DISTRICT 10

Lynn Masterson, Sgl. Axle Tr. Driver, Clay Deric Wyatt, Const. Fld. Eng. I, RE 05

SERVICE AWARDS

ARKANSAS HIGHWAY POLICE

Scott Fraley, Sergeant, 15 yrs. Tracy Morris, Corporal, 15 yrs.

CONSTRUCTION

John Ballard, Adv. Con. Fld. Eng., 10 yrs., RE 42 Michael Byrd, Const. Aide III, 15 yrs., RE 62 John Callender, Const. Aide I, 5 yrs., RE 74 William Evans, Const. Aide II, 15 yrs., RE 52 Terry Evans, Const. Fld. Eng. I, 5 yrs., RE 13 Gerald Hall, Adv. Con. Fld. Eng., 20 yrs., RE 62 James Hogan, Insp., 20 yrs., RE 61 Robert Hughes, Const. Aide I, 5 yrs., RE 31 Mikel Neal, Sr. Const. Matl. Insp., 40 yrs., RE 42 Alexander Safdari, Con. Fld. Eng. I, 5 yrs., RE 14 Terry Standard, Jr., Con. Mat. Insp., 5 yrs., RE 52 Bennie Horn, Surveys Aide III, 20+ yrs.

FISCAL SERVICES

Richard Blaine, Sec. Head-Rect. & Exp., 30 yrs. Joy Brooks, Utility Auditor, 5 yrs. Diann Gwatney, Insurance Admin., 25 yrs.

HUMAN RESOURCES

Janette Thompson, Ofc. Admin. Asst I, 25 yrs.

MAINTENANCE

Sandra Busby, Traffic Svcs. Aide, 15 yrs Bobbie Kraehmer, Ofc. Admin. Asst V, 30 yrs. David Lambert, State Maint. Eng., 35 yrs. Gene Morrison, Sign Maker II, 20 yrs.

Gary Brown, Geot. Drill Party Chf., 25 yrs. Steven Faulkner, Geot. Drill Party Chf., 20 yrs. Richard Martin, Geot. Aide II, 5 yrs.

PLANNING & RESEARCH

Jessie Jones, Trans. Plan. Eng., 5 yrs. Mickey Newcomb, Public Trans. Admin., 30 yrs.

PUBLIC AFFAIRS

Ellen Hill, Admin. Asst. II, 5 yrs.

ROADWAY DESIGN

Linda Gunn, Sr. Design Eng., 15 yrs.

DISTRICT 1

Chris Crite. Maint. Aide I. 10 vrs. Anthony Flex, Multi-Axle Tr. Driver, 5 yrs. Jimmy Pulley, Jr., Crew Leader, 15 yrs. Cameron Tucker, Backh./F.E.L. Op., 5 yrs. Kevin White, Area Maint. Supv., 30 yrs.

James Ashcraft, Sign Crew Supv., 15 yrs. Eddie Kling, Backh./F.E.L. Op., 15 yrs.

DISTRICT 3

Steven Muldrew, Dist. Op., 5 yrs.

DISTRICT 4

Frederick Brouse, Maint. Aide II, 10 yrs. Robert McEntyre, Bridge Repairer I, 5 yrs. Darren Smith, Maint. Aide II, 5 yrs.

DISTRICT 5

Kenneth Eldried, Dist./Roller Op., 5 yrs. James Kelley, Jr., Sr. Mechanic, 15 yrs. Calvin Leonard, III, Sgl. Axle Tr. Driver, 5 yrs. Michael Pankey, District Office Mgr., 15 yrs. Dennis Walling, Spreader Op., 5 yrs. Danny Wilson, Welder, 10 yrs.

DISTRICT 6

Bruce Anthony, Jr., Area Hq. Attendant, 5 yrs. Jerome Harris, Dist./Roller Op., 5 yrs. Jerry Zuber, Maint. Job Supt., 30 yrs.

DISTRICT 7

David Arnold, Sign Erector, 5 yrs. Ronald Hudson, Maint. Aide I, 5 yrs.

Dale Carlat, Dist./Roller Op., 5 yrs. Walter Gray, Lowb./Float Tr. Driver, 35 yrs. Seth Houghton, Crew Leader, 10 yrs. Lena Smith, Maint. Aide I, 5 yrs.

DISTRICT 9

Donald Baker, Area Maint. Supv., 30 yrs. Keith Carpenter, Welder, 5 yrs.

Danny Douglas, Crew Leader, 30 yrs. Johnny Gardner, Welder, 15 yrs.

RETIREMENTS

ARKANSAS HIGHWAY POLICE

Harold Huey, Sergeant, 36+ yrs. Robert Scott, Sergeant, 19+ yrs.

CHIEF ENGINEER

Bob Walters, Chief Eng., 35+ yrs.

SURVEYS

DISTRICT 2

Wanda Phillips, Fuel Clerk, 15+ yrs.

Casey Johnson, Dist./Roller Op., 15+ yrs. Eddie Shaw, Motor Pat. Op.-Fin., 28+ yrs.

DISTRICT 4

Herman Murphy, Bridge Repairer II, 26+ yrs.

Roy Vannatter, Sr. Mechanic, 24+ yrs.

DISTRICT 9

Butch Martin, District Maint. Eng., 30+ yrs.

MEMORIALS

ENVIRONMENTAL

Burney B. McClurkan, 1/22/2007

RIGHT OF WAY

Joseph L. Qualls. 1/25/2007

SURVEYS

Kathrine M. Lyons, 1/15/2007

DISTRICT 1

Tommy C. Curbo, 1/27/2007 Victor G. Capshaw, 1/19/2007

DISTRICT 5

James W. Porterfield, 1/22/2007

DISTRICT 7

John C. Wheelington, 1/31/2007 Cathie S. Zachry, 2/11/2007

DISTRICT 9

Samuel H. Blair, 2/10/2007

MILITARY DUTY

As of 2/15/07, the AHTD had 14 employees serving active duty in the military. Dates denote the deployment date.

HUMAN RESOURCES

Travis F. Nelson, Jr., Safety Insp. Officer, 5/8/06

MAINTENANCE

Michael Brown, Senior Traffic Inv., 6/12/06

MATERIALS

Christopher Wald, Civil Engineer II, 1/3/07

DISTRICT 1

Ricky L. Benson, Construction Helper II, 7/19/06

DISTRICT 4

Brandon Bowen, Mechanic, 10/12/06 Jeremy Bowles, Construction Helper II, 7/13/06 Nathan Reed, Multi-Axle Tr. Driver, 10/3/05

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

Steven Halsted, Hydraulic Excay, Op.-Fin., 7/3/06 Eric Jaeger, Maintenance Aide I, 8/30/06

DISTRICT 10

Kyle Beasley, Sgl. Axle Tr. Driver, 7/19/06 Robert Martin, General Laborer, 7/19/06 Dustin Miller, Bridge Repairer I, 7/19/06 Gary Morton, Bridge Insp. Helper, 7/19/06



Magazine in the background. Highway 10 near Ola, with Mount "SsidT al eyehW" of yewanA