

Catastrophic Leave Helps Employees in Need

Situations occasionally arise when an employee is faced with a catastrophic illness, injury or event that requires the utilization of all accrued annual leave and sick leave. This can result in an employee being placed in a “leave without pay” situation.

In an effort to assist with such a situation, the Department has a policy that allows employees to donate a portion of their accrued annual and sick leave to a Catastrophic Leave Bank for use by employees in need.

This month and next month we will visit with employees who have had an occasion to use the Leave Bank, including Sharon Faust with the Arkansas Highway Police.



Sharon Faust, Office Administrative Assistant II,
of the Highway Police Division.

“Thank you for the opportunity to express my appreciation for my experience. First, I thank God for the strength to carry on during such a tragic time in my life. I would also take this time to express my gratitude to all involved granting this use of the Leave Program during an employee’s crucial time of need.

I used the Catastrophic Leave Bank from August of 2006 to April of 2007 when my husband was terminally ill with cancer. Without it, I probably would not have a job today. The Catastrophic Leave Bank is by far the best benefit ever created for employees. It gave me peace of mind that while I was on leave, whatever the outcome, I would be able to maintain my insurance benefits, the security of my job, etc., during his care.

I strongly encourage everyone to donate to it, for we never know what the future holds. Anyone who thinks ‘it won’t happen to me’ might at any point need it.”

All AHTD employees are reminded to check their vacation leave balances and consider giving. Balances which exceed the maximum carry-over may be donated to the Catastrophic Leave Bank. Sick leave also may be donated to the bank.

The deadline for donating is March 31st. Why lose the hours when others can use them in a time of need?

For further information, contact the Human Resources Office at 501-569-2451.

Sign Up for the AHP Bass Classic

The 14th Annual Arkansas Highway Police Bass Classic will be held April 12-13 on DeGray Lake in Arkadelphia. All AHTD employees and their immediate families are invited to participate.

Participants and their families are also encouraged to attend the Saturday afternoon festivities. There will be a meal provided and some great door prizes. As in the past, each contestant is asked to bring a door prize to be given away Saturday afternoon.

There are numerous hotels in Caddo Valley or you can make reservations at DeGray Lake State Park and Lodge. There are campsites located in the area of the tournament for tents and travel trailers with electricity and showers available.

Entry fee is \$100 per team until April 1st. The fee after April 1st is \$110. Make checks payable to "Arkansas Highway Police Bass Classic." Send entries to the following addresses or phone for information.

Benton Fincher
Attn: Bass Classic
3017 Highway 278 East
Hope, AR 71801
870-777-5311

Ned Ward
Attn: Bass Classic
7205 Hwy 371
Prescott, AR 71857
870-703-6328



2007 Competition Results: (l.to r.) Sergeant Benton Fincher, Justin Tanner, Justin Brackett (husband to District 8 employee Sara) and PFC Ned Ward. Tanner and Brackett won the 2007 tournament with a weight of 20.68 lbs. and also won Big Bass with a weight of 4.6 lbs.

Daylight Saving Time

For 2008, Daylight Saving Time will begin (spring forward) at 2:00 a.m. on Sunday, March 9th. Clocks should be turned forward one hour Saturday evening.



Employee: Billy Joe Roberts, Storeroom Supervisor for District 9

Length of Service: 20 years

Job Duties: I direct the daily activities of the District Storeroom. I oversee all purchasing for the District, ensure proper preparations for payments to vendors, conduct inventories and reconcile inventory records. There are always numerous things going on within the storeroom at one time; such as talking with vendors, helping shop and maintenance crews with parts, keypunching and working on the back lot. I take care of the 18-month non-active report and have recently started working with the purchasing card.

Favorite part of the job: Working with all of my co-workers at District 9. I consider them all my good friends. I also like the challenges of all the different things the storeroom is involved in for the daily operations of the District.

Background: I graduated from Western Grove High School in 1982. I worked in construction for my father for five years before I went to work for the Department in 1987. I began my career in Jasper as a General Laborer and transferred to the District Headquarters, in 1988, as Parts Runner. I have also held the positions of Storeroom Assistant I and II. I was promoted to Storeroom Supervisor in April 2007.



Graduation Photos

2008

Please submit your graduation photos to the Public Affairs Office **BY 5 P.M. TUESDAY, APRIL 1ST** to be included in the 2008 Graduates issue of the May CenterLine.

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:

► In person, ► By mail, or ► By email.
See contact information below.

Photo Format:

Emailed photos should be scanned at 300 dpi.
Paper photos should be at least wallet size.
To ensure quality, do not send a printout of a picture.
CDs and floppy disks will be accepted as well.

Other Information:

Photos will be returned after the May issue is printed.

Please call or email with any questions.

Shelli Russell
Public Affairs Office, Room 1002
501-569-2573
shelli.russell@arkansashighways.com

2008 Rodeo Schedule



With spring right around the corner, this year's Rodeo plans have been set. Dates for the semi-final competitions for the Districts and Central Office are as follows. Good luck to everyone!

- District 1 – April 3
- District 2 – March 12
- District 3 – March 20
- District 4 – April 24
- District 5 – May 1
- District 6 – April 10
- District 7 – March 27
- District 8 – April 17
- District 9 – May 8
- District 10 – May 15

The 2008 AHTD Equipment Operators Rodeo Finals will be held at the Central Shops in Little Rock on June 10, 2008. The Southern Regional Rodeo will be held in Pigeon Forge, Tennessee, in October.

Four-Day Work Week

From 8 hours 5 days to 10 hours 4 days

Effective March 13 through November 5, 2008, the following personnel will work a four-day, ten-hour schedule Monday through Thursday from 7:00 a.m. to 5:30 p.m. with a half hour lunch.

Field Maintenance Personnel; District Shop Crews; Storeroom Personnel; Area Maintenance Supervisors; Job Superintendents; Shop Supervisors; Equipment Maintenance Supervisors; Signing, Striping and Profiling Crews; Traffic Engineering Personnel; Sign Shop Personnel; Surveys Division Survey Parties; Heavy Bridge Maintenance Crews; Facilities Management Personnel; Radio Maintenance Specialists; Safety Inspection Officers; Equipment and Procurement Shop Personnel; and Technical Services Section Field Personnel.

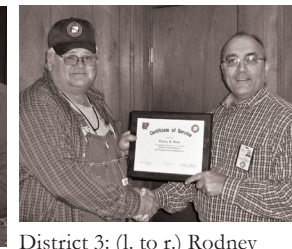
On those weeks containing a holiday, the work schedule will revert to a five-day, eight-hour work week. Vacation or sick leave for a ten-hour day will be charged as ten hours. Half days will be charged as five hours.

The Districts will rotate the service station personnel so that one person will be on a five-day, eight-hour work week in order to keep the station open from 7:00 a.m. to 5:30 p.m. Monday through Thursday and 8:00 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. on Friday.

The Equipment Preventive Maintenance Program is to be carried out fully during the four-day work week period.



District 6: (l. to r.) Shirley Hammett, Area Headquarters Attendant, receives her 15-year service award from Curtis Aud, Area Maintenance Supervisor.



District 3: (l. to r.) Rodney Stone, Backhoe/Front End Loader Operator, receives his 5-year service award from District Maintenance Engineer, Kenny Bennett.



District 3: James Thompson, Crew Leader, received his 20-year service award.



District 3: Eddie Nailon, Maintenance Aide I, received his 5-year service award.



District 2: (l. to r.) Kristie Fowler, Fuel Clerk, receives her 5-year service award from Hellen Kennedy, Office Manager.



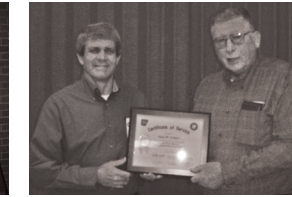
District 9: (l. to r.) Phyllis Leonard, Resident Office Technician, receives her 25-year service award from Jeff Wheeler, District Construction Engineer.



District 7: Carl Bachelor, District Engineer (l), and Gary Grimes, District Maintenance Engineer (r), present Randy Stinnett, Sealing Job Supt., with his 20-year service award.



District 7: (l. to r.) Dannie Launius, District Office Manager, presents Ann Bryant, Storeroom Assistant II, with her 20-year service award.



District 7: (l. to r.) Carl Bachelor, District Engineer, presents Gary Grimes, District Maintenance Engineer, with his 20-year service award.



Planning & Research: (l. to r.) Ted English, Administrative Officer II, receives his 15-year service award from Mike Selig, Assistant Division Head.



Planning & Research Elizabeth Mayfield-Hart, Staff Planning Engineer, receives her 15-year service award from Alan Meadors, Planning and Research Engineer.



District 9: (l. to r.) Karla Thompson, Office Administrative Assistant V, receives her 5-year service award from Ralph Fulton, District Engineer.



District 6: (l. to r.) Doug Hicks, Equipment Maintenance Supervisor, presents David Wilson, Parts Runner, with his 20-year service award.



District 6: (l. to r.) Janet Bogle, Area Maintenance Supervisor, presents Rose Mary Hearon, Area Headquarters Attendant, with her 5-year service award.



District 6: (l. to r.) Theresse Yarnold, Storeroom Supervisor, receives her 10-year service award from Angela Reddoch, Office Manager.



Planning & Research: (l. to r.) Elizabeth Mayfield-Hart, Staff Planning Engineer, presents Greg Nation, Highway Performance and Needs Analyst II, with his 15-year service award.



District 9: (l. to r.) Billy Joe Roberts, Storeroom Supervisor, receives his 20-year service award from Tammy Phillips, District Office Manager.



Planning & Research: Receiving service awards were (l. to r.) Robert Williams, Cartographer III, 35-years; Lydell Harris, Cartographer III, 20-years; and Terry Vittitow, Cartographer II, 15-years.



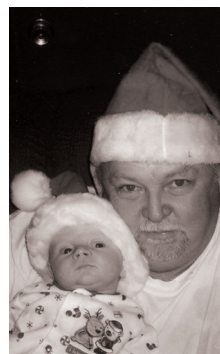
Planning & Research: (l. to r.) Mike Selig, Assistant Division Head, presents Mark Greenwood, Engineering Research Technician II, with his 20-year service award.



Planning & Research: (l. to r.) Mike Selig, Assistant Division Head, presents Steve Weston, Transportation Study Coordinator, with his 15-year service award.



Dignitaries and Branton family members gathered for the naming of Interstate 530 in Pine Bluff as the Wiley A. Branton, Sr. Highway in 2003.



District 1: Rickey Simpson, Area Headquarters Attendant, and his first grandson, Ethan Cole Brock, born November 16th.



Surveys: Terra Christie won "Little Miss Tiny Tot" at the Perry County Fair. She is the daughter of Lynn Christie, Surveys Office Technician.



District 2: Dakota Anthony Frazier, grandson of Wallace Anthony Simmons, Motor Patrol Operator, was born December 16th.



District 2: Waylon Power, son of Jeff Power, Motor Patrol Operator - Finish, killed this wild hog in December in Nevada County.



District 2: Jeff Power, Motor Patrol Operator - Finish, killed this 10-point buck in December.



District 2: Tom Simpson, District Permit Officer, killed this deer in December in Desha County.



NEW EMPLOYEES

ARKANSAS HIGHWAY POLICE

- Charles Dabbs, III, Patrol Officer • Franklin Edwards, Patrol Officer • Edwin Johnson, Patrol Officer • Charles Keck, Permit Technician • John Lamb, Patrol Officer • James Latham, Patrol Officer • Eric Morris, Patrol Officer • William Smith, Patrol Officer

BRIDGE - Joseph Parker, Civil Engineer

CONSTRUCTION - Matthew Emberton, Civil Eng, RE 32

HEAVY BRIDGE - Samuel Barnwell, Bridge Rep. I

MAINTENANCE - Joe Johnson, Telecomm. Op.

PLANNING & RESEARCH - David Laumer, Administrative Aide V

DISTRICT 1 - Lisa Dehmer-Griffin, Single Axle Truck Driver • Benny Melton, Single Axle Truck Driver • Waymon Weeams, Sr., Single Axle Truck Driver

DISTRICT 2 - Stephen Green, Gen. Laborer • Dexter Houston, Gen. Laborer • Donell Massey, General Laborer • Tangela Washington, Single Axle Truck Driver

DISTRICT 3 - Meliza Johnson, District Receptionist

DISTRICT 5 - Billy Calkin, Single Axle Truck Driver • Kenneth Shoemaker, Single Axle Truck Driver

DISTRICT 6 - Robert Irby, Single Axle Truck Driver • Joseph Jones, Single Axle Truck Driver • Ronnie Robbins, Single Axle Truck Driver • Damien Whitehead, General Laborer • Charles Wilson, Single Axle Truck Driver

DISTRICT 8 - Timothy Marshall, Single Axle Truck Driver • Cornell Newsome, Single Axle Truck Driver • Tony Proctor, Single Axle Truck Driver • Donald Ullrich, Single Axle Truck Driver

DISTRICT 9 - Elmer Clark, Single Axle Truck Driver • Zach Ogburn, Single Axle Truck Driver

PROMOTIONS

COMPUTER SERVICES - Joe Pyle, Programmer III

FISCAL SERVICES - Ronda Walthall, Insurance Adm.

HEAVY BRIDGE - T.J. Brown, Bridge Repairer I

MATERIALS - Chris Wald, Civil Engineer III

SURVEYS - Cathy Atchley, Surveys Aide III • Brian Bass, Surveys Technician II • Gregory Gardner, Surveys Aide I • Steven Jones, Surveys Aide III • Kevin Meyer, Surveys Aide I • Ilie Stefan, Surveys Aide III

DISTRICT 1 - Laurie Brewer, Single Axle Truck Driver, Monroe • Chris Crite, Maint. Aide I, Crittenden • Tracy Eason, Multi-Axle Truck Driver, Crittenden • Michael Howard, Hydraulic Excavator Op.-Fin. • Patricia Livingston, Distributor/Roller Op., Crittenden • Mose Metcalf, III, Backhoe/Front End Loader Op., St. Francis • Tonya Sandage, Single Axle Truck Driver, Woodruff • Shannon Smiley, Maint. Aide II, Cross

DISTRICT 2 - David Gorman, Senior Insp., RE 21

DISTRICT 3 - Corey Chandler, Const. Aide II, RE 34

DISTRICT 4 - Meredith Eckle, Single Axle Truck Driver, Crawford • Jessica Jackson, Const. Field Engr. I, RE 43

DISTRICT 5 - Jason Overturf, Construction Field Engr. I, RE 53 • Denny Stout, Street Sweeper Operator

DISTRICT 6 - Alfred Barnes, Roller Op. • Michael Bvrd, Asst.

Dist. Bridge Insp. • Michael Lee, Sgl. Axle Truck Driver, Pulaski • John McDorman, Asst. Dist. Bridge Insp. • Sarah Mullins, Sign Erector • Anthony Nix, Asst. Dist. Bridge Insp.
DISTRICT 7 - Andrew Hoggard, Civil Engr. I, RE 76

DISTRICT 8 - Billy Biggs, Distributor/Roller Operator, Van Buren • Phillip Floyd, Single Axle Truck Driver, Pope • Joseph Shamsie, Single Axle Truck Driver, Pope • Jayson Thompson, Single Axle Truck Driver, Faulkner • James Wells, Single Axle Truck Driver, Pope • Don Williams, Shop Supervisor

DISTRICT 9 - Sandra Bailey, Distributor/Roller Operator, Boone • Donnie Billups, Distributor/Roller Operator, Boone • Cody Hudson, Construction Field Engr. I, RE 94 • Daniel Huett, Const. Field Engr. I, RE 94 • Amber McCutcheon, Single Axle Truck Driver

DISTRICT 10 - James Adams, Asst. Dist. Bridge Insp. • Joy Brown, Const. Aide II, RE 04 • T. Ellis, Construction Aide II, RE 04 • Timmy Myrick, Asst. Dist. Bridge Insp.

SERVICE AWARDS

ARKANSAS HIGHWAY POLICE - Joe Driver, Sergeant, 20 yrs.

CONSTRUCTION - John Sharum, Resident Engineer, RE 42, 30 yrs. • Roger Spence, Jr., Const. Mat. Inspector, RE 14, 5 yrs. • George Wilson, Asst. Resident Engineer, RE 42, 15 yrs. • Donald Wray, Jr., Sr. Insp., RE 65, 30 yrs.

EQUIPMENT & PROCUREMENT - Shelly Morrow, Office Adm. Asst I, 5 yrs.

MAINTENANCE - Della Baker, Telecomm. Op., 5 yrs. • Ronnie Johnson, Sign Layout Supervisor, 30 yrs. • Pat Sullivan, Staff Maintenance Engineer, 35 yrs.

PLANNING & RESEARCH - Kathy Gunderman, Cartographer II, 15 yrs. • Donnie McMillen, FTA Grants Officer, 20 yrs.

PUBLIC AFFAIRS - Randy Ort, Pub. Info. Coord., 20 yrs.

RIGHT OF WAY - Danny Arendt, Section Head – Relocation, 35 yrs.

ROADWAY DESIGN - Paulette Hutchings, Office Administrative. Asst. III, 20 yrs.

SURVEYS - Terry Gaither, Photogr. Lab Supv., 25 yrs. • Jeff Lenard, Senior Surveys Ofc. Tech., 15 yrs.

DISTRICT 1 - Elmer Calahan, Maint. Aide II, 20 yrs. • Judy Freeman, Single Axle Truck Driver, 5 yrs. • Michael Howard, Maintenance Aide II, 10 yrs. • Steve Pierce, Bridge Rep. I, 5 yrs. • Edward Smith, Multi-Axle Truck Driver, 15 yrs. • Danny Thomas, Rest Area Att., 30 yrs.

DISTRICT 2 - Kristie Fowler, Fuel Clerk, 5 yrs. • Donald Green, Single Axle Truck Driver, 5 yrs.

DISTRICT 3 - William Mays, Area Hq. Att., 5 yrs. • Glen Semmler, Multi-Axle Truck Driver, 5 yrs. • Anthony Teague, Motor Patrol Operator, 5 yrs.

DISTRICT 4 - Angela Garner, Rest Area Att., 10 yrs. • Eddie Sampley, Maintenance Aide II, 20 yrs.

DISTRICT 5 - Brian Stone, Maint. Aide II, 10 yrs.

DISTRICT 6 - Thomas Minnie, Maint. Aide I, 5 yrs.

DISTRICT 7 - Johnny O'Neal, Crane Operator – Finish, 15 yrs. • Jimmy Ryan, Guard, 10 yrs.

DISTRICT 8 - Jimmy Black, Single Axle Truck Driver, 25 yrs. • Nancy Keeling, Office Adm. Asst. V, 20 yrs. • Lloyd Sheets, Storeroom Supervisor, 25 yrs.

DISTRICT 10 - Donnie McKinney, Multi-Axle Truck Driver, 25 yrs. • Ronald Stewart, Rest Area Att., 5 yrs.

RETIREES

ARKANSAS HIGHWAY POLICE - Joe Black, Jr., Captain, 35+ yrs. • Judi Hathcock, Div. Ofc. Mgr., 24+ yrs.

CONSTRUCTION - Larry Payne, Estimates Supv., 26+ yrs.

EQUIPMENT & PROCUREMENT - Charles Perdue, Storeroom Assistant I, 13+ yrs.

DISTRICT 1 - Charles Duff, Sealing Job Supt., 32+ yrs.

DISTRICT 3 - James Carter, Maint. Aide I, 28+ yrs. • Karen Clayton, Res. Ofc. Tech., 28+ yrs. • Larry Johnson, Bridge Job Supt. 35+ yrs.

DISTRICT 4 - Danny Morran, Crew Leader, 28+ yrs.

DISTRICT 5 - Brenda Taylor, Ofc. Adm. Asst. V, 30+ yrs.

DISTRICT 7 - Henrietta McMahan, Storerm. Supv., 26+ yrs.

DISTRICT 8 - James Chronister, Jr., Motor Pat. Op.-Fin., 28+ yrs. • Carrol Van Dalsen, Insp., 37+ yrs.

DISTRICT 9 - Billy Rea, Guard, 33+ yrs.

MEMORIALS

LEGAL - Virginia Tackett, 01/14/08, Retired

RIGHT OF WAY - Max McHaney, 02/03/08, Retired

DISTRICT 2 - Bill Herrington, 02/05/08, Retired • Walter L. Jones, 01/28/08, Retired

DISTRICT 3 - Dale W. Anderson, 02/03/08, Retired • Glen M. Hignight, 02/09/08, Retired

DISTRICT 4 - Rainey W. Ridenhour, 01/10/08, Retired

DISTRICT 6 - Troy H. Henderson, 01/30/08, Retired

DISTRICT 7 - Walter Lloyd, 01/19/08, Retired

DISTRICT 8 - Clarence F. Bauman, 01/16/08, Retired

MILITARY DUTY

As of 02/20/08, the AHTD had 19 employees serving active duty in the United States military. Dates denote deployment .

ARKANSAS HIGHWAY POLICE - Shawn Foust, Sergeant, 8/04/07

PLANNING & RESEARCH - Kimberly Sanders, Transportation Planner, 11/29/06

DISTRICT 4 - Brandon Bowen, Sr. Mech., 10/12/06 • Nathan Reed, Multi-Ax. Tr. Dr., 10/3/05 • Kevin Tucker, Br. Rep. I, 10/1/07

DISTRICT 5 - Greg Hellmann, Insp., 10/1/07 • David B. Smith, Insp., 10/1/07

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

DISTRICT 8 - Michael H. Bunton, Asph. Tank Tr. Dr., 10/1/07 • James R. Harris, Motor Patrol Op., 10/1/07

DISTRICT 9 - Douglas Henry, Sgl. Ax. Tr. Dr., 10/1/07 • Joseph Ragland, Maint. Aide I, 10/1/07 • Ashley Hale, Ferry Boat Pilot, 9/5/07 • Randall Williams, Ferry Boat Pilot, 09/10/07 • Eric Jaeger, Maint. Aide I, 8/30/06 • Cameron Whitney, Sign Erector, 10/9/07

DISTRICT 10 - Rufus Mitchell, Rest Area Att., 10/1/07 • Donald Evance, Cons. Aide I, 10/1/07 • Elvis Richmond, Sr. Cons. Mat. Insp., 10/1/07

Where Is This? Part of Highway 23, in Franklin County, is also known as The Pig Trail Scenic Byway.