

# CenterLine



## Flooded Highways

The heavy rainstorms that have been hitting our state over the past several months have taken their toll on Arkansas' highway system. The higher than normal rain amounts began in March and not only left high water standing on the roadways, but caused damage to many as well.

Over the past two months, sections of approximately 100 highways have been closed at some point in time due to standing water on the roadways. Even as late as May 1st, five highways were still closed due to high water.

*(continued on page 3)*



May 2008 • Arkansas State Highway and Transportation Department

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## Cast Your Vote!

Nominations have been turned in and it will soon be time to cast your vote for a position on the Retirement System Board of Trustees.

The position is for a two-year term beginning July 1, 2008, and ending June 30, 2010. All active members of the retirement system were eligible for nomination and election.

AHTD employees received a nominating ballot earlier this month. Those ballots are now being tabulated by the panel of judges and an Election Ballot with the names of the two members receiving the largest number of nominating votes will be sent to you for election very soon.

Current members of the Board of Trustees are Scott Bennett, Frank Vozel, Teddy Widener and Larry Dickerson and William Tyler (retired).

## Now on the Intranet...

The twelfth edition of The Arkansas State Highway Employees Retirement System Booklet is now available on the Intranet at <http://ahtdnet>. It can be viewed by clicking on "Fiscal Services," then "Retirement."

# RE TIRE MENT

### The Staff Minute



**Employee:** Reggie Trusty,  
Sealing Crew Leader, District 4

**Length of Service:** I have been with the Department for 18 years.

**Job Duties:** I assist my supervisor in job assignments, crew needs and filling in when there is an absence.

**Favorite Part of the Job:** My position on a District-wide crew allows me to see different parts of the District and gives me the opportunity to work with different crews in the District 4 area.

**Background:** I started my career as a seasonal employee on the sealing crew in 1987. I became a full time employee in 1990 as a general laborer. Since that time, I have made my way through the Department to my current position.

**Family:** My wife, Karen, and I have been married for 18 years. We have two children, Raegan, 14, and Raece, 9.

**Hobbies/Interests:** In my spare time, I like to hunt and fish. I'm also a high school basketball official, and, I umpire softball. I enjoy watching the Razorback football team too.

## Flooded Highways (cont.)

In its aftermath, the flooding has left damaged highways in 32 counties. Damage estimates are approaching the ten million dollar mark. There is damage to road surfaces and bridges and also areas where slope failures will have to be repaired.

The Department's first priority after the flooding was to make emergency repairs in order to make the roadways safe again and to reopen them to traffic. Even as those are being completed, permanent repairs are being planned.

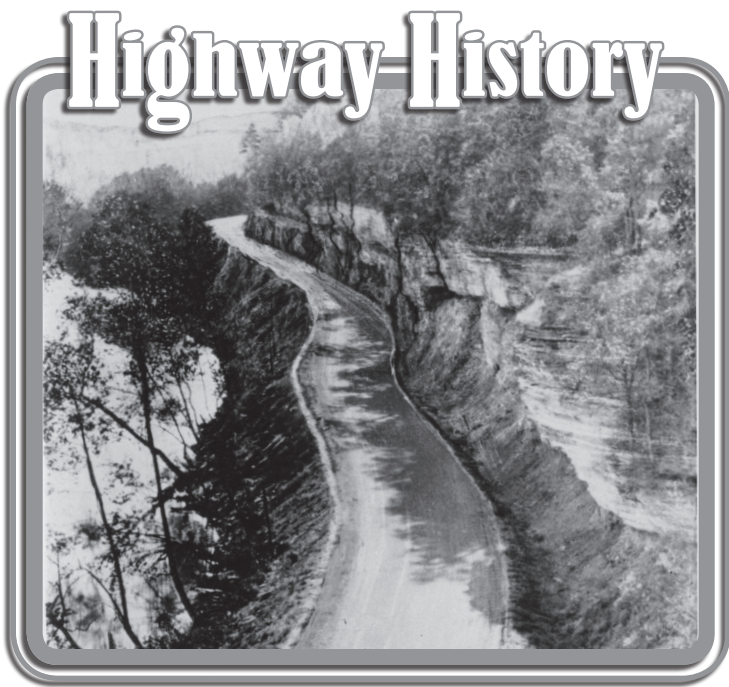


**Above:**  
Highway 36 at  
Georgetown is  
barricaded due to  
floodwaters.

**Left:**  
The heavy rains  
caused this slope  
failure on Highway  
65 at Marshall

**Front Page:**  
Highway 338/  
Baseline Road in  
Little Rock.

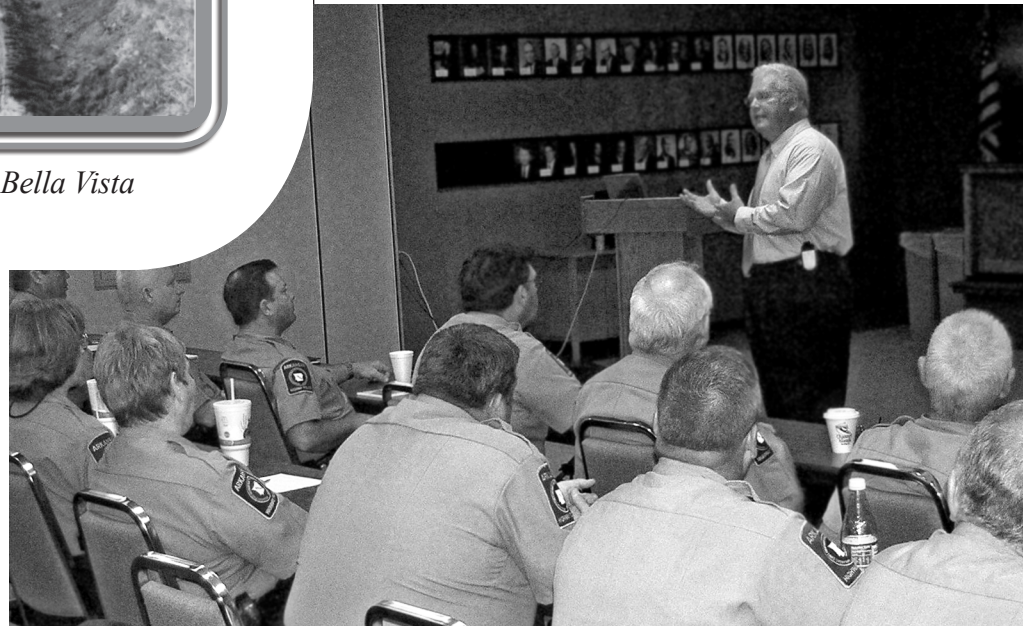




Highway 71 in the Bentonville - Bella Vista area around 1900.

## AHP Ethics Class

Over 70 members of the Arkansas Highway Police attended an “Ethics and Integrity” class on April 18th at the Central Office. The class was taught by Chief Jackie Swindler from Newberry, South Carolina, and dealt with making ethical decisions in the line of duty.



## United Way Recognizes Dept.

Congratulations and thank you to all employees who donated to the United Way campaign this year. Your support of the agency touches the lives of many people.

The Arkansas State Highway and Transportation Department was recognized by United Way at its Heart of Arkansas campaign celebration in April. The Department was the recipient of the United Way’s Pinnacle Award. The award is given to those organizations who reach 100 percent or more of their potential.

In addition, the AHTD was included in the “Top 50 Campaigns” in Arkansas and was one of seven state agencies that were recognized for outstanding work.

Tara Robinson, Training Coordinator in the Human Resources Division, served as this year’s coordinator and received the “Outstanding United Way Coordinator” award for organizations with 750 or more employees.

Department employees raised \$30,047 for the 2007 campaign, a significant increase over the previous year.



Tara Robinson, Training Coordinator, received the “Outstanding United Way Coordinator” award for organizations with 750 or more employees.

## 2008 Equipment Operators Rodeo

### Semi-finals



**FINALS RESCHEDULED:**

The AHTD Equipment Operators Competition Finals have been rescheduled. The event will be held at the Central Office in Little Rock on June 19th.

|   |           | Tractor/Lowboy   | Tandem Axle Dump Truck | Single Axle Dump Truck | Tractor/Mower    | Backhoe           | Motor Patrol     |
|---|-----------|------------------|------------------------|------------------------|------------------|-------------------|------------------|
| <b>DISTRICT EIGHT</b><br>April 17, 2008 | 1ST PLACE | Tony Proctor     | David Pruitt           | Joe Villalobos         | Randy Tankersley | Larry Brazil      | Dennis Langston  |
|   | 2ND PLACE | Paul Burris      | Steve Pierce           | Ronnie Brooks          | John Hayes       | Kevin Jones       | Danny Duvall     |
|   | 3RD PLACE | Raymond McCoy    | D.J. Ullrich           | Dale Carlat            | David Duvall     | Paul Charton      | Kenny Howard     |
| <b>DISTRICT FOUR</b><br>April 24, 2008  | 1ST PLACE | Mark Standridge  | Wayne Adams            | Jack Stradtman         | Fred Ridenhour   | Lewis James       | Randy Pianalto   |
|   | 2ND PLACE | Terral Scroggins | Chris Ingram           | Yvonne Blair           | Jeremiah Jackson | Eric Brigance     | Roger Simpson    |
|   | 3RD PLACE | Joseph Eyerman   | Lionel Elder           | Rickey Williams        | Dan Mowrey       | Mark Nichols      | Jimmie Jeffton   |
| <b>DISTRICT FIVE</b><br>May 1, 2008     | 1ST PLACE | Rick Herring     | Brad Fulks             | James Moody            | Rodney Barnett   | Evan Higginbottom | Brad Davis       |
|   | 2ND PLACE | Shon Griffis     | Jason Candler          | Michael Foster         | Floyd Haley      | Bill Barker       | Willie McCord    |
|   | 3RD PLACE | Johnny Jason     | Keith Foushee          | Willie McCord          | Gary Grady       | Billy Clemons     | Daniel Recker    |
| <b>DISTRICT TEN</b><br>May 15, 2008     | 1ST PLACE | Trent Wood       | Tony Ruhl              | Todd Clifford          | Jason Orrick     | Rick Hale         | Gerald Ellis     |
|   | 2ND PLACE | Chad McMillon    | Jimmy Sturkey          | Larry Hicks            | David Wagster    | Heath Eubanks     | Darrell Campbell |
|   | 3RD PLACE | Jimmy Adams      | Shalane Swafford       | Bryan Arford           | Berry Lunsford   | Jeff Rawls        | James Miller     |



## AHTD Volunteers in Public Schools

The AHTD was recently nominated for an award for outstanding volunteerism in support of the Little Rock School District.

The nomination commends those employees who participate in a reading program at Chicot Elementary School. The school district and VIPS (Volunteers in Public Schools) honored award nominees at its annual volunteer recognition event held April 22nd at the Little Rock Zoo.

The employees who have volunteered their time to participate in the program are: Wanda Ashley, Joy Brooks, Patti Bryant, Jeff Covay, Melissa Doss, Pam Edwards, Vicki Haydon, Angela Jordan, Corey Key, Les McSwain, Louis Peralta, Robert Simmons, Cynthia Spencer, Freida Summerville, Philip Terry, Amanda Walker, Bill Wharton, Sarah Wilson and Terry Wright.

**Where Is This?**  
See answer at bottom of last page.







District 2: Chaselyn Cheyenne Blasengame is the granddaughter of Cathy Blasengame, Area Headquarters Attendant. She was born March 13th, and weighed 6 lbs., 6oz.



Arkansas Highway Police: Melissa Ellis, daughter of CPL Mark Willis, will graduate this spring from Arkadelphia High School.



District 2: Ra'Leigh Blasengame, 16-year-old daughter of Cathy Blasengame, Area Headquarters Attendant, and Kaleb Boyette, 18-year-old son of Sandy Pendergrass, Administrative Assistant V, attended Star City High School Senior Prom together.



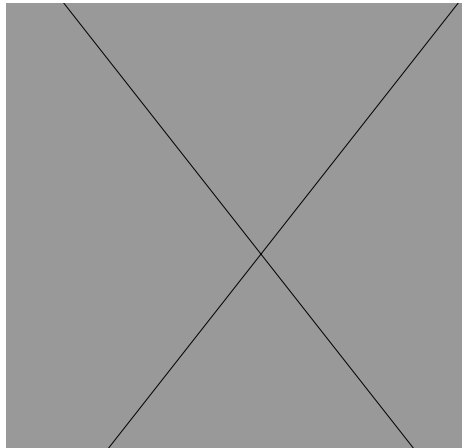
District 5: Receiving service awards were (l. to r.) Tim Smith, Backhoe/Front End Loader Operator, 5 years; Brian Stone, Maintenance Aide II, 10 years; and Rick Milligan, Motor Patrol Operator – Finish, 10 years.



District 5: Receiving 20-year service awards were (l. to r.) Dale Smith, Welder; Allen Smith, Multi-Axle Truck Driver; Russell Moore, Senior Inspector.



District 5: Receiving service awards were (l. to r.) Walt Chestnut, Senior Inspector, 25 years; Mickey Taylor, Crew Leader, 30 years; Rickie Sharp, Area Maintenance Supervisor, 30 years.



District 5: Laney Elizabeth Brooklyn Brackett celebrated her first birthday on November 27th, 2007. Laney is the daughter of Sara Brackett, Fuel Clerk.



District 3: (l. to r.) "Ronald McDonald" receives a donation of soda tabs from Reginald Easter, Lowboy/Float Truck Operator. Reginald collects tabs from cans around the District to take to the Arkansas Children's Hospital in Little Rock. This year he gave 55 gallons of tabs to the Hospital. Each gallon helps with a round of Chemotherapy for a child.



District 6 Rodeo Semi-Finals: The crew with enough collective points to earn 1st Place Team includes (l. to r.) Darrell Smith, Larry Hazeslip, Alfred Barnes, Bobby Givens and Stanley Rogers.



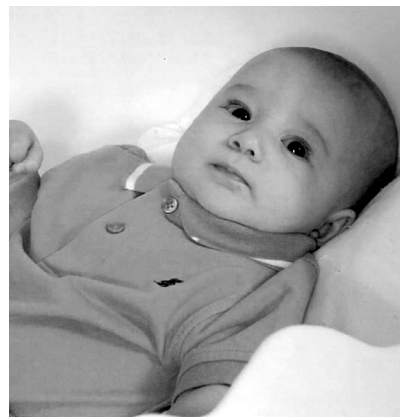
District 6 Rodeo Semi-Finals: The crew with enough collective points to earn 2nd Place Team includes (l. to r.) Rusty Bornemeir, James Bingham, Adrin Ward and, not pictured, Jerry Stovall.



District 6 Rodeo Semi-Finals: The crew with enough collective points to earn 3rd Place Team includes (l. to r.) Mike McLernon, Cleo Penn, Cliff Roland, Sarah Powell, Terry Trotter and, not pictured, Tony Skarda.



District 5: Kaylee Marie Adams, born February 7th, is the granddaughter of Debbie Qualls, Bookkeeper.



District 5: Augustus "Gus" Keith Brackett, born December 19th, is the son of Sara Brackett, Fuel Clerk.



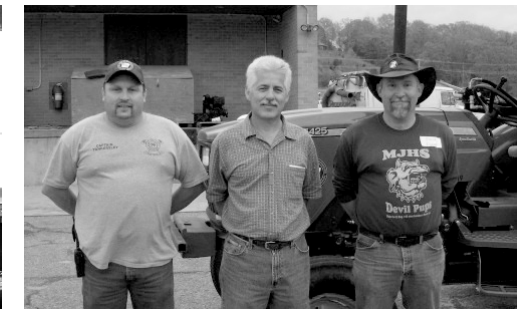
District 5: Charlie Evan Stegall, born April 7th weighing 8 lbs., 8 oz., is the grandson of Perry Stegall Area Maintenance Supervisor.



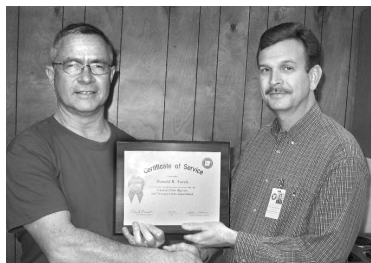
District 8: Rodeo Semi-Finals, Tandem Axle Dump Truck winners were (l. to r.) 1st place - David Pruitt, 2nd place - Steve Pierce and 3rd place - DJ Ullrich.



District 8: Rodeo Semi-Finals, Single Axle Dump Truck winners were (l. to r.) 1st place - Joe Villalobos, 2nd place - Ronnie Brooks and 3rd place - Dale Carlat.



District 8: Rodeo Semi-Finals, Tractor/Mower winners were (l. to r.) 1st place - Randy Tankersley, 2nd place - John Hayes and 3rd place - David Duvall.



Maintenance: (l. to r.) Don Norris, Striping Crew Supervisor, receives his 15-year service award from Tony Evans, Staff Maintenance Engineer.



District 2: (l. to r.) Charlie Morrison, Bridge Repairer II, receives his 10-year service award from David Hutchins, Bridge Job Superintendent.



District 3: (l. to r.) Rick Lowe, Rest Area Attendant, receives his 20-year service award from Kenny Bennett, District Maintenance Engineer.



District 7: (l. to r.) Larry Bloomfield, Area Maintenance Supervisor, presents Bobby Helms, Roller/Distributor Operator, with his 20-year service award.



District 8: Rodeo Semi-Finals, Tractor/Lowboy winners were (l. to r.) 1st place - Tony Proctor, 2nd place - Paul Burris and 3rd place - Raymond McCoy.



District 8: Rodeo Semi-Finals, Motor Patrol winners were (l. to r.) 1st place - Dennis Langston, 2nd place - Danny Duvall, 3rd place - Kenny Howard.



District 8: Rodeo Semi-Finals, Backhoe winners were (l. to r.) 1st place - Larry Brazil, 2nd place - Kevin Jones and 3rd place - Paul Charton.



## new employees



**CONSTRUCTION** - Tad Cree, Construction Helper I, RE 34

**HIGHWAY POLICE** - Jerri Royal, Adm. Aide I

**HUMAN RESOURCES** - Will Appleberry, General Laborer - Tanya Cole, Office Adm. Asst. I - Doris Harrison, Office Administrative Assistant I

**INTERNAL AUDIT** - Steven Taylor, Adm. Asst. I

**PUBLIC AFFAIRS** - Daniel Eutsler, Adm. Asst. I

**DISTRICT 1** - Timothy Grady, Sg. Axle Tr. Dr.

**DISTRICT 2** - Sharetha Buckner, Gen. Laborer - Frank Burkley, Jr., Gen. Laborer - Willie Manning, Dist. Caretaker - Jerry Thompson, Gen. Laborer

**DISTRICT 3** - James Faulkner, General Laborer

**DISTRICT 4** - Jerry Keen, Sg. Axle Tr. Dr. - Carmalita Shields, Dist. Caretaker - Jason Stephens, Gen. Laborer - Meagen Taylor, Gen. Laborer

**DISTRICT 6** - Larry Adams, Sg. Axle Tr. Dr. - Brandon Caudell, Gen. Laborer - Robert Dewberry, Backh./FEL Op. - Justin Durham, Gen. Laborer - Harvey Hall, Sg. Axle Tr. Dr. - Eric Ivy, Sg. Axle Tr. Dr. - Dustin Norwood, Sg. Axle Tr. Dr. - Jimmy Porter, Sg. Axle Tr. Dr. - Billy Richey, Sg. Axle Tr. Dr. - Randy Wallace, Sg. Axle Tr. Dr.

**DISTRICT 8** - Kari Bradford, Sg. Axle Tr. Dr. - Danny Story, Multi-Axle Tr. Dr. - Julie Vines, Sg. Axle Tr. Dr.

**DISTRICT 10** - Emily Coleman, Sg. Axle Tr. Dr. - Sylvia Stormes, Gen. Laborer

## promotions

**MAINTENANCE** - Loyd Haas, Maint. Aide II - Michael Himstedt, Backh./FEL Op. - George Lee, Sign Erector

**PLANNING & RESEARCH** - Leslie Goshien, Ofc. Adm. Asst. III

**RIGHT OF WAY** - James Braden, Sect. Head - Reloc.

**DISTRICT 1** - Anthony Burnett, Maint. Aide II - Jeff Kaiser, Sr. Insp., RE 14

**DISTRICT 2** - Kenneth Bea, Backh./FEL Op., Desha - Chance Byerly, Const. Aide III, RE 23 - Herbert Carpenter, Backh./FEL Op., Ashley - David Waters, Sealing Job Supt.

**DISTRICT 3** - Michael Calhoon, Const. Aide I, RE 32

**DISTRICT 4** - Jeremy Bowles, Bridge Rep. I - Ken Gunter, Bridge Rep. I - Kerwin Taylor, Sg. Axle Tr. Dr., Washington

**DISTRICT 5** - Terence Carter, Bridge Rep. I - Rickey Simpson, Crew Leader, Jackson

**DISTRICT 6** - Kenneth Barbian, Bridge Rep. II - Calvin Jones, Sg. Axle Tr. Dr., Prairie - Jeffery Moore, Backh./FEL Op., Pulaski - Dickey Youngblood, Multi-Axle Tr. Dr., Prairie

**DISTRICT 7** - Mickey Davis, Backh./FEL Op., Cleveland - Patty Grice, Area Hq. Att., Bradley - Carlos Hickman, Sg. Axle Tr. Dr., Clark - Jesse Martin, Jr., Sg. Axle Tr. Dr., Columbia

**DISTRICT 8** - Tina Maynard, Area Hq. Att., Van Buren

**DISTRICT 10** - Larry Harris, Maint. Aide II, Mississippi - Shirley Littleton, Area Maint. Supv., Mississippi - Robert Nelson, Sg. Axle Tr. Dr., Mississippi - Deric Wyatt, Advanced Const. Field Eng., RE 05

## service

**COMPUTER SERVICES** - Charles Ashmore, Jr., System Support Tech. I, 10 yrs. - Charlie Frame, System Support Tech. III, 5 yrs.

**CONSTRUCTION** - C. Brasher, Const. Field Eng. II, 5 yrs., RE 05 - Sandra Chapman, Insp., 15 yrs., RE 65 - T. Ellis, Const. Aide II, 5 yrs., RE 04 - John McMickle, Resident Eng., 20 yrs., RE 11 - Stephen Morgan, Sr. Insp., 30 yrs., RE 64 - Brigitte Roberson, Const. Aide II, 20 yrs., RE 86

**ENVIRONMENTAL** - Brenda Guest, Beautification Coordinator II, 25 yrs.

**FISCAL SERVICES** - Emily Boggs, Administrative Aide III, 5 yrs. - Wayne Whitley, Fiscal Services Coordinator, 20 yrs.

**HIGHWAY POLICE** - Kenneth Campbell, PFC, 25 yrs.

**HUMAN RESOURCES** - Debra Sain, Records Supervisor, 35 yrs.

**MAINTENANCE** - Robert Allison, III, Comm. Maint. Spec., 5 yrs. - Donald Norris, Striping Crew Supv., 15 yrs.

**MATERIALS** - Harold Banks, Matl. Tech. IV, 30 yrs. - Michael Limbird, Staff Matl. Eng., 30 yrs.

**PLANNING & RESEARCH** - Elmarie Barnes, Transp. Mgt. An. II, 15 yrs. - Ronald Fields, Transp. Info. Analyst, 10 yrs. - Xuyang Li, Adm. Ofcr. I, 5 yrs. - Marc Maurer, Civil Eng. II, 5 yrs. - Marion Shepherd, II, Elec. Tech., 15 yrs.

**RIGHT OF WAY** - Ashley Reeder, Plans Des. I, 5 yrs.

**STATE AID** - Cindy Webb, Ofc. Adm. Asst. V, 30 yrs.

**SURVEYS** - Charles Greenway, Surveys Tech. II, 10 yrs. - Nghia Le, Surveys Aide II, 5 yrs.

**DISTRICT 1** - Dorothy Childs, Area Hq. Att., 10 yrs. - Shannon Smiley, Maint. Aide II, 5 yrs. - John Turner, Maint. Aide II, 35 yrs. - Charles White, Crew Leader, 15 yrs.

**DISTRICT 2** - Charlie Morrison, Bridge Rep. II, 10 yrs. - Clarence Polk, Backh./FEL Op., 30 yrs. - Roy Porter, Maint. Aide II, 25 yrs.

**DISTRICT 3** - Richard Bailey, Area Maint. Supv., 20 yrs. - Richard Lowe, Rest Area Att., 20 yrs.

**DISTRICT 4** - Larry Neff, Crew Leader, 35 yrs.

**DISTRICT 5** - Thomas Inman, Crew Leader, 35 yrs.

**DISTRICT 7** - Jeffrey Burnett, Rest Area Att., 5 yrs. - Lewis McAllister, Rest Area Att., 5 yrs. - Randy Wesley, Maint. Aide I, 15 yrs.

**DISTRICT 8** - Michael Bunton, Asphalt Tank Tr. Dr., 5 yrs. - James Irving, Multi-Axle Tr. Dr., 20 yrs. - Douglas Jones, Sr. Body Rep. And Painter, 20 yrs. - Michael Sherrill, Maint. Aide I, 5 yrs. - James Washington, Crew Leader, 35 yrs. - Curtiss Watkins, Roller Op., 5 yrs.

**DISTRICT 9** - Ronald Collins, Backh./FEL Op., 5 yrs. - Steven Graham, Distributor Op., 5 yrs. - Karen Leonard, Fuel Clerk, 15 yrs. - Kenny Riley, Area Maint. Supv., 20 yrs. - Kenneth Studyvin, Motor Patrol Op. - Fin., 10 yrs. - Kevin Walden, Multi-Axle Tr. Dr., 10 yrs.

**DISTRICT 10** - Darrell McDowell, Backh./FEL Op., 5 yrs. - David McPherson, Mech., 15 yrs. - Lesa Osborn, Dist. Recept., 5 yrs.

## retirement

**INTERNAL AUDIT** - Johnnie Parks, Asst. Chief Auditor, 34+ yrs.

**PLANNING & RESEARCH** - Danny Moore, Technology Transfer Program Manager, 39+ yrs.

**RIGHT OF WAY** - Danny Arendt, Sect. Head - Reloc., 25+ yrs. - Will Holt, Sect. Head - Engineering, 34+ yrs.

**DISTRICT 1** - John Turner, Maint. Aide II, 35+ yrs.

**DISTRICT 2** - Thomas Smith, Guard, 33+ yrs.

**DISTRICT 3** - Michael Givens, Sr. Const. Matl. Insp., 27+ yrs.

**DISTRICT 4** - Pamela Kerivan, Const. Matl. Insp., 12+ yrs.

**DISTRICT 5** - Steven Anselmi, Const. Proj. Coord., 38+ yrs.

**DISTRICT 8** - Kenneth Buchanan, Fuel Clerk, 33+ yrs. - Hank Duvall, Dist. Bridge Insp. Helper, 28+ yrs. - Richard Keaster, Maint. Aide II, 32+ yrs.

**DISTRICT 10** - Wayne Hay, Const. Aide III, 28+ yrs. - Brent Watkins, Resident Eng., 35+ yrs.

## active duty

As of 5/20/08, the AHTD had 18 employees serving active duty in the United States military. Dates denote the deployment date.

**ARKANSAS HIGHWAY POLICE** - Shawn Foust, AHP Sergeant, 8/4/07

**DISTRICT 1** - James Barte, Sr. Insp., 2/19/08

**DISTRICT 4** - Nathan Reed, Multi-Axle Truck Dr., 10/3/05 - Kevin Tucker, Bridge Rep. I, 10/1/07

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

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

**DISTRICT 8** - Michael Bunton, Asphalt Tank Truck Dr., 10/1/07 - James Harris, Motor Patrol Op., 10/1/07

**DISTRICT 9** - Ashley Hale, Ferry Boat Pilot, 9/5/07 - Douglas Henry, Sg. Axle Truck Dr., 10/1/07 - Eric Jaeger, Maint. Aide I, 8/30/06 - Joseph Ragland, Maint. Aide I, 10/1/07 - Cameron Whitney, Sign Erector, 10/9/07 - Randall Williams, Ferry Boat Pilot, 9/10/07

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

## memorials

(All Retired)

**DISTRICT 1** - Vernon Drennon, 05/07/08

**DISTRICT 4** - Francis A. Garrett, 04/18/08

**DISTRICT 5** - V. J. Gammill, 05/16/08

**DISTRICT 6** - Woodward Hardin, 04/13/08

**DISTRICT 7** - Ernest J. Barner, 05/03/08 - Dolwyn Elkins (Wood), 05/03/08 - Leonard Hancock, 04/28/08 - District 8 - James Chism, 04/26/08

**DISTRICT 9** - Archie Sappenfield, 04/25/08 - James Godfrey, 05/08/08 - Jay I. Sasser, 04/12/08

**DISTRICT 10** - Franklyn D. Shavalia, 04/22/08

## "Where Is This?"

*U.S. Highway 82 in El Dorado*