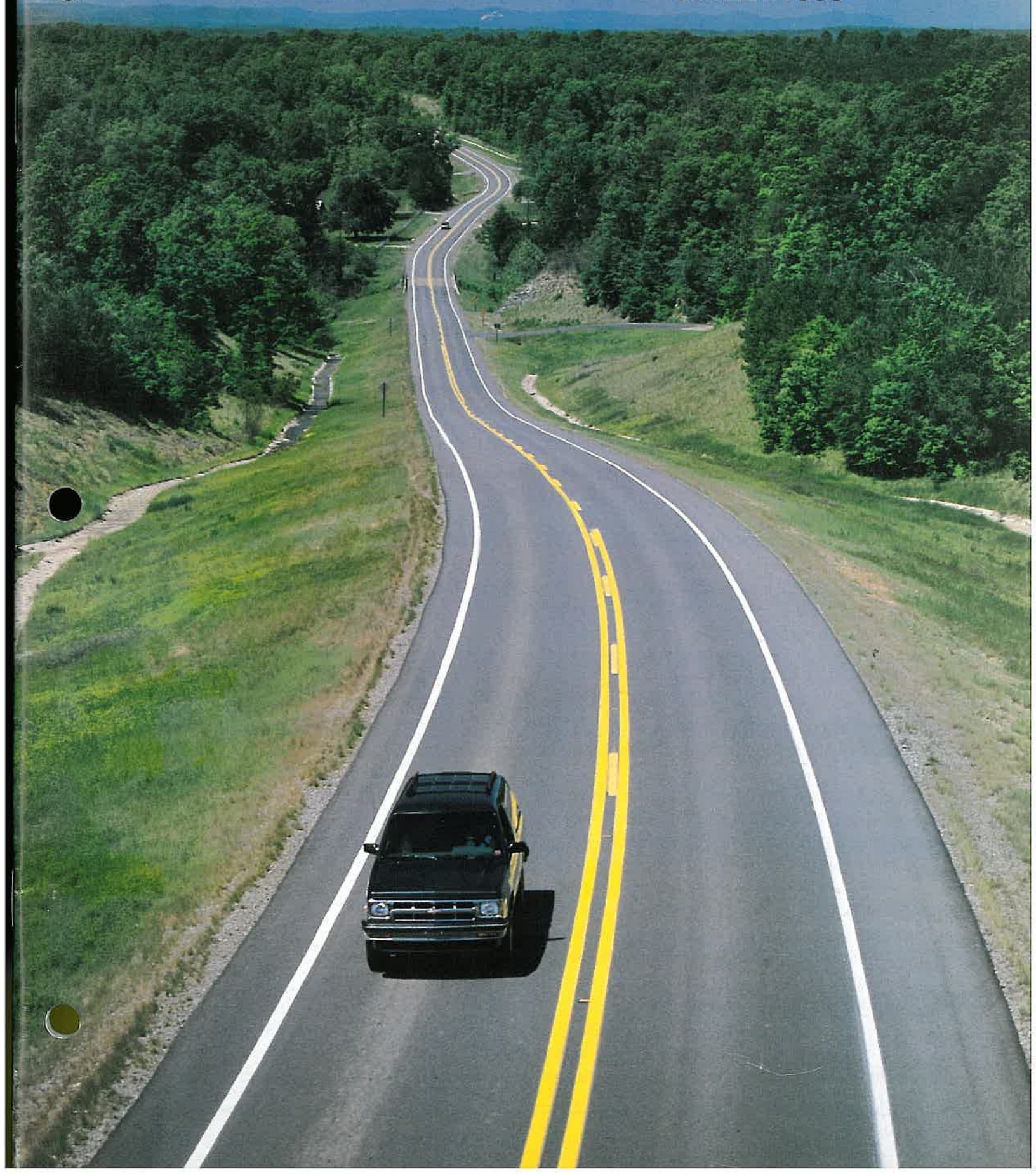


# Arkansas Highways

SUMMER 1998





# Director's Message

## Forward Steps

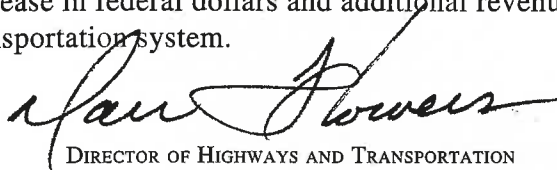
The June passage of new federal highway legislation by the U.S. Congress means the Department now has a better feel for the financial resources that may be available to address our ever-growing highway needs. The bad news is, it isn't enough to meet all the needs and it will require an increase in available state matching dollars.

When the Commission embarked on a series of 16 regional public meetings earlier this year, information was presented showing \$7.2 billion in highway needs over the next ten years. No one disputed that figure. As a matter of fact, the public presented the Commission with an additional \$7 billion in projects that they would like to see undertaken. That is a total of **\$14.2 billion** to address our identified needs and to give the public the additional projects they want.

The passage of the new federal legislation is good news, but the additional monies it will bring to the state fall far short of what is needed. It is estimated that the Commission will need approximately \$400 million annually to address the \$7 billion in identified needs. The new federal bill will provide us with about one-fifth of that amount annually.

A point that cannot be overlooked is the additional state funds that will be needed to match the new federal dollars. Federal funds must be matched with state funds. It is estimated that the Commission will have to have approximately \$16 million annually to match the new federal dollars. Without a source of new state funds that will be a very difficult challenge.

So where do we go from here? No one disputes that our state has many pressing needs when it comes to our highway system. The Commission has clearly stated that need, and the public has clearly spoken about the highway system it desires. But the Commission cannot raise revenues. The process to identify sources of additional state revenues, led by the Highway Commission, is underway. The regional meetings and the recent 1998 Arkansas Transportation Summit were positive steps. Let's hope the upcoming 1999 legislative session will provide the necessary matching funds to match the increase in federal dollars and additional revenues to improve the state's transportation system.



DIRECTOR OF HIGHWAYS AND TRANSPORTATION



# ARKANSAS HIGHWAYS

SUMMER 1998

## ARKANSAS STATE HIGHWAY COMMISSION



BOBBY HOPPER  
CHAIRMAN



HERBY BRANSCUM, JR.  
VICE CHAIRMAN



JOHN "M" LIPTON  
MEMBER



J.W. "BUDDY"  
BENFIELD  
MEMBER



PRISSY  
HICKERSON  
MEMBER

ARKANSAS HIGHWAYS is published quarterly by and for employees of the Arkansas State Highway and Transportation Department as a medium of departmental news and other information. Correspondence and material should be directed to ARKANSAS HIGHWAYS, Chief of Administration and Public Affairs, P.O. Box 2261, Room 1004, Little Rock, Arkansas 72203-2261. ARKANSAS HIGHWAYS is distributed free to the public upon request and to all Arkansas State Highway and Transportation Department employees.

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# ARKANSAS HIGHWAYS

Arkansas State Highway and Transportation Department  
P. O. Box 2261 • Little Rock, Arkansas 72203-2261

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**COVER PHOTO:** State Highway 5 in Saline County. Photo by John Jackson.

**BACK COVER PHOTO:** Tulips in bloom on the grounds of the AHTD Central Office Complex.

Photo compliments of the Human Resources Grounds Maintenance crew: Linda Carter, Mike Hollowell, Donna Martin, Donna Woolfolk and Roger Turner, Crew Leader.

# Commission Concludes Series of Regional Meetings

The Arkansas Highway Commission concluded its series of 16 regional public meetings by holding seven meetings in the month of March, nearly the same amount they had held the previous two months combined. Meetings were held March 3 in Hot Springs, March 5 in Batesville, March 9 in Fort Smith, March 10 in Springdale, March 17 in Forrest City, March 19 in Mena, and March 31 in Little Rock.

The busy month wrapped up the series of successful meetings that were attended by nearly 2,000 people around the state. "We heard about what we thought we would hear," commented Commission Chairman Bobby Hopper of Springdale. "The people are not satisfied with

current progress on our highway system, and they indicate they are willing to support a new highway program."

The answer to how a new highway program will be paid for is not quite as clear. Based on statements made at the meetings and comments taken from comment forms returned to the Department, increased fees on heavy trucks was the most-mentioned response. Increasing the per-gallon tax on diesel fuel, transferring the existing sales tax on new and used vehicles and associated parts and services, and an increase in the per-gallon tax on gasoline were also suggestions heard at the meetings. It is generally agreed that a combination of sources will be needed to provide sufficient funds for any type of

meaningful highway program.

The Commission scheduled the 1998 Arkansas Transportation Summit July 7 to bring together transportation decision-makers from around the state to discuss how to proceed toward the next legislative session. Information gathered from the meetings, as well as the Department's Highway Profile, Condition and Needs report, was used as a basis for discussion at the summit meeting.

"All in all, the Commission is pleased with the way the meetings turned out," Hopper commented. "Members of the AHTD staff did a great job in making all the necessary arrangements for the regional meetings and the summit."



Left to right are AHTD Deputy Director and Chief Engineer Roger Almond, Commission Chairman Bobby Hopper, Vice Chairman Herby Branscum, Jr. and Commissioners John Lipton, Buddy Benafield and Prissy Hickerson at the regional meeting held in Mena.





Commissioner John Lipton, Director Dan Flowers and Commission Chairman Bobby Hopper with State Senator Morril Harriman at the Fort Smith regional meeting.



AHTD Director Dan Flowers listens to the concerns of a Mena area resident.



Commissioner Prissy Hickerson, center, and State Senator John Brown at the Springdale meeting.



Commission Vice Chairman Herby Branscum, Jr. with area residents at the Batesville meeting.



Commissioner John Lipton with Arkansas Democrat-Gazette reporter Noel Oman at the Little Rock regional meeting March 31.



Commissioner Buddy Benfield with a citizen at the Forrest City regional meeting.

## Arkansas Highway Commission Tours Highway 71 Relocation Project

The Highway Commission spent Tuesday, March 10, traveling from Fort Smith, where a regional meeting was held the night before, to Springdale, the site of the next regional meeting. But they took an indirect way in order to see the Highway 71 relocation project.

District 4 Engineer Harold Beaver and District 4 Construction Engineer Joe Shipman led the Commissioners, members of the AHTD staff, and area media representatives on a tour of the project between Mountainburg and Fayetteville.

Though most of the route is not yet paved and the opening isn't scheduled for several more months, the group made its way up the new highway, through the Bobby Hopper Tunnel, and on to Springdale. Stops were made often along the journey to note key features such as the Hopper Tunnel and the Hess Creek Bridge, which,



Standing in front of the entrance to the Bobby Hopper Tunnel are Chairman Bobby Hopper, Vice Chairman Herby Branscum, Jr., Commissioner John Lipton, AHTD Chief of Administration and Public Affairs Jane Wilson, Commissioner Prissy Hickerson, AHTD Director Dan Flowers, AHTD District 4 Engineer Harold Beaver, and AHTD Deputy Director and Chief Engineer Roger Almond.

at 210 feet, is the tallest structure along the route.

Construction on the route, which will be designated I-540 when complete, began in 1987. The portion from Alma to

Mountainburg opened to traffic in August 1995. The remainder of the 42-mile route is scheduled to open by January 1999. Total cost of the facility is expected to be nearly \$450 million.



Roadway work continues on the Highway 71 project scheduled for completion by January 1999.



In addition to the tour of the Highway 71 project, the Commission and Department officials made a stop at the District 4 Headquarters in Fort Smith. Here, Commission Vice Chairman Herby Branscum, Jr. visits with Robert Kolb, Senior Body Repairer and Painter, and Kenneth Tucker, Senior Mechanic in the District 4 shop.



## Roger Almond Announces Retirement

Roger Almond, Deputy Director and Chief Engineer, announced his retirement from the AHTD effective in June.

Almond, a 30-year employee of the Department, is a graduate civil engineer from the University of Arkansas at Fayetteville. He began his career with the Department in April 1968 as an engineer-in-training. He has held the positions of Section Head of Programming and Scheduling, Assistant District Engineer and District Engineer of District Six in Little Rock, Assistant State Maintenance Engineer, Division Head of Materials and Research, and Assistant Chief Engineer for Planning. He is a registered professional engineer.

During his tenure at the Department, Almond has seen several significant changes in the way

business is done. "The change in technology gave us the ability to have more information at our fingertips. Years ago, it would take several weeks to gather needed information. Now, we have it almost instantaneously," Almond explained.

Although Almond has been involved in many projects through the years, the most notable has been the Highway 71/Arkansas 540 project in Northwest Arkansas. "The challenges of that job sticks in my mind the most. Deep cuts, tall bridges and, of course, the tunnel offered a lot of obstacles that we had never faced before," he said.

A native of St. Charles, Almond currently resides in Bryant. He and his wife Jean have a daughter Rachel, a son David, and three grandchildren.



**Roger Almond**  
Deputy Director and Chief Engineer

"I've had a great 30-year career at the Department. I'll miss all the people I have been associated with. I have made some good friends as well as many acquaintances across the state. But there are some other things I want to do in my life and now is the time to start."

## Walters Named Chief Engineer



Robert (Bob) Walters, Assistant Chief Engineer for Design, was named May 21 as Chief Engineer replacing Roger Almond.

Walters, a native of Hot Springs, is a graduate of the University of Arkansas at Fayetteville achieving both bachelor's and master's degrees in civil engineering.

He began his career with the Department in 1972 in the Roadway Design Division as a Civil Engineer. He has also served as Freeway Design Section Head, Roadway Design Division Head, and was promoted to Assistant Chief Engineer for Design in 1987. He is a registered professional engineer.

Walters is active in the American Association of State Highway and Transportation Officials (AASHTO), currently serving as a member of the Subcommittee on Design and the Task Force on Metrication. He is Chairman of the Task Force on Geometric Design and Vice Chairman of the Joint Task Force on Pavements.

Walters was named recipient of the AASHTO Region II Design Award in 1989 and received the AASHTO Highway Subcommittee on Design's National Award for Outstanding Service in 1993. He is a member of the Arkansas Academy of Civil Engineers.

He and his wife Trudy reside in Little Rock. They have one daughter Amy and one son Aaron.

## Al Sacco Retires As Division Head of Equipment and Procurement



Al Sacco

Al Sacco, Division Head of Equipment and Procurement, announced his retirement from the AHTD effective in June.

Sacco, a 27-year employee of the Department, began his career with the Department in March 1971 as a Purchasing Agent in Equipment and Procurement. He has served as Administrative Officer II and Assistant Section Head. He was promoted to his present title of Division Head of Equipment and Procurement in January 1988.

Prior to his employment with the Department, Sacco worked for the Union Pacific Railroad in Omaha, Nebraska. He served in the United States Air Force Intelligence Division from 1947 to 1952 where he attained the rank of Sergeant.

Sacco and his wife Mary Ann have two children, Debra Watson and Steve Sacco, and a grandchild Ben Watson. The Saccos are residents of North Little Rock and are members of the Park Hill Baptist Church.

## Nielsen Promoted To Division Head



Doug Nielsen  
Equip. and Proc.  
Division Head

Doug Nielsen, Assistant Division Head of Equipment and Procurement, has been promoted to Division Head, replacing Al Sacco who is retiring after 27 years of service.

Nielsen is a 1975 graduate of the University of Central Arkansas where he earned both bachelor's and master's degrees in business administration.

He began his career with the Department in 1968 as a Statistical Assistant in the Research Section. In 1969 he was called to active duty with the U.S. Army National Guard. He returned to the Department in 1970 as Highway Engineering Aide III. He has served as Administrative Assistant, Assistant Section Head of the Equipment Section, Section Head of Equipment Management, Division Assistant and Administrative Officer III of the Equipment and Procurement Division. He was promoted to Assistant Division Head in January 1988.

Nielsen and his wife Debbie are residents of Benton and have one daughter Katie.

## Scott Mullis Promoted To District 2 Construction Engineer



Scott Mullis  
District 2  
Construction Engineer

Scott Mullis, Resident Engineer at the McGehee office, was promoted to District 2 Construction Engineer June 4, 1998.

Mullis is a graduate of the University of Arkansas at Fayetteville with a bachelor's degree in civil engineering and is a registered professional engineer.

He began his career with the Department in 1983 as an Engineering Intern. He was hired in regular status in the Roadway Design Division in 1984 and transferred to the Monticello Residency that same year. He was promoted to Assistant Resident Engineer and, in 1989, became Resident Engineer at the McGehee Residency.

A native Arkansan, Mullis and his wife Amber have two children, Casey and John.





**AHTD/FHWA Transportation Enhancement Youth Corps Members:**  
 L-R: Toney Moore, Asst. Supervisor; David Campbell; Gary Campbell; Elana Settles; Kevin Hall; Elbert Williams; Eric Sanders, Supervisor; Sandra Hayes, FHWA Assistant Division Administrator

## AHTD and FHWA Team Up To Aid Local Youth

Six young people from the Little Rock area began work in early January as part of the Transportation Youth Corps Program sponsored by the Arkansas State Highway and Transportation Department (AHTD) and the Federal Highway Administration (FHWA). The program is designed to expose urban youth to a variety of job skills and activities.

Elbert Williams, Gary Campbell, Kevin Hall, David Campbell, and Elana Settles participated in the five-month work project. All the participants are from the College Station area

of Little Rock which was severely damaged by a tornado March 1, 1997.

The program began in January with an orientation program at the Department, including a tour of AHTD facilities. After the orientation, the group began undertaking specific projects.

Work included wildlife enhancement efforts, opening a drainage channel at a Pine Bluff wetland mitigation site, and bagging trees for storage at the Department's on-site nursery. Other projects included working on transportation enhancement projects in North Little Rock and

Hot Springs. The workers also received training for obtaining a commercial driver's license and for non-commercial pesticide application along with basic first aid and CPR instruction.

The work was overseen by the AHTD's Environmental Division. The group also worked closely with College Station's Watershed, Inc., a non-profit organization that provided job counseling and other support for the participants.

AHTD and FHWA hope to continue the Transportation Youth Corp Program in the future.

## Highway Police Makes State History



**\$3.1 Million  
Cash Seizure!**

## Comprehensive AHP Officer Training Results in Record Amount of Money and Drug Seizures

Officers from the Highway Police Division of the Arkansas State Highway and Transportation Department have made the largest cash seizure by a non-federal agency in the state's history, according to Dan Flowers, Director of the Arkansas State Highway and Transportation Department.

A total of \$3,166,199 was found Saturday, March 7, during a routine truck safety inspection

at the Lehi Weigh Station on Interstate 40 near West Memphis. Besides being the largest single seizure by a law enforcement agency ever in Arkansas, it is believed to be the fourth largest cash confiscation by a non-federal agency in the nation's history.

AHP Patrol Officer James Smith, assisted by Patrol Officer First Class Billy Brown, was performing a routine safety

inspection on a large truck at approximately 8:00 p.m. when the money was found. The driver consented to a search of the cab after officers detected logbook and alcohol violations. The cash was found stored in four large suitcases in the sleeper portion of the cab. The driver, 41-year old Roberto V. Zamarripa of Harlingen, Texas, denied any knowledge of the suitcases or their contents.





AHP officers unload the cash.



Standing behind the confiscated \$3.1 million cash are Pfc. Billy Brown, Capt. Danny McLean, AHP Chief Ron Burks and Ptl. James Smith.

The Crittenden County Prosecuting Attorney's Office assisted with the seizure following the discovery. The driver was charged with misdemeanor logbook and alcohol violations along with felony money laundering counts. He is being detained pending further investigation.

Highway Police officers also intercepted two large shipments of marijuana in early April. An early morning traffic stop along Interstate 30 near Hope on April 9 led to the discovery of 124 pounds of marijuana hidden in the gas tank of a pickup truck.

Officers Jack Stepp and Daniel Morales searched the vehicle with their canines and found the drugs. The two occu-

pants of the truck were charged with felony counts of possession of a controlled substance with intent to deliver.

Officers also exposed a stash of drugs on April 10 at the Lehi Weigh Station along Interstate 40 where Pfc. Scott Fraley uncovered over 1,600 pounds of marijuana concealed in a load of watermelons. The tractor-trailer rig's two occupants were charged with felony counts of possession of a controlled substance with intent to deliver.

"Aside from being highly proficient in vehicle inspections and commercial vehicle regulations, our officers are trained to look for signs of other criminal behavior," noted Highway Police

Chief Ron Burks. "This is an example of that training paying off. We're very proud of our Highway Police officers and the results they are achieving."

AHP officers have been active in drug interdiction activities over the years. Other large drug-related seizures include the confiscation of 1,103 pounds of cocaine from a truck at the Lehi Weigh Station in 1992, and the discovery of 23,500 pounds of marijuana in a vehicle at the Hope Weigh Station.

In calendar year 1997, Highway Police officers confiscated nearly 4,700 pounds of marijuana and numerous smaller quantities of other illegal substances, as well as over \$61,000 in cash.

## Department Employees Recognized in FHWA National Photo Contest

Three AHTD employees were recently named winners in the Federal Highway Administration's (FHWA) fourth annual Photo Opportunity Competition. The contest is sponsored by the FHWA's *Greener Roadsides* quarterly newsletter.

John Jackson, of Public Affairs, and Rob Doster and Dwayne Stokes of the Environmental Division, each had winning photographs selected from among nearly 100 entries submitted nationally.

The newsletter sponsors an annual photo competition to support roadside programs that plant and protect wildflowers and other native vegetation. The FHWA believes good photography promotes and encourages this type of activity. Competition categories include

Native Wildflowers, Non-Native Wildflowers, Preserved Wildflowers, Public Awareness Efforts, Closeup, and Restoration and Management. The Department submitted six photos and placed in four categories.

John Jackson, Public Affairs Photographer, received a first-place award in the Non-Native Wildflowers category with his photograph of crimson clover taken along Highway 412 in Marion County. Jackson also won second place in the Preserved Wildflowers category with a photo of lanceleaf coreopsis taken on Highway 167 in Grant County.

Rob Doster, Environmental Analyst II, received second-place in the Closeup category with a pic-

ture of a pale purple cornflower he found along Highway 51 in Clark County.

Dwayne Stokes, Environmental Administrative Aide I, was named a third-place winner in the Public Awareness Efforts category with his photo of a section of Highway 4 in Bradley County. The seeds for the wildflowers planted along that highway were provided by the GFWCA Warren Women's Club through the Department's Wildflowers Program.

Aside from John Jackson's photo, other first-place winners were from Colorado, Missouri, South Carolina and Utah. All first place photographs will be featured in the Spring issue of *Greener Roadsides*.



**FIRST PLACE**  
Non-Native Wildflowers  
Photo by John Jackson

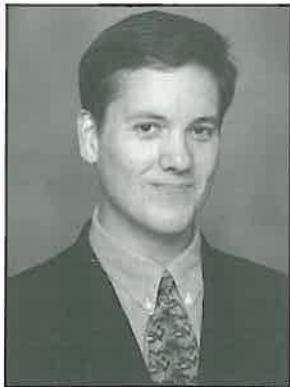




**SECOND PLACE**  
Preserved Wildflowers  
Photo by John Jackson



**SECOND PLACE**  
Closeup  
Photo by Rob Doster



**THIRD PLACE**  
Public Awareness Efforts  
Photo by Dwayne Stokes



## “Operation Blue-TALON” Arkansans Join A Regional Law Enforcement Initiative

The National Highway Traffic Safety Administration (NHTSA) Region VI invited law enforcement agencies in Arkansas to join forces with their neighbors in an effort to increase public awareness and enforcement of occupant protection laws during the two-week period of May 18-31.

The name of the initiative, Operation Blue-TALON, represents the six participants in the Region VI area: (Blue - Bureau of Indian Affairs, TALON - Texas, Arkansas, Louisiana, Oklahoma and New Mexico).

In preparation for Operation Blue-TALON, sixty-nine Arkansas law enforcement officers met in Little Rock April 14 to attend NHTSA’s

one-day Law Enforcement Summit on occupant protection issues. Chief Harry L. Crum, NHTSA Law Enforcement Liaison, asked officers to go “all out” during the period in enforcing occupant protection laws to increase safety belt and child safety seat usage rates and provide valuable information about the importance of occupant protection to the citizens they serve.

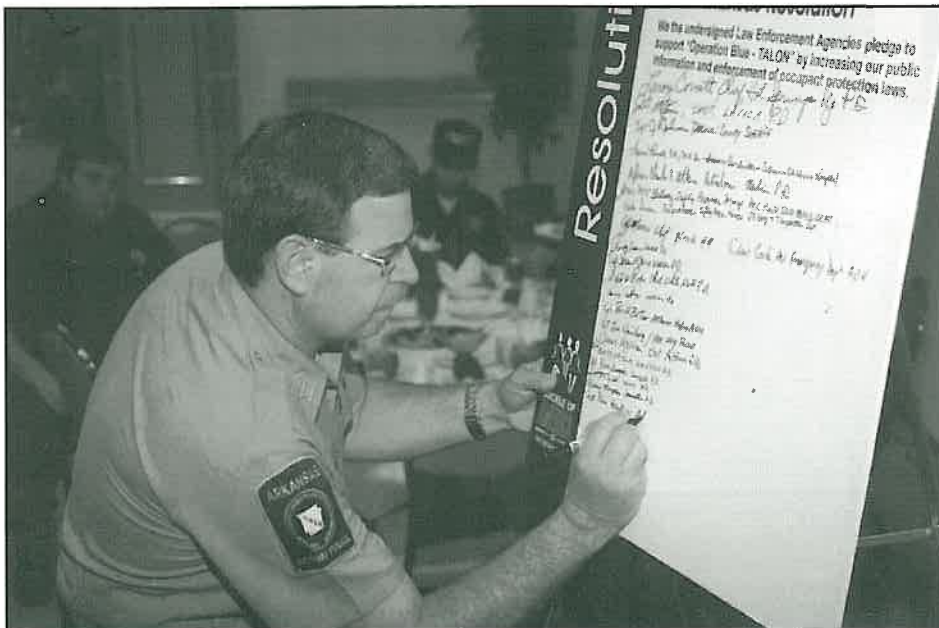
Speakers for the meeting included: Dan Flowers, Director of the Arkansas State Highway and Transportation Department; Lou Caudel, Chief of the Little Rock Police Department; Randy Johnson, Pulaski County Sheriff; Col. John R. Bailey, Director of the Arkansas State Police; Virginia Lancaster,



AHTD Director Dan Flowers expresses the importance of increasing public awareness of occupant protection laws.

Arkansas Safe Kids Coordinator for the Arkansas Department of Health; Georgia S. Chakiris, NHTSA Regional Administrator; and Carl Wells, NHTSA Region VI Program Manager.

Dr. Marvin Leibovich of the Pulaski County Medical Society was the featured speaker at the luncheon. The summit concluded with an afternoon child passenger safety course conducted by International Association of Chiefs of Police Instructor Lt. Joel Bolton of the Lake Charles Police Department in Louisiana.



Captain Don Hastings, representing the Arkansas Highway Police, signs a Buckle Up America Arkansas Resolution at the Law Enforcement Summit in Little Rock. Capt. Hastings was one of 69 law enforcement representatives who signed the resolution as a pledge of support to Operation Blue-TALON.



## “Buckle Up Arkansas Week” Proclaimed

# SEATBELTS

## Everybody's Wearing Them

There was no shortage of safety-conscious individuals at the kick-off news conference for “Buckle Up Arkansas” week May 12 at the State Capitol. Members of the law enforcement and medical communities as well as representatives of state and national safety organizations were on hand.

AHTD Director Dan Flowers, who also serves as the Governor’s Highway Safety Representative, served as master of ceremonies for the event, which featured a proclamation signing by Governor Mike Huckabee.

Others on the program included Pulaski County Sheriff Randy Johnson, North Little Rock Police Chief William Nolan, Arkansas State Police Major Dan Oldham, Dr. Marvin Leibovich of the Pulaski County Medical Society, and Adele Derby, Associate Administrator for the National Highway Traffic Safety Administration (NHTSA) in Washington.

The Governor proclaimed May 18-25 as “Buckle Up Arkansas Week.” “But I don’t want this to be a one-week occurrence,” Governor Huckabee told the crowd. “Buckling up has to become a 52-week per year commitment on the part of motorists.”



Governor Mike Huckabee, seated, signs the Buckle Up Arkansas Week proclamation, as AHTD Director Dan Flowers, at podium, emphasizes the importance of seatbelt usage.

The Governor cited statistics which show that by increasing seat belt usage from the current 48 percent to 63 percent in Arkansas, 47 fatalities and nearly 1,000 injuries could be prevented annually.

“The Highway Department administers approximately \$1.5 million annually in federal funds to promote safety,” Flowers noted. “And research tells us that the best move a motorist can make to enhance safety is to buckle up and to make sure all passengers are buckled as well. That’s why educational efforts like Buckle Up America are so important.”

“Please don’t take this per-

sonally,” commented Dr. Leibovich to the crowd, “but I don’t want your business.” Dr. Leibovich is head of the Emergency Department at Baptist Medical Center in Little Rock. “I don’t want to meet you for the first time with you lying there in the ER looking up at me.”

Adele Derby of NHTSA recognized three Arkansas trucking firms: J. B. Hunt Transport, Inc., ABF Freight System, and American Freightways, Inc., for their efforts in promoting safety. The Arkansas Motor Carriers Association was also recognized for their industry-wide support of the Buckle Up America campaign.

# Henderson State University Dedicates Pedestrian Overpass

Joining dignitaries from Southwest Arkansas, Arkansas Highway Commissioner John "M" Lipton helped dedicate the Henderson State University pedestrian overpass crossing Highway 7.

Funding for the project was approved by the Commission on May 26, 1995. Bids were opened at the Department on April 2, 1997. Shiloh Contractors of Shreveport, Louisiana was awarded the construction contract for the bridge. Total project cost



Officially dedicating the new pedestrian walkway over Highway 7 are left to right: Clark County Judge Grady Runyan, Highway Commissioner John Lipton, State Representative Percy Malone, Arkadelphia Mayor Mike Kolb and Henderson State University President Dr. Charles Dunn.



Highway Commissioner John Lipton, State Representative Percy Malone and HSU President Dr. Charles Dunn on the steps of the new pedestrian overpass.

for the overpass was approximately \$660,000.

The project is one of almost 200 enhancement projects in the state approved for funding by the Commission with a total project cost of \$30 million. These projects help communities with unique needs such as beautification, historic preservation and, in the case of the overpass, pedestrian safety.

Connecting the main campus to Caplinger Airway Center near downtown Arkadelphia, the bridge improves safety for students crossing the highway. "We want to make sure that students are able to cross the highway in a safe and timely manner," Lipton said.

"This overpass is an outstanding example of how city, state and federal governments can work together in a cooperative arrangement – a partnership," he explained. "By working as partners, we were able to fund this project for those with a need to cross the highway."

The informal ceremony was held at the base of the bridge with Henderson State University President Dr. Charles Dunn introducing Mr. Lipton.



## Historic Train Depot Restored in North Little Rock

"ALL ABOARD!" Those were the words Mayor Patrick Hays used to kick off the grand re-opening ceremony at the historic Rock Island Depot in North Little Rock May 12.

"The AHTD is pleased to have played a part in restoring this historic structure," commented Director Dan Flowers at the ceremony. "As a former Highway Department District Engineer for this area, I can appreciate the difference. This building has been transformed into a beautiful, functional building that will serve this town well for many years to come."

The Depot, which was built in 1913, had been abandoned since 1960 and had fallen into considerable disrepair. The City of North Little Rock applied for and received federal enhancement funds administered by the AHTD to restore the old building.



North Little Rock Mayor Patrick Hays, left, and AHTD Director Dan Flowers, right, unveil the Rock Island emblem on the side of the restored depot.

Construction began in late 1996 on the \$270,000 restoration project with enhancement funds paying for nearly \$190,000 of the total. The City of North Little Rock came up with the local match from several sources. Approximately 70 people, many of whom have lived in the neighborhood of the depot most of their lives, turned out for the event.

Restoration work included repair of the original brick walls, complete replacement of the roof structure, new windows and doors, and restoration of the original floor. Current plans call for the Sherman Park Community Development Corporation to have an office in the main room of the depot, occupying both the ticket master's office and the lobby.

## Southwest Hospital Hosts Health Fair at AHTD

Living a healthier life compelled several AHTD employees to venture to the Central Office Auditorium April 23 for the annual health fair, sponsored by Southwest Hospital.

Approximately 70 people took advantage of various types of health tests designed to examine the body's physical state. Tests included cholesterol/blood sugar, blood pressure, pulmonary function, height/weight, body fat, vision screening and colorectal screening kits.

If any signs of potential health problems were noticed, Southwest personnel referred employees to a doctor for further testing.



Pat Ioup, Public Transportation Technician in Planning and Research, has her blood pressure checked at the 1998 health fair.

## PUBLIC HEARINGS

### Highway 65 Widening is Topic at Twin Groves

Approximately 40 people were on hand to review the proposed widening of Highway 65 near Twin Groves at a public hearing held March 10 at the Zion Grove Missionary Baptist Church in Twin Groves.

The majority of written comments received at the hearing favored the proposed project. Concerns voiced at the meeting centered on new access to citizens'

property and relocation benefits.

The Highway Commission is planning a project to improve a 2.7-mile section of Highway 65 from just south of Damascus through Twin Groves. The proposed project generally consists of a four-lane highway with a portion of roadway being built on new location. Presently, Highway 65 consists of two 11- or 12-foot travel lanes with five- to eight-foot

shoulders. A new bridge over Batesville Creek will also be built with this project.

Twin Groves Mayor Richard Ealy was upbeat about the project. "We really need it bad. It's going to help the town and I think it is bringing us alive," he said. "In the long-range plan, I can see a quick mart and maybe a small motel opening here," Ealy added.

### Proposed Construction of New White River Bridge On Highway 64 Discussed at Augusta

Approximately 25 people viewed displays during a joint public hearing held by the AHTD and the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers in Augusta. The meeting held February 24 at the Au-

gusta Middle School dealt with the proposed construction of a new bridge on Highway 64 over the White River.

The new bridge will be located approximately 70 feet south of the

existing bridge. Project length for the structure and its approaches will be approximately 1.6 miles and will consist of 1.4 miles of four-lane roadway with a 3,155-foot long bridge. The cross-section of the roadway includes four 12-foot travel lanes with eight-foot shoulders.

The Missouri Valley Bridge and Iron Works of Leavenworth, Kansas built the existing structure in 1930. It is just over 3,000 feet long and is considered functionally obsolete for the level of service at the bridge.

The average daily traffic count for the highway is 5,400 vehicles with that number expected to increase to 8,000 vehicles per day by the year 2017. Eighteen percent of the traffic in this segment of highway is trucks.



Phil McConnell, Roadway Design Division Head, discusses the proposed construction of the new White River Bridge with a local citizen.



## Highway 63 Widening is Discussed at Bono

The proposed widening of Highway 63 between Bono and Jonesboro brought out a large crowd to the Bono Volunteer Fire Station June 2. Over 125 people crowded the station to view displays of the project.

The 2.5-mile stretch of Highway 63 to be improved includes widening the existing roadway to four 12-foot travel lanes with a six-foot painted median between the two cities. The existing roadway consists of two 12-foot travel lanes with eight-foot shoulders. The route is projected to carry over 30,000 vehicles per day by the year 2018 – up from 15,600 at the present. Most citizens on hand for the open-forum public hearing were satisfied with the plans for the project.

Craighead County Judge Roy Bearden seemed especially pleased. "This is something we've needed for a long time. They (AHTD) can't start soon enough to suit me," he added.

Bids on the approximately \$6 million project could be opened later this year or early 1999. The project should take approximately two years to complete.



Area residents filled the Bono Volunteer Fire Station to review the plans for the Highway 63 widening project.

## Boys Staters Visit AHTD

Six participants from the American Legion's Annual Boys State toured the AHTD Central Office Complex June 5.

The six high school seniors-to-be from all parts of the state were greeted by AHTD Assistant Chief Engineer for Design Bob Walters. Walters answered numerous questions about highway projects and showed a video about the construction of the Bobby Hopper Tunnel. The group then toured the Roadway Design Division, the Mapping Section of Planning and Research, and the Materials Division.



Seated left to right: Steven Sharp of Fayetteville, Ryan Boehrenbeck of Little Rock, Robert Watson of Marion, and Roy Reed of Marmaduke. Standing left to right: Randy Ort, AHTD Public Affairs Officer; Marc Nixon of Pine Bluff; John Hopkins of Van Buren; Bob Walters, Assistant Chief Engineer for Design.

# CONGRATULATIONS, GRADUATES!

The Arkansas State Highway and Transportation Department congratulates the 1998 high school and college graduates who are children of employees or student employees.



Jody Anderson  
Tuckerman High School  
1 Lt. Ronnie Anderson - A.H.P.



Robin L. Wilson Beattie  
University of Memphis  
Robert L. Wilson - Legal



Thomas J. Black  
Sylvan Hills High School  
Thomas Black - Planning & Research



Karen Brown  
Bryant High School  
COE Student - Legal



Nicholas J. Bryant  
Camden Fairview High School  
Ann Bryant - District 7



Renata Bryant  
Palestine/Wheatley High School  
Eddie Bryant - District 1



Josh Buchanan  
Dover High School  
Kenneth Buchanan - District 8



Erin N. Busbea  
Little Rock McClellan High School  
COE Student - Planning & Research



Jennifer LeAnn Burleson  
Midland High School  
Carl Burleson - District 5



Micki Chivers  
Bryant High School  
Linda Price - ACE Operations





Courtney Cole  
Hope High School  
Rod Cole - District 3



Stephanie Core  
Berryville High School  
Kit Core - District 9



Jennifer Covey  
Searcy High School  
Raymond Covey - District 5



Justin Ross Edwards  
Bryant High School  
Pam Edwards - Computer Services



Jennifer Evans  
Fort Smith Northside High School  
Stacye Evans - District 4



Ashlie Foresythe  
Paragould High School  
Joe Foresythe - District 10



Shawn Stueart Furr  
Henderson State University  
Debbie Stueart - District 3



Marsha Gaither  
Arkansas State University  
Jim Gaither - Right of Way



Shamarra M. Garmon  
Little Rock Mills High School  
COE Student - Planning & Research



Ellen Gossien  
Little Rock J.A. Fair High School  
Dale Gossien - Materials



Maurice Guest, Jr.  
Hall High School  
Brenda Guest - Environmental



John Eric Gunn  
Sylvan Hills High School  
Linda Gunn - Roadway Design



Kathryn Hall  
Little Rock Central High School  
Ralph Hall - ACE Operations



Josh Harris  
Conway High School  
Cindy Harris - Internal Audit



Jason W. Hinton  
DeWitt High School  
Leslie Hinton - District 2



Neal Hoppe  
Little Rock Catholic High School  
Ed Hoppe - Programs & Contracts



Brooke Erin Ishmael  
Little Rock Central High School  
Susan Bradley - Environmental



Joseph Thomas Klinck  
Little Rock Parkview High School  
Claude Klinck - Roadway Design



Courtney Lewis  
Arkansas Baptist High School  
Randy M. Lewis - Right of Way



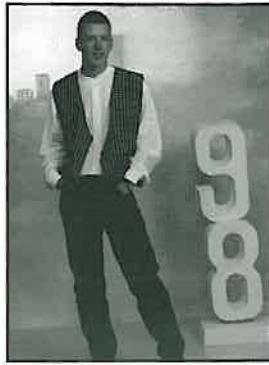
Shawna Manes  
Bryant High School  
June Manes - Computer Services



Amy Martin  
North Arkansas College  
Pfc. Roy Martin - A.H.P.



Monica Martin  
Lakeside Christian Academy  
Gary Martin - Fiscal Services



Joshua Matthews  
Cave City High School  
Paul Matthews - District 5



Lauren Emily Mayo  
Little Rock Hall High School  
David Mayo - Programs & Contracts



Tiffney McCollum  
Highland High School  
Clyde McCollum - Maintenance



Quyleisia aMitchell  
Osceola High School  
Brenda Gause - District 10



Amanda Moody  
Northside High School  
Cpl. Ken Moody - A.H.P.



Courtney Muscalino  
Barton High School  
Joey Muscalino - District 1



Natalie Newcomb  
Harmony Grove High School  
Mickey Newcomb - Planning & Research



Alicia Patrice Parks  
Little Rock McClellan High School  
COE Student - Planning & Research



Ashley Marie Nease  
Benton High School  
Dawn Nease - Legal



Stephanie Parks  
Blevins High School  
John Parks - District 3



Melissa Gail Pay  
Cabot High School  
William Pay - Materials



Lorrie Jo Payne  
University of Central Arkansas  
Patty Anthony - Surveys



T.J. Pederson  
Springdale High School  
Doug Pederson - District 9



Alton C. Phillips  
Little Rock McClellan High School  
Allen Phillips - Construction



Janna Renee Phillips  
Little Rock Mills High School  
COE Student - Planning & Research



Nathan E. Poston  
DeWitt High School  
Robert Poston - District 2



Russell Price  
Arkansas Baptist High School  
Ron Price - Construction



Alicia Kaye Qualls  
Arkansas State University  
Deborah Qualls - District 5





Amanda Raines  
University of Arkansas at Monticello  
Earl Raines - Materials



Aaron Kolbee Ratcliff  
Prescott High School  
Gail Ratcliff - District 3



James Andrew Reynolds  
Camden Fairview High School  
Jim Reynolds - District 2



Galicia Wryan Roberts  
Valley Springs High School  
Glenda Goats - District 9  
Gary Roberts - District 9



Susan Lyn Russenberger  
Arkansas State University  
Frank Russenberger - District 8



Laura Sanders  
North Little Rock High School  
James Sanders - Planning & Research



Glenn E. Santifer  
Camden Fairview High School  
Randy Stinnett - District 7



Drew Smith  
Benton High School  
Ronnie Smith - Roadway Design



Josh Smith  
Greene County Tech High School  
Keith Smith - District 10



Amanda Taff  
Waldron High School  
Eugene Taff - District 4



Phillip Thompson  
University of Arkansas at Fayetteville  
Janette Thompson - Human Resources  
Felix Thompson - Right of Way



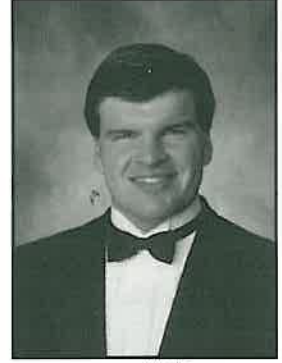
Syretha K. Turner  
Pine Bluff High School  
Lois Turner - District 2



Tarrah Lynn Vail  
Hamburg High School  
J.D. Vail - District 2



Adam Vinson  
Newark High School  
Barbara Munnerlyn - District 5



Jason Waits  
Batesville High School  
Lyndal Waits - District 5



Chad Westbrook  
Benton High School  
Christy Westbrook - Materials



Greg Williams  
Lavaca High School  
Mark Williams - District 4



Emily Willmon  
Hope High School  
Carolyn Willmon - District 3



Jodi Rhodes Wilson  
University of Arkansas at Fayetteville  
Jim Rhodes - District 3



Regina L. Wilson  
University of Arkansas at Fayetteville  
Robert L. Wilson - Legal



# Letters to the Department



Odis Barker, Equipment Specialist and  
Lynn Caple, Training Coordinator

To: Dan Flowers  
Director of Highways and Transportation

The purpose of this letter is to personally thank you and the Arkansas State Highway and Transportation Department for allowing your employees, Lynn Caple and Odus Barker, to assist the Mississippi Department of Transportation in hosting its first Equipment Operators' Roadeo.

Their assistance was invaluable in setting up the courses, helping with the administration of the scores and tabulations, and in calming the apprehensions of our personnel who were running and participating in the events. They were very professional in their handling of those unexpected situations which always come up. In short, they represented the AHTD extremely well.

Again, we appreciate you allowing Ms. Caple and Mr. Barker to assist us.

Sincerely,  
Kenneth I. Warren, Executive Director

To: Dan Flowers

I want to take this opportunity to thank you for your involvement in the placement of the green identification signs bearing our name on Interstate 40. This is indeed a benefit for individuals trying to reach our facility.

During our requests for these signs, I corresponded with Tony Sullivan who was always helpful and informative. Thanks again for a job well done.

Sincerely,  
Christy Hockaday, Administrative Associate  
Conway Regional Medical Center



Tony Sullivan, Staff Traffic Engineer



To: Jane Wilson  
Chief of Administration and Public Affairs

Your support of this year's 25th Annual Youth Motivation Task Force Program helped make it a tremendous success.

The representative that you provided to participate in this program held at the University of Arkansas at Pine Bluff did an outstanding job of providing students with insight relative to entrance and success in the world of work.

We would like you to know that Ms. Wanda Bynum of your staff contributed immeasurably to the program's success by sharing personal career experiences and perception of the world of work. As a result, our students are now better able to focus on their own goals and objectives and willing to learn how to successfully develop their talents and skills.

Again, thank you and I look forward to your continued support of this worthwhile program.

Lawrence A. Davis, Jr., Chancellor  
University of Arkansas at Pine Bluff



Wanda Bynum  
Internal EEO Coordinator



D.G. Henson,  
Construction Field Engineer II

To: D.G. Henson  
District 1, Wynne

Thank you very much for your willingness and enthusiasm to come to the career orientation classes at Hughes and share your knowledge and experience with your career at the Highway Department.

The students were excited to have you come and talk with them. We all learned a lot from your presentation. It really is wonderful that the Department allows you to come to schools and speak.

Thank you again for your time and patience. I'll be looking forward to seeing you again next school year.

Julie Moore  
Hughes Junior High School

To: Arkansas Highway & Transportation Department

This letter is to praise one of your employees, Mr. L. M. Hicks, of Walnut Ridge. I had a very bad happening at the rest area on Highway 412 southwest of Imboden. I don't know how I would have made it without Mr. Hicks. He blocked off the men's restroom and let my wife come in and help me. Not only that, but he loaned me a pair of his coveralls to wear. It's really heartwarming to know that there are still people like Mr. Hicks who care and are willing to help out a stranger.

Sincerely,  
E.W. and Earra Nicholson of Cherokee Village, AR



L.M. Hicks, District 10 Rest Area

To: Frank Russenberger  
District 8 Engineer, Russellville

On March 12, my wife and I were returning from Little Rock in the westbound lane of Interstate 40 just a short way from the Lamar exit. It was around 2:30 p.m.

I ran over a sharp object in the road and had a blowout on a front tire. I pulled over and proceeded to replace the ruined tire. There were two AHTD workers in the eastbound lane picking up litter. They came over to see if they could help and one of the guys just literally took over the job of installing the spare and getting us on our way. The spare was low so they walked back to their truck, pulled across the highway and aired the tire.

I tried to pay these guys for their help but they refused, stating they were glad to help. I introduced myself and thanked them, and I'm sorry I do not remember their names. But my friend Harold Beaver said you would find them and express my appreciation for doing a good deed.

I know you get a lot of letters of complaint, but I just wanted to give you and have you give those two guys an "attaboy." Those two employees make you and your district look good, and I truly appreciate the help they gave me. Thanks guys!

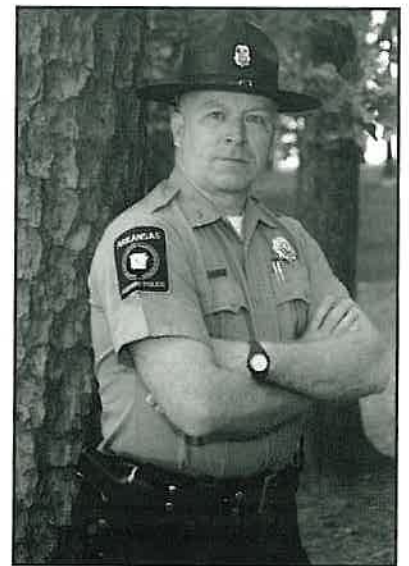
Hershel White  
Fort Smith, Arkansas



Michael Guess, Rest Area Attendant and Andy May, Backhoe/Front End Loader Operator, Johnson County

To: Chief Ronnie Burks  
Arkansas Highway Police

On March 10 my husband and I were on our way to Gurdon to meet our grandchildren coming from Little Rock. We had our cruise set on 70 mph when part of our tire came off. It made a terrible noise and really upset us both. One of your officers, Danny Watson, had stopped a car a few yards from us. When he finished his business he stopped to help us. He changed our tire and put the small one on. He was very pleasant and very helpful. He followed us to a station to get air in the small tire. We really appreciated him helping us because it would have been very hard on my husband since he has had two hip replacements and has lupus. It is great to have such good policemen like Danny Watson. Thanks again for such a well-trained, helpful, polite, and well-dressed employee.



Pfc. Danny Watson

Yours truly,  
Mrs. Wyndell Robertson  
New Boston, Texas



To: Ralph Fulton  
District 9 Engineer, Harrison

I wanted to take a moment to express my appreciation for a job well done on the excavation that took place at the intersection of Highway 5 and Jordan Road in Norfolk. I have received several complaints over the years about the danger associated with visibility on this curve. I have also witnessed several accidents at this intersection.

The work performed is well worth the effort to make Highway 5 a safer place to drive, not only for our residents but also visitors to our area. I have received several compliments about the project and wanted to pass them on to you and the person(s) involved with this.

Sincerely,  
Susan Poe  
Mayor, City of Norfolk

To: William Tyler  
District 3 Engineer, Hope

Just a special "thank you" to you and your employees for the excellent job performed on the ditch in front of our property on Highway 371. We appreciate that you care! It appears that it should drain with the next rain. Thank you so much.

Sincerely,  
Pat and Jim Severns of Prescott

## IN MEMORY

### ACTIVE

Catherine Bonds  
Programs & Contracts - Traffic  
Safety  
died April 20

Thomas B. Keys - Legal  
died February 16

Coleman C. Stamps - District 9  
died March 28

James O. Britt - District 7  
died February 28

Roosevelt Nolen - District 6  
died April 1

### RETIREES

Vardmon W. Brewer - Sign Shop  
died February 1

William J. Braggs - District 5  
died March 1

Floyd McCorkle - District 3  
died April 2

Carl J. Stipe - Surveys  
died February 6

Veron D. Hice - District 4  
died March 5

Louis F. Maxey - District 3  
died April 9

Thomas W. Pringle - Heavy Bridge  
died February 12

Huie T. Flowers - District 8  
died March 14

Frank J. Boyett - Equipment  
died April 14

William A. McCord - Traffic  
died February 13

E.F. Myhand - District 2  
died March 15

Arthur M. Tedder - District 10  
died April 18

John H. Gruben - District 8  
died February 14

Alva G. Rives, Jr. - Surveys  
died March 17

Jesse M. Roberts - District 7  
died April 18

Raymond A. Jones - Programs &  
Contracts  
died February 15

Milton U. Hughes - District 5  
died March 18

James W. Clark - District 3  
died April 19

Margaret R. Allen - Accounting  
died February 16

George E. Meeks - District 2  
died March 19

Leonard D. O'Bar - District 4  
died April 21

# Around the Department

## BRIDGE

Congratulations to Mike Coogan, Staff Bridge Engineer, who received a 25-year service award in February.

We welcome Bryan Freeling, Civil Engineer, to the Bridge Division. He is a graduate of the University of Arkansas at Fayetteville. Bryan and his wife Tina have a son, Dalton, age 3, and are expecting a baby girl in July.

Our condolences to Division Head Dale and Donna Loe on the loss of her father, Donald Sealander, in April.



Lawren Wilcox and Ellen Grobmyer were married February 21 at Pulaski Heights United Methodist Church. Lawren is an Advanced Bridge Design Engineer and Ellen is a real estate agent with the Charlotte John Company.

## COMPUTER SERVICES



Shirley Barnes, right, Computer Operator, retired March 17 with 17 years service. She is shown with her husband Morgan.



Larry Lewers, Applications Systems Analyst IV, left the Department March 10 to pursue a new career.

## CONSTRUCTION

Doyle Carson, Construction Office Technician, and wife Phyllis, have two new granddaughters. Catherine Ann, daughter of Cheryl and Jeff Carson, was born February 17 and Alysa Hope, daughter of Angelia and Danny Carson was born March 2.

## ENVIRONMENTAL

Congratulations to Beverly Moore, Office Administrative Assistant II, who received a 5-year service certificate in February and to Brenda C. Guest, Beautification Coordinator II, who received a 15-year service certificate in April.



Congratulations also to Brenda's daughter, Janelle, who was chosen as Sophomore Class Favorite at Hall High School.

## EQUIPMENT AND PROCUREMENT



Al Sacco, right, Division Head of the Equipment and Procurement Division, retired in May with 27 years service. He is shown with Jan Wilson, Chief of Administration and Public Affairs.



Doug Nielsen, left, Assistant Division Head and Al Sacco, Division Head, look at a gold watch presented to Al by his co-workers at his retirement reception.

This Division congratulates Doug Nielsen on his promotion to Division Head in June.

Congratulations also to Larry Golden, Senior Mechanic, who received a 15-year service award in April.

We welcome Charles Brewer, Senior Mechanic, who transferred to us from the Surveys Division in March.



**INTERNAL AUDIT**



Emmett McNeil, III, receives a 10-year service certificate from Chief Auditor Bill McDorman on April 6.



Terry Nanney, left, Permit Section Head, presents a 10-year service certificate to Linda Connell, Permit Technician.



Herman Lewis, Jr., son of LaKeysha Lewis, Administrative Aide I, was born February 1.

**HIGHWAY POLICE**



Pfc. Scott Fraley of West Memphis received an "Officer of the Year" award from the Fraternal Order of Eagles, Aerie 60, in Little Rock April 7. The Eagles sponsor an annual banquet to honor law enforcement officers who have excelled in their field during the previous year.



Terry Nanney, left, Permit Section Head, presents a 5-year service certificate to Keith Dean, Permit Technician.



Zachariah Ezakiel Dover, born January 7, is the 23rd grandchild of Joe and Patricia Wheat. Joe is a Permit Technician.



Kim Martin, daughter of Pfc. Roy and Mona Martin, is a cheerleader at Harrison Jr. High.



Sandra Bivins, left, Permit Technician, at the wedding of her daughter Kayla Bullinger to Courtland Duncan April 4 at East End Assembly of God

**LEGAL**



Tamia and Jamia Bennett are the twin daughters of Legal Aide Benjamin Bennett.



Heather Mitchell, stepdaughter of Cathy Mitchell, Administrative Aide III, is a sixth grade graduate of Pine Haven Elementary in Bauxite.

Janet and Angela Simms, wife and daughter of Paul Simms, Staff Planning Engineer in Statewide Planning, competed in the Ice Skating Winter Classic in Tampa, Florida in February. They finished first, second or third in all of the events they entered at this national skating competition.

**MAINTENANCE**



Cody Lane, born December 24, and Walter Clay Ingram are the grandsons of Clyde McCollum, Striping Crew Supervisor.

**PLANNING & RESEARCH**



Left to right are Kathy Gunderman, Cartographer II; Larry Newman, Cartographer Supervisor; and Tim Mahan, Cartographer I. Larry presented Kathy with a 5-year service certificate and Tim a 10-year certificate.



Gatlin Vogelgesang is the nephew of Robert Cagle, Data Collection Technician, in Technical Services.

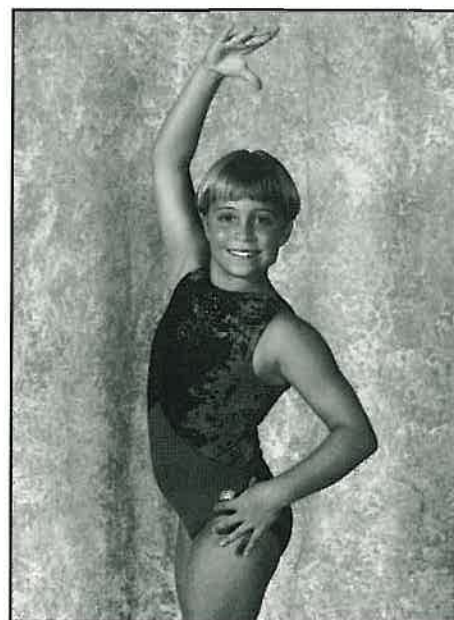
**MATERIALS**

Shayla Kraft, daughter of Geotechnical Drill Party Chief David Kraft, was recently honored by Duke University's Talent Identification Program. About 85 seventh grade students statewide scored 19 or above on the national ACT test used to admit students to college. Shayla, as a seventh grader at Ashdown Jr. High School, scored as high or higher than the state average for high school seniors.



Don McMillen, left, Transportation Specialist, receives a 10-year service certificate from Jim Gilbert, Public Transportation Administrator.

Lorie Tudor has rejoined the Department in P&R's Statewide Planning after receiving a BS in Civil Engineering from the University of Memphis. She was honored as the University's civil engineering "Design Student of the Year."



Samantha Meadors is the 10-year old daughter of Staff Research Engineer Alan and Liane Meadors. Samantha is the State Champion in gymnastics for the 6-10 year-old division.





Benjamin Jackson, son of Margaret LeClair, Civil Engineering Technician, placed second in a recent Taekwondo tournament.



Anastasia Katarina was born February 17 to Statewide Planning Engineer Richard and Gabriell Mills.



Perry Mills, age 2, is the son of Statewide Planning Engineer Richard and Gabriell Mills.

**PROGRAMS AND CONTRACTS**

This division extends its condolences to the family of Catherine Bonds, Accident Coding Clerk II in the Traffic Safety Section, who died April 13.



Mike Selig, left, Staff Traffic Safety Engineer, presents Jon Waldrip, Administrative Officer III, a 20-year service certificate.



Roy Douglas, left, Program Administration Coordinator, presents Larry Lanes, Administrative Assistant III, a 10-year service certificate.

Jamie Douglas, son of Roy Douglas, Program Administration Coordinator, is a member of Bryant Middle School's Odyssey of the Mind Team. The team placed first in their division in regional competition held in March at Hot Springs. They advanced to state competition April 18 in Sheridan and placed third. The Odyssey of the Mind program is a team effort that teaches self-confidence, builds character and encourages creative thinking in problem solving.

Michael and Matthew, sons of Sharon Bowen, Administrative Assistant I in the Project Development Section, competed in a spelling bee for the third and sixth grades at Central Arkansas Christian School. Both finished in first place and Matthew was chosen to compete in the Pulaski County Spelling Bee where he placed 13th.

**RIGHT OF WAY**



Haley Garner, age 8, granddaughter of Shirley Butler, Relocation Section Office Administrative Assistant III, was crowned 1998 Holiday Miss and Most Photogenic.



Austin and Sutton Jones are the greatnephews of Rex Boothe, Relocation Coordinator.

**ROADWAY DESIGN**

Congratulations to Brooks Booher, Staff Hydraulics Engineer, on the birth of a son, Blaine Ashton, on April 7. June Booher, Roadway Designer, is the new grandfather.



Bobby Welch, left, Staff Design Engineer, and Jim Squires, Senior Designer, are shown with a cake recognizing their 30 years of service. Bobby and Jim achieved their 30 years in February and March respectively.



Roadway Design Service awards: Gary English, Senior Design Technician, 15 years; Cindy Webb, Office Administrative Assistant V, 20 years; Julie Coffman, Senior Hydraulics Technician, 10 years; and Leo Priest, Senior Designer, 25 years



David Forrester

## DISTRICT ONE

The District One Equipment Operators' Rodeo was held March 26. There was excellent participation and the contestants enjoyed a fish fry after the events were completed.

The Districtwide maintenance crew took the top honor of Team Champion. Our special thanks to chef David Forrester, Maintenance Aide II in the Districtwide maintenance crew.



District One Equipment Operators' Rodeo Team Winner: Districtwide maintenance crew members Anthony Lewis, Joey McClanahan, Raymond Williams and Johnny Light



Motor Patrol  
1st: Joey McClanahan;  
2nd: Mike Gahr; 3rd: Ricky Ivy



Single Axle Dump Truck  
1st: Jimmy Pulley;  
2nd: Billy Waggle; 3rd: T.C. Holmes



Backhoe  
1st: David Morgan;  
2nd: Ronald Dunigan; 3rd: Mike Gahr



Tractor/Mower  
1st: Jeff Collier;  
2nd: Earnest Rose; 3rd: Troy Tims



Tandem Axle Dump Truck  
1st: Johnny Light;  
2nd: Ray Duff; 3rd: Andre Rollie



Lowboy  
1st: Harold Mullins;  
2nd: Billy Cowan; 3rd: William Henderson





**District One Service Awards - 1997 4th Quarter:** Reggie Rice, Civil Engineering Technician, 5 years; Kenny Smith, Maintenance Aide II, 10 years; Raymond Williams, Hydraulic Excavator Operator/Finish and Nancy Jumper, Area Headquarters Attendant, 15 years



**District One 20-Year Service Award**  
Ann McMickle, Fuel Clerk



Ernie Westfall, left, District Maintenance Engineer, presents a 35-year service certificate to D.W. Miles, Area Maintenance Supervisor.



**District One 5-Year Service Award**  
C.L. White, Multi-Axle Truck Driver



Ocie Williams, Single Axle Truck Driver, retired from the Lee County crew in February with 18 years service.



Ernie Westfall, left, District Maintenance Engineer, presents a 35-year service certificate to Clinton Bohannon, Area Maintenance Supervisor.



**District One 10-Year Service Awards**  
Front row: Joe Hooper, Bridge Repairer II; Roosevelt Williams, Single Axle Truck Dr.; Ellard Foltz, Rest Area Attendant. Back row: Sylvester Jennings, Crew Leader; Harold Mullins, Crew Leader; Elmer Calahan, Single Axle Truck Dr.



Ernie Westfall, left, District Maintenance Engineer, presents a 30-year service certificate to John Herrington, Bridge Job Superintendent.



**District One 20-Year Service Awards**  
Ray Weaver, Area Maint. Supv.; Danny Thomas, Rest Area Attendant; Ollis Fields, Maint. Aide I



Carnel Coleman, Multi-Axle Truck Driver, and Wayne Fowler, Senior Inspector, participate in the annual blood drive in January.



Clarence Polk, Backhoe/Front End Loader Operator, received a 20-year service certificate.





Joe Best, left, with his wife at his retirement reception after 17 years of service. He is a Motor Patrol Operator/Finish for the Ashley County maintenance crew.



District Two Equipment Operators' Rodeo First Place Winners: Red Taylor, Tractor-Lowboy; Thomas Gately, Tandem Axle Dump Truck; Teddy Walton, Single Axle Dump Truck; John Moorehead, Tractor-Mower; Junior Fox, Backhoe; A.D. Ford, Motor Patrol



Tandem Axle Truck Driver Contestants  
Melyin Ford, Susan Main, Steve Hamilton, Otis Jones, Willie Richardson, Billy Cater, Lamar Reynolds, Tommy Gately, Kathy Foster, Sammy Horton



Tractor/Mower Contestants  
Maurice Jones, Edward Kirkham, John Moorehead, Jessie Jackson, Clarence Edwards, Perry Bledsoe



Motor Patrol Contestants  
Norman Rochelle, Tim Cagle, David Alverson, Ellis Landers, H.D. Ford, Jefferson Wade



Backhoe Contestants  
Johnny Brown, Junior Fox, Larry Crow, Kirk Chidester, David Waters, Stacy Stepp



Single Axle Truck Driver Contestants  
Don Buell, Dale McGriff, Carrie Hudson, Teddy Walton, Felecia Spicer, Debany Qualls, Shirley Norman, Donald Nugent



**DISTRICT THREE**



Ernie Westfall, right, District Maint. Engineer, on his second mission trip to Juarez, Mexico to build a house for a family



Bettye Carter-Johnson, left, Permit Officer, and Michael Benson, right, Pine Bluff Resident Engineer, are "arrested" by the Lockup Sheriff for St. Jude's Children's Hospital.



Katy Chavis, age 5, granddaughter of Bridge Job Superintendent John Herrington, graduated kindergarten at Sulphur Springs.



Corey Blake, age 6 months, is the son of Construction Field Engineer Brian and Kristy Rowe.



Ronnie Garner, center, District Maintenance Superintendent, at a reception given on his behalf for 30 years of service



Ala Mae Flenory, District Bookkeeper, at her reception for 20 years of service

**DISTRICT FOUR**



John Sharum, left, Mountainburg Resident Engineer, receives a 20-year service certificate from District Engineer Harold Beaver.



Eddie Fisher, center, Alma Area Headquarters Attendant, receives a 20-year service certificate from David Becker, right, District Maintenance Superintendent, and David Richards, left, Crawford County I Area Maintenance Supervisor.



Eddie Sampley, left, Maint. Aide II, receives a 10-year service certificate from Clinton Isaacs, Crawford County II Area Maintenance Supv.

**DISTRICT FIVE**



Cleburne County Area Maintenance Supervisor Harold Carr, left, presents Ralph Bivens, right, Single Axle Truck Driver, with a retirement reception after 15 years service.



**10-Year Service Awards**

Dale Smith, Senior Mechanic; Donie Bray, Backhoe/Front End Loader Opr.; Bobby Younger, Roller Opr.; Allen Smith, Distributor/Roller Opr.



**District Five Service Awards**

Chris Johnson, Crew Leader, 20 years; David Todd, Const. Aide II, 20 years; Rickie Sharp, Crew Leader, 15 years; Hoyt Taylor, Motor Patrol Operator/Finish, 20 years; Perry Stegall, Area Maint. Supv., 20 years



Ronald Satterwhite, Assistant Resident Engineer, with his granddaughter, Morgan Paige Johnson, born March 30 to Todd and Marnie Johnson



Cassandra Lee Taylor, born October 9, 1997 is the first grandchild of Kay Taylor, District Bookkeeper.



Kelli Marie Yates, born March 1, is the daughter of Doug and Teresa Yates and the granddaughter of Melvin Yates, Senior Inspector.



Ryan Matthew Shane, age 3 months, is the son of Randy and Janie Shane and the first grandson of Senior Mechanic Leslie Shane.

**DISTRICT SIX**



Dave Harding, District Permit Officer, retired February 27 with 22 years of service.

Rickey Prince was promoted to Permit Officer following Dave's retirement. Rickey and his wife Cindy reside in Magnet Cove with their son Brad and daughter Jill.



David Johnson, son of North Pulaski County Crew Leader Dennis Johnson of Mayflower, has been selected to the 1998 Wrangler High School All-Star Rodeo Team. Selections are made on leadership qualities, academic eligibility and athletic achievements in the classroom as well as the rodeo arena. David is vice president of the Arkansas High School Rodeo Association and competes in saddle bronc, calf roping, steer wrestling, team roping and bull riding events.



**DISTRICT EIGHT**



J.J. "Slim" Blalock, center, Senior Inspector, receives a 35-year service award from District Engineer Frank Russenberger, left, and Resident Engineer B.J. McAlister, right.



District Engineer Frank Russenberger, left, congratulates James McFerran, District Equipment Supervisor, on completing 30 years of service.



Ronnie Putman, left, Single Axle Truck Driver, receives a 25-year service award from District Engineer Frank Russenberger.



Receiving service awards from District Engineer Frank Russenberger, right, are Connie Mack Harper, left, Backhoe/Front End Loader Operator, 20 years and James Washington, center, Motor Patrol Operator/Finish, 25 years.



District Engineer Frank Russenberger, left, congratulates Johnny Hayes, Area Headquarters Attendant, on 20 years of service.



District Engineer Frank Russenberger, left, presents a 15-year service award to Steve Sheets, Storeroom Supervisor.



Robert D. Nichols, left, Rest Area Attendant, receives a 10-year service award from District Engineer Frank Russenberger.



Johnny W. Rice, left, Lead Person, is congratulated by District Engineer Frank Russenberger, right, on 10 years of service.



**District Eight 10-Year Service Awards**  
 Front row: Doug Jones, Station Attendant Supervisor; Nancy Keeling, Bookkeeper; Brigitte Roberson, Parts Runner; Fred Goates, Lowboy/Float Truck Dr. Back row: District Engineer Frank Russenberger; Monty Scott, Senior Mechanic; James Irving, Multi-Axle Truck Dr.; John Rose, Bridge Repairer I; Paul Athey, Mechanic

**DISTRICT NINE**



Kit Core, left, Area Maintenance Supervisor, presents a 10-year service award to Robert Kelley, Backhoe/Front End Loader Operator for the Carroll County maintenance crew.



Debbie Meyer, Office Manager, presents a 20-year service award to Rick Widner, Storeroom Supervisor.



Makayla LeeAnn Pearsall, being held by her grandfather Rick Widner, Storeroom Supervisor, was born February 24.



Randall Wade Keef, born February 19, is the son of Randy and Lori Keef. Randy is a Backhoe/Front End Loader Operator with the Jasper Area Headquarters.



Bill Keeling, Inspector with the Bentonville Residency, retired March 24 with 26+ years service.

## DISTRICT TEN



Michelle Winemiller is the new District 10 Receptionist.



Receiving service awards on March 19 from District Engineer Joe Barnett were Keith Allbritton, Construction Aide II, 10 years; Tim Eaker, Construction Aide II, 10 years; Donnie McKinney, Multi-Axle Truck Driver, 15 years; David Hendrix, Backhoe/Front End Loader Operator, 10 years; Bill Currie, Area Maintenance Supervisor, 20 years; Larry Floyd, Multi-Axle Truck Driver, 10 years and Kevin Foster, Construction Helper II, 5 years. Not pictured: Calvin Foster, Store-room Assistant, 10 years.



Congratulations to the District bridge crew for winning the "Big Heart" award during the Red Cross Blood Drive held at the District Headquarters in January.



Mark Hudson is the grandson of Resident Engineer Burl Hudson.



Hunter Craig Terrell, born December 8, 1997, is the son of Bryant and Vicki Terrell. Bryant is a Construction Materials Inspector in the Osceola Residency.





**BUCKLED, SOBER  
AND SAFE**

**Remember!**  
**It is Arkansas Law**  
**and AHTD Policy**  
**To Buckle Your Seatbelt!**



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