



Arkansas HIGHWAYS

WINTER 2022

A PUBLICATION OF THE
ARKANSAS DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION | MAGAZINE

Justice, Respect & Courteous Goodwill The 60-Year Legacy of Robert S. Moore, Jr. Arkansas Highway Commission Chairman

**ARDOT WELCOMES
Legislators**

**THE DELTA
HERITAGE TRAIL:
A Hotspot for Cyclists**

**KEEP IT CLEAN,
Arkansas**

DIRECTOR'S MESSAGE

Dear ARDOT Family,

It is hard to believe that 2021 is coming to an end. As I look back on this last year, I am filled with gratitude and optimism. We have made it through some tough challenges and we are now stronger and better than we were a year ago.

During the 2021 Legislative Session, the Legislature approved additional positions at ARDOT to create career ladders for our maintenance and construction folks. Our goal is to make working for ARDOT a rewarding career and not just a job. We made great progress towards that goal in 2021.

We were successful in meeting the challenge of a record breaking snow event in February. The professionalism and hard work of our staff was phenomenal and I've never been more proud to be a part of the ARDOT family.

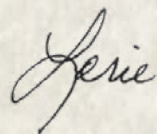
We were successful in meeting the challenge of repairing the I-40 Mississippi River Bridge in West Memphis/Memphis. I am so grateful that the fracture was discovered before a catastrophic event occurred. From this point forward, we will apply the lessons we learned from the past and move forward confidently with our Bridge Inspection Program, which is so important to the public safety.

We continued to face the challenge of COVID while remaining committed to our public service of maintaining and constructing Arkansas' highways.

All of you represent the Department every day and you do so with excellence and pride. I am so thankful for everyone.

I hope you all have a wonderful and warm holiday season!

All my best,



Lorie H. Tudor, P.E., Director



FRONT COVER:
Commission Chairman Robert S. Moore Jr.

BACK COVER:
Interstate 40 near Maumelle

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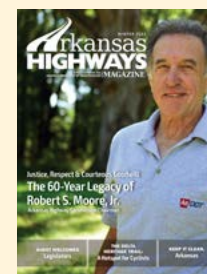
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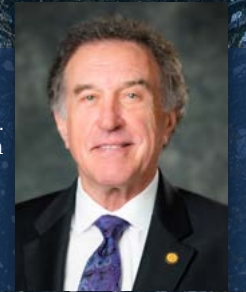
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ARKANSAS STATE HIGHWAY COMMISSION

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Chairman



DALTON A. FARMER, JR.
Vice Chairman



PHILIP TALDO
Member



KEITH GIBSON
Member



MARIE HOLDER
Member



WINTER 2022

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JUSTICE, RESPECT & COURTEOUS GOODWILL

A Look into the 60-Year Legacy of Robert S. Moore, Jr.

BY BRITNI PADILLA-DUMAS



Robert Moore and wife, Beverly

ROBERT S. MOORE, JR., CHAIRMAN OF THE ARKANSAS HIGHWAY COMMISSION, IS A TRUE RENAISSANCE MAN. Born and raised in rural southeast Arkansas, he equates his childhood to Opie from *The Andy Griffith Show*. His father was the town Sheriff, his mother a well-respected and widely known southern Christian woman.

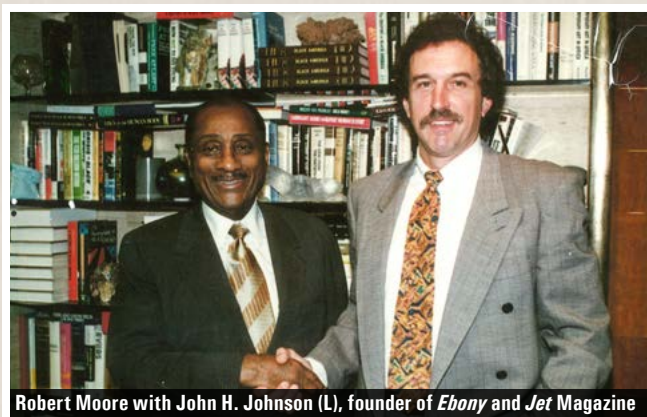
Robert has always been a ball of energy and ambition—whether he was running home from church to catch Ricky Nelson on *The Adventures of Ozzie and Harriet* or leading his high school football team to the district championship—leadership is in his blood. It's just who he is...who he's always been.

The vigor with which he pursues life is contagious. We talked for hours about his passions, endeavors and accomplishments. He shares a rich anecdote for each decade, every sentence seemingly shimmering with wisdom.

His grey gaze is full of compassion, contemplation and experience. This is his story.

(continued on page 6)

Header photo: Chairman Moore (middle) with parents "Miss Dorothy" and Sheriff Moore.



THE ARMY MAN

In high school, Moore was the captain of his football team and president of his senior class. He went to Ouachita Baptist University (OBU) in Arkadelphia, Arkansas, on a basketball scholarship; he and his best friend, Pryor Wheat, completed the ROTC program, and graduated as Second Lieutenants (2LT) in the United States Army. They both branched Infantry—2LT Moore landed an assignment to the 82nd Airborne Division; 2LT Wheat went to the 4th Infantry Division. Soon after, 2LT Wheat deployed to Vietnam.

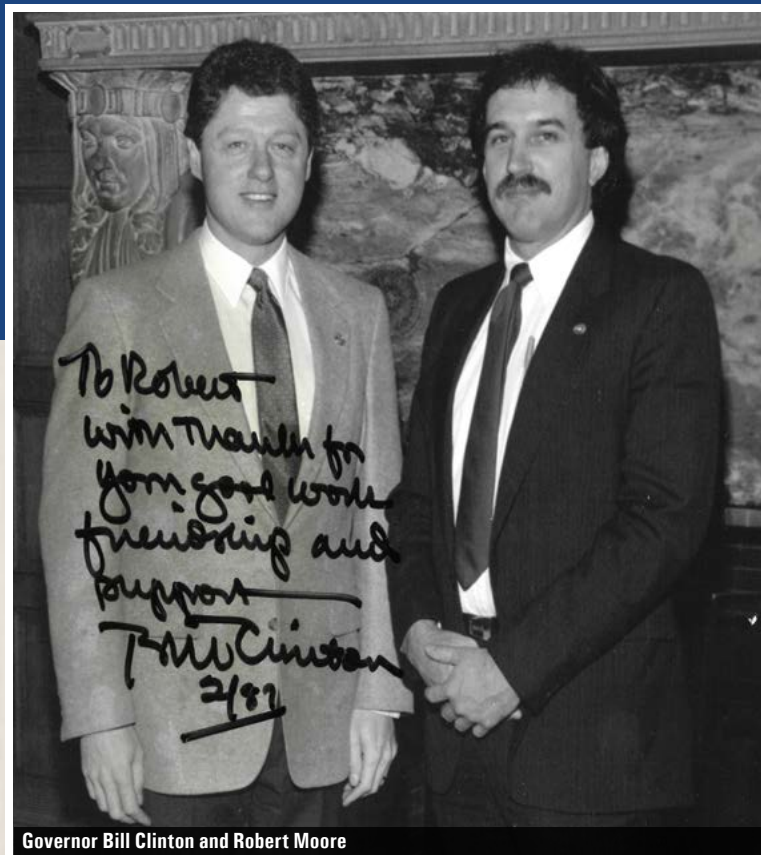
"I got the lucky draw," Moore shared, tears in his eyes. "I'm sitting here and he's not. I went to the 82nd Airborne and he went to Vietnam...he didn't make it back, but I did. He's been gone all these years, and I've been here. I just don't understand why."

Later, Moore said it best: "We never get to the end of why."

Second Lieutenant Moore graduated flight school with honors and flew fixed wing aircraft on assignment in Vietnam.

"The Vietnam War was a hugely defining experience in my life," Moore shared. "I went over there a little boy from Arkansas City in the influence of a traditional religious background. What I saw, what I was exposed to...I came back different. I grew up thinking that the government and people were good and honest and true, and everybody wanted to do the right thing...but I realized that isn't always the case."

Moore received a Bronze Star for his service in Vietnam.



THE GOVERNMENT MAN

After returning home, Captain Moore, father of two sons, Rob and Lee, taught future soldiers in the ROTC program at Henderson State University. After completing his five and a half year service obligation to the U.S. Army, he decided to go to law school.

Moore worked for Attorney General Jim Guy Tucker for two years; in 1977, Governor David Pryor appointed Moore as the Chairman of the Arkansas Transportation Commission.

"In January of 1986 I had this thought about my dear, sweet Mama: "your Mother expects more of you." Lo and behold, there was an article in the newspaper that day about a Little Rock traffic judge that had resigned because he got in trouble. They called a special election, so I thought, "that's it, I'm getting ready to run for traffic judge." I barely lost, but it ironically turned out to be one of the best things to happen to me. I got a call from Governor Bill Clinton the next day; he had followed the election and asked if I'd like to work for him at the Governor's office. I worked for him for eight months and then he appointed me as the Alcoholic Beverage Control (ABC) Director in 1987. That fickle hand of fate...things had to happen just so," he grinned.

Director Moore held his position for 20 years, serving under governors from both sides of the aisle. Upon retirement from State government, Moore and his wife returned home to the farm and Arkansas City to seek a seat in the legislature. He ran unopposed for three terms. His peers chose him as Speaker of the House in his final term in office. His intent for running for office was to make a difference

for the people of southeast Arkansas. His focus topics were transportation funding, geo-tourism, historic preservation and natural resources.

"When I was there, I never paid any attention to if there was an "R" or a "D" by anyone's name. I thought we were all there to represent our areas. We all had a little different political philosophy, but we came together to get things done for the people. The same is true of my fellow Highway Commissioners Farmer, Taldo, Gibson and Holder. We have our different political backgrounds, but we are bonded together in a sense of duty to properly serve the people of Arkansas. It's an honor to serve with them and to work with Director Lorie Tudor."

Transportation funding was Speaker Moore's number one priority. Under his leadership, the Arkansas Legislature proposed a 10-year, half-cent sales tax—known as the Connecting Arkansas Program (CAP)—to voters in the 2012 general election.

"I like to think that my time in public service—the legislature—was time mostly spent trying to do things that were good for other people. There is something inherently more redeeming when you get personal satisfaction by doing for other people. I think that's

House Speaker Details \$2.8 Billion Highway Plan

Minutes before threatening weather and possible tornadoes moved through the capital city, **House Speaker Robert Moore** unveiled his plans for a major highway program that could be a political lightning rod.

In fact, an hour after



Moore (D-Arkansas City) has been negotiating with interest groups and stakeholders for weeks to find a plan that he felt would meet funding needs for major road improvements while balancing political interests crucial to successfully passing a program.

Moore's highway plan would include a referral to voters for a 10-year, half-cent sales tax to build and repair four-lane roads. The tax increase would be referred to voters

THERE IS SOMETHING INHERENTLY MORE REDEEMING WHEN YOU GET PERSONAL SATISFACTION BY DOING FOR OTHER PEOPLE.”



important, and too often it's missing in our world right now...especially our political world."

The proposed CAP sales tax passed in November 2012, giving the Arkansas Department of Transportation ten years of funding to improve the state's infrastructure.

In 2013, Governor Mike Beebe appointed Moore to the Arkansas Highway Commission to serve a 10-year term. He became Chairman of the Highway Commission in early 2020.

Highway funding came full circle during Chairman Moore's tenure. The funding for the CAP will expire in 2022, so Arkansas Governor Asa Hutchinson and the Legislature asked voters to make the half-cent sales tax permanent with an amendment to Arkansas' Constitution by approving Issue 1. With a margin of 55% in favor, a stable source of funding for Arkansas highways became a reality in 2020.

THE HONORABLE MAN

"Over my lifetime, I've often been reminded of the principle that all men are created equal. And I believe that's true, but only until about the second breath that we take. After that, it depends on your sex, race, family, community, appearance, your IQ or talent...all of these things affect how we develop as human beings. Some are obviously blessed and given the opportunity to experience greater joy in life than others. I say that to remind myself that I have led a very blessed life. I owe back to those who haven't been as fortunate as I am. I want to be more

ardent in my compassion and my caring for other people. That's been my motivation in advocating for the people of Arkansas City and this area of the Delta. I want to see good things for the people here."

Moore often works through the family foundation established in 2001 to honor his mother, Miss Dorothy, in order to accomplish improvements for southeast Arkansas.

"My Mother's favorite scripture was Proverbs 29:18 – "Where there is no vision, the people will perish." I've added a personal mantra, perseverance, to that. You can have all of the good ideas, but if you don't pursue it, nothing happens."

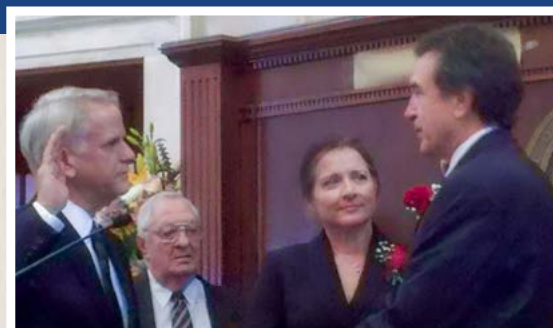
Moore collaborated with Desha County, the Corps of Engineers, the local levee board and Arkansas Department of Parks and Tourism in advocating for the extension of the Delta Heritage Trail from the original footprint in Rohwer to Arkansas City via an improved, paved levee. "The dedication and persistence of the Parks & Tourism Staff, former Director Grady Spann, Jeff King and Jordan Thomas in getting this done cannot be

(continued on page 8)

“MY TIME WITH BEVERLY—HER INFLUENCE AND PATIENCE, AND SUPPORT HAS BEEN IMMEASURABLE IN WHATEVER SUCCESSES THAT I’VE HAD.”



- 1 **COMMANDERS ACHIEVEMENT AWARD**
In recognition of academic and flying achievement as a student aviator
- 2 **PLAQUE FROM THE ARKANSAS MLK, JR. COMMISSION**
For continuous support and dedication to the AMKLC
- 3 **OUTSTANDING ACHIEVEMENT IN PRESERVATION ADVOCACY**
Presented by the Historic Preservation Alliance of Arkansas
- 4 **DISTINGUISHED ALUMNI AWARD FOR PUBLIC SERVICE TO THE STATE OF ARKANSAS**
Presented by Ouachita Baptist University
- 5 **ARKANSAS NATURAL RESOURCES COMMISSION RECOGNITION**
For contributions to the State of Arkansas
- 6 **HENRY AWARD - HALL OF FAME**
Presented at the Arkansas Governor's Conference on Tourism



Judge Bynum Gibson swears Robert Moore in as Speaker of the House of Representatives

overstated. With the recent \$20 million USDOT grant and corresponding match from the Walton Foundation, the Delta Heritage Trail will be completed by 2025. This is a huge deal for Arkansas City and the Delta. Coupled with the Walton Foundation's investment in the John H. Johnson Memorial Park in the city, our future looks very bright."

"I don't really like to take credit for accomplishing things, but it's true to say there are some things that sure wouldn't have happened had I not been involved. Was I the one that got them done? Heck no! However, as you look on important things you spend your time on - perhaps that's the most important thing - **that you got something started.**"

Chairman Moore mentioned his older sister, Dottie, and reflected about his father's influence.

"Dottie has lived in California for many years, but we keep in touch and remain close. My dad's been gone for almost fifty years but remembering his life of service to others is always with me as a reminder of the eternal value of good character."

He spoke lovingly of marrying his best friend, Beverly, and the affect she has had on his life.

"My time with Beverly—her influence and patience, and support have been immeasurable in whatever successes that I've had. She is a caring and benevolent person. The influence of my parents and of my wife has been extremely important."

Robert and Beverly have hosted numerous political and music events at their private backyard honky-tonk on the farm known as Peck's Southeast. Many musicians have visited and even played at Peck's over the years, including Ray Wylie Hubbard and Cowboy Jack Clement. Perhaps the most memorable guest artist was longtime friend Billy Joe Shaver, who spent the weekend with Beverly and Robert at their farm in Arkansas City.



Robert Moore (R) and his lifelong friend, Dwane Powell (L)

THE MUSIC MAN

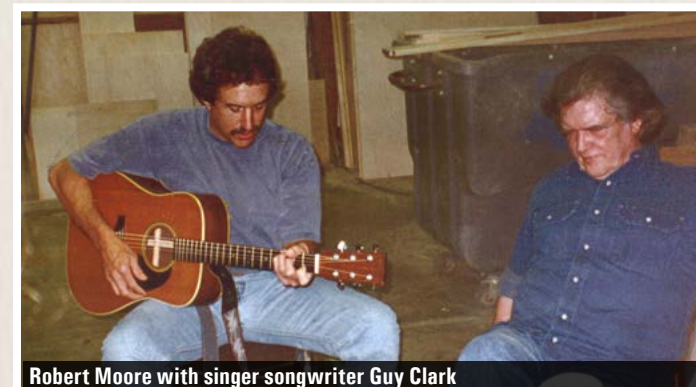
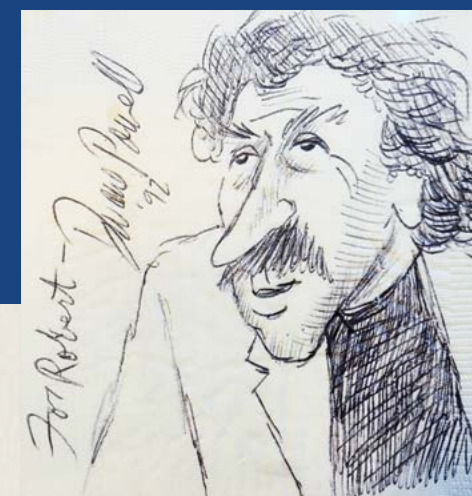
Robert Moore may be retired, but he is staying busy. In fact, he is finally pursuing another passion: music. There isn't a day that passes that doesn't include him pondering life, existence, and truth, telling stories using guitar chords. He's recorded a number of songs and published some of them on YouTube under J.R. Grace Music.

"My best friend in high school, and lifelong closest friend, Dwane Powell, went on to become a highly acclaimed editorial cartoonist with the *Raleigh News and Observer*. He was also a very talented musician and, until his death recently, pushed me to get a little more serious about my love of music. I've been a singer-song writer for more than 50 years. A little while back, I decided to do something with it. My alter ego is J.R. Grace. J stands for Justice, R for Respect, and for me, Grace means courteous goodwill. Everyone deserves those things: justice, respect and courteous goodwill."

A LIFE FULLY LIVED

Robert S. Moore, Jr. has navigated the political spectrum for decades, holding appointed positions from six of Arkansas' previous seven governors. His institutional knowledge, organic ambition, and homegrown integrity make him the go-to-guy that gets things done.

"Worry is a game that will drive you insane, and that's not how I'm going to end," Moore smiled. "That's a quote from one of my songs. Life is a complicated trip. There are so many hooks and turns, and not all of them are good. But they take you somewhere; don't waste your life worrying about stuff that's happened. You can't change the past. You can apologize, you can have regrets, but you have to move on. There are no guarantees or certainties for the future. If you're always living your life for tomorrow, you'll never get there. If you're always worrying about tomorrow, you miss the essence of living. You're here today...enjoy it...that's all you have." ■



Robert Moore with singer songwriter Guy Clark

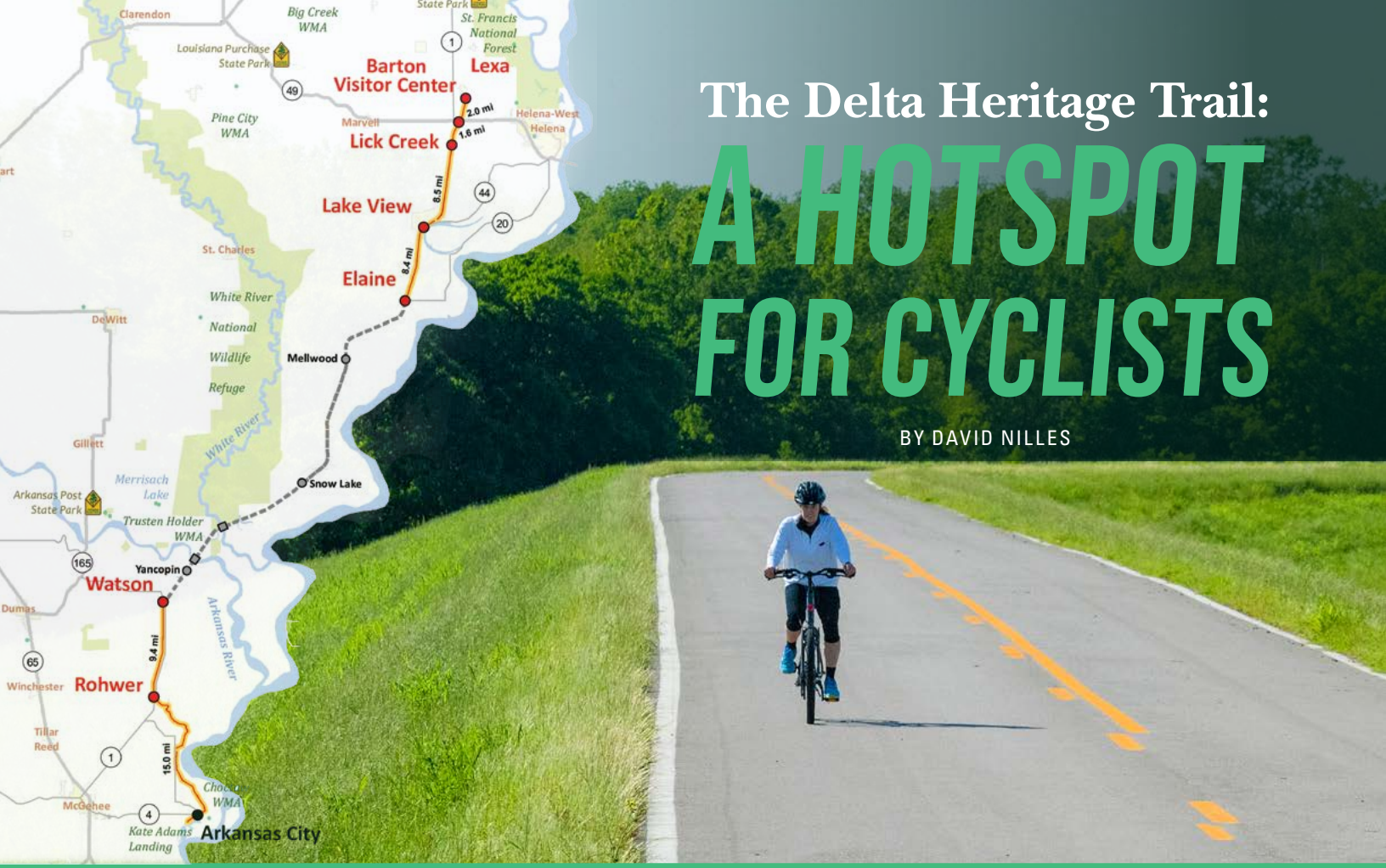


Ray Wylie Hubbard & Robert Moore performing on stage



Billy Joe Shaver & Robert Moore inside Peck's Southeast

Caricature cutline: Editorial cartoonist and lifelong friend Dwane Powell sketched a caricature of Moore on a napkin.



The Delta Heritage Trail: A HOTSPOT FOR CYCLISTS

BY DAVID NILLES

IMAGINE IT IS A BEAUTIFUL SATURDAY MORNING AND YOU PLAN TO DO SOME CYCLING TO ENJOY THE WEATHER. What would make the ideal destination for hopping on a bike and riding?

How about a trail built for cyclists that is flat, easily accessible, is tree-shaded in places and offers a wide variety of scenery? It is a place so perfect for cycling that it has become one of Arkansas' State Parks. The destination is eastern Arkansas and a bike ride at Delta Heritage Trail State Park.

FROM EARLY PLANS TO MILES OF TRAILS

The Delta Heritage Trail has been a project in the making for 26 years and today there are many miles completed.

Since Arkansas State Parks initial planning with local communities began, 45 miles of trail have been constructed and are being used. Eight finished trailheads easily get you on your way.

There are two primary trailhead facilities. One is located at Barton near the north end, where you will discover a Visitors Center. The other facility is on the south end at Arkansas City.

The trail begins at Lexa, six miles west of Helena, and when completed, continues south for 70 miles to Rohwer. The trail then utilizes a 14-mile levee top shared-use roadway to connect to Arkansas City for a total trail length of 84.5 miles.

"The Arkansas City facility has been open for just over a year," Arkansas Highway Commission Chairman Robert S. Moore, Jr. shared. Moore is a native and current resident of Arkansas City and has been involved with development of the trail.

"With restrooms, overnight camping, repair tools and more available, cyclists are finding these facilities to be first class. This trail is becoming a destination and that is great for eastern Arkansas."

The Delta Heritage Trail began as a Rails-to-Trails conversion of an abandoned Missouri Pacific Railway line. Through efforts by the Arkansas Department of Parks, Heritage and Tourism (ADPHT) and ARDOT, ADPHT acquired the abandoned right-of-way corridor in 1992 through a land donation from the Union Pacific Corporation.

To learn more about the trail, Arkansas Highways traveled to Arkansas City and visited with Grady Spann, former

Director of Arkansas State Parks. Spann also happens to be a cyclist.

"I love trails like the Delta Heritage Trail," he shared. "I have ridden all of the areas that are now open."

The trail is a work in progress. The northern and southern ends of the trail are completed at 20 miles and 24 miles respectively, and plans for the middle section are in the works.

"The trail has been very well received," Spann commented. "It will see its full potential when we cross the Arkansas and White Rivers and all 84 miles have been completed."

EXPERIENCING THE TRAIL

The Delta Heritage Trail welcomes walkers, runners and cyclists, and offers a variety of experiences.

"People use the trail every day because it improves their quality of life," Spann added.

The trail is ideal for cyclists because the route is flat.

"When you think about the locomotives going down the railroad, they couldn't have extreme inclines or declines," Spann explained.

"Most Rails-to-Trails facilities are this way. They require you to pedal the whole time. You are not going to coast or climb very much. The surface is very easy to ride on and there is no traffic. This particular trail is a great way to get into cycling."

SIGHTS ALONG THE WAY

One of the things that makes the Delta Heritage Trail unique is the variety of opportunities the trail offers along the ride. Portions of the trail run under a canopy of trees. Another section will actually take cyclists over the trees. Spann described the experience.

"The trail will be elevated going across the Trusten Holder Wildlife Management Area near the White River, in some places rising up to 30 feet off the ground. You will feel like you are in the treetops and looking at bald cypress trees that may be a thousand years old."

At Rohwer, cyclists can stop and explore the Rohwer Heritage Site. Between 1942 and 1945, more than 8,000 Japanese Americans were interned here on a 500-acre camp.

The trail also offers a Pedal & Paddle tour.

"Participants cycle ten miles south to Lakeview where park staff will greet you with a kayak and send you onto



Grady Spann, Former Director of Arkansas State Parks

Old Town Lake," Spann describe. "Here you paddle under a cathedral of cypress trees that are absolutely beautiful before returning to cycle back to Barton."

Once the middle section of the trail is completed, cyclists will cross bridges spanning both the Arkansas and White Rivers.

For those wanting to make a weekend of it, the park even offers overnight campsites to make it a multi-day adventure.

MEETING IN THE MIDDLE

With the north and south ends of the Delta Heritage Trail complete and in use, immediate plans now turn to completing the middle portion of the trail.

"Everything is being done in phases," Spann explained. "The key to this entire project is crossing the Arkansas and the White Rivers. That section is currently being designed. That is also going to be the most difficult part of the project because of the engineering required to cross two major rivers while adapting those bridges to being friendly for cyclists, hikers and runners."

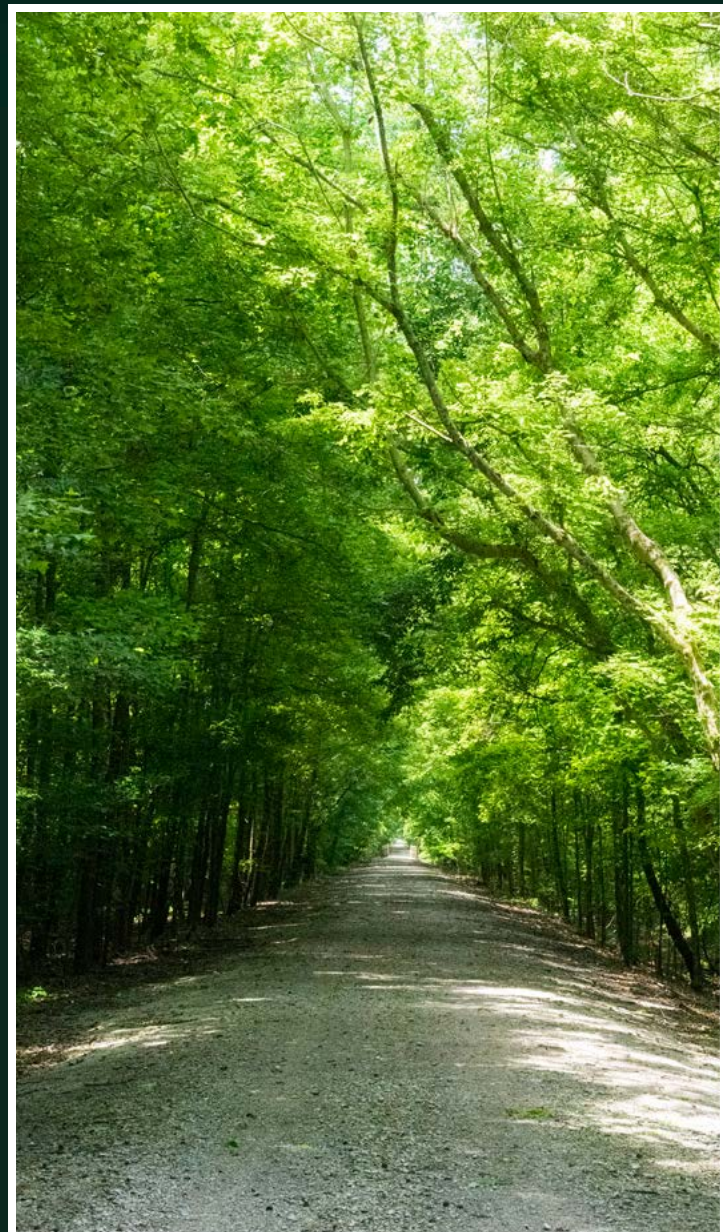
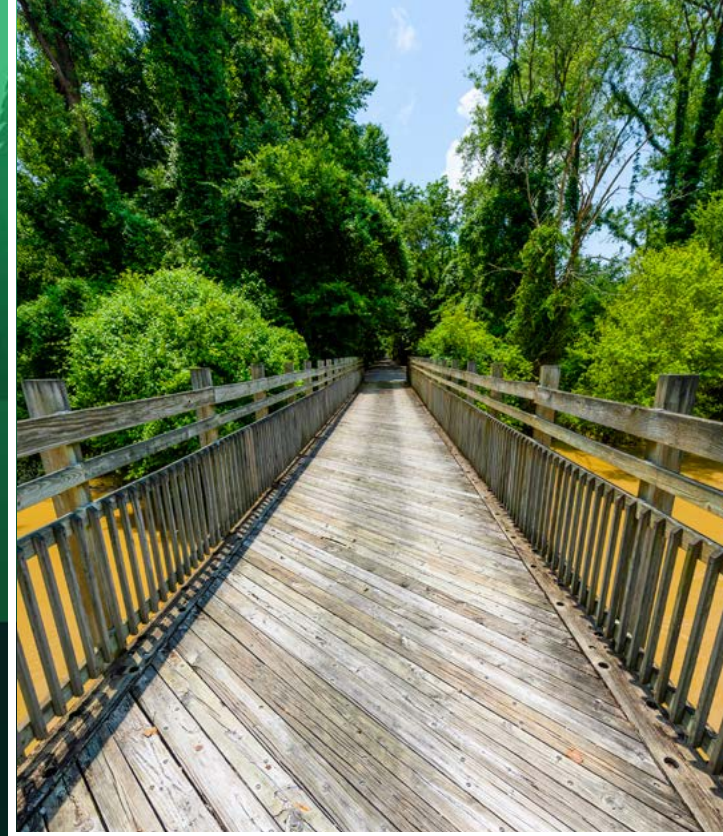
PARTNERSHIPS PAVE THE WAY

In 2020, Arkansas State Parks received a \$20 million 1:1 matching grant from the Walton Family Foundation to help fund completion of the remaining 40 miles of trail.

"The Walton Family Foundation is very interested in the Delta and quality of life, and improving opportunities for people who live in the Delta," Spann shared.

"We had the privilege of sharing the trail experience with them. After taking them out on the trail, they fell in love with it."

(continued on page 12)



As part of the partnership, Arkansas State Parks has agreed to have the trail completed in five years.

The agreement also includes a plan to honor John Johnson of Arkansas City. Johnson was creator and publisher of *Ebony* and *Jet* magazines.

"We will be building some type of recognition of his extraordinary life and his contributions to Arkansas."

January 1, 2025, is the goal to have the entire 84.5 miles of trail completed and open to the public.

In addition to the Walton Family Foundation grant, the U.S. Department of Transportation has awarded a \$20.5 million grant to the Arkansas Department of Parks, Heritage and Tourism through its Rebuilding American Infrastructure with Sustainability & Equity Discretionary Grant program (RAISE).

"I am encouraged that we are completing a trail system that has been talked about for many years and now people are enjoying it. I hope the trail system will also allow people to develop businesses along the way and make significant economic impacts both in tourism and in their local economies. That is the idea, that we impact peoples' lives in a positive way.

"Once we get the trail completed, I think that you will see people traveling from all over the nation to experience the Delta Heritage Trail. It is going to become a popular destination." ■

For more biking opportunities in Arkansas, discover The Monument Trails, a collection of world-class, mountain biking destinations within Arkansas' State Parks. Visit www.arkansasstateparks.com/trails/monument-trails for more information.



BY DAVID NILLES & BRITNI PADILLA-DUMAS

ARDOT Welcomes LEGISLATORS

THE WEATHER COULD NOT HAVE BEEN ANY BETTER, NOR COULD THE LIST OF INTERESTING ROAD MACHINERY AND DISPLAYS TO SEE AT ARDOT'S OPEN HOUSES FOR ARKANSAS LEGISLATORS ON OCTOBER 20 AND NOVEMBER 15.

Once held exclusively for newly-elected legislators, this year the Department invited the entire legislative body to Central Headquarters to hear an address from Director Lorie Tudor, visit staff at displays set up indoors and get a close up look at heavy machinery staged outdoors.

"This was a proud moment for us to get to show off some of our work," Director Tudor shared. "Our goal was to get to know our Arkansas legislators better and for them to get to know ARDOT better."

The Auditorium became the Department's Museum of Discovery, providing legislators with hands-on displays, simulations, information booths, pavement core samples, an exclusive look into IDriveArkansas and technology demonstrations. The legislators received a tour of the Central Office campus, followed by a walk-through of the ARDOT Sign Shop and opportunities to ask questions about the inner workings and day-to-day operations at the DOT. The tour ended with various pieces of equipment on display outside with ARDOT staff members present to answer any questions.

View more photos of the event at www.ardot.gov/LegislatorOrientation

Among the legislators touring the facilities was Representative Carlton Wing of District 38 in central Arkansas.

"It was great to be able to tour the massive facility and appreciate all the effort which goes into keeping our infrastructure strong in Arkansas," Wing shared.

"Seeing ARDOT up close gave us an appreciation for the great people who bring their skillsets and passion to keeping Arkansas moving."

Following the tour of the ARDOT sign shop, guests enjoyed a box lunch in the on campus pavilion. RX Catering of Little Rock provided lunch for the event, sponsored by Arkansas General Contractors and Arkansas Asphalt Pavement Association.

"I hope that the legislators were able to see the human side of the Department," commented Randy Ort, ARDOT's Deputy Director and Chief Operating Officer. "We have great employees that are very serious and dedicated to their jobs. We're excited to share what we do here...it's more than asphalt, concrete and steel."

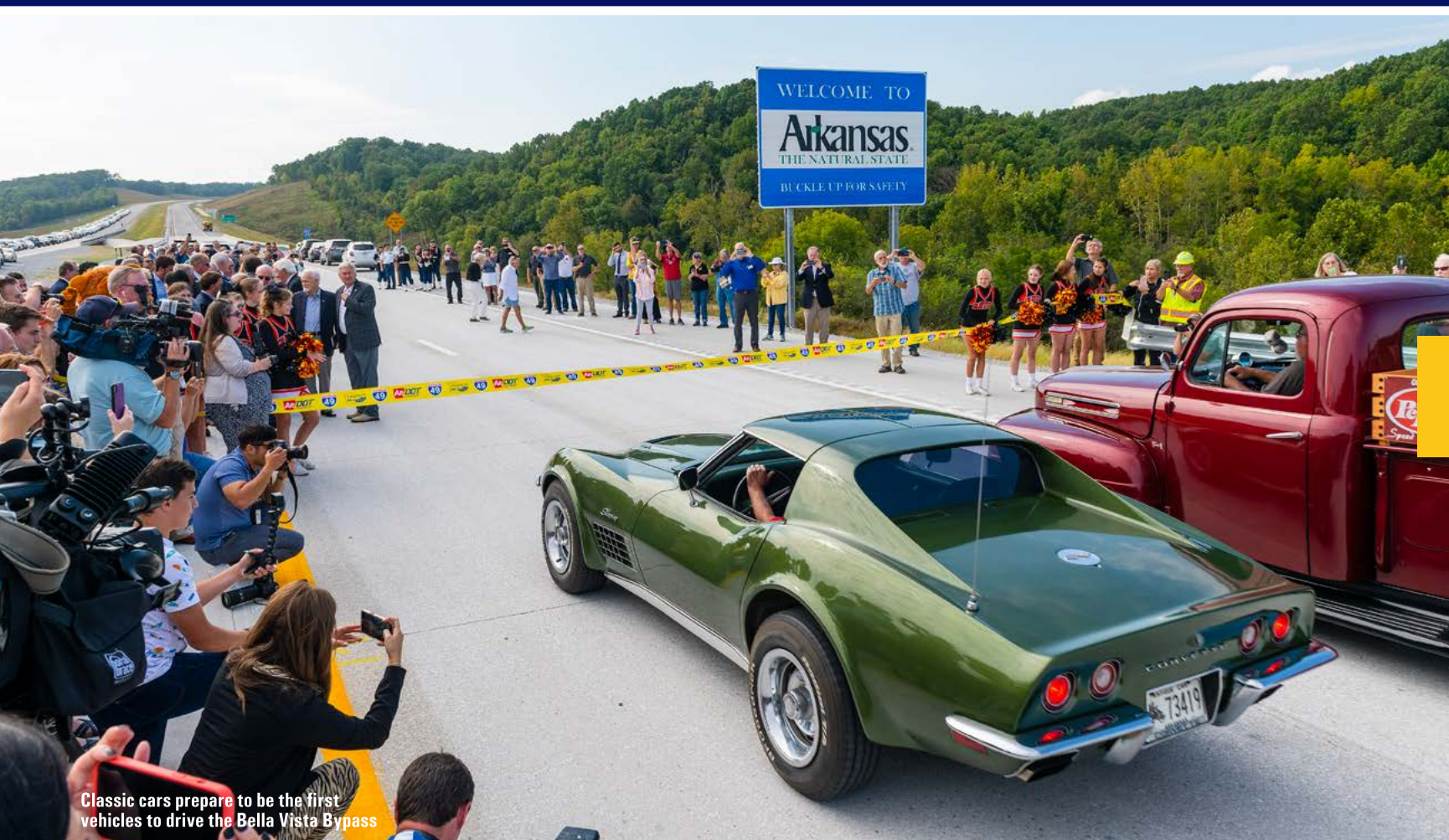
"The Open House was a way to say thank you to our legislators," Tudor shared. "Their support and help are the reason ARDOT is able to kickoff the Renew Arkansas Program that is going to begin in 2023. This exciting new program will make a huge difference for the state, for our economy and for our quality of life." ■

Completion of the BELLA VISTA BYPASS

Celebrated



BY DAVID NILLES



Classic cars prepare to be the first vehicles to drive the Bella Vista Bypass

SEPTEMBER 30 WAS DEFINITELY A DAY FOR CELEBRATION. It was a day that ARDOT and MODOT (Missouri Department of Transportation) officials came together on the Arkansas-Missouri state line to celebrate the completion of the 19-mile Bella Vista Bypass.

Highway officials were joined by legislators, Arkansas Governor Asa Hutchinson, Missouri Governor Mike Parson, a marching band, cheerleaders and approximately 50 classic cars as a ribbon was cut on the final link on Interstate 49 between Fort Smith and Kansas City.

"It's been a long time coming," Governor Hutchinson exclaimed to the crowd. "A lot of people on both sides of the border worked hard on this and we got it done."

Hutchinson shared what the new bypass means for the economies of both states.

"Great things are happening in southwest Missouri and northwest

Arkansas. This is an incredible economic opportunity for tourism and our economies. People are also going to see the beauty of these Arkansas and Missouri hills."

Construction on the Arkansas side of the bypass consisted of six projects totaling more than \$220 million. Contractors included Emery Sapp & Sons, Kolb Grading and APAC-Central. Work on the project began in 2011.

"It's not every day we have the opportunity to celebrate opening a project at a state line with our neighboring state," ARDOT Director Lorie Tudor shared. "We would not be here today without the support of the Governor, our legislature and Arkansas voters who recognized the need to make investments in our infrastructure by passing the 1/2 cent sales tax in 2011. This project is a direct result of their investment in the state of Arkansas. This is going to be great for Arkansas and Missouri, but also for this region of the nation."

The new four-lane bypass also means less congestion through the town

of Bella Vista. The road is expected to take up to 10,000 cars a day off Highway 71 through town.

"This highway will be a lot safer and a lot more convenient than going through town," Missouri Governor Mike Parson stated. "This project is an example of how states partner. They put their resources together and you get things like this accomplished. This is a great model for the rest of the country to look at. And yes, it is going to drive the economy of both of our states. You will see businesses follow."

The newest section of Interstate 49 opened to traffic on October 1. When all segments of Interstate 49 are complete across the United States, the corridor will extend 1,630 miles and link the Gulf Coast, around New Orleans, with south-central Canada, near Winnipeg.

"This is a great day for Arkansas and Missouri and all of our citizens are going to benefit from this new bypass," Governor Hutchinson concluded. ■





HIGHWAY 270 GROUNDBREAKING HOT SPRINGS, ARKANSAS

Local dignitaries, ARDOT staff and Highway Commissioners came together in Hot Springs on October 12 to break ground on the widening of Highway 270. The approximately two-mile project will widen the highway to five lanes beginning at the junction with Highway 227 and extending westward to Fleetwood Drive. Bike lanes are also included in the improvements.

"Today symbolizes the beginning of construction to provide a better road for so many in Garland County and also for all the visitors that travel to enjoy Lake Ouachita," ARDOT Director Lorie Tudor shared.

Hot Springs Mayor Pat McCabe referenced other highway projects in Garland County in his address to the crowd.

"We have been blessed over the last several years with great highway projects and this is a continuation for another great project. Working with ARDOT and the Commissioners, we have made traveling around Hot Springs much safer and we have increased our local commerce as well."

ARDOT Commissioner Marie Holder told the crowd that in the past 10 years, the Department has completed projects totaling \$125 million in Garland County.

"That is over 129 miles of highways, county roads and city streets. I am excited that this project will soon be added to that total."

The east end of the widening project will also include an improved intersection at Highway 227. McGeorge Contracting Company of Pine Bluff was awarded the \$22.6 million contract for the improvements. Work on the project is expected to be complete in late 2023. ■



MEMORIAL

BY DAVID NILLES

Commissioner Buddy Benafield

1927 – 2021



B UDDY BENAFIELD, WHO SERVED ON THE ARKANSAS STATE HIGHWAY COMMISSION, PASSED AWAY ON JUNE 14, 2021.

Benafield was appointed by Governor Jim Guy Tucker to fulfill an unexpired term on the Highway Commission in June of 1993. He then served a full 10-year term beginning in January of 1995, serving as Commission Chairman for two years before his term expired in January of 2005.

Benafield was born in Coy, Arkansas. He graduated from England High School in 1944 and enlisted in the United States Navy. After serving his country, he graduated from Little Rock Junior College (now the University of Arkansas at Little Rock) and, in 1950, graduated from Arkansas State Teachers College (now the University of Central Arkansas.)

Benafield owned and operated farms in Arkansas and Mississippi. Among his companies were J.W. Benafield Company, 7-11 Farms, JWB Company and Rob Roy Plantation. He also owned John Deere dealerships in England, Stuttgart, Dewitt and Gillette, as well as a rural Arkansas auto dealership.

One of Benafield's most visible business endeavors was the rescue of the Ward School Bus Manufacturing Corporation

in Conway, which had filed for Chapter 11 bankruptcy in 1980. Partnering with Mack McLarty and the Harmon brothers of Kansas City, the newly formed holding company purchased the assets of Ward Bus and reorganized the company, saving over a thousand Arkansas jobs.

In the political arena, the name Buddy Benafield was well known. He served as mayor of England, where he formed a community development corporation to build a local hospital, established the England Chamber of Commerce and, understanding the strength of diversity, hired England's first African-American police officer. Benafield also served on the Little Rock City Board and as mayor of Little Rock, which distinguishes him as the only Little Rock mayor to have served as mayor of another Arkansas city.

Among his other achievements was serving on the Little Rock City Board of Directors, serving as President of Metroplan, as chairman of the Arkansas Racing Commission and as a board member of the Arkansas State Chamber of Commerce.

When asked about serving on the Highway Commission as his second term was coming to an end, Benafield shared, "It was definitely one of the greatest honors I've had in my life and I met so many wonderful people." ■



Crews work to complete the new Highway 7 Bridge



Portions of the old bridge fall onto a temporary work road

BRIDGE DEMOLITION ON THE BUFFALO

NINETY YEARS OF SERVICE SPANNING THE BUFFALO RIVER CAME TO AN END FOR THE HIGHWAY 7 PRUITT BRIDGE ON JUNE 9. On that day, Crouse Construction Company successfully carried out a demolition of the structure. It was the last step in a project that constructed a new bridge 200 feet to the east that features wider lanes, eight-foot shoulders and a sidewalk.

Built in 1931, the old two-lane bridge was the last remaining Pennsylvania Through Truss Bridge in Arkansas. It handled 2,400 vehicles per day, but time and traffic had taken their toll on the structure.

"The old bridge was showing its age and was too narrow for today's

traffic," District 9 Engineer Steve Lawrence explained. "The new bridge has 12-foot wide travel lanes and 8-foot wide shoulders with the appropriate guardrails, connections, barrier walls and bridge railings. It also has a 5-foot sidewalk on its west side for pedestrians which is separated from vehicular traffic by a concrete divider wall."

The new bridge is also unique in that a horse trail crossing was included in the design that passes underneath the structure on the north side of the river.

"The old trail crossed Highway 7 in a curve on the north end of the bridge," stated Drew Vining, Assistant Resident Engineer at RE Office 92 in Harrison. "The new trail will provide a much safer crossing for horse riders. It is 12-foot wide with a six-foot guardrail to prevent riders from falling off the

bluff. The horse crossing has 14 feet of clearance below the bridge."

PREPARING FOR A BLAST

Because the old Highway 7 Bridge was located over a National River, plans for its demolition required extra environmental considerations.

A chute system was used to catch concrete debris while the deck was being removed.

"The work road that crews had built in the river during construction was modified to be under the old bridge on blast day so that debris would fall on the road and not in the river," Lawrence shared.

DEMOLITION DAY

Because of the nature of the work to bring the bridge down, safety precautions had to be taken to keep people out of the construction area

on demolition day. Access to the river, trails and roads within the safety perimeter had to be considered in advance.

Traffic on Highway 7, County Road 80 and Pruitt-Yardell Road was impacted for an hour the day of demolition. On the river, boat travel was prohibited in the area for approximately 24 hours. A two-mile section of the river, from the Ozark access to below the Lower Pruitt access, was closed.

After Highway Commissioner Philip Taldo detonated twenty pounds of linear charge, the bridge was demolished. The charges used were developed by NASA to cut metal. They were used to separate the solid rocket boosters from NASA space shuttles.

Following the blast, the area was swept and reviewed for safety concerns.

"I would rate the entire operation as

excellent because everything went as planned," Lawrence added. "The river was cleared by 5:30 the same day as demolition. The concrete piers that remained were removed by a trackhoe with a breaker attachment."

A NEW LIFE AT BRADLEY PARK

Though the old bridge has been removed, a section of it has found a new home at Bradley Park in Jasper. A portion of the north end of the pony truss now calls the park home.

Newton County Sheriff Glenn Wheeler, Crouse Construction Company and the Newton County Historical Society collaborated to preserve the sections of the bridge for public viewing in the future.

Today, motorists have a new bridge that meets all current design standards and fits in aesthetically with the beauty of the Buffalo River area. ■

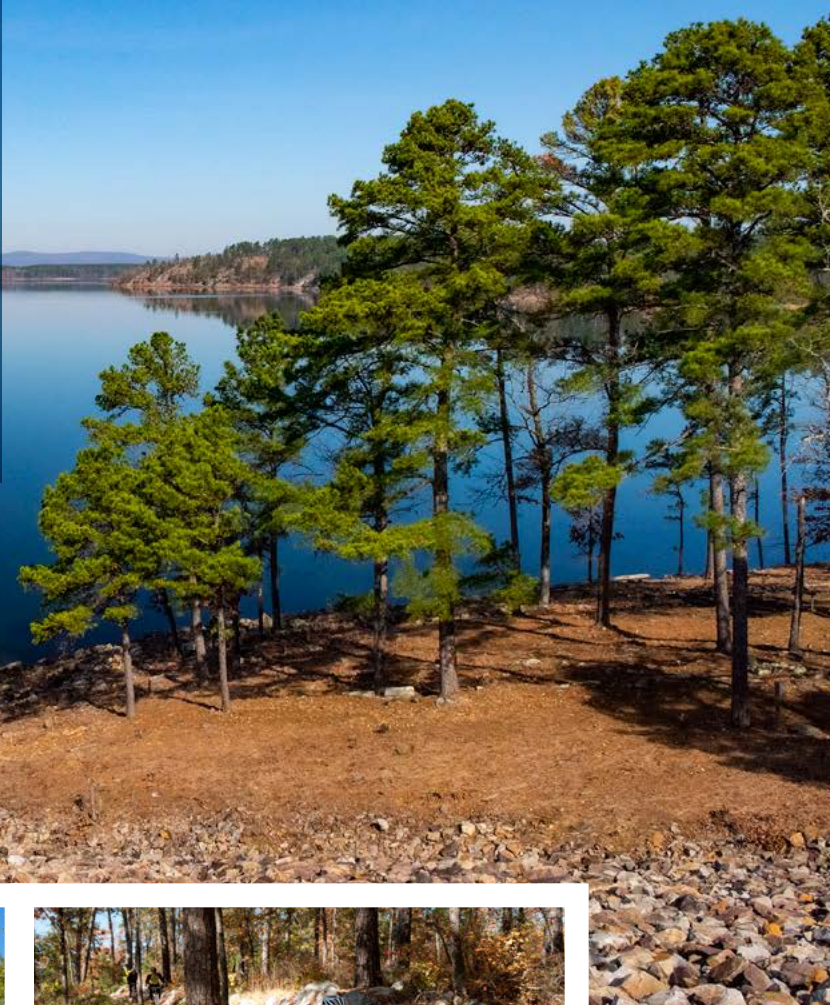
Rolling through River Towns

BY BRITNI PADILLA-DUMAS

ARKADELPHIA, AR

Arkansas is known as the Natural State due to its beautiful landscapes featuring mountains, valleys, rivers and lakes. Without a doubt, there are plenty of places to escape in order to enjoy the outdoors. In this series, Arkansas Highways explores Arkansas' river towns. With 33 rivers running through our state, we will explore communities that have grown up along the riverbanks.

DDOUBLE THE TOWN MEANS DOUBLE THE RIVER! ARKADELPHIA AND CADDO VALLEY ARE ONLY FIVE MILES APART IN CLARK COUNTY, EASILY ACCESSIBLE FROM INTERSTATE 30, U.S. HIGHWAY 67 AND SCENIC HIGHWAY 7. Residents and visitors to either area can choose to explore the Ouachita River, the Caddo River or both! The Ouachita River runs for 605 miles beginning in the Ouachita Mountains near Mena, Arkansas, flows southeast through Caddo Valley (collecting the Caddo River) and ends in West Monroe, Louisiana. The 82-mile Caddo River begins in the Ouachita Mountains and cuts through a few local communities before ending at DeGray Lake.



Captain Henderson House Bed & Breakfast



Iron Mountain Trail

Photo courtesy of Arkansas State Parks & Tourism



DOWN BY THE RIVER

The **LOWER LAKE AREA** of DeGray Lake is the perfect place to begin your river town adventure. Shaded pavilions with picnic tables, a large playground, an open field and disc golf are all on the banks of the river. The disc golf course stretches to the head of the **DEGRAY SUNSET TRAIL**—a 1.4-mile loop trail that follows the lake and is accessible all year.

The Caddo River is renowned as an excellent family float stream. **CADDO RIVER RATS KAYAK & TUBE RENTAL** is easy to spot in Caddo Valley on Highway 7 and offers equipment and a shuttle service. Grab your ice chest and a mesh bag for trash and hit the water for a three mile (three hour) float.

ACROSS TOWN

Arkadelphia is home to two universities—**HENDERSON STATE UNIVERSITY** (HSU) and **OUACHITA BAPTIST UNIVERSITY** (OBU). You can easily drive through each campus because they are literally across the highway from one another. HSU manages the **CAPTAIN HENDERSON HOUSE BED & BREAKFAST** and it is located on campus. This 9,000 square-foot restored Victorian-era home is on the National Register of Historic Places and offers eight guest rooms, all with private baths and other amenities.




A view from the DeSoto Bluff Trail

Less than a mile from campus you will find the **DESOTO BLUFF TRAIL**, a flat, quarter-mile trail that leads through a natural area and ends at a famous overlook where you can see the Ouachita River. The trail is located on Highway 7.

OVER THE MOUNTAIN

DEGRAY LAKE RESORT STATE PARK offers everything you could hope for in a getaway. Choose to stay at the Lodge, a campsite or rent a YURT. After you're checked in, explore the boating, fishing, horseback riding, golf, hiking and spa options available on the 14,000 acre property.

IRON MOUNTAIN PARK also offers campgrounds, hiking trails and biking trails along the southern shore of DeGray Lake in the foothills of the Ouachita Mountains. Stay at the **IRON MOUNTAIN LODGE** or a lakefront cabin; rent a boat at the **IRON MOUNTAIN MARINA** or scuba dive DeGray Lake. Don't forget to check out the **IRON MOUNTAIN BIKE TRAILS** as well! 

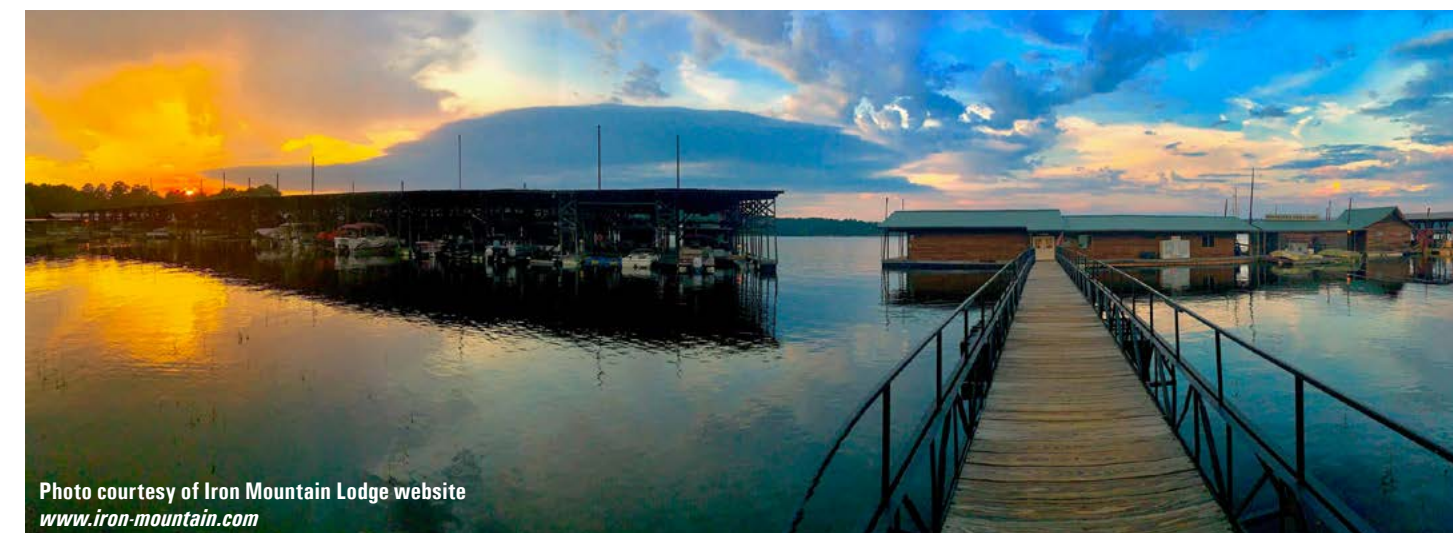


Photo courtesy of Iron Mountain Lodge website
www.iron-mountain.com



FOUR RECOGNIZED FOR SERVICE BY ARKANSAS HIGHWAY POLICE

BY DAVID NILLES

FOUR OFFICERS OF THE ARKANSAS HIGHWAY POLICE WERE RECOGNIZED FOR OUTSTANDING SERVICE ON SEPTEMBER 27.

In a special ceremony, Corporal (CPL) Andrew James and Private First Class (PFC) Scott Kehner received the Arkansas Highway Police Medal of Valor Award. In addition, CPL Nick Phillips and PFC Bobbie Hickman received the Arkansas Highway Police Life Saving Award.

MEDAL OF VALOR AWARDS

On January 19, 2021, CPL Andrew James responded to a call of "shots fired at deputies" in which an armed suspect had barricaded himself in a home. James took position behind an Arkansas State Police unit on arrival and waited for the suspect to exit the building. As the suspect came into view he was commanded to drop the rifle he was carrying. He bent down and laid the gun on the ground. James told the individual to keep his hands in the air, which he did momentarily, but then picked up the gun again and

put the stock to his shoulder aiming it at another officer. James identified a clear, imminent threat to officers and discharged his weapon to protect their lives. James' decisive action to apprehend an armed suspect put his life in imminent danger and displayed gallantry beyond the call of duty. As a result, he was awarded the Arkansas Highway Police Medal of Valor Award.

On June 27, 2020, while traveling in his AHP unit, PFC Scott Kehner observed an Arkansas State Police (ASP) trooper attempting to stop a pedestrian that was running away from the officer's ASP patrol unit. After confirming with the ASP trooper that he was trying to apprehend the individual, Kehner followed the suspect into a parking lot of a nearby gas station. Ignoring commands to get on the ground, Kehner attempted to physically maneuver the suspect to the ground. While doing so, the suspect assaulted Kehner with a Phillips screwdriver resulting in injuries to Kehners hand and forearm. After being stabbed, Kehner disengaged



CPL Andrew James
MEDAL OF VALOR AWARD



PFC Scott Kehner
MEDAL OF VALOR AWARD



CPL Nick Phillips
LIFE SAVING AWARD



PFC Bobbie Hickman
LIFE SAVING AWARD

from the suspect who then turned his attention to the ASP Trooper. The suspect subsequently sustained several injuries. While injured himself, Kehner retrieved his first aid kit and provided life saving measures to the suspect. These actions to apprehend an armed suspect put Kehner's life in imminent danger and displayed gallantry beyond the call of duty. As a result, he was awarded the Arkansas Highway Police Medal of Valor Award.

LIFE SAVING AWARDS

On January 25, 2021, a truck traveling on Highway 74 left the roadway and came to rest upside down allowing surrounding water to fill the cab. The vehicle was occupied by an 87-year-old female wearing her seatbelt who was subsequently trapped inside her truck. On arrival at the scene, CPL Nick Phillips jumped into the water to rescue the driver. He entered the truck and cut the seat belt to remove the occupant. He and another officer got the driver out of the water and onto the highway where an ambulance was

waiting. Phillips' quick and decisive actions saved the life of the driver. Because of his swift and knowledgeable actions, Phillips was awarded the Arkansas Highway Police Life Saving Award.

On January 13, 2020, PFC Bobbie Hickman answered a call to respond to the Walmart Supercenter in Morrilton. The report stated a female had collapsed in the produce section and was gasping for air. Arriving at the store, PFC Hickman grabbed his automatic external defibrillator (AED) and ran inside. An employee had started CPR and Hickman immediately attached the AED to the patient. The machine advised to administer shock treatment. Hickman administered shock treatment twice before an ambulance arrived. The woman was transported to a local hospital and, later in the day, was reported in stable condition. The swift action of PFC Hickman revived the patient's heart and saved her life. For his actions, Hickman was awarded the Arkansas Highway Police Life Saving Award. ■

REAP WHAT YOU SOW

BY BRITNI PADILLA-DUMAS

LATE SUMMER IN ARKANSAS SIGNIFIES THE HARVESTING SEASON FOR OUR FARMERS, WHICH MEANS LARGE LOADS OF CROPS NEED SAFE PASSAGE TO REACH THEIR DESTINATION. Agriculturalists rely on Arkansas highways to transport goods across the state and beyond.

Beech Grove is an unincorporated community in Greene County in Northeast Arkansas, located along Highway 141. A bridge over Lick Creek began showing signs of rapid deterioration so ARDOT engineers closed the bridge as a safety precaution.

"We couldn't make any repairs to this bridge," explained District 10 Engineer Brad Smithee. "The units were worn out and needed to be replaced."

The process to begin a construction project is not an easy one. It can take several years after engineers submit their request to the Program Management Division before a contractor is on site to begin work. Thorough planning, designing, surveying, analysis and documentation of the project's requirements, to include funding, are necessary and time consuming.

"Our preliminary goal was to hopefully let the bid to contractors in November of 2021 and begin construction in the summer of 2022,"

Smithee said. "But that would mean having this bridge closed for as long as a year and a half. We started contemplating all of our options—how could we accelerate this project?"

Given that this bridge is crucial in the transport of local crops, Smithee and his team received complaints about its closure.

"Harvest season was upon us, so we stepped back to think outside the box. What can we do now? How can we provide a safe structure to accommodate large trucks and crops?"

In true ARDOT teamwork fashion, engineers in District 1 offered a plausible solution: military bridge units.

In the 1950s, the U.S. Army Engineer Research and Development Laboratories created the M48 AVLB (Armored Vehicle Launched Bridge) prototype designed to install bridges for tanks and other wheeled combat vehicles across water, trenches, and other obstacles in a combat environment. In 1963, the M60 AVLB replaced the M48. ARDOT had more than 100 of these bridge pieces—no longer attached to a tank—available to repurpose.

"We found some tags identifying that they were fabricated in 1953,"

**WHAT WE PLANT
IN THE SOIL OF
CONTEMPLATION,
WE SHALL REAP IN
THE HARVEST OF
ACTION.**

*- Meister Eckhart
German theologian & philosopher*

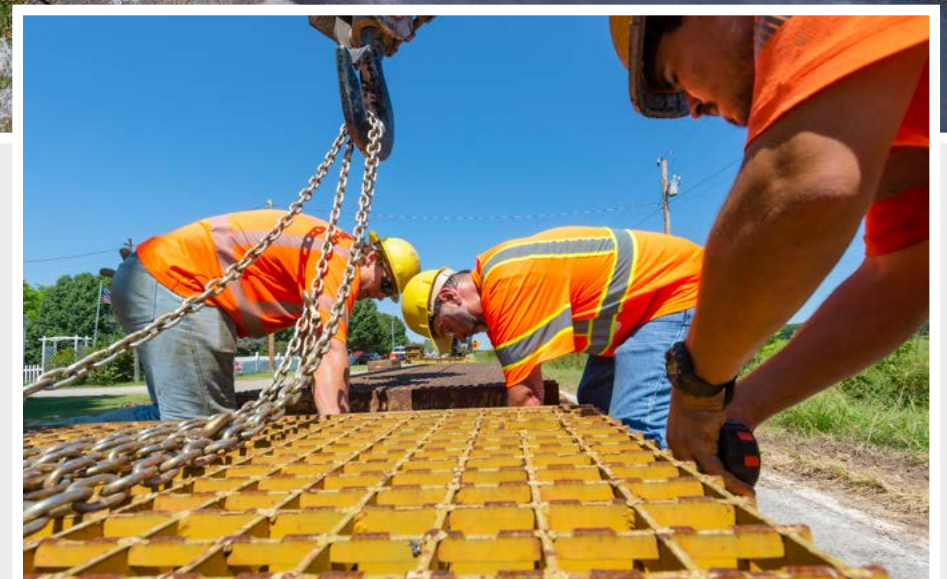
Smithee recalled. "This temporary bridge is unposted, so fully legal trucks can cross it. I am just amazed that something invented and created 70 years ago can provide something so efficient and functional today."

In a matter of 18 days, ARDOT Districts 10 and 1 coordinated with the Heavy Bridge Maintenance (HBM) Division, Craighead Electric Cooperative Corporation and American Crane and had a bridge crossing Lick Creek ready to serve the public.

The military bridge will remain in place until the project to construct a

new one is let to contract, which will include instructions for the contractor to disassemble the military bridge so that it may go back into ARDOT inventory.

This was amazing to watch," Smithee said. "Everybody was working in sync to get the job done. When our group and HBM collaborate on a task, I stand back and cannot comprehend how well it goes—every single time." ▣



KEEP IT CLEAN, ARKANSAS

BY BRITNI PADILLA-DUMAS

THE ARKANSAS DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION LAUNCHED ITS NEW ANTI-LITTER CAMPAIGN, *KEEP IT CLEAN, ARKANSAS*, AT THE ARKANSAS STATE FAIR IN OCTOBER 2021.

Arkansas has the twelfth largest highway system in the nation with more than 16,000 miles of roadway to maintain and keep litter-free. For every one mile of road, Arkansas averages 2,000 pieces of trash—that adds up to almost 32 million pieces of litter each year.

ARDOT's Adopt-A-Highway (AAH) program helps address litter by allowing volunteers such as individuals, groups and organizations to pick up trash along the highway. With more than 900 groups across the state—and more added each day—there is an ongoing effort to keep Arkansas clean.

"Even with that many volunteers, ARDOT still spends an average of \$5 million each year picking up trash,"

reported Holly Butler, Executive Assistant for ARDOT's Public Information Office. "One of my duties is to oversee the Adopt-A-Highway program. We absolutely love our volunteers, but it's clear that picking up trash isn't the problem—littering is."

ARDOT's new Keep It Clean, Arkansas campaign focuses on educating the public about the long-term damage caused when litter hits the highway.

"Trash doesn't just stay on the side of the road," Butler explained. "It also gets washed into nearby rivers, lakes and streams, and pollutes waterways and aquatic habitats. Things we consider harmless trash can take hundreds of years to decompose. When you look at the big picture, the litter problem is overwhelming."

The campaign will provide anti-litter educational resources to classrooms, scout troops, community outreach events and through ARDOT's social media platforms.



The new anti-litter campaign, Keep It Clean, Arkansas, debuted at the Arkansas State Fair in October 2021.



152
pieces per person

ARDOT is challenging everyone to do their part—recycle when available, but when that isn't an option...throw the trash away properly! ■

See and retweet our Keep it Clean, Arkansas campaign tweets @myardot.



REPORT LITTERING








Since 2004, ARDOT's Litter Hotline has enabled the public to anonymously report littering. Offenders are notified by mail they were observed violating the law.

866-811-1222 or IDriveArkansas.com



TIME IT TAKES FOR LITTER ITEMS TO BREAKDOWN/DECOMPOSE

-  Plastic bottle **450 years**
-  Aluminum can **200 years**
-  Cigarette butt **10 years**
-  Cardboard box **2 months**



APPLIANCE AGGRAVATION TO ENERGY CONSERVATION

BY SARAH DEVRIES, NATURAL RESOURCES SPECIALIST,
ARDOT ENVIRONMENTAL DIVISION

RECENTLY, MY FRIDGE WAS ON THE FRITZ. THE ICEMAKER POURED WATER ALL OVER THE FREEZER, AND IT SEEMED A SIMPLE DEFROST WITH THE HAIRDRYER WOULD FIX THINGS. After three attempts to defrost, I shut the water off until the fridge could be serviced. This home debacle led me to ponder how much this malfunctioning appliance was wasting water and energy.

As a remote worker, I became more cognizant of my personal water and energy usage especially since the Covid pandemic lasted longer than anticipated. Some of you may recall, during February's winter storm, energy companies asked us to lower our consumption. The media discussed

water and energy use as interrelated. In fact, the majority of U.S. power sources are hydroelectric and thermoelectric power (from coal, natural gas, nuclear fuels, etc.); both of which have large water footprints. "The portion of a person's water footprint attributed to power production in the U.S. is, on average, 39 gallons per person per day."

Water for daily activities increases water treatment plant and pumping station energy costs to deliver your water. These costs typically increase during the summer months. Homeowner water use increases two to four times in the summer because of watering lawns and gardens. Businesses with landscaping also increase water usage with irrigation and sprinkler systems.

However, a few simple things can reduce our energy use.

Be more mindful of turning off lights, devices and small appliances when no longer in use. If you are considering appliance replacement, a good rule of thumb is the 50/50 rule. If an appliance is more than 50% through its lifespan, and if the cost of one repair is more than 50% of the cost of buying new, then you should replace rather than repair. Some other options you could implement regardless of where you work, whether remotely or onsite, are provided by a water calculator¹.

My final response to the appliance repair aggravation was gratitude. Oh, how thankful I am for the ice machine down the hall from my office, and the Facilities Management staff being dispersed when there is an electrical or plumbing malfunction. We could all share a little more gratitude to available services and service professionals that allow smoother operation in our daily lives. By challenging ourselves to make a few small changes, we can put our gratitude into action, by decreasing our overall water and electricity footprints. ■

(1) <https://www.watercalculator.org/posts/electricity/>

(2) *When it's Hot.* US Environmental Protection Agency. <https://www.epa.gov/watersense/when-its-hot#:~:text=In%20most%20areas%2C%20the%20amount,the%20rest%20of%20the%20year!>

(3) *Source: When to repair or replace your appliance.* Houselogic by Realtors. 2021. National Association of Realtors. <https://www.houselogic.com/organize-maintain/home-maintenance-tips/when-to-repair-or-replace-large-appliances/>

HOW TO: ENERGY EFFICIENCY



CONSERVE WATER. It takes a lot of energy to pump, heat, treat and move water, so if you use less water, you will use less energy, and that will lower your water footprint.



TURN OFF YOUR VIDEO. Internet use can suck up electricity, and our increasing reliance on video conference calls is drastically increasing our energy and water use. If you can, turn off your video feed and reduce your quality (or resolution) setting and you will use a lot less energy during your call.



INSTALL ON-SITE RENEWABLE ELECTRICITY from solar panels (or wind turbines) if you can. Renewable energy is not only cleaner, but it uses less water, too!



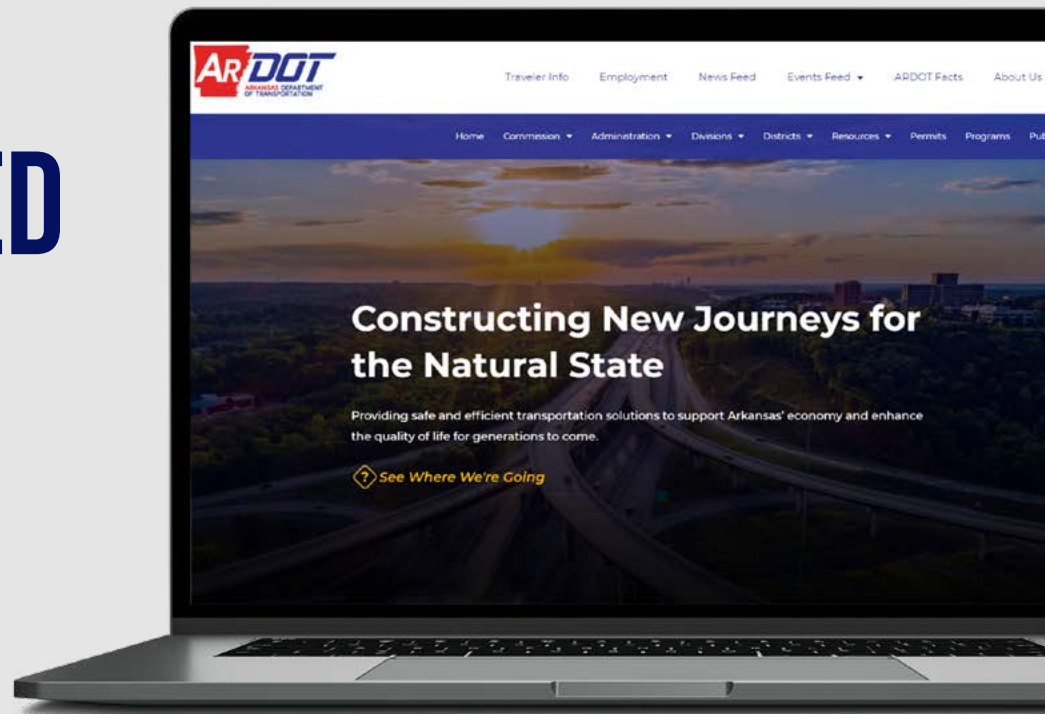
CHOOSE AN ENERGY STAR MODEL if you are in the market for a new appliance. They perform like conventional appliances but use much less energy and water.



USE HOT WATER ONLY WHEN YOU REALLY NEED TO. After heating and cooling, water heating is the biggest energy user in the home. Water and energy-efficient appliances conserve hot water in the kitchen, bathroom and laundry. Try to install solar hot water heaters if you can. You could significantly reduce the energy used to heat water in your home.

ARDOT RECOGNIZED WITH HERMES AWARD

BY DAVID NILLES



THE ARKANSAS DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION RECENTLY RECEIVED A HERMES CREATIVE AWARD FOR ITS NEWLY DESIGNED WEBSITE AT ARDOT.GOV.

Hermes Creative Awards honor the messengers and creators of the information revolution. Armed with their imaginations and computers, Hermes winners bring their ideas to life through traditional and digital platforms.

The redesigned ardot.gov website combines curated content from each of the Department's divisions, districts and programs into one streamlined user experience that is accessible from any desktop computer or mobile device.

Chosen among 5,000 entries worldwide, ardot.gov was recognized with the *Award of Distinction* in the Government Website category at the 2021 Communicator Awards, and received an Honorable Mention for Website Design in the 2021 Hermes Creative Awards.

"We are honored to be recognized for our new website," said Lorie Tudor, Director of the Arkansas Department of

Transportation. "Our goal in creating this new site was to provide Arkansas motorists with user-friendly access to the latest information on our highway construction programs and services, and we're proud for it to be recognized as a benchmark for government websites around the world."

Hermes Creative Awards is one of the oldest and largest creative competitions in the world. Winners range in size from individuals to media conglomerates, and Fortune 500 companies.

Each year, competition judges evaluate the creative industry's best publications, branding collateral, websites, videos, advertising, marketing and communication programs.

The Arkansas Department of Transportation worked with the state's digital services provider, NIC Arkansas, to design the modern, responsive website and build an inclusive user experience across all platforms. NIC Arkansas is part of NIC Inc., a wholly owned division of Tyler Technologies. ■

DISTRICT 10

CONSTRUCTION CORNER

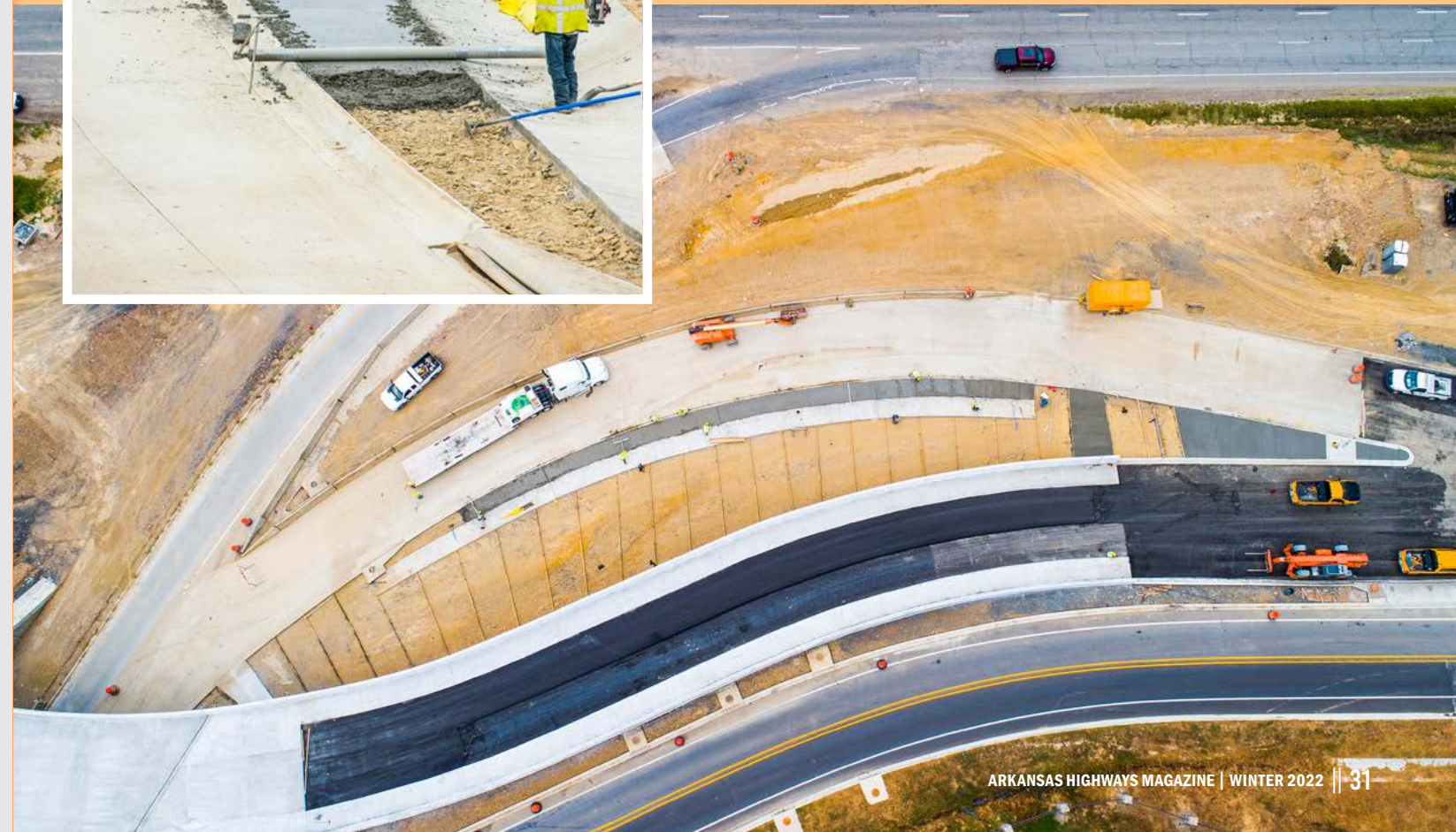


CREWS ARE NEARING COMPLETION OF A NEW RAILROAD OVERPASS ON HIGHWAY 18 IN JONESBORO. THE OVERPASS WILL CROSS OVER THE BNSF RAILROAD TRACKS NEXT TO NETTLETON AVENUE.

"We have a lot going on at the job site," Aaron Vowell, Staff Engineer in RE Office 06, stated in August. "Wall panels and embankment work are underway and we hope to have beams arriving soon so that deck work can begin. I'd say we are approximately 75% through the project with an estimated completion date of early 2022."

Approximately 10,000 vehicles per day travel Highway 18 through the area.

The project was awarded to Capital Paving and Construction, LLC in late 2018 for \$25.1 million. ■





Arkansas Department of Transportation
P.O. Box 2261
Little Rock, AR 72203-2261

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