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CENTERLINE CENTERLINE

NEWSLETTER

JULY 2026

ARKANSAS DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION

THE CENTERLINE NEWSLETTER is published bi-monthly by and for employees of the Arkansas Department of Transportation as a medium of Departmental news and other information.

COVER PHOTO: 2026 STATE ROADEO FINALS

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**JULY 3
FRIDAY**
Holiday
ARDOT Offices
Closed

**JULY 15
WEDNESDAY**
UAMS Mammo
Van Screening
Central Office
Little Rock
8 AM

**JULY 16
THURSDAY**
Lunch & Learn
History of
ARDOT
Central Office
Auditorium
Little Rock
12:15 PM

**JULY 21
TUESDAY**
Intern Orientation
Central Office
Auditorium
Little Rock
12:00 PM

**AUGUST 12
WEDNESDAY**
ARDOT Bid
Letting

**AUGUST 19
WEDNESDAY**
Arkansas
Highway
Commission
Meeting
Central Office
Little Rock
10 AM

**AUGUST 25
TUESDAY**
Lunch & Learn
ARDOT Rodeo
Central Office
Auditorium
Little Rock
12:15 PM

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ADAMS NAMED ASSISTANT CHIEF ENGINEER FOR PROGRAM DELIVERY

Erica Adams was named Assistant Chief Engineer for Program Delivery, effective July 25, 2026.

Adams began with ARDOT as an Engineering Intern prior to being hired as a Civil Engineer in Roadway Design in August 2002. In February 2003, she transferred to the Program Management Division where she continued to advance along the engineering career path. She was promoted to Assistant Division Head of the Program Management Division in May 2021 and then to Division Head in May 2023. In January 2025, she was named Assistant Chief Engineer for Planning.

Adams has a bachelor's degree in civil engineering from the University of Arkansas. She is a Registered Professional Engineer. ◆

BAKER NAMED STAFF DESIGN ENGINEER, ROADWAY DESIGN

Jocie Baker was named Staff Design Engineer for the Roadway Design Division in Northeast Arkansas, effective April 18, 2026.

Baker began her career at ARDOT as an Engineer in June 2022. She followed the engineering career path and was promoted to Senior Design Engineer in November 2025.

Baker has a master's degree in civil engineering and a bachelor's degree in civil engineering from the University of Arkansas. She also has a bachelor's degree in physics and math from St. Olaf College. She is a Registered Professional Engineer. ◆





BROOKS NAMED ASSISTANT CHIEF ENGINEER FOR PLANNING

Travis Brooks was named Assistant Chief Engineer for Planning, effective July 25, 2026.

Prior to joining the Department, Brooks worked as a Transportation Planner with the Jonesboro Metropolitan Planning Organization. He began his career at ARDOT in August 2015 as an Engineer in the Transportation Planning and Policy Division. Brooks continued along the engineering career path, where he advanced to Assistant Division Head in September 2023 and Division Head of Planning and Research in July 2024.

Brooks holds a bachelor's degree in civil engineering and a master's degree in public administration from Arkansas State University. He also has a master's degree in philosophy from Indiana University. He is a Registered Professional Engineer. ◆

CALLICOTT NAMED DISTRICT CONSTRUCTION ENGINEER, DISTRICT 7

Cannon Callicott was named District Construction Engineer in District 7, effective April 18, 2026.

Callicott began his career with ARDOT as an intern before being hired as a Civil Engineer II at the Resident Engineer Office in Hope in October 1996. He followed the engineering career path and was promoted to District Engineer in District 1 in March 2019. Callicott has taken the opportunity to move back home to be close to his family and brings extensive experience and leadership to the District Construction Engineer position.

Callicott has a bachelor's degree in civil engineering from Louisiana Tech University. He is a Registered Professional Engineer. ◆





EMBERTON NAMED DISTRICT ENGINEER, DISTRICT 1

Matthew Emberton was named District Engineer in District 1, effective April 18, 2026.

Emberton began his career with ARDOT as a Civil Engineer at the Resident Engineer Office in Hope in January 2008. He followed the engineering career path and was promoted to District Maintenance Engineer in District 1 in July 2015.

Emberton has a bachelor's degree in civil engineering from Arkansas State University. He is a Registered Professional Engineer. ◆

JONES NAMED CHIEF ENGINEER

Jessie Jones was named Chief Engineer, effective July 25, 2026.

Jones began with ARDOT as a Civil Engineer in the Bridge Division in December 2002.

Following the engineering career path, she advanced to Consultant Coordinator in October 2008, Assistant Division Head of Transportation Planning and Policy in February 2011, and Division Head in October 2013. She transferred to the Program Management Division in March 2020, was promoted to Assistant Chief Engineer for Planning in April 2023 and Chief Engineer for Preconstruction in January 2025.

Jones has a bachelor's degree in civil engineering from Arkansas State University and master's degree in civil engineering from the University of Arkansas. She is a Registered Professional Engineer. ◆





KEY NAMED ASSISTANT CHIEF OF FINANCE

Corey Key was named Assistant Chief of Finance, effective July 25, 2026.

Key began with ARDOT as an Auditor in the Internal Audit Division in November 2001 and advanced to Senior Internal Auditor in November 2003. He moved to Fiscal Services as a Senior Accountant in July 2007 where his title changed to Budget and Expenditure Controller in May 2011. Key transferred to Program Management in May 2014 as a Programs and Contracts Specialist II and advanced to the position of Section Head of Program Funding in April 2020 and Assistant Division Head of Equipment and Procurement in July 2023.

Key has a bachelor's degree in accounting from Henderson State University. ♦

MARTIN NAMED STOREROOM SUPERVISOR, DISTRICT 3

Aaron Martin was named Storeroom Supervisor for District 3, effective April 18, 2026.

Martin began his career with ARDOT as a seasonal employee before being hired as a General Laborer in March 2013. He advanced to Single Axle Truck Driver in August 2013, then promoted to Maintenance Aide II in February 2014. He became Area Headquarters Attendant in August 2020 and promoted to Advanced Area Headquarters Attendant in October 2025. ♦





NICKELL NAMED RESIDENT ENGINEER, RE OFFICE #41

Stephen Nickell was named Resident Engineer for Resident Engineer Office #41 in Waldron, effective April 4, 2026.

Nickell began his career with ARDOT as an intern before being hired as an Engineer in the Waldron Resident Engineer Office in January 2011. He followed the engineering career path and was promoted to Assistant Resident Engineer in December 2016.

Nickell has a bachelor's degree in civil engineering from the University of Arkansas. He is a Registered Professional Engineer. ◆

SMITH NAMED MAJOR, ARKANSAS HIGHWAY POLICE

Jeffrey Smith was named Major for the Arkansas Highway Police (AHP) effective June 13, 2026.

Smith began his career with ARDOT in October 2004 as an AHP Patrol Officer. Following the law enforcement path, he advanced to Captain for AHP District 5 in April 2022.

Smith has a bachelor's degree in interdisciplinary studies from Arkansas State University. ◆





STORMENT NAMED RESIDENT ENGINEER, RE OFFICE #62

Jeffrey Storment was named Resident Engineer for Resident Engineer Office #62 in Little Rock, effective April 18, 2026.

Storment began his career with ARDOT as an intern before being hired as an Engineer in the Little Rock Resident Engineer Office in May 2021. He followed the engineering career path and was promoted to Assistant Resident Engineer in August 2025.

Storment has a bachelor's degree in civil engineering from the University of Arkansas at Little Rock. He is a Registered Professional Engineer. ◆

WOODS NAMED CHIEF OF ADMINISTRATION

Crystal Woods was named Chief of Administration, effective July 25, 2026.

Woods began her career with the Department as a seasonal employee in the Personnel Section of the Human Resources Division in May 1990 and continued part-time until completing college in 1993. Upon graduation, she began working as a General Clerk in the Training and Safety Section. In January 1995, she became the Administrative Assistant to the Chief of Administration and Public Affairs. In February 1996, Woods returned to Training and Safety as a Training Specialist. In March 2000, she was promoted to Section Head of Training and Safety and one month later, she obtained the position of Human Resources Officer. She was promoted to Division Head of Human Resources in 2004 and became Assistant Chief of Administration in April 2023.

Woods has a bachelor's degree in business administration with an emphasis in human resources from the University of Arkansas at Little Rock. ◆



WYLIE NAMED ASSISTANT CHIEF ENGINEER FOR DESIGN

Keli Wylie was named Assistant Chief Engineer for Design, effective July 25, 2026.

Wylie began her career with ARDOT as a Civil Engineer in the Roadway Design Division in March 2002. She continued on the engineering career path and advanced to Assistant Division Head of Roadway Design in October 2012. Wylie was appointed as the Connecting Arkansas Program Administrator in December 2012 and was named Alternative Project Delivery Administrator in December 2019. She was promoted to Assistant Chief Engineer for Program Delivery in April 2023.

Wylie has a bachelor’s degree in civil engineering from Louisiana Tech University. She is a Registered Professional Engineer. ◆



ARDOT COST OF LIVING ADJUSTMENT & PERFORMANCE-BASED PAY INCREASES



This year, each ARDOT employee received a 2.5% Cost of Living Adjustment (COLA). In addition to this, performance-based pay increases ranged from 0% to 2.5%. Total raises for all employees ranged between 2.5% and 5.0%. The performance-based pay matrix is shown below. The updated salary schedules are located [here](#). These pay raises were reflected on the first paycheck in July. ◆

PERFORMANCE BASED PAY MATRIX										
Score Range	6.00 - 5.28	5.27 - 4.86	4.85 - 4.44	4.43 - 4.02	4.01 - 3.59	3.58 - 3.17	3.16 - 2.75	2.74 - 2.33	2.32 - 1.91	1.90 - 1.00
Quartile 1	2.50%	2.25%	2.00%	1.50%	1.00%	0.50%	0.25%	0.00%	0.00%	0.00%
Quartile 2	2.25%	2.00%	1.75%	1.25%	0.75%	0.25%	0.00%	0.00%	0.00%	0.00%
Quartile 3	2.00%	1.75%	1.50%	1.00%	0.50%	0.00%	0.00%	0.00%	0.00%	0.00%
Quartile 4	1.75%	1.50%	1.25%	0.75%	0.25%	0.00%	0.00%	0.00%	0.00%	0.00%

BOARD MEMBER ELECTION RESULTS

BY EMMA GOAD

The Arkansas State Highway Employee's Retirement System (ASHERS) plays a vital role in managing ARDOT's retirement system, ensuring its long-term success. Elections for a new Active Employee Representative to the Board of Trustees was held in June 2026.

Deric Wyatt, Maintenance Division Head, was elected as the new Active Employee Representative and will serve for the period of July 1, 2026 through June 30, 2028. Wyatt replaces Jeff Kaiser whose term expired June 30, 2026.

The ASHERS Board of Trustees meets quarterly to review investment and economic reports, vote on key issues, and discuss changes to ensure the retirement system remains strong and sustainable. ♦



ACTIVE EMPLOYEE REPRESENTATIVE
DERIC WYATT



Arkansas State Highway Employees' Retirement System

ASHERS **2.57%** COLA (Cost of Living Adjustment) for Fiscal Year 2027 will be awarded with the July annuity payment.

If you have questions, contact the Retirement Section at 501-569-2411.

NOMINATIONS ARE NOW OPEN FOR THE 2026

 **DIRECTOR'S** 
DIAMOND AWARD
FOR OUTSTANDING PUBLIC SERVICE

WHO TO NOMINATE

An ARDOT employee whose actions exhibit long-term excellence while consistently demonstrating our core values year after year.

HOW TO NOMINATE

Click the link below or send a request for a paper form to Jazmine Kumpe at Employee.Relations@ardot.gov or (501) 263-7621.

DEADLINE

Nominations must be received no later than July 24, 2026.

The nomination period for the 2026 Director's Diamond Award for Outstanding Public Service is

NOW OPEN!

The Director's Diamond Award honors employees who exhibit **LONG-TERM EXCELLENCE**

in performance, professionalism, integrity, and teamwork, while consistently demonstrating ARDOT's core values year after year.

This award is not intended for exceptional one-time acts or short-term contributions. It is reserved

for sustained contributions over time that inspire others and advance ARDOT's mission.

As of this year, nominations may be submitted online. Paper nomination forms are still available as well.



**CLICK HERE
TO NOMINATE A COWORKER**

Please submit all paper nomination forms to [Jazmine Kumpe](#) in Human Resources by July 24, 2026. ◆

ARDOT LEAVE POLICIES



Several updates to ARDOT's Leave Policy were announced in Director Jared Wiley's February 2026 video. These changes affect paternity leave, bereavement leave, and the leave year, which impacts catastrophic leave eligibility and donation requirements.

For complete policy details, please refer to the [Personnel Manual](#). Employees with questions regarding leave policies should email Human Resources at personnel@ardot.gov or call (501)569-2454.

PATERNITY LEAVE

What's Changing? For births, adoptions, or foster placements occurring January 1, 2027, or later, paid paternity leave will be reduced from 12 weeks to 4 weeks.

Important Dates:

- Births through 12/31/2026 – Up to 12 weeks of paid paternity leave
- Births on or after 01/01/2027 – Up to 4 weeks of paid paternity leave.

Eligibility Requirements:

- Employees must meet standard catastrophic leave donation requirements outlined in the chart on this page.
- Paternity leave hours will count toward the employee's lifetime catastrophic leave limit of 2,080 hours.
- Paternity leave granted before the February 2026 policy change will not count toward the lifetime limit.

Quick Tip: Maternity leave remains the only catastrophic leave benefit that does not require a donation for eligibility. No changes were made to the maternity leave policy.

BEREAVEMENT LEAVE

What is it? Bereavement leave allows eligible employees to receive catastrophic leave following the death of an immediate family member without first exhausting accrued sick and annual leave.

Eligibility Requirements:

- Employees must meet standard catastrophic leave donation requirements.
- Leave taken will count toward the employee's 2,080-hour lifetime catastrophic leave limit.
- An application and supporting documentation, must be submitted.

Quick Tip: Bereavement leave must be used within the four weeks immediately following the date of death of an eligible immediate family member. Employees may use up to 40 hours of bereavement leave per leave year, regardless of the number of qualifying deaths that occur during that year.

LEAVE YEAR

What's Changing? ARDOT's leave year is transitioning from April 1 – March 31 to the calendar year January 1 – December 31.

Leave Year Schedule

Leave Year	Dates
LY2026-1	Ended 03/31/2026
LY2026-2 (Transition Year)	04/01/2026 – 12/31/2026
LY2027	01/01/2027 – 12/31/2027

Why it Matters: The leave year affects catastrophic leave donation timing and catastrophic leave eligibility.

Catastrophic Leave Donation Requirements

Donation Period	Hours	Eligibility Period
04/01/2025 – 03/31/2026	8	04/01/2026 – 12/31/2026
04/01/2026 – 12/31/2026	4*	01/01/2027 – 12/31/2027
01/01/2027 – 12/31/2027	8	01/01/2028 – 12/31/2028

* Employees may donate 8 hours during the transition period, but only 4 hours are required to maintain eligibility for the following leave year. ♦

NEW SAFETY MEASURES AND TRAINING COMING SOON

BY RUTHIE BERRYHILL



ARDOT has always taken safety seriously – it is included in our mission and is one of our core values. As part of continuing safety efforts, ARDOT is installing new security technology at all our facilities statewide. In addition, the Arkansas Highway Police (AHP) will facilitate new active shooter response training for employees.

Over the next several months, ARDOT will upgrade camera systems at all Department facilities, with additional cameras in some areas. AHP will have oversight over the camera recordings. The upgrades to the system will occur in phases, with work expected to be completed in most areas by fall 2026.

As part of this upgrade, all facilities will be on the same access control system. This means that all facilities will have the same type of badge-in entry (or access) points.

AHP instructors will provide new in-person active shooter training with a complementary online portion. This training is different from what most current employees have had previously and will provide updated content with an emphasis on what to do during an active shooter incident, what to expect from a law enforcement response, and how to help after an incident. The new training will be rolled out in late 2026 or early 2027. ◆



KEEP ARKANSAS BEAUTIFUL MOVES TO ARDOT

BY LACEY KANIPE-MARSH

During this year's Fiscal Session, the Arkansas State Legislature voted to transfer the Keep Arkansas Beautiful Commission from the Department of Parks, Heritage, and Tourism to ARDOT. The Keep Arkansas Beautiful staff transferred to ARDOT's Communications Division and

is operating as the Office of Keep Arkansas Beautiful, helping ARDOT support our mission of reducing litter and maintaining clean roadways in Arkansas. This transfer took effect at the beginning of the new fiscal year, which began July 1. ♦

FORMER ECONO LODGE SERVES AS SWING SPACE DURING REMODELS

BY RUTHIE BERRYHILL



On November 7, 2025, ARDOT purchased the Econo Lodge property adjacent to the Central Office Tower building in Little Rock for additional office and parking space at the Central Office Campus. Built in 2009, the hotel is currently being used as a “swing space” to temporarily house offices while the main building is being renovated.

“The advantage of us working in the hotel as opposed to being remote is that we still have the physical proximity to each other,” David Baker, Roadway Design Division Head, said. “Staff can come down the hall and ask questions.”

Thirty-three rooms were converted into office space, with each room capable of accommodating two to three employees. Prior to moving ARDOT staff to the property, new paint, lighting, and flooring were installed, conduit and fiber cables were placed underground to connect

the hotel to the main network, a portion of the lobby was converted into a conference room, and security cameras and badge scanners were installed. A gate and fence encompass the grounds with badge access for employees.

“The best part is the really close parking – it’s like 10 steps out the door to where I parked as opposed to all the way across the campus,” Jonathan Gentry, Advanced Structural Engineer, said.

The fifth and sixth floors of Central Office, encompassing Bridge, State Aid, and Roadway Design divisions, moved into the new swing space the first week of May – the first group to be housed there. Central Office renovations for the affected floors are expected to take four to five months, with completion expected in the fall.

Long-term use of the property has not been determined, but several options are being considered. ◆

ON THE DOT: AN ARDOT PODCAST

BY RUTHIE BERRYHILL



ARDOT is launching a new podcast, “On The DOT: An ARDOT Podcast.” The podcast will cover all things ARDOT and will be available on YouTube and major streaming sites like Spotify, Apple, and Audible.

The first episode, “More Than Potholes: An Intro to ARDOT” gives an overview of the Department, helping people understand who ARDOT is and the many things we do.

“We’ll start by introducing ourselves and telling a little about our history,” ARDOT Director Jared Wiley said. “We hope to get the word out about what we’re working on and why we’re doing it and highlight some of the success stories you might not hear about otherwise.”

Other episodes will take a more in-depth look at topics like Department history and districts, and delve deeper into more specific subjects, like bridge demolition. Hosts and guests will vary, based on the topic of the episode.

The podcast is produced by the Communications Division and filmed in a studio at ARDOT’s workspace in the former Econo Lodge across from the Central Office Tower building in Little Rock. Be on the lookout for an announcement of its launch date. ◆



ARDOT CELEBRATES MENTAL HEALTH AWARENESS MONTH IN MAY

BY RUTHIE BERRYHILL

In May, ARDOT celebrated Mental Health Awareness Month with activities that promoted employee wellness and building healthy habits together. Employees could participate in a group walking challenge initiative, attend Lunch and Learns, and take part in a Paws for a Purpose outreach visit.

“Laughter is the best medicine and honestly, that’s what stood out to me the most about everything we did – I didn’t see anybody that wasn’t smiling at any of these events,” Alicia Hunt, Human Resources Division Head, said.

More than 40 employees signed up for the walking challenge and were divided into nine walking teams. Participants were asked to complete two 15-minute walks each day, indoors or outdoors, take a weekly photo, and log their walks in a spreadsheet maintained by Human Resources. The initiative’s goal was to boost employee health, increase energy, and build stronger connections through group walking. The walking challenge participants walked a total of 369 miles in May.

Two Lunch and Learn sessions were offered to employees on topics related to mental health. The first session, “Why Zebras Don’t Get Ulcers (Stress Management for Humans)” was held May 12 with host Dr. Elisabeth Sherwin, Professor of Psychology and Chair of the Department of Psychological Science at the

University of Arkansas at Little Rock. Eighty employees attended the session and learned about managing stress, improving communication, strengthening resilience, and making more informed decisions.

The second session was held as a virtual meeting on May 28 with Morgan Rost, a representative from the Lucet Employee Assistance Program, with a presentation about benefits available to staff through the program. Fifty-four people logged in during the virtual session, gaining knowledge about the resources available to them and their families.

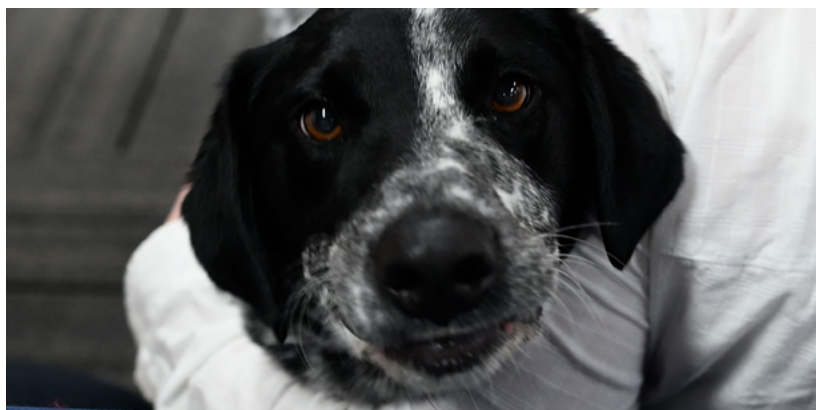
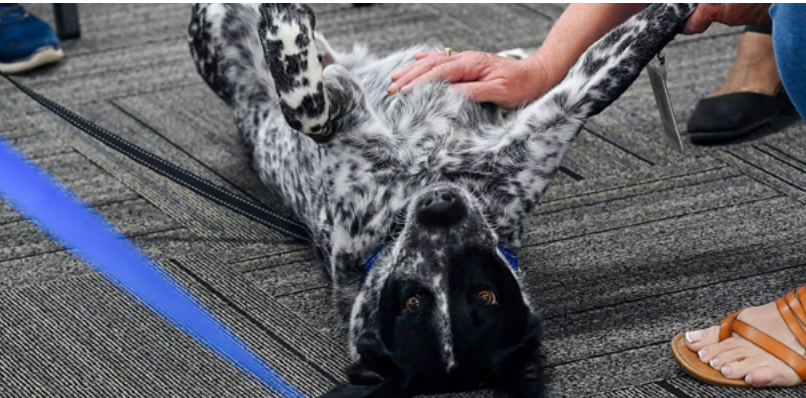
On May 19, employees took part in a Paws for a Purpose outreach visit in the auditorium of the Central Office. Staff signed up in advance for a 15-minute group session with handlers and therapy dogs, Stella and Billie Joe. The dogs and handlers are part of Central Arkansas Pet Partners (CAPP), a local nonprofit that focuses on animal-assisted therapy and community outreach. Seventy staff members stopped by for a tail-wagging time. Learn more about the visit on page 17.

“We all have lives outside of ARDOT,” Hunt said. “We have stress, challenges, relationships, and responsibilities and that’s just part of who we are. Being able to look at the whole person and having mental health awareness be part of the conversation is part of building ARDOT’s culture.” ♦

THERAPY DOGS

Visit Central Office for Mental Health Awareness Month

BY RUTHIE BERRYHILL



In observance of Mental Health Awareness Month, ARDOT Central Office staff had a special visit from some furry friends on May 19. Central Arkansas Pet Partners (CAPP), a nonprofit organization based in Little Rock, brought two therapy dogs to visit with staff and provide a chance for them to recharge, relax, and enjoy some pet therapy during ARDOT's Paws for a Cause event.

CAPP focuses on animal-assisted therapy and community outreach and works to provide comfort, emotional support, and stress relief through interactions with animals. According to CAPP, studies have shown that spending time with animals reduces cortisol levels and supports overall well-being.

Staff reserved an appointment time to participate in small group visits with the CAPP animals and their

handlers in the ARDOT auditorium. Appointments were offered in 15-minute increments to allow as many staff members to participate as possible.

Billy Joe, an English pointer, and Stella, an English retriever, charmed the crowd and many employees left with smiles on their faces. Billy Joe is a high-energy dog who enjoyed performing tricks and getting pets. Stella is a mellow, patient dog who enjoyed sitting in a chair and letting people come up to pet her.

"The Paws for a Cause event was a great reprieve from the day-to-day work routine," Dixon Deering, Communications Publications Specialist, said. "Whoever decided to have both a high-energy dog and a mellow dog at the event needs to know that it was a fantastic idea. I hope the success of this event sparks opportunities for more events like this at ARDOT." ♦



A LIFE IN SERVICE: MAJOR ROSS BATSON RETIRES

BY EMMA GOAD



Major Ross Batson (center) celebrates his retirement with family, friends, and colleagues following a distinguished career of service with the Arkansas Highway Police.



(L. to R.) Major Ross Batson and Chief Jeff Holmes

Some people are built for public service. Major Ross Batson is one of those people.

Batson grew up in Arkadelphia watching his father, a World War II veteran, climb telephone poles for the electric company, and his mother nurse patients before becoming a nursing professor at Henderson State University. It was never a question of whether he would serve, only how.

By 1979 he was a certified EMT, sleeping nights at the ambulance service and rushing to the Emergency Room between college classes. Then came the Army, then the National Guard, then a sheriff's deputy badge slid across a counter on his 21st birthday.

He arrived at a brand-new Springdale Arkansas Highway Police (AHP) station in 1986 and never looked back.

What followed was a majorly decorated career with the AHP. Batson became one of only nine certified truck

inspection instructors in the entire nation, traveling the country teaching other agencies the craft. He built Field Training Officer (FTO) programs, launched statewide audit initiatives, commanded special operations, and spent countless nights protecting highway workers in construction zones.

"People do not realize the knowledge that the Highway Police have," Batson said.

His favorite part of the job is teaching the next generation. "It's fun to show them what's going on and explain the importance of the Highway Police."

Now it's time for travel, hobbies, and the family he built, including his wife of 36 years, who he met working in the office.

"It's hard to leave," he said. "That's how you know it was good."

His legacy rides on with every officer he ever taught. ◆

BY RUTHIE BERRYHILL

ARDOT employees, families, and friends gathered in Little Rock on June 11 for the 35th Annual Equipment Operators Rodeo Finals. One thing was different this year – the finals were held at the Arkansas State Fairgrounds, the first time at this location and the first time the state finals have been held at a non-ARDOT facility.

“As our event has grown, we reached a point where we can be more accommodating to our competitors, judges, staff, family members, and visitors by moving off-site, especially in regard to parking, amenities, and better course layouts,” Danny Keene, Equipment and Procurement Division Head and Rodeo Official, said.

Every year, employees around the state meet in Little Rock to compete in the Rodeo Finals, an event that allows them to show off their skills, participate in friendly competition, and share knowledge with each other. The Rodeo builds on skills they use every day in their work with ARDOT.

“The dedication our employees have for their work proves they are truly professionals and masters of their

trade,” ARDOT Director Jared Wiley said. “I’m thankful to all who participated in this year’s state finals – the real winners from your talents are the citizens of Arkansas that we serve.”

This year, employees competed for the top spot in each of these categories: Single Axle Dump Truck, Tandem Axle Dump Truck, Tractor Trailer/Lowboy, Tractor/Mower, Backhoe, Motor Patrol, and Skid Steer. An overall team winner was also chosen. The top three competitors in each category were awarded on stage, as well as this year’s winning team, District 8.

The two highest performers for each category will travel to Hampton, Virginia in October for the regional competition.

Check out the video to see the competition in action. ♦



The Motor Grader competition during the State Rodeo showcases precision, skill, and control.

STATE ROADEO TEAM CHAMPIONS - DISTRICT 8



(L. to R.) Equipment & Procurement Division Head Danny Keene, Joe Knight, Allen James, Jacob McWilliam, Jacob Chronister, Colt Holland, JD Oels, Tommy Bull, Thomas Brannen, Sherman Goates, Darrell Carter, District Engineer David Ross, Director Jared Wiley



(L. to R.) First Place: Nick Epps, District 6; Second Place: Jacob McWilliam, District 8; Third Place: Harrison Gabbard, District 4



(L. to R.) First Place: Joshua Harness, District 5; Second Place: TJ Pulley, District 1; Third Place: Brad Brown, District 1



(L. to R.) First Place: Tommy Bull, District 8; Second Place: Tyler Phillips, District 5; Third Place: Kevie Jackson, District 7



(L. to R.) First Place: Blake Angel, District 6; Second Place: Tyce Moser, District 5; Third Place: Dakota Sullivan, District 4



(L. to R.) First Place: Chad Foster, District 9; Second Place: William Ring, District 10; Third Place: Tony Skarda, District 6



(L. to R.) First Place: Nick Rushing, District 5; Second Place: Nathan Daniels, District 9; Third Place: Ryan Wages, District 7



(L. to R.) First Place: Nicholas Walker, District 3; Second Place: Sherman Goates, District 8; Third Place: Matthew Davis, District 7



1. ARKANSAS HIGHWAY POLICE – (L. to R.) Lela Cook, Arkansas Highway Police Permit Office Manager, presents Zaul Negrete, Advanced Permit Technician, with his 5-year Service Award.

2. ARKANSAS HIGHWAY POLICE – (L. to R.) Lela Cook, Arkansas Highway Police Permit Office Manager, presents Montana Yoder, Permit Technician, with her 5-year Service Award.

3. ARKANSAS HIGHWAY POLICE – (L. to R.) Captain Chad Heath presents Patrol Officer First Class James Gilbert with his 5-year Service Award.

4. ARKANSAS HIGHWAY POLICE – (L. to R.) Captain Chad Heath presents Patrol Officer First Class Brady Hanney with his 5-year Service Award.

5. BRIDGE – (L. to R.) Rick Ellis, Division Head, presents Garrick Price, Advanced Structural Detailer, with his 10-year Service Award.

6. ENVIRONMENTAL – (L. to R.) Susan Staffeld, Lead Environmental Impact Analyst, receives her 15-year Service Award from Josh Seagraves, Division Head.

7. ENVIRONMENTAL – (L. to R.) Nicholas Dial, Advanced Natural Resources Specialist, receives his 5-year Service Award from Josh Seagraves, Division Head.

8. MAINTENANCE – (L. to R.) Braden Graddy, Pavement Data Technician, receives his 5-year Service Award from Chad Davis, Lead Geospatial Specialist.

9. DISTRICT 1 – (L. to R.) Charles Childs, Maintenance Aide II, Crittenden County, receives his 20-year Service Award from Cannon Callicott, District Engineer.



10. DISTRICT 1 – (L. to R.) Earnest Gardner, Inspector, RE 14, receives his 20-year Service Award from Cannon Callicott, District Engineer.

11. DISTRICT 1 – (L. to R.) Devin Adell, Maintenance Aide II, receives his 15-year Service Award from Cannon Callicott, District Engineer.

12. DISTRICT 1 – (L. to R.) John Phillips, Landscape Technician, receives his 15-year Service Award from Cannon Callicott, District Engineer.

13. DISTRICT 1 – (L. to R.) Johnathan Sanders, Sealing Superintendent, receives his 10-year Service Award from Cannon Callicott, District Engineer.

14. DISTRICT 1 – (L. to R.) Michael Harris, Maintenance Crew Leader, receives his 5-year Service Award from Cannon Callicott, District Engineer.

15. DISTRICT 3 – Colby Cox, Crew Leader, receives his 5-year Service Award.

16. DISTRICT 3 – Craig Mueller, Sevier County Maintenance Aide II, receives his 5-year Service Award.

17. DISTRICT 3 – (L. to R.) Scott Hatfield, Hempstead County Area Maintenance Supervisor, presents Michael Williams, Maintenance Aide II, with his 5-year Service Award.

18. DISTRICT 3 – (L. to R.) John King, Senior Bridge Inspector, presents Dawson Calhoun, Bridge Inspector, with his 5-year Service Award.



19. DISTRICT 4 – (L. to R.) TJ Tucker, Crew Leader, receives his 10-year Service Award from Len Williams, Sign Crew Supervisor.

20. DISTRICT 5 – (L. to R.) Alex Roofe, District Engineer, presents Bob Long, Maintenance Aide II, with his 10-year Service Award.

21. DISTRICT 5 – (L. to R.) Alex Roofe, District Engineer, presents Tahkodah Harmon, Mechanic, with his 5-year Service Award.

22. DISTRICT 5 – (L. to R.) Alex Roofe, District Engineer, presents Billy Ashley, Lead Bridge Repairer, with his 5-year Service Award.

23. DISTRICT 5 – (L. to R.) Alex Roofe, District Engineer, presents Don Dye, Maintenance Aide II, with his 5-year Service Award.

24. DISTRICT 5 – (L. to R.) Alex Roofe, District Engineer, presents Jennifer Miller, Resident Office Tech, RE 53, with her 5-year Service Award.

25. DISTRICT 5 – (L. to R.) Alex Roofe, District Engineer, presents Blake Goodman, Maintenance Specialist, with his 5-year Service Award.

26. DISTRICT 7 – (L. to R.) Joe Plyler, Resident Engineer, RE 73, presents Jeremy Arndt, Advanced Construction Aide, with his 10-year Service Award.

27. DISTRICT 8 – (L. to R.) Sonya Whittenburg, Office Manager, receives her 10-year Service Award from David Ross, District Engineer.


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28. DISTRICT 8 – (L. to R.) Kenny Caldwell, Shop Supervisor, presents Marcus Canady, Electric, Plumbing and Mechanical Repairman, with his 15-year Service Award.

29. DISTRICT 9 – (L. to R.) Dennis Connors, Equipment Maintenance Supervisor, presents Denise Rogers, Security Guard, with her 5-year Service Award.

30. DISTRICT 9 – (L. to R.) Cody Nelson, Boone County Area Maintenance Supervisor, presents Christian Davis, Maintenance Aide II, with his 5-year Service Award.

31. DISTRICT 9 – (L. to R.) Dusty Bryant, Assistant Maintenance Supervisor, receives his 20-year Service Award from Jason Williamson, Sealing Superintendent.

32. DISTRICT 9 – (L. to R.) Kenny Riley, Madison County Area Maintenance Supervisor, presents Gaylon Davis, Advanced Area Headquarters Attendant, with his 5-year Service Award.

33. DISTRICT 9 – (L. to R.) Jason Williamson, Sealing Superintendent, presents Robert Hunsaker, Tractor Trailer Driver, with his 10-year Service Award.

34. DISTRICT 9 – (L. to R.) Jason Williamson, Sealing Superintendent, presents Matthew Holt, Maintenance Specialist, with his 10-year Service Award.

35. DISTRICT 9 – (L. to R.) Brandon Morgan, Advanced Bridge Inspector, receives his 15-year Service Award from Anthony Wood, Senior Bridge Inspector.

36. DISTRICT 9 – (L. to R.) Cody Nelson, Boone County Area Maintenance Supervisor, presents Kenny Kelley, Crew Leader, with his 5-year Service Award.



37. DISTRICT 10 – (L. to R.) Chance Pace, Advanced Construction Aide, receives his 5-year Service Award from Ryan Blankenship, Resident Engineer, RE 04.

38. DISTRICT 10 – (L. to R.) Logan Hardin, Resident Engineer, RE 05, presents James Swain, Inspector, with his 5-year Service Award.

39. DISTRICT 10 – (L. to R.) Shane Wood, District Engineer, presents Daphne Phipps, Bookkeeper, with her 15-year Service Award.

40. DISTRICT 10 – (L. to R.) Kenny Bennett, Maintenance Aide II, receives his 5-year Service Award from Jason Orrick, Area Maintenance Supervisor, Lawrence County.

41. DISTRICT 10 – (L. to R.) Christi Speer, Lead Storeroom Assistant, receives her 5-year Service Award from Michelle Hufford, Storeroom Supervisor.

42. DISTRICT 10 – (L. to R.) Sherrye Osban, Resident Office Tech, RE 05, receives her 15-year Service Award from Logan Hardin, Resident Engineer, RE 05.

43. DISTRICT 10 – (L. to R.) Brandi Davis, Senior Inspector, RE 05, receives her 15-year Service Award from Logan Hardin, Resident Engineer, RE 05.

ON THE JOB



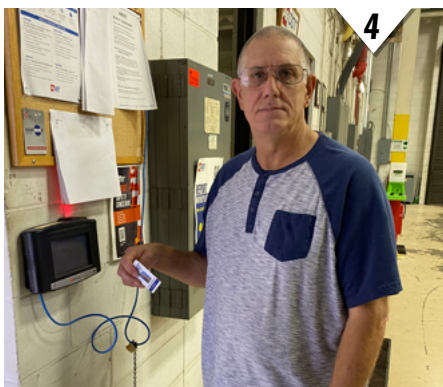
1. MAINTENANCE – The Maintenance Milling Crew received their Safety Award, presented by Deric Wyatt, State Maintenance Engineer, and Johnathon Mormon, Staff Maintenance Engineer. (L. to R.) Wyatt; Joey Livingston, Statewide Maintenance Specialist; Travis Evans, Pavement Profiling Superintendent; Chris Ross, Tractor Trailer Driver; B.J. Bryant, Jr., Tractor Trailer Driver; Mormon; James Waters, Crew Leader; Kris Trout, Statewide Maintenance Specialist; and Tony Lea, Statewide Maintenance Specialist. Not pictured: Cody Reed, Crew Leader.



2. MATERIALS – The Sibley Hole Steppers participated in the May Mental Health Awareness Walking Challenge (L. to R.) Tim Brooks, Equipment Specialist, Equipment & Procurement; Andrew Littleton, Laboratory Coordinator, Materials; Jacie Jordan, Chemist, Materials; and Olivia Woodward, Administrative Assistant, Materials.



3. DISTRICT 8 – At left: Gordon Parham, Area Maintenance Supervisor, Conway County, retired with more than 33 years of service. At right: Parham's Papa, Bill Doughty, who retired as Area Maintenance Supervisor, Perry County, in 1987 with more than 30 years of service. Gordon's great grandfather, Luther Doughty (not pictured), retired as Area Maintenance Supervisor of Perry County in 1962 with more than 25 years of service. Added together, the three generations have almost 90 years of service with ARDOT.



4. DISTRICT 8 – JL Chronister, Parts Runner, retired in April and clocked out for the last time.

ON THE JOB



Go Orange Day photos were published in the May 2026 issue of the Centerline Newsletter. The following additional photos were submitted for the July issue.

5 - 7. TRANSPORTATION SYSTEMS MANAGEMENT & OPERATIONS –

Traffic Systems Management & Operations staff on Go Orange Day.

8. DISTRICT 6 – The Sign Crew on Go Orange Day.

9. DISTRICT 6 – The Lonoke County Crew on Go Orange Day.



MISCELLANEOUS



1. BRIDGE - Bridge Division employees competed in the challenging Hot Springs Mullet Run, a 10K known for its steep hills, rolling terrain, and signature mullet-themed atmosphere. Jonathan Picking, Senior Structures Engineer, finished second overall, while Jonathan Gentry, Advanced Structures Engineer, earned third overall.

Pictured (Back Row, L. to R.): Jim Pool, Staff Structures Engineer; Jonathan Picking, Senior Structures Engineer; Jonathan Gentry, Advanced Structures Engineer; Dylan Singleton, Senior Structures Engineer; Weston Conard, Senior Engineer; and David Perez, Engineer.

(Front Row, L. to R.): Mumm Kanthiya, Engineer; Chad Miller, Engineering Technician; and Sean Erdley, Engineer.

FAMILY FOCUS



1. DISTRICT 2 - Ava Jones was born on April 24, 2026, weighing 6 pounds, 6 ounces and measuring 18.75 inches. Ava is the daughter of James Jones, District 2 Shop Supervisor.

The reports listed are from April 14, 2026 to June 11, 2026 unless otherwise noted. The information in this section came from UKG and Human Resources.

NEW EMPLOYEES:

ARKANSAS HIGHWAY POLICE

Ethan Angel, Patrol Officer; Treyce Bennett, Patrol Officer; Brian Burke, Patrol Officer; Brayden Carmichael, Patrol Officer; Cody Carr, Patrol Officer; Eric Cheatham, Patrol Officer; William Gilbreth, Patrol Officer; Malachi Harris, Patrol Officer; Elliott Hartsfield, Patrol Officer; Nathaniel Humphreys, Patrol Officer; Caleb Hyatt, Patrol Officer; Trevor Kiser, Patrol Officer; David Kuebler, Patrol Officer; Audie McCollum, Patrol Officer; Coby Miner, Patrol Officer; Garrett Moore, Patrol Officer; JW Plouch, Patrol Officer; Taylor Rogers, Patrol Officer; Rylee Shupert, Patrol Officer; Justin Staggs, Patrol Officer; Carson Stracner, Patrol Officer; David Van Why, Patrol Officer; Lacamra Watson, Patrol Officer

BRIDGE

Gunnar Haley, Senior Engineering Intern; Josue Salas, Engineer

BRIDGE OPERATIONS

TJ Beard, Senior Engineering Intern; Zane Coletta, Senior Engineering Intern; Kylie Frost, Seasonal Employee; Titus Green, Advanced Engineering Intern; Andrew Orr, Engineer; Bryce Rogers, Senior Engineering Intern

CONSTRUCTION

Esteban Alvarez, Senior Engineering Intern; Maynor Arce, Senior Engineering Intern; Karilynn Arellano, Advanced Engineering Intern; Aliyah Armstrong, Senior Engineering Intern; Joshua Barnett, Senior Engineering Intern; Daniel Callicott, Senior Engineering Intern; Jewel Cheely,

Advanced Intern; Wyatt Clement, Advanced Engineering Intern; Nate Cooper, Senior Engineering Intern; Colton Cosse, Senior Engineering Intern; Brycen Cox, Seasonal Employee; Grayson Dall, Senior Engineering Intern; Tate Dixon, Engineering Intern; Noah Donnell, Senior Engineering Intern; Josh Donoho, Construction Aide; Bryan Eiler, Construction Aide; Brent England, Senior Engineering Intern; Cale Glasgow, Senior Engineering Intern; Peyton Glenn, Senior Engineering Intern; Aden Greving, Senior Engineering Intern; Jacob Hall, Senior Engineering Intern; Ken Hawkins, Senior Engineering Intern; Gage Huff, Engineering Intern; Grant Jeffus, Senior Engineering Intern; Lexa Jobe, Senior Engineering Intern; Jack Landrum, Senior Engineering Intern; Seth Matocha, Senior Engineering Intern; Kim McCabe, Construction Aide; Connor McDiarmid, Senior Engineering Intern; Braylan McDowell, Advanced Engineering Intern; Cooper Meek, Senior Engineering Intern; Bryce Mendenhall, Senior Engineering Intern; Caleb Montgomery, Advanced Engineering Intern; Gabe Morris, Senior Engineering Intern; Braxton Nivens, Engineering Intern; Benjamin Oostdyk, Advanced Engineering Intern; Diego Osejo, Senior Engineering Intern; Luna Park, Senior Engineering Intern; Lincoln Parker, Senior Engineering Intern; Ethan Pearce, Senior Engineering Intern; Richard Plunkett, Senior Engineering Intern; Trevor Reeves, Construction Aide; Elisha Rushing, Engineering Intern; Zailynn Sanders, Senior Engineering Intern; John Sankari, Senior Engineering Intern; Caleb

Schultz, Advanced Engineering Intern; Elijah Sidebottom, Senior Engineering Intern; Braden Springs, Engineer; Theo Staton, Senior Engineering Intern; Raye Stokes, Senior Engineering Intern; Max Taunton, Senior Engineering Intern; Aaron Taylor, Senior Engineering Intern; Nathan Tubbs, Senior Engineering Intern; Dathan Vaught, Engineer; Kelby Warren, Engineering Intern; Cliff Weatherbee, Senior Engineering Intern; Tristan Webber, Senior Engineering Intern; Seth Whittington, Senior Engineering Intern; Daniel Williams, Senior Engineering Intern

CONSULTANT CONTRACTS

Malia Campbell, Seasonal Employee; Ethan Eubanks, Advanced Accounting Intern

ENVIRONMENTAL

Charlotte McCombs, Advanced Archeology Intern; Vanessa Mullins, Advanced Archeology Intern

EQUIPMENT & PROCUREMENT

Mason Majors, Storeroom Assistant

FISCAL SERVICES

Kyleigh Scoggins, Advanced Accounting Intern

HUMAN RESOURCES

Charles Patterson, Senior Workforce Development Specialist

INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY

Brandon Black, IT Support Specialist; Priyanka Dyarangula, IT Database Analyst; Patrick Ellis, IT Support Specialist

INTERNAL AUDIT

Jayla Stirgus, Internal Audit Intern

**MAINTENANCE**

Damian Biggs, Senior Engineering Intern; Jonas Blackwood, Senior Engineering Intern; Nich Bryant, Statewide Maintenance Aide I; Jenny Bueno, GIS Technician; Tre Butler, General Laborer; Fay Chism, Senior Engineering Intern; Ruben Corona, Senior Engineering Intern; Sam Cypert, Senior Engineering Intern; Riley Hart, Senior Engineering Intern; Shaun Julius, General Laborer; Sakshyam Kafle, Senior Engineering Intern; Logan McKay, Senior Engineering Intern; JD Ross, Engineer; Brian Runyan, Statewide Maintenance Aide I; Tooba Sehr, Senior Engineering Intern; Ben Vasquez, General Laborer; Ben Woods, Statewide Maintenance Aide I

MATERIALS

James Stanley, Senior Engineering Intern; Joshua Tolbert, Materials Technician

PLANNING & RESEARCH

Shashwat Baral, Senior Engineering Intern; Megan Becker, Senior Engineering Intern; Tangiha Majumder, Geospatial Specialist; Clarke McNutt, Traffic Safety Analyst

RIGHT OF WAY

Sara Key, Seasonal Employee; Chris Long, Utilities Coordinator

ROADWAY DESIGN

Bryan Chun, Senior Engineering Intern; Haley Glunz, Senior Engineering Intern; Karen Melton, Office Assistant

SURVEYS

Sean Dodds, Surveys Intern; Trey Knight, Surveys Intern; Sam Martin, Engineer; Bennett Potts, Surveys Aide; Gavin Sanders, Surveys Aide;

Evan Watkins, Surveys Intern; Noah Wright, Senior Engineering Intern

TRANSPORTATION SYSTEMS MANAGEMENT & OPERATIONS

Jerry Gardner, Traffic Operations Specialist; Angel Medina Arriaga, Senior Engineering Intern

DISTRICT 1

Kylin Daniels, Maintenance Aide II; Minyia Daniels, Seasonal Employee; Jordan Futrell, Maintenance Aide I; Kendarion Harris, Seasonal Employee; Caleb Humphrey, Station Attendant; Spencer Parker, Seasonal Employee; Lavertis Perkins, Maintenance Aide I; Carla Smith, Storeroom Assistant; Wendy Vance, Storeroom Assistant

DISTRICT 2

Ethan Davidson, Seasonal Employee; Matthew Green, Seasonal Employee; Tyler Harris, Maintenance Aide I; Matthew Howard, Maintenance Aide I; Monique Limuel, Maintenance Aide I

DISTRICT 3

Gimena Craven, Seasonal Employee; Amanda Frederick, Security Guard; Brian Lacefield, Body Repairer and Painter; Logan Lauterbach, Seasonal Employee; William McBride, Mechanic; Brandon Patton, Maintenance Aide I

DISTRICT 4

Kinny Cole, Rest Area Attendant; Jaren Daggs, Maintenance Aide I; Terence Elmore, Maintenance Aide I; Landon Hughes, Maintenance Aide I; Brian Seratt, Maintenance Aide I; Matthew White, Maintenance Aide I

DISTRICT 5

Justin Gardner, Maintenance Aide I; Cameron Joshlin, Maintenance Aide I;

Blake Plotz, Maintenance Aide I; Dylan Willison, Maintenance Aide I

DISTRICT 6

Austin Balentine, Bridge Repairer; Bobby Black, Maintenance Aide I; Braylen Carter, Maintenance Aide I; Tim Centofante, Bridge Repairer; John Elliott, Maintenance Aide I; Clay Lovell, Welder; David Ready, Mechanic; Christina Rimmer, Bookkeeper; Sherelle Shipp, Maintenance Aide I; Matt Spencer, Maintenance Aide I

DISTRICT 7

Harley Cummings, Seasonal Employee; DJ Hill, Maintenance Aide I; Jack Lephiew, Seasonal Employee; Cornelio Santana, Maintenance Aide I; Evan Vermilyea, Maintenance Aide I

DISTRICT 8

Jordan Banks, Maintenance Aide I; Brian Chandler, Maintenance Aide I; April Dudley, Seasonal Employee; Levi McCormick, Maintenance Aide I

DISTRICT 9

Griffin Cantrell, Maintenance Aide I; McKenzie Garrison, Seasonal Employee; Drew Hankins, Maintenance Aide I; Jake Pulliam, Maintenance Aide I; Cody Taylor, Maintenance Aide I; Colby Young, Skilled Trades Trainee

DISTRICT 10

James Dean, Skilled Trades Apprentice; Andrew Dowdy, Maintenance Aide I; Brandon Foster, Maintenance Aide I; Christopher Hudman, Maintenance Aide I; Dallas Moss, Bridge Repairer; Andrew Myrick, Storeroom Assistant; Kaanon Simmons, Maintenance Aide I; Johnathun Witt, Maintenance Aide I

PROMOTIONS:

ARKANSAS HIGHWAY POLICE

Edward Morgan, Sergeant; Natasha Williams, Sergeant

BRIDGE OPERATIONS

Jackson Childers, Heavy Bridge Repairer; Anna Grey, Heavy Bridge Repairer

CONSTRUCTION

Chancie Acosta, Senior Inspector; Jeremy Arndt, Construction Materials Inspector; DB Beaver, Inspector; Andrew Daniels, Advanced Construction Aide; Brandi Davis, Senior Inspector; Paul Davis, Advanced Construction Aide; Zebulan Dill, Construction Materials Inspector; Chanel Farley, Advanced Field Clerk; Miyoshi Hughes, Assistant Section Head - Construction Audits and Payments; Dawson Jennings, Inspector; Ayden Johnston, Advanced Construction Aide; Sherrye Osban, Advanced Resident Office Technician; Christopher Price, Advanced Construction Aide; Jeffrey Storment, Resident Engineer; Raymond Taylor, Inspector; Jace Tickell, Advanced Construction Aide; Todd Tooke, Senior Construction Project Coordinator

EQUIPMENT & PROCUREMENT

Timothy Brooks, Equipment Specialist - Specifications Writer

HUMAN RESOURCES

Austin Ardwin, Senior Health and Safety Officer; Christopher Boren, Senior Health and Safety Officer; Kaylie Noll, Senior Workforce Development Specialist

INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY

Charles Ashmore, IT End User Support Coordinator

MAINTENANCE

Rustin Thornberry, Statewide Maintenance Aide I

MATERIALS

T.C. Carter, District Materials Supervisor; Tim Wooten, Materials Technician; Kevin Yates, District Materials Supervisor

RIGHT OF WAY

Keyma Thompson, Lead ROW Acquisition Agent

ROADWAY DESIGN

Jocie Baker, Staff Design Engineer; Alexander Hampton, Advanced Estimator; Austin Petty, Advanced Design Engineer; Brandon Schaack, Advanced Design Engineer

SURVEYS

John Baker, Surveys Technician; Landon Bass, Advanced Surveys Technician; Kyzer Black, Advanced Surveys Technician; Bryan Gann, Surveys Crew Supervisor; Jason Glasscock, Surveys Aide; Hayden Powell, Surveys Crew Supervisor; Jathan Robertson, Advanced Surveys Technician; Austin Stovall, Advanced Surveys Aide; Wesley Turner, Surveys Technician

TRANSPORTATION SYSTEMS MANAGEMENT & OPERATIONS

Hau Ho, Advanced TSMO Engineer

DISTRICT 1

Matt Banton, Maintenance Aide II; Justin Brimer, Maintenance Aide II; Dorothy Childs, Advanced Area Headquarters Attendant; Matthew Emberton, District Engineer; Donnie Henson, District Maintenance Engineer; Jerry Hill, Maintenance Aide II; Brian Lace, Maintenance Aide II; Matthew Marshall, Skilled Trades Apprentice; Zachary Mayfield,

Maintenance Aide II; Dalton Pettus, Maintenance Aide II; James Sanders, Advanced Area Headquarters Attendant

DISTRICT 2

Maryann Gossage, Lead Storeroom Assistant; Aiden Marlette, Bridge Inspector

DISTRICT 3

DJ Barnes, Maintenance Aide II; Ashley Barnett, Advanced District Clerk; Steven Brzeski, Shop Supervisor; David Dearman, Maintenance Specialist; Cole Fore, Maintenance Aide II; Vance Kisselburg, Maintenance Aide II; Christopher Ledbetter, Maintenance Aide II; Aaron Martin, Storeroom Supervisor; Wesley Reynolds, Maintenance Aide II

DISTRICT 4

Michael Beyard, Maintenance Specialist; Nannette Billing, Advanced District Clerk; Christopher Carr, Assistant Maintenance Supervisor; Jason Chapman, Rest Area Attendant II; Stephanie Duncan, Advanced District Clerk; Yvonne Henry, Maintenance Specialist; Jacob Parks, Maintenance Specialist; Marion Rouell, Maintenance Aide II; Trenton Talbot, Maintenance Aide II; Camden Waldron, Bridge Inspector; Clay Wilson, Maintenance Aide II

DISTRICT 5

Albert Ashford, Advanced Area Headquarters Attendant; Austin McComas, Maintenance Aide II; Logan Sisk, Maintenance Aide II; Kevin Smith, Maintenance Specialist

DISTRICT 6

Eddie Bankston, Maintenance Aide II; Lester Burrow, Maintenance Aide II; Eric Chisholm, District Caretaker II;

Justin Cotton, Maintenance Aide II; Michael Crump, Maintenance Aide II; Tiffany Hendricks, Maintenance Aide II; Jonathan Isbell, Area Maintenance Supervisor; Jeffery Justice, Maintenance Aide II; Jeremy Reed, Maintenance Aide II; Jeffery Rogers, Maintenance Aide II; D. Washington, Maintenance Aide II; Antwane Wilkerson, Maintenance Aide II

DISTRICT 7

Lane Davis, Lead Bridge Repairer; Lisa Guley, Parts Runner; Michael Heil, Lead Bridge Repairer; Timothy Holeman, Maintenance Specialist; Jackson Hostetter, Maintenance Specialist; Isyss Johnson, Maintenance Aide II; Cody Jones, Maintenance Aide II; Sherri Key, Lead Storeroom Assistant; Adam Launius, Maintenance Aide II

DISTRICT 8

Thomas Brannen, Maintenance Aide II; Baron Higgs, Maintenance Aide II; Mason Taylor, Maintenance Aide II; Adam Vaughn, Maintenance Aide II; Chris Whitbey, Area Maintenance Supervisor

DISTRICT 9

Tom Casto, Maintenance Specialist; Devin Greenhaw, Bridge Repairer

DISTRICT 10

Jamie Adams, Maintenance Aide II; Shante Anderson, Advanced Area Headquarters Attendant; Jesse Carter, Advanced Body Repairer and Painter; Landon Eubanks, Bridge Repairer; Daymon Hall, Maintenance Specialist

SERVICE AWARDS

CHIEF ENGINEER OF PRECONSTRUCTION OFFICE

Erica Adams, Assistant Chief Engineer for Planning, 25+ years; Leslie Goshien, Executive Assistant, 25+ years

ARKANSAS HIGHWAY POLICE

John Barnes, Security Guard, 5+ years; Timothy Gushing, Lieutenant, 25+ years; Louis Hatchett, Captain, 25+ years; James Ludwig, Corporal, 25+ years; William Scott, Captain, 25+ years

BENEFITS & COMPENSATION

Robbie Howlett, Administrative Assistant, 15+ years

BRIDGE

Jonathan Gentry, Advanced Structures Engineer, 5+ years

COMMUNICATIONS

Dwan Moore, Advanced Print Services Coordinator, 20+ years

CONSTRUCTION

Jeremy Arndt, Construction Materials Inspector, 10+ years; Daniel Courtney, Resident Engineer, 20+ years; Eric Green, Construction Aide, 10+ years; Terri Inman, Advanced Resident Office Technician, 25+ years; Traci LaBeff, Field Clerk, 5+ years; Dorothy Rhodes, CTPP and Program Administration Engineer, 35+ years; Kimberly Spharler, Advanced Field Clerk, 5+ years; Selvin Walker, Inspector, 10+ years; Whitney Wiseman, Senior Construction Materials Inspector, 15+ years

ENVIRONMENTAL

Nicholas Dial, Advanced Natural Resources Specialist, 5+ years;

Robert Reed, Lead GIS-Data Management Specialist, 25+ years

EQUIPMENT & PROCUREMENT

Mike Edmison, Body Repairer and Painter, 5+ years

HUMAN RESOURCES

Melissa Garrett, Wellness Coordinator, 35+ years

LOCAL PROGRAMS

Anthony Dao, Senior Local Programs Geospatial Specialist, 5+ years

MAINTENANCE

Curtis Beasley, Statewide Maintenance Specialist, 5+ years; Travis Evans, Pavement Profiling Superintendent, 30+ years; Krystin Ferrell, Sign Shop Supervisor, 10+ years; Braden Graddy, Pavement Data Collection Technician, 5+ years; Leslie Howell, Senior Electrician, 5+ years; Robert Lundy, Storeroom Assistant, 5+ years; Cressandra Mahone, System Information Pavement Technician, 15+ years; Matt Owen, Assistant Geophysical Data Analyst, 5+ years; Heather Pledger, Assistant Sign Shop Supervisor, 10+ years

MATERIALS

Paul Tinsley, Division Head, 25+ years

PLANNING & RESEARCH

Lindsay McCarthy, System Information Analyst, 20+ years

RIGHT OF WAY

Stasia Broughton, Section Head - Relocation, 15+ years; Lynzi Frizzell, Lead ROW Billing Coordinator, 15+ years; Keith Mashburn, Utilities Specialist, 15+ years

ROADWAY DESIGN

Tanesa Kassa, 3D Visualization Technician, 5+ years

STATE AID

Timothy Yu, Staff State Aid Engineer, 10+ years

SURVEYS

David Hall, Division Head, 20+ years; Jon Holcomb, Surveys Crew Supervisor, 35+ years; Steven Ward, Surveys Technician, 5+ years

TRANSPORTATION SYSTEMS MANAGEMENT & OPERATIONS

Tylan Jackson, TMC Operator, 5+ years

DISTRICT 1

Devin Adell, Maintenance Aide II, 15+ years; Joey Henson, Area Maintenance Supervisor, 25+ years; Helen Kennon, Security Guard, 20+ years

DISTRICT 2

Pam Davis, Lead Station Attendant, 5+ years; Philip Graves, Advanced Area Headquarters Attendant, 10+ years; Drew Hoggard, District Engineer, 20+ years

DISTRICT 3

Gregory Culp, Tractor Trailer Driver, 5+ years; Ryan Lovell, Crew Leader, 25+ years; Kenneth McClure, Maintenance Specialist, 5+ years; Chopper Moore, Assistant Maintenance Supervisor, 15+ years; Justin Pinkerton, Crew Leader, 10+ years; Noah Privett, Maintenance Aide II, 5+ years; Jay Sanders, Maintenance Aide II, 5+ years

DISTRICT 4

Garren Carpenter, Maintenance Aide II, 5+ years; Jeffrey Sims, Crew Leader, 20+ years

DISTRICT 5

Zachary Adams, Advanced Bridge Inspector, 5+ years; Floyd Haley, Senior Bridge Inspector, 30+ years;

Jon Jones, Assistant Maintenance Supervisor, 25+ years; Daniel McCord, Assistant Maintenance Supervisor, 15+ years

DISTRICT 6

Levi Horton, Crew Leader, 5+ years; Jonathan Isbell, Area Maintenance Supervisor, 10+ years; Dean Teague, Crew Leader, 20+ years

DISTRICT 7

Anthony Barnett, Assistant Maintenance Supervisor, 5+ years

DISTRICT 8

Tommy Bull, Maintenance Aide II, 10+ years; Samuel Gulledege, Maintenance Specialist, 15+ years; Thale Keisling, District Construction Engineer, 35+ years; Kevin Milligan, Senior Bridge Inspector, 15+ years; Sonya Whittenburg, Office Manager, 10+ years

DISTRICT 9

Christian Davis, Maintenance Aide II, 5+ years; Cooper Ferguson, Maintenance Aide II, 5+ years; Michael Holt, Maintenance Aide II, 5+ years; Kenneth Kelley, Crew Leader, 5+ years; Robert Moore, District Construction Engineer, 25+ years; Denise Rogers, Security Guard, 5+ years

DISTRICT 10

Kendal Ashby, Mechanic, 15+ years; Kyle Bennett, Maintenance Specialist, 5+ years; Levi Hicks, Maintenance Specialist, 5+ years; Daphne Phipps, Bookkeeper, 15+ years; Jeffery Rawls, Special Maintenance Superintendent, 25+ years; Chase Richardson, Lead Bridge Repairer, 5+ years; Cory Shaw, Senior Bridge Inspector, 20+ years; Jack Wolf, Equipment Maintenance Supervisor, 25+ years

RETIREMENTS:**ARKANSAS HIGHWAY POLICE**

Ross Batson, Major, 39+ years

CONSTRUCTION

Ricky Benson, Senior Inspector, 35+ years; Brian Bratcher, Construction Project Coordinator, 35+ years; Robert McCollum, Senior Construction Materials Inspector, 15+ years; Kerry Powers, Senior Inspector, 31+ years

LEGAL

Julia Hudson, Staff Attorney, 2+ years

MAINTENANCE

Kimberly Elrod, Sign Developer/Designer, 17+ years; Michael York, Nighttime Janitorial Supervisor, 20+ years

PLANNING & RESEARCH

Kathy Gunderman, Geospatial Specialist, 33+ years

SURVEYS

Michael Mohler, Land Surveys Supervisor, 29+ years; Steven Wrigley, Surveys Crew Supervisor, 41+ years

DISTRICT 1

Tony Palmer, Maintenance Specialist, 35+ years; John Phillips, Landscape Technician, 15+ years; Larry Thomas, Maintenance Specialist, 22+ years; Waymon Weeams, Crew Leader, 18+ years

DISTRICT 5

Don Dye, Maintenance Aide II, 5+ years

DISTRICT 7

Steven Ashcraft, Maintenance Aide II, 9+ years; Todd Russell, District Construction Engineer, 38+ years

DISTRICT 8

Jessie Chronister, Parts Runner,
8+ years

DISTRICT 9

Jeffery Upton, Maintenance
Specialist, 27+ years

DISTRICT 10

John McDowell, Parts Runner,
7+ years

MEMORIALS:

**CHIEF ENGINEER FOR OPERATIONS
OFFICE**

Allan Holmes, 4/17/2026, Retired

ARKANSAS HIGHWAY POLICE

Michael Almeda, 4/25/2026, Retired

ENVIRONMENTAL

William Shields, 5/25/2026, Retired

HUMAN RESOURCES

Byron Ames, 5/4/2026, Retired

INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY

Gary French, 4/22/2026, Retired

MAINTENANCE

Marcus Bell, 04/26/2026, Active

RIGHT OF WAY

Donna McCloud, 4/22/2026, Retired

PLANNING

Mignon Frazier, 6/11/2026, Retired

DISTRICT 1

Danny Reed, 4/14/2026, Retired

DISTRICT 3

Alvin Vaughn, 04/10/2026, Retired

DISTRICT 6

Roger Starling, 05/03/2026, Retired

DISTRICT 7

Phillip Benson, 05/17/2026, Retired;
Eddie Childers, 06/14/2026, Retired

DISTRICT 9

Loris Horton, 6/1/2026, Retired;
Doyle Root, 05/30/2026, Retired;
Richard Williams, 6/17/2026, Retired

DISTRICT 10

Bradley Porter, 6/7/2026, Retired;
Roger Specking, 4/30/2026, Retired



MARCUS LANEAL BELL

MARCH 19, 1975 – APRIL 26, 2026

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Marcus Laneal Bell, 51, of Little Rock, Arkansas, passed away on April 26, 2026. He was born on March 19, 1975. Personal and Professional Services entrusted to Ruffin and Jarrett Funeral Home, 1200 S. Chester St., Little Rock, Ark. 72202.