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CENTERLINE

NEWSLETTER

NOVEMBER 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: FALL FOLIAGE ON HIGHWAY 70 NEAR HOT SPRINGS

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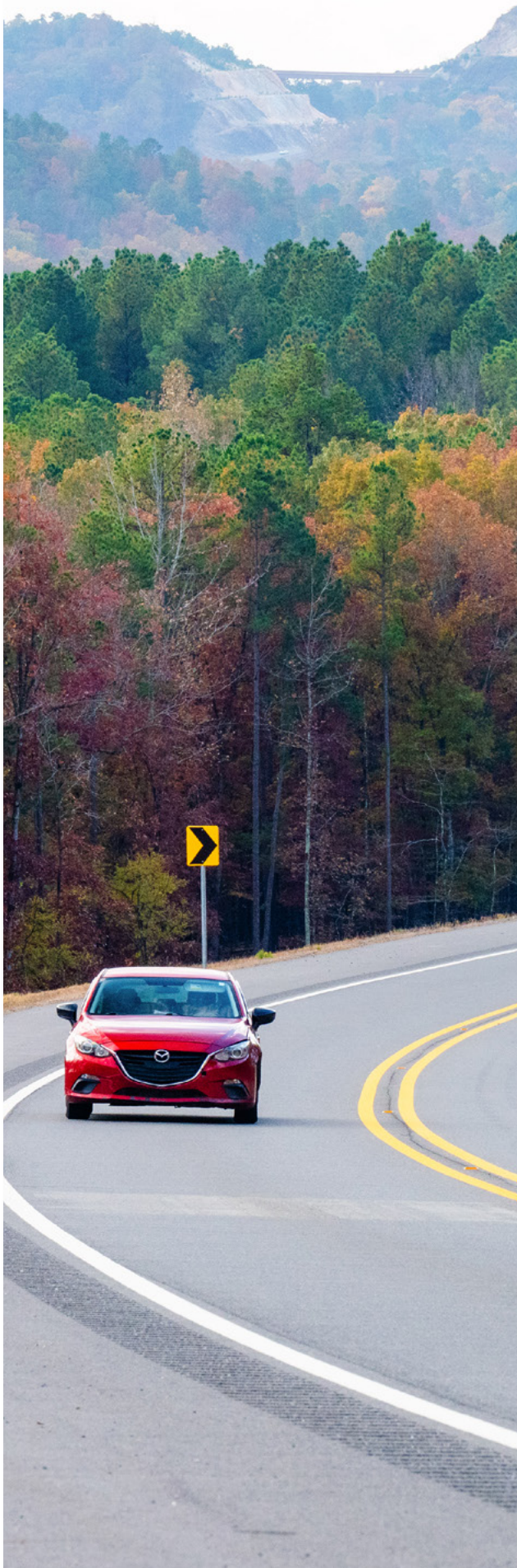
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District 7: Lindsey Dow
District 8: Farrah Beldin
District 9: Renae Whiteside
District 10: Lesa Osborn

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Construction: Yulissa Mendoza
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Environmental: Esmeralda Marquez
Equipment & Procurement: Jordyn Walker
Fiscal Services: Robbie Howlett
Human Resources: Jazmine Kumpe
Information Technology: Kamara Durham
Internal Audit: Shermaine Lewis
Legal: Kim Jewell
Local Programs: Alex Reed
Maintenance: Mandy Price
Materials: Olivia Woodward
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Program Management: Maddie Stephens
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TSMO: Jaonna Jordan

The Arkansas Department of Transportation (ARDOT) complies with all civil rights provisions of federal statutes and related authorities that prohibit discrimination in programs and activities receiving federal financial assistance. Therefore, ARDOT does not discriminate on the basis of race, sex, color, age, national origin, religion (not applicable as a protected group under the FMCSA Title VI Program), or disability in the admission, access to and treatment in ARDOT's programs and activities, as well as ARDOT's hiring or employment practices. Complaints of alleged discrimination and inquiries regarding ARDOT's nondiscrimination policies may be directed to the Civil Rights Division at P.O. Box 2261, Little Rock, AR 72203, (501) 569-2298, (Voice/TTY 711); or Civil.Rights@ardot.gov. Free language assistance may be available upon request. This notice is available from the ADA/504/Title VI Coordinator in large print, on audiotape, and in Braille.



CALENDAR OF EVENTS

NOVEMBER 4
WEDNESDAY
ARDOT Bid Letting

NOVEMBER 4 - 6
WEDNESDAY - FRIDAY
Arkansas Transportation Summit
Rogers Convention Center

NOVEMBER 11
WEDNESDAY
Veterans Day
Offices closed

NOVEMBER 12
MONDAY
Lunch & Learn
The History of ARDOT
Central Office Auditorium
Little Rock
12:15 PM

NOVEMBER 26 - 27
THURSDAY - FRIDAY
Thanksgiving holiday
Offices closed

NOVEMBER 30 - DECEMBER 18
Service Awards Ceremonies
Full schedule listed on page 7

DECEMBER 2
WEDNESDAY
Arkansas Highway Commission Meeting
Central Office
Little Rock
10 AM

DECEMBER 24 - 25
THURSDAY - FRIDAY
Christmas holiday
Offices closed

JANUARY 1
FRIDAY
New Year's Day holiday
Offices closed

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COMMUNICATION HUB



SHAREPOINT

ARKANSAS HIGHWAYS MAGAZINE

Centerline Newsletter

Poppulo

On the DOT: Weekly Updates

On the DOT: Documentaries

On the DOT: An ARDOT Podcast

ARDOT.GOV

iDriveArkansas.com

News Releases

Events

Social Media:



BARNES

IT APPLICATIONS SERVICES MANAGER, INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY

Paul Barnes was named Information Technology (IT) Applications Services Manager for the IT Division, effective September 5, 2026.

Barnes began his career with ARDOT as a Network Services Support Technician in the IT Division in June 2019. He was promoted to Utilities Coordinator in the Right of Way Division in September 2020. Barnes returned to IT in July 2022 as an IT Database Analyst and was promoted to Assistant Section Head in June 2024. ◆

BROWN

STAFF ENGINEER, BRIDGE OPERATIONS

Nate Brown was named Staff Engineer for the Bridge Operations Division, effective August 22, 2026.

Brown began his career with ARDOT as an Engineer in the Maintenance Division in November 2021. He followed the engineering career path and became Senior Engineer in the Bridge Operations Division in April 2025.

Brown has a bachelor's degree in civil engineering from Missouri University of Science and Technology. He is a Licensed Professional Engineer. ◆





CAMPBELL

AREA MAINTENANCE SUPERVISOR, DISTRICT 9, SEARCY COUNTY

Jason Campbell was named Area Maintenance Supervisor, District 9, Searcy County, effective July 25, 2026.

Campbell began his career with ARDOT as a Maintenance Aide I in November 2018. He followed the maintenance career path and became Crew Leader in July 2025. ◆

PHILLIPS

SIGN CREW SUPERVISOR, DISTRICT 2

Cade Phillips was named Sign Crew Supervisor, District 2, effective September 5, 2026.

Phillips began his career with ARDOT as a Skilled Trades Trainee in September 2020. He has since served in many roles including Lead Station Attendant and Construction Aide. Phillips followed the maintenance career path and became Crew Leader in May 2026. ◆





SMRT

CAPTAIN, ARKANSAS HIGHWAY POLICE

Michael Smrt was named Captain for the Arkansas Highway Police (AHP) District 5, effective July 25, 2026.

Smrt began his career with ARDOT in August 2010 as an AHP Patrol Officer. He followed the law enforcement career path and advanced to Patrol Officer First Class in August 2011, Sergeant in March 2023, and Lieutenant in August 2024. ◆

THOMAS

ASSISTANT DIVISION HEAD, SURVEYS

Spencer Thomas was named Assistant Division Head of Surveys, effective August 22, 2026.

Thomas began his career with ARDOT as a Surveys Helper in October 2009 and became a Surveys Aide II in August 2010. He was promoted to Staff Land Surveyor in June 2021. After a brief period in the private surveying industry, he returned to ARDOT in July 2024 as Staff Land Surveyor.

Thomas has a bachelor's degree in education from the University of Arkansas and an associate's degree in surveying from the University of Arkansas Community College in Morrilton. He is a Professional Land Surveyor. ◆



2026 SERVICE AWARD SCHEDULE



DECEMBER

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
29 NOVEMBER	30 NOVEMBER **Preconstruction** Benton Event Center	1	2	3 **District 8** Dardanelle Community Center	4 **District 1** Technology Center for the Delta, Wynne	5
6	7 **Administration** Benton Event Center	8 **District 7** Calvary Baptist Church, Camden	9 **District 6** Oak Park Baptist Church, Little Rock	10 **District 5** Batesville Community Center	11 **District 10** Paragould Community Center	12
13	14 **Operations** Benton Event Center	15 **District 2** White Hall Community Center	16 **District 9** District 9 Headquarters, Harrison	17 **District 4** District 4 Headquarters, Barling	18 **District 3** District 3 Headquarters, Hope	19
20	21	22	23	24	25	26
27	28	29	30	31		

ASHERS
Arkansas State Highway Employees' Retirement System



KEY APPOINTED TO ASHERS BOARD

BY RUTHIE BERRYHILL

Corey Key, Arkansas Department of Transportation's (ARDOT) Assistant Chief of Finance, has been appointed to the Arkansas State Highway Employees' Retirement System (ASHERS) Board of Trustees. Key is serving in the ASHERS position vacated by Rex Vines, former ARDOT Chief Engineer of Operations, who retired in July 2026.

ASHERS plays a vital role in managing ARDOT's retirement system, ensuring its long-term success. The 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.

FLEXIBLE SPENDING ACCOUNT (FSA) UPDATE FOR 2027

BY RONDA WALTHALL

If you currently have a Flexible Spending Account (FSA) with HealthEquity/WageWorks, please note that we will transition to a new FSA provider for the 2027 plan year. Your 2026 funds will still be available through the grace period ending March 15, 2027. However, after December 31, 2026, there will be special instructions for accessing those remaining funds. You'll receive an email from the Insurance office in November with all the details.

If you enroll in an FSA for 2027, you will receive information directly from the new company (Ameriflex), along with any important updates you need to know from the insurance office.



DONATING TO THE CATASTROPHIC LEAVE BANK?

Planning to donate to the Catastrophic Leave Bank this year? The deadline is approaching! Donations must be submitted in UKG before the deadline on December 31, 2026 to count for the 2027 Leave Year.

For instructions on how to submit a donation within the timekeeping system, please refer to the HR page quick links for how-to guides.

Please refer to the Catastrophic Leave Policy in the Personnel Manual for details regarding participation in the program or contact the Personnel Office at 501-569-2458 if you have related questions.

LEAVE YEAR CHANGES

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. ◆



INCLEMENT WEATHER POLICY



OFFICE CLOSURES

There are times when the severity of weather conditions may cause ARDOT offices to be officially delayed, closed, or dismissed early. This determination is made by the ARDOT Director, and in these situations, personnel which are non-essential for inclement weather purposes will be notified by email or other electronic notification from the Director's Office.

PAID TIME OFF

When the Director's office declares ARDOT offices will be officially delayed, closed or dismissed early, all employees (essential or non-essential) will be granted the same number of hours as a temporary "inclement weather" accrual. These hours will be available for immediate use and will expire each year on June 1st if they are not used.

REMOTE WORK

During periods of inclement weather that result in office closures, employees who are not required to report to work are expected to use the inclement weather hours granted, unless authorized by their Division Head or District Engineer to work remotely during the closure.

QUESTIONS?

Email: personnel@ardot.gov

View the ARDOT Personnel Manual

COMPLIANCE TRAINING

FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

What training is included?

Required training includes New Employee Orientation, Health & Safety Orientation, Bloodborne Pathogens, Workplace Violence, Active Shooter, Human Trafficking Awareness, Ethics, Respectful Workplace, and Preventing Sexual Harassment (supervisors only).

Do I have to take this training?

Yes. Assigned compliance training in ARDOT University is required as part of your position. Employees are encouraged to complete assigned training by the established deadline.

How long do I have to complete online training?

Employees have 30 days from the date the training is assigned to complete the course, unless a different deadline is specifically communicated. We encourage employees to complete training as soon as possible rather than waiting until the deadline.

What happens if I don't complete the training?

Failure to complete assigned training by the deadline will result in follow-up with the employee and their supervisor. Further action may be taken as appropriate. If you are unable to complete the training by the deadline due to extenuating circumstances, please talk with your supervisor and Human Resources - Workforce Development as soon as possible.

Where do I take the course?

You should receive an email notification from ARDOT University when training is assigned to you. To access the course, log in to ARDOT University using your ARDOT credentials. You may be asked to use Single Sign-On (SSO). Once logged in, you can access your assigned training from the "My Training" section under the Learner tab.

How often will this training be required?

Employees will be automatically enrolled in the applicable training through ARDOT University every five years. Employees will receive a notification when the training is assigned and must complete it within the established deadline.

I'm a supervisor. How do I check to see if an employee finished their training?

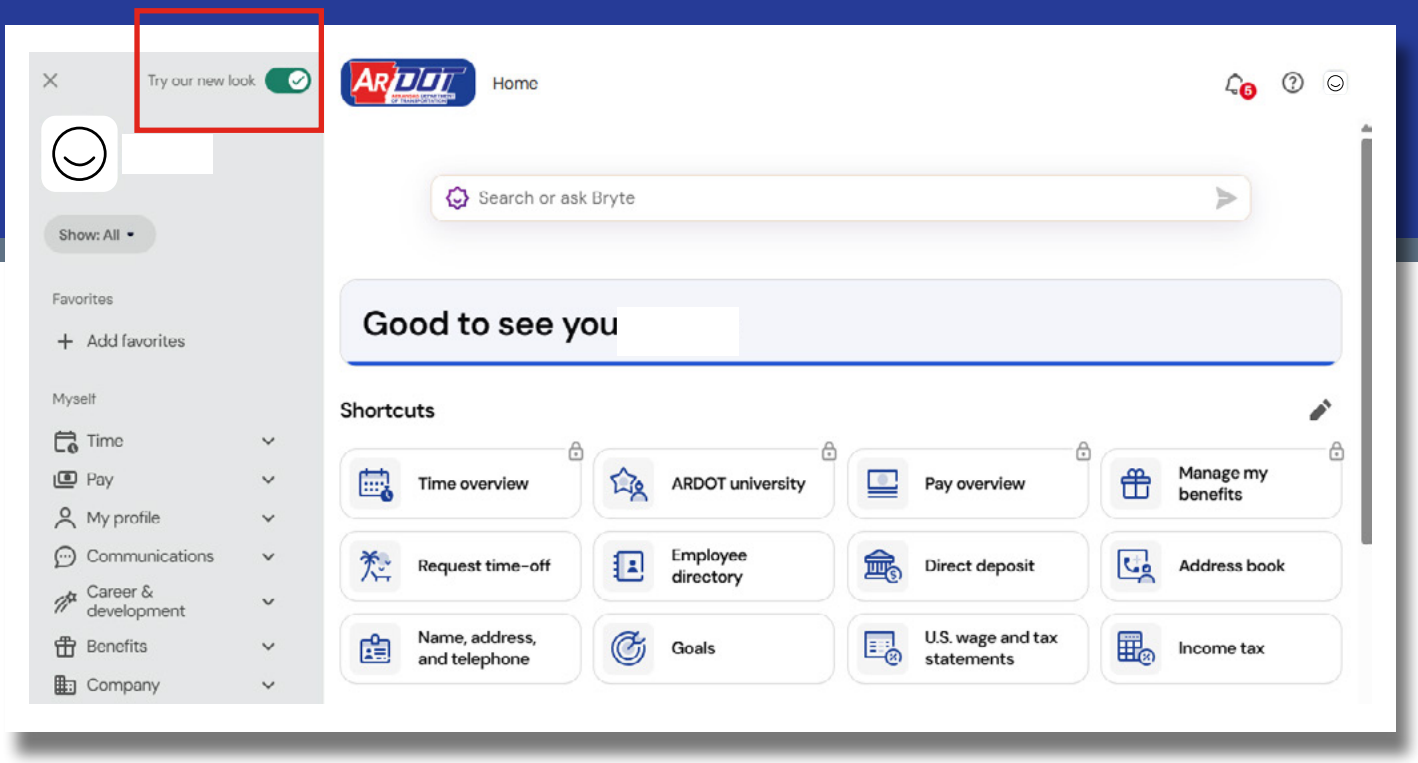
Supervisors can log in to ARDOT University to view their employees' training assignments, progress, and completion status. Supervisors are encouraged to periodically review training status and follow up with employees who have outstanding assignments. For additional guidance, please contact Human Resources - Workforce Development using the info below.

Who can I contact with course questions or technical issues?

For course questions or technical issues, contact Human Resources - Workforce Development at 501-569-4970 or email workforcedevelopment@ardot.gov. When reaching out, please provide your name, the name of the course, and a brief description of the question or issue. This will help us assist you as quickly as possible.

UKG GETS A MAKEOVER

BY RUTHIE BERRYHILL



ARDOT employees may have noticed that the UKG User Interface (UI) looks a little different lately. The new look is part of a global update to the software's UI and is purely cosmetic – none of the system functionality has changed.

UKG is ARDOT's employee service portal which is used to clock in and out, request leave, make changes to optional benefits, view timecards, sign up for ARDOT University, access W4 tax documents, and more.

Currently, employees can toggle back and forth between the current look and the new look by going to the drop down menu on the top left of the page and clicking "Try our new look". After February, the changes to the UKG UI will become permanent.

"The reason we are doing this now is because the option to toggle back and forth between the current UI and the new UI will be removed in February 2027," Casey McCarthy, ARDOT Section Head, Human Resources Information Systems, said. "We want employees to have a chance to toggle back and forth between the current look and the new look."

To help with the transition, Human Resources has created Standard Operating Procedures (SOPs) for navigating UKG that can be viewed on SharePoint. In addition, employees can reach out to Human Resources if they have questions. ◆

FOOD DRIVE



NOV 2 – NOV 20

ALL DONATIONS ARE DUE BY NOV 20

AR DOT

QUESTIONS? EMAIL JAZMINE.KUMPE@ARDOT.GOV

As the Season of Giving grows closer, employees are encouraged to gather non-perishable food items for donation between November 2 and November 20.

Each Division and District's food drive coordinator will be in charge of collecting items from employees, counting the number of items donated, taking a photo of the entire collection, choosing a food bank, and submitting that information in the Food Drive Collection Report by November 20.

Central Office participants will collect donations for the Arkansas Food Bank, and all food items need to be delivered to the auditorium by 4 p.m. on the collection date.

In 2025, the Department collected a total of 15,003 items, which were delivered to food banks across Arkansas. The Planning & Research Division collected the highest number of donations with a total of 2,496 items.

This year, we'll host another friendly competition to see which Division or District can collect the most items and earn the title of "Food Drive Donation Champions".

Contact Jazmine Kumpe in Human Resources at jazmine.kumpe@ardot.gov or call 501-263-7621 with any questions. Collection totals can be submitted by clicking the button below and filling out the form. ◆

SUBMIT

ARDOT TAKES SIXTH PLACE OVERALL AT REGIONAL ROADEO

BY RUTHIE BERRYHILL



(L. to R.) Danny Keene, Equipment & Procurement Division Head; Nick Rushing, Assistant Maintenance Supervisor; Nathan Daniels, Area Maintenance Supervisor; Director Jared Wiley



Nathan Daniels competing in the Motor Grader Competition.

In October, the Arkansas Department of Transportation's (ARDOT) Regional Roadeo Team traveled to Hampton, Virginia to compete in the Southeastern Regional Equipment Operators Training Conference and Roadeo. Each year, 12 southeastern states send their best equipment operators to learn, train, practice, and compete in categories that demonstrate their heavy equipment skills.

"It's a place where we come together to build friendships, to build bonds with our neighboring states, to learn tricks and tips that they're doing, and we bring that information back home, and it makes us all better," ARDOT Director Jared Wiley said. "It makes us better public servants, it makes us more engaged ARDOT employees, and the next time we come back to Roadeo, we've got new tricks up our sleeve and new ideas to do a job better."

ARDOT's team placed sixth overall, showing consistent strength across all events. The team delivered the strongest Motor Grader placements in the entire competition. Two ARDOT competitors finished with a perfect score of 300, bringing home the first and second place in the Motor Grader Competition. Nathan Daniels, Area Maintenance Supervisor for District 9 in Newton County, finished in first place and Nick Rushing, Assistant Maintenance Supervisor for District 5 in Cleburne County, finished in second place.

"I'm just so proud of our team," Wiley said. "These guys made the trip from Arkansas, competed all summer long to earn their spot here, and they came out here and showed out for us."

Daniels has been with ARDOT for 21 years and this is his fourth time competing at the Regional Roadeo. He won first place with a time of 38.96 seconds.

Daniels advises other ARDOT employees to strive for the chance to compete at the Regional Roadeo.

"I would say, try it one time at least," Daniels said. "We've made good friendships for the rest of our career and the rest of our life. We've met people just like us."

Rushing has been with ARDOT for 24 years and this is his seventh time competing at the Regional Roadeo. He won second place with a time of 41.96 seconds.

The event is much more than just a competition – it is about teamwork, skill, collaboration, and camaraderie that lasts well beyond the experience itself. ◆

EXPLORE AR HIGHWAYS



Scenic view along Highway 7

In Arkansas, no matter where your travels may take you, you can discover something that is uniquely Arkansan along the way. To celebrate the people, places, and roadways that connect our experiences, the Arkansas Department of Transportation (ARDOT) has launched an annual, interactive quest called Explore AR Highways.

The goal of Explore AR Highways is to encourage the traveling public to get out on the road to explore everything Arkansas has to offer. ARDOT employees are also encouraged to participate in the quest. As you travel from destination to destination for Explore AR Highways, there is a special opportunity to gain a deeper appreciation for Arkansas highways and how they connect us all.

To complete the quest, you must visit all five of the recommended stops and snap a selfie at each one. The locations are: City Rock Bluff, Highway 7, Cossatot River, Pig Trail Scenic Byway, and the Great River Road.

Before you hit the road to begin your Explore AR Highways journey, check out the map on our website at ardot.gov/explore/ which highlights the exact coordinates of where you'll need to stop.

Post your photos to Instagram or Facebook (if you have social media) as you travel from place to place, tag @myARDOT, and use the hashtag #ExploreARHighways. Once you've checked every destination off your list, you'll complete the online form at form.jotform.com/262525548162055. If you don't have social media, you can still participate by uploading your photos directly into the online submission form.

Every participant who completes the quest will receive an exclusive bumper sticker featuring the location chosen by public voting in October. The first 250 participants who complete the quest will also receive a commemorative ARDOT Challenge Coin. ◆





2026 MAINTENANCE & EQUIPMENT CONFERENCE

BY RUTHIE BERRYHILL

For the fifth year, Maintenance Supervisors, District crew leaders, and Equipment supervisors from all 75 Arkansas counties came together for the Maintenance & Equipment Conference. Held September 29 to October 1 at DeGray Lake Resort State Park, more than 215 were in attendance to share ideas, best practices, and success stories.

The first day of the conference included District spotlights, highlighting Recycled Asphalt Pavement (RAP) chip seals in District 1, equipment repair coordination in District 7, creation of the sweeping crew and the use of crash attenuator trucks in District 6, and presentations about relevant topics such as winter weather forecasting, the public safety radio communication system, hazmat awareness, and medical emergencies, as well as round table discussions with District Maintenance Superintendents and District Leadership.

The second day provided breakout sessions on a variety of topics including the science of deicers, safety, digital right-of-way maps, best practices, fleet management, and the Arkansas Highway Police. Attendees could also choose to attend round table discussions on topics like crash attenuators, rock salt and salt brine, facilities management, snowplow blades, message boards and temporary signals, wire rope safety fence, as well as round table discussions with ARDOT Sealing, Special Maintenance, Bridge Maintenance, Facilities Management, and Sign Supervisors. ARDOT Director Jared Wiley hosted a live session of the Wiley Wire from the conference.

Wednesday evening, the much-anticipated annual Barbecue Competition and dinner began. Each year, members of ARDOT's executive leadership team judge the competition and award winners for best barbecue. Jimmy Cullen – District 1 won first place in the competition, Joe Daniels – District 3 took second place; and Chris Whitbey – District 8 placed third. Daniel Karr – District 10 won the People's Choice award. A Cornhole Tournament following the Barbecue Competition was won by Shane Rothenberger – District 3 and Jim Bob Lamb – District 3.

As the conference wrapped up on the third day, the attendees heard about winter weather operations, ARDOT innovations, and the Equipment & Procurement Division. Human Resources, Workers Compensation, Insurance, and Keep Arkansas Beautiful made short presentations as well. Simex Asphalt Repair Technology was on-hand for a demonstration of their Simex ART 1000, used for repairing asphalt pavements. ◆

ARDOT WINS

3 TRANSCOMM AWARDS



BY RUTHIE BERRYHILL

The Arkansas Department of Transportation (ARDOT) recently received three awards at the American Association of State Highway and Transportation Officials (AASHTO)'s Committee on Transportation Communications (TransComm) Annual Meeting in San Diego, California.

ARDOT's "On the DOT" won in the 2026 Audio/Video Production – Internal Video Production category; the Street Smart children's education program won in the 2026 Audio/Video Production – Video Series With a Consultant category; and Winter Storm Fern Coverage won in the 2026 Social Media – Best Use of a Single Social Media Platform category.

AASHTO's TransComm is made up of public affairs professionals from the 50 states, Puerto Rico, and the District of Columbia. It promotes excellence in communications through the exchange of ideas and educational programming, presents annual skills awards, and advises other committees on communications issues.

Transcomm's Skills Contest is conducted annually to recognize the outstanding work of its public relations practitioners and facilitate an exchange of ideas. The contest is considered the premier competition in the transportation industry, and the awards have become a standard of public relations excellence among state departments of transportation. Winners demonstrate the very best examples of innovation, planning, production, execution, and evaluation of results and budget. ◆

ARKANSAS HIGHWAY POLICE WELCOMES NEWEST OFFICERS

BY RUTHIE BERRYHILL



On October 2, the Arkansas Highway Police (AHP) Recruit Training Program-25 (RTP-25) graduated, becoming Arkansas' newest highway officers. RTP-25 refers to the intensive training course's 25th class.

The ceremony was held at the Arkansas Department of Transportation's (ARDOT) Central Office auditorium. Patrol Officer Malachi Harris gave the invocation and led the Pledge of Allegiance. Patrol Officer Brian Burke served as the class spokesperson, addressing those gathered for the graduation.

ARDOT Director Jared Wiley spoke, praising the new officers for their completion of the course and for the class's noteworthy academic scores with an average score of over 94 percent.

"Today's ceremony celebrates not only your graduation as our most recent recruitment class, but it also marks your graduation as our first recruitment class fully certified by Arkansas Highway Police in more than 20 years," Wiley said. "It's also noteworthy that your class raises our Arkansas Highway Police to numbers that we've not seen in decades."

Wiley invited the graduates to continue AHP's legacy of excellence as guardians of our highways and protectors of the state's infrastructure, an essential role within ARDOT.

AHP is a nationally recognized leader in drug interdiction, motor carrier safety, hazardous materials enforcement, and training. They maintain safe roadways, enhancing quality of life for all those who travel across the state.

AHP Chief Holmes closed the ceremony with a strong reminder. "Wake up every day, do your best for your family, your brothers and sisters in law enforcement, and the public you serve," Holmes said. "Never ever forget that you are a public servant." ◆

2026 SERVICE RECOGNITION PAYMENTS



The Arkansas State Highway Commission has authorized Service Recognition payments for 2026. ARDOT employees with at least 10 years of qualifying State employment will receive the annual service bonus.

All eligible Department employees will receive a lump sum payment. The payment will be the same method of payment as the employee's check. If an employee's check is direct deposited, the service payment will also be direct deposited. If the paycheck is mailed, the service payment will also be mailed.

Social Security, Federal and State taxes, and retirement are withheld from the bonuses. The payment is based on the total years of State service as of December 31, 2026.

As established by the laws of Arkansas, the amount of an employee's annual service bonus can be found in the table below.

If you are in arrears on child support, up to 50 percent of the net lump sum payment of the Service Recognition can be withheld to satisfy the past due child support.

If you have an active creditor garnishment, the net lump sum payment of the Service Recognition can be garnished.

The Service Recognition bonuses will be paid on November 13 of this year. ◆

STATE SERVICE	BONUS
10 - 14 YEARS	$800
15 - 19 YEARS	$1,000
20 - 24 YEARS	$1,200
25 YEARS AND UP	$1,500



















1. BRIDGE – (L. to R.) Jim Pool, Staff Engineer, presents Jonathan Gentry, Advanced Structures Engineer, with his 5-year Service Award.

2. BRIDGE OPERATIONS – (L. to R.) Andy Nanneman, Division Head, presents David Greenwood, Staff Engineer, with his 10-year Service Award.

3. ENVIRONMENTAL – (L. to R.) Josh Seagraves, Division Head, presents Esmeralda Marquez, Administrative Assistant, with her 5-year Service Award.

4. EQUIPMENT & PROCUREMENT – (L. to R.) Danny Keene, Division Head, presents Blake Robinson, Senior Mechanic, with his 5-year Service Award.

5. EQUIPMENT & PROCUREMENT – (L. to R.) Danny Keene, Division Head, presents Jordyn Walker, Administrative Assistant, with her 5-year Service Award.

6. EQUIPMENT & PROCUREMENT – (L. to R.) Danny Keene, Division Head, presents Bob Sheldon, Mechanic Assistant, with his 20-year Service Award.

7. EQUIPMENT & PROCUREMENT – (L. to R.) David Weston, Assistant Division Head, receives his 20-year Service Award from Deric Wyatt, State Maintenance Engineer.

8. EQUIPMENT & PROCUREMENT – (L. to R.) Danny Keene, Division Head, receives his 40-year service pin from Corey Key, Assistant Chief of Finance.

9. LEGAL – (L. to R.) Michelle Davenport, Chief Legal Counsel, presents Angela Dodson, Deputy Chief Counsel, with her 20-year Service Award.



















10. PROGRAM MANAGEMENT – (L. to R.) Daniel Siskowski, Division Head, presents Thomas Melton, Lead Geospatial Specialist, with his 5-year Service Award.

11. PROGRAM MANAGEMENT – (L. to R.) Daniel Siskowski, Division Head, presents Ozlem Polat, Advanced Geospatial Specialist, with her 5-year Service Award.

12. PROGRAM MANAGEMENT – (L. to R.) Daniel Siskowski, Division Head, presents Joshua Nash, Engineering Technician, with his 5-year Service Award.

13. TSMO – (L. to R.) Monica Saffle, TMC Manager, presents Kelly Bunting, TMC Operator, with her 5-year Service Award.

14. DISTRICT 3 – (L. to R.) Timothy McCullough, Maintenance Aide II, receives his 10-year Service Award from Kenny Bennett, District Maintenance Engineer.

15. DISTRICT 3 – (L. to R.) James Ledbetter, Maintenance Aide II, receives his 10-year Service Award from Kenny Bennett, District Maintenance Engineer.

16. DISTRICT 3 – (L. to R.) Aaron Ratcliff, Equipment Maintenance Supervisor, presents Collin Chambless, Tractor Trailer Driver, with his 5-year Service Award.

17. DISTRICT 3 – (L. to R.) Justin Pinkerton, Crew Leader, receives his 10-year Service Award from Kenny Bennett, District Maintenance Engineer.

18. DISTRICT 4 – (L. to R.) Lee Dewey, Storeroom Supervisor, presents JoAnn Seaton, Storeroom Assistant, with her 10-year Service Award.



















19. DISTRICT 4 – (L. to R.) Rodney Graham, Area Maintenance Supervisor, receives his 20-year Service Award from Chad Davis, District Maintenance Engineer.

20. DISTRICT 6 – (L. to R.) Richard Moberly, District Maintenance Supervisor, presents Terry Johnson, Bridge Repairer, with his 5-year Service Award with Alan Kumpe, Bridge Maintenance Superintendent.

21. DISTRICT 6 – (L. to R.) Richard Moberly, District Maintenance Supervisor, presents Nicholas Epps, Lead Bridge Repairer, with his 5-year Service Award with Alan Kumpe, Bridge Maintenance Superintendent.

22. DISTRICT 6 – (L. to R.) Richard Moberly, District Maintenance Supervisor, presents Levi Horton, Crew Leader, with his 5-year Service Award with Alan Kumpe, Bridge Maintenance Superintendent.

23. DISTRICT 7 – (L. to R.) Ricky Cummings, Area Maintenance Supervisor, presents Dona Mosley, Advanced Area Headquarters Attendant, with her 10-year Service Award.

24. DISTRICT 7 – (L. to R.) Cecil Graham, Senior Mechanic with his 5-year Service Award.

25. DISTRICT 7 – (L. to R.) Donald Crawford, Area Maintenance Supervisor, presents Cedric Marshall, Maintenance Aide II, with his 5-year Service Award.

26. DISTRICT 7 – (L. to R.) Donald Crawford, Area Maintenance Supervisor, presents Johnathan Fullenwider, Maintenance Aide II, with his 10-year Service Award.

27. DISTRICT 9 – (L. to R.) Bryan Marshall, Lead Bridge Repairer, receives his 5-year Service Award from Darren Ramsey, Bridge Maintenance Superintendent.



28. DISTRICT 9 – (L. to R.) Kenny Riley, Area Maintenance Supervisor, presents Chad Foster, Crew Leader, with his 20-year Service Award.

ON THE JOB



1. DISTRICT 7 – The Special Maintenance team helped crews fighting the wildfire in Calhoun County.

FAMILY FOCUS









1. ARKANSAS HIGHWAY POLICE – Grayson James Graves was born on June 9, 2026, weighing 6 pounds, 3 ounces. He is the son of Sergeant Josh Graves.

2. EQUIPMENT & PROCUREMENT – Staff held a baby shower for Mikailah Leonard, Bookkeeper, with gifts for her baby boy.

3. EQUIPMENT & PROCUREMENT – Carson Dean Leonard was born on September 23, 2026 at 12:44 a.m., weighing 8 pounds, 7 ounces and measuring 20.5 inches. Carson is the son of Mikailah Leonard, Bookkeeper.

4. DISTRICT 2 – Raylee Cate Robbins was born on September 10, 2026, weighing 6 pounds, 7 ounces and measuring 19 inches. She is the granddaughter of Brandy Tucker, Bookkeeper.

MISCELLANEOUS









PLANNING AND ENVIRONMENTAL DIVISIONS VOLUNTEERED AT THE ARKANSAS FOOD BANK ON OCTOBER 6, 2026.

1. (L. to R.) Joanna Warren, wife of Andrew Warren; Andrew Warren, Staff Traffic Safety Engineer; Sudhir Bharati, Engineer; Josh Graham, Advanced Environmental Impact Analyst; Marisol Filares, Advanced GIS-Data Management Specialist; Brandi Mayhan, Consultant Specialist; Matt Strawn, Public Involvement Section Head; Josh Seagraves, Environmental Division Head; Braydon Strawn-Lee, son of Matt Strawn; Bryson Strawn-Lee, son of Matt Strawn; Brett Galland, Environmental Impact Analyst; Katie Rose, Advanced Environmental Impact Analyst; Esmeralda Marquez, Administrative Assistant; Sophie Galland, wife of Brett Galland

2. (L. to R.) Josh Seagraves, Katie Rose

3. (L. to R.) Josh Seagraves, Esmeralda Marquez, Brandi Mayhan, Marisol Filares, Joanna Warren, Andrew Warren

4. (L. to R.) Sudhir Bharati, Josh Graham, Brett Galland

The reports listed are from August 13 to October 12, 2026 unless otherwise noted. The information in this section came from UKG and Human Resources.

NEW EMPLOYEES:

ARKANSAS HIGHWAY POLICE
Robert Stuckey, Security Guard

BRIDGE OPERATIONS
Britten Whitlow, Heavy Bridge Repairer

CIVIL RIGHTS
Mason Roberts, Investigative EEO Specialist

COMMUNICATIONS
Samuel Doss, Extra Help - KAB; Caroline Richmond, District Communications Specialist

CONSTRUCTION
Brien Chambers, Construction Aide; Casey Hixon, Construction Aide; Victoria James, Construction Aide; David Paul, Construction Aide; Derrell Thompson, Construction Aide; Kani Turner, Construction Aide

ENVIRONMENTAL
Brett Galland, Environmental Impact Analyst

EQUIPMENT & PROCUREMENT
Nathan Parsons, Storeroom Assistant

FISCAL SERVICES
Sai Vamsi Gorle, Accounting Business Analyst; Luis Martinez, Accounting Assistant

INTERNAL AUDIT
Colten Berry, IT Staff Auditor

MAINTENANCE
Jacob Cross, General Laborer; Michael Sidarous, Facilities Management Project Coordinator

PLANNING & RESEARCH
Mahede Khan, Engineer

RIGHT OF WAY
Kristen Arnold, Billing Clerk; Leah Harshaw, Office Assistant; Karen Hicks, Abstractor; Bri Reynolds, Research Assistant; Dawn Salgueiro, Plans Designer

ROADWAY DESIGN
Tammy Boyce, Administrative Assistant

SURVEYS
Ethan Rees, Surveys Aide; Ryan Wall, Surveys Aide

TRANSPORTATION SYSTEMS MANAGEMENT & OPERATIONS
Brian Bermudez, TMC Operator; Landyn Clem, TMC Operator; Tina Marrall, TMC Operator

DISTRICT 1
Mel Davis, Maintenance Aide I; Adrian Holcomb, Maintenance Aide I; Jay Houston, Maintenance Aide I; Michael Hudson, Maintenance Aide I; Brian James, Maintenance Aide I; Kasey Kessenger, Maintenance Aide I; Cayson Scott, Maintenance Aide I; Zachary Siklas, Mechanic; Quentin Smith, Maintenance Aide I; Feleshia Williams, Rest Area Attendant

DISTRICT 2
Michael Brockwell, Maintenance Aide I; Cole Dedman, Maintenance Aide I; Braylen Gaston, Maintenance Aide I; Sharmar Jackson, Maintenance Aide I

DISTRICT 3
Tino Barrientos, Maintenance Aide I; Jonathan Buchanan, Maintenance Aide I; Phillip Knighton, Storeroom Assistant; Seth Myers, Maintenance Aide I; Grady Randle III, Maintenance Aide I; Shelby Ratcliff, Storeroom Assistant; Jaylen Stuard, Maintenance Aide I; Ray Thomas, Maintenance Aide I; Derrick Williams, Rest Area Attendant; Jackie Wilson, Maintenance Aide I; Corta Young, Maintenance Aide I; Joshua Young, Maintenance Aide I

DISTRICT 4
Dillon Childers, Maintenance Aide I; Jonathan Contreras, Maintenance Aide I; Lynn Gardenhire, Maintenance Aide I; Clifford Moulton, Maintenance Aide I; Mike Poe, Maintenance Aide I; Jerry Riggs, Maintenance Aide I; Brandon Rundell, Maintenance Aide I; Gunnar White, Maintenance Aide I

DISTRICT 5
Josh Murphree, Mechanic

DISTRICT 6
Corey Bryant, Maintenance Aide II; Owen Floriani, Maintenance Aide I; Christian Fountain, Station Attendant; Herb Manuel, Maintenance Aide I; Max Maxfield, Maintenance Aide I; Dalon Rodgers, Maintenance Aide I; Brandon Turner, Maintenance Aide I

DISTRICT 7
Brian Anglin, Maintenance Aide I; Scott Avery, Maintenance Aide I; Lorenzo Banks, Maintenance Aide I; Dakota Bolling, Maintenance Aide I; Alex Caldwell, Maintenance Aide I; Kam Dade, Maintenance Aide I; Caleb Evans, Maintenance Aide I; Donna Lindsey, Janitor; David McMurrain, Maintenance Aide I; Richard Moore, Maintenance Aide I; Eric Oliver, Maintenance Aide I; William Rector, Maintenance Aide I

DISTRICT 8
Cody Cardin, Maintenance Aide I; Gaige Judkins, Maintenance Aide I; Kade Kendrick, Maintenance Aide I; Skyler Miller, Maintenance Aide I; Tripp Mobley, Maintenance Aide I;

Kacy Reed, Rest Area Attendant; Lee Scully, Maintenance Aide I; Dylan Wilson, Maintenance Aide I

DISTRICT 9

Matthew Adkins, Deck Hand; Isaac Keffer, Maintenance Aide I; Matt Witkop, Maintenance Aide I

DISTRICT 10

Zach Anderson, Maintenance Aide I; Lonnie Dabney, Maintenance Aide I; Davis Daniels, Maintenance Aide I; Canyon Durham, Maintenance Aide I; Andraus Jackson, Maintenance Aide I; Jerry Jaco, Maintenance Aide I; Jaxson Muntz, Maintenance Aide I; Brian Ward, Bridge Repairer; Ryan Williams, Maintenance Aide I

PROMOTIONS:

BRIDGE OPERATIONS

Ronald Break, Lead Heavy Bridge Repairer; Nathaniel Brown, Staff Bridge Operations Engineer; Loren Dennis, Lead Heavy Bridge Repairer; Jakob Dever, Lead Heavy Bridge Repairer; Dayland Hollingsworth, Lead Heavy Bridge Repairer; Blake Ingram, Lead Heavy Bridge Repairer; Levi McCormick, Heavy Bridge Repairer; Kelly Nix, Lead Heavy Bridge Repairer

CONSTRUCTION

Allen Anthony, Construction Project Coordinator; Karrie Ausbrooks, Senior Inspector; Johnathon Eden, Senior Inspector; Deanna Herndon, Advanced Resident Office Technician; Victor Jimenez, Advanced Construction Aide; Matthew McCabe, Inspector; Richard Moore, Inspector

ENVIRONMENTAL

Timothy Diffey, Public Involvement Specialist

EQUIPMENT & PROCUREMENT

David Brahler, Senior Mechanic; Patrick Hayley, Senior Mechanic; Blake Robinson, Senior Mechanic

FISCAL SERVICES

Bailey Doggett, Accountant; Shana Williams, Accounting Specialist

HUMAN RESOURCES

David Boodoo, Records Specialist; Christen Trogden, Senior Workforce Development Specialist

INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY

Paul Barnes, IT Application Services Manager; Boyce Mosely, IT Systems Administrator

MAINTENANCE

Dustin Franks, Highway Zoner; Hunter Griffith, Nighttime Janitorial Supervisor; Raymond Robinett, Advanced Statewide Maintenance Road Mechanic; Karen Wahrmund, Office Assistant; Josh Woods, Crew Leader

MATERIALS

Amber Converse, Geotechnical Aide; Matt Green, Staff Materials Engineer; Jeremiah Harjo, Geotechnical Drill Crew Supervisor

RIGHT OF WAY

Adam Martin, Engineering Specialist; Annalise Rocco, Office Assistant

SURVEYS

Richard Flagg, Advanced Surveys Aide; Gregory Gardner, Advanced Surveys Aide; Cayden Hutchins, Advanced Surveys Aide; Brock Swain, Advanced Surveys Aide; Mike Tenison, Advanced Surveys Aide; Spencer Thomas, Assistant Division Head; Logan Voan, Advanced Surveys Aide

DISTRICT 1

William Ball, Advanced Welder; Gavin Blocker, Maintenance Aide II; Caleb Henson, Maintenance Aide II; Landon Holland, Maintenance Aide II; Brandon Lucas, Maintenance Aide II; Scott Mangrum, Maintenance Specialist; Tray Martin, Maintenance Aide II; Lance Moore, Maintenance Specialist; Gary Wheeler, Maintenance Aide II

DISTRICT 2

Brandon Ashcraft, Advanced Bridge Inspector; Baylar Griffie, Maintenance Specialist; Ryan Lawrence, Maintenance Aide II; Brett Lewis, Maintenance Aide II; Cade Phillips, Sign Crew Supervisor; Caleb Shields, Maintenance Aide II

DISTRICT 3

Jessie Culp, Lead Storeroom Assistant; Justin Lovell, Maintenance Specialist; Wesley Reynolds, Maintenance Specialist

DISTRICT 4

Mayson Anschutz, Maintenance Aide II; Bruno Bloede, Senior Mechanic; Eric Brigance, Senior Mechanic; Ian Bullock, Maintenance Specialist; Nathan Canada, Maintenance Aide II; Jeremy Cearley, Advanced Area Headquarters Attendant; Clay Charlton, Maintenance Aide II; Douglas Edwards, Assistant Maintenance Supervisor; Roberto Figueroa, Maintenance Aide II; Anthony Glory, Electrical, Plumbing and Mechanical Repairer; Adam Halperin, Maintenance Aide II; Steven Heston, Advanced Mechanic; Jeren Howell, Maintenance Aide II; Seth Lane, Carpenter; Tyler Lincks, Senior Bridge Inspector; Bradley McCurry, Crew Leader; Charlie McCurry, Bridge

Repairer; Chris Meeks, Crew Leader; John-Clay Parker, Maintenance Aide II; Marion Rouell, Maintenance Specialist; Jeff Shirley, Senior Mechanic; Easton Sill, Rest Area Attendant II; Ronald Vail, Bridge Repairer; Clay Wilson, Maintenance Specialist; Austin Wyers, Maintenance Aide II

DISTRICT 5

Rodney Barnett, Advanced Bridge Inspector; Greg Clark, Maintenance Aide II; Seth Noblett, Lead Bridge Repairer; James Reed, Maintenance Aide II

DISTRICT 6

Benjamin Aeilts, Senior Mechanic; John Cameron, Mechanic; Amber Fugitt, Maintenance Aide II; James Garcia, Maintenance Aide II; Clayton Holcomb, Maintenance Aide II; Mitchell Johnson, Advanced Mechanic; Nathan Kearnes, Maintenance Aide II; Bobby McJunkin, Maintenance Aide II; Darren Newton, Rest Area Attendant; Selina Ricks, Bookkeeper; Jeffery Rogers, Tractor Trailer Driver

DISTRICT 7

Michael Hughes, Maintenance Specialist; Kennedy Porchia, Maintenance Specialist; Chris Rawls, Maintenance Aide II; Steven Rawls, Assistant Maintenance Supervisor; Cornelio Santana, Rest Area Attendant; Kyle Whittle, Maintenance Aide II

DISTRICT 8

Marcus Canady, Advanced Electrical, Plumbing, and Mechcanical Repairer; Juan Castaneda, Maintenance Aide II; Brian Chandler, Area Headquarters Attendant; Christopher Clark, Maintenance Specialist; Jeremy Cook, Maintenance Aide II; Don Cowell, Advanced Mechanic; Philip Duvall, Advanced Welder; Steven Hays, Maintenance Aide II; Pedro Hilliard, Advanced Mechanic; Mario Jacobs, Advanced Mechanic; Scott Jerry, Maintenance Aide II; Charles Martin, Advanced Body Repairer and Painter; Theodore Mayben, Advanced Mechanic; Andrew McKenzie, Maintenance Aide II; Maxwell Reynolds, Maintenance Aide II; KJ Storey, Maintenance Aide II; Joe Villalobos, Advanced Mechanic; Koby Weaver, Maintenance Aide II

DISTRICT 9

Brandon Morgan, Senior Bridge Inspector

DISTRICT 10

Shannon Adcock, Maintenance Specialist; Caleb Allbritton, Advanced Mechanic; Kendal Ashby, Advanced Mechanic; Chad Clairday, Advanced Mechanic; Levi Hicks, Crew Leader; Christopher Hudman, Maintenance Aide II; Cole James, Maintenance Aide II; Stevo Leal, Assistant Maintenance Supervisor; Zackary Tucker, Crew Leader; Bobby Wilson, Advanced Mechanic

SERVICE AWARDS

ARKANSAS HIGHWAY POLICE

Rachael Holliman, Advanced Motor Carrier Safety Specialist, 30+ years; Tiffany Tustison, Permit Technician, 5+ years

BRIDGE OPERATIONS

Derek Craft, Crew Leader, 5+ years; Nick Holmgren, Advanced Bridge Inspector, 5+ years

CONSTRUCTION

Ryan Bailey, Senior Inspector, 25+ years; Brinda Bates, Resident Office Technician, 10+ years; Rochelle Blue, Assistant Construction Engineer, 30+ years; Danny Brown, Construction Project Coordinator, 30+ years; Patrick Cagle, Senior Construction Materials Inspector, 5+ years; Corey Curry, Senior Inspector, 25+ years; Kolton Douglas, Advanced Construction Aide, 5+ years; Tevin Gullikson, Advanced Construction Aide, 5+ years; Stephanie King, Resident Office Technician, 20+ years; Clayton Lee, Senior Construction Materials Inspector, 20+ years; Brian Miles, Construction Aide, 15+ years; Charles Nesbitt, Advanced Construction Aide, 5+ years; Chris Potter, Senior Construction Materials Inspector, 30+ years; Ruth Reyman, Advanced Construction Aide, 5+ years; Charles Riddle, Senior Inspector, 20+ years; Kara Robinson, Senior Inspector, 25+ years; Rick Stanley, Senior Construction Materials Inspector, 25+ years; Eric Tice, Senior Construction Materials Inspector, 10+ years

ENVIRONMENTAL

Timothy Diffey, Public Involvement Specialist, 5+ years; Richard Jenkins, Archeologist, 25+ years; Esmeralda Marquez, Administrative Assistant, 5+ years

EQUIPMENT & PROCUREMENT

Jordyn Walker, Administrative Assistant, 5+ years; David Weston, Assistant Division Head, 20+ years

LOCAL PROGRAMS

April Washington, Public Transportation Program Manager, 5+ years

MAINTENANCE
George Gong, Senior Maintenance Management System Administrator, 15+ years; Sarah Tamayo, State Pavement and Asset Engineer, 20+ years

MATERIALS
Kevin Yates, District Materials Supervisor, 5+ years

PROGRAM MANAGEMENT
Thomas Melton, Lead Geospatial Specialist, 5+ years; David Steward, Program Coordination Project Analyst, 10+ years

RIGHT OF WAY
Roger McManus, Engineering Specialist, 15+ years

ROADWAY DESIGN
Joshua King, Staff Roadway Estimating Engineer, 15+ years

STATE AID
Cindy Allen, Designer, 40+ years

SURVEYS
Donald Halbert, Photogrammetry Technician, 15+ years; Kramer Rhodes, Section Head - Photogrammetry, 10+ years; James Williams, Land Surveyor, 15+ years

TRANSPORTATION SYSTEMS MANAGEMENT & OPERATIONS
Charles Brown, TSMO Data Coordinator, 10+ years; Kelly Bunting, TMC Operator, 5+ years; Douglas Rodden, Assistant ITS Operations Supervisor, 10+ years

DISTRICT 1
Richard Harper, Assistant Maintenance Supervisor, 15+ years; Mike Hill, Maintenance Specialist, 5+ years; Sierra Jones, Crew Leader, 5+ years; Joshua Nicholson, Storeroom Assistant, 20+ years

DISTRICT 2
Brandon Ashcraft, Advanced Bridge Inspector, 10+ years; Dexter Bell, Maintenance Aide II, 5+ years; Anthony Hurley, Area Maintenance Supervisor, 10+ years; Jason Manning, Maintenance Aide II, 5+ years; Donyell Moye, Maintenance Aide II, 15+ years; Robert Perkins, Crew Leader, 5+ years; Santiago Ramos, Maintenance Aide II, 15+ years; Joe Sanders, Maintenance Aide II, 5+ years

DISTRICT 3
Rita Allen, Rest Area Attendant, 5+ years; Michael Brown, Parts Runner, 5+ years; John King, Senior Bridge Inspector, 25+ years; Eric Lacaze, Maintenance Specialist, 5+ years; Timothy McCullough, Maintenance Aide II, 10+ years; Misty Poole, Area Headquarters Attendant, 5+ years; Randy Roden, Assistant Maintenance Supervisor, 20+ years; Stacy Webb, Tractor Trailer Driver, 5+ years

DISTRICT 4
Elijah Carter, Area Headquarters Attendant, 5+ years; Harrison Gabbard, Maintenance Specialist, 5+ years; Rodney King, Maintenance Specialist, 5+ years; Butch Seaton, Crew Leader, 20+ years; Joann Seaton, Storeroom Assistant, 10+ years; Cody Wise, Maintenance Specialist, 5+ years

DISTRICT 5
Robbie Bradley, Maintenance Specialist, 20+ years; Sammy Reynolds, Crew Leader, 30+ years; Derick Stewart, Maintenance Aide II, 5+ years; Dustin Treadway, District Construction Engineer, 25+ years

DISTRICT 6
Terrence Carter, Maintenance Aide II, 20+ years; James Johnson, Assistant Maintenance Supervisor, 15+ years

DISTRICT 7
Greg Bird, District Maintenance Superintendent, 30+ years; Doyle Bowlin, Area Maintenance Supervisor, 15+ years; Michael Brown, Maintenance Specialist, 25+ years; John Burch, Maintenance Specialist, 5+ years; Thomas Lephiew, Maintenance Aide II, 5+ years; David Lynch, Rest Area Attendant, 5+ years; Cedric Marshall, Maintenance Aide II, 5+ years; William Peterman, Senior Mechanic, 15+ years

DISTRICT 8
Cole Francis, Bridge Repairer, 5+ years; James Higgs, Tractor Trailer Driver, 5+ years; Kevin Holland, Maintenance Specialist, 10+ years

DISTRICT 9
Chad Foster, Crew Leader, 20+ years; James Jones, Advanced Area Headquarters Attendant, 10+ years; David King, Ferry Boat Pilot, 20+ years; Christopher Lester, Maintenance Aide II, 5+ years; Neil Wood, Ferry Boat Pilot, 25+ years

DISTRICT 10
Chad Clairday, Advanced Mechanic, 5+ years; Russel Cox, Maintenance Aide II, 5+ years; Michael Dowdy, Maintenance Aide II, 5+ years; Curtis Gipson, General Laborer, 5+ years; Gaylon Roush, Maintenance Aide II, 5+ years

RETIREMENTS:

ARKANSAS HIGHWAY POLICE
Donald Baldwin, AHP Technician, 8+ years

CONSTRUCTION
Dan Divine, Construction Aide, 12+ years

PROGRAM MANAGEMENT
Paulette Rice, Railroad Crossing Coordinator, 11+ years

DISTRICT 2
Christie Williams, Maintenance Specialist, 13+ years

DISTRICT 5
Ricky Stevens, Maintenance Specialist, 23+ years

DISTRICT 6
Billy Bailey, Maintenance Aide II, 22+ years; Jeff Blackmon, Maintenance Aide II, 4+ years; Bradley Hubbard, General Laborer, 28+ years

DISTRICT 8
Johnny Rice, Area Maintenance Supervisor, 38+ years

DISTRICT 9
Kenneth Barnett, Advanced Mechanic, 8+ years

MEMORIALS:

ARKANSAS HIGHWAY POLICE
John Bailey, 9/14/2026, Retired;
George Brown, 8/15/2026, Retired;
Diane Gates, 8/22/2026, Retired;
Henry McCoy, 9/19/2026, Retired

BRIDGE
John Sage, 9/20/2026, Retired

CONSTRUCTION
Joe Magness, 8/17/2026, Retired;
Judy Stuckey, 8/23/2026, Retired;
Allen Phillips, 8/24/2026, Retired;
Janice Burnette, 8/3/2026, Retired

HUMAN RESOURCES
Emma Galyean, 9/13/2026, Retired

LEGAL
David Long, 8/14/2026, Retired;
Lindsey Fairley, 08/16/2026, Retired

MAINTENANCE
Herman Smith, 08/18/2026, Retired

MATERIALS
William Pay, 9/28/2026, Retired

SURVEYS
Leon Holland, 8/1/2026, Retired

DISTRICT 2
George Barfield, 8/19/2026, Retired;
Burl Robertson, 8/30/2026, Retired

DISTRICT 3
John Watkins, 09/28/2026, Retired;
Danny Jones, 08/01/2026, Retired

DISTRICT 4
Kathleen Maples, 9/12/2026, Retired;
Steven White, 10/8/2026, Retired;
David Richards, 9/13/2026, Retired

DISTRICT 6
Marilyn Childress-Walker, 09/28/2026, Retired;
Reba Godbey, 09/15/2026, Retired;
Billy Hill, 08/18/2026, Retired;
David Smith, 7/28/2026, Retired

DISTRICT 9
James Bass, 08/14/2026, Retired;
Ronald Brightwell, 8/13/2026, Retired;
Carl McCutcheon, 09/23/2026, Retired

DISTRICT 10
Larry Harris, 09/25/2026, Active;
Steve Jones, 10/9/2026, Retired;
John Jarrett, 8/12/2026, Retired;
Barbara Parks, 8/15/2026, Retired



LARRY HARRIS

MAY 16, 1967 – SEPTEMBER 25, 2026

Larry Zell Harris was born on May 16, 1967, in Helena-West Helena, Arkansas, to Lessie B. Calhoun and the late Woodzell Harris Sr. He was raised in Helena-West Helena before relocating to Blytheville, Arkansas. He later made his home in Osceola, Arkansas, where he remained until his passing.

Larry loved spending time with his family and friends and was affectionately known as "Boss Man" by those who knew him and as the "Life of the Party." He dedicated his life to Christ and was a faithful member and Deacon at The Naked Truth Training and Empowerment Center. Above all, Larry deeply loved his family and was a devoted husband to his wife, Shamera. He cherished and loved her as Christ loved the church, demonstrating a deep commitment to their marriage and the life they shared.

Larry was a dedicated employee of the Arkansas Department of Transportation, where he proudly served for 25 years. He loved his work and was committed to serving his community through his career.

Larry was also a proud Veteran of the United States Army, where he served his country before being honorably discharged in 1996. During his military service, he earned several honors and awards, including the Army Achievement Medal, Army Good Conduct Medal, National Defense Service Medal, Army Service Ribbons, and Overseas Service Ribbons. He also received military education and training as a Cannon Crewman.

On Friday, September 25, 2026, Larry was called from labor to reward and entered into eternal rest. He leaves to cherish his memory and celebrate his homegoing his beloved wife, Shamera Harris; his children, Amber Jackson (Daniel) of Olive Branch, MS; Jaidon Waterford of Blytheville, AR; Andrevia Jones and Lance Harris of Osceola, AR; his mother, Lessie Calhoun of Helena-West Helena, AR; and three grandchildren, Chasyn, Chaaya, and Chanse Jackson of Olive Branch, MS.

He also leaves to cherish his memory his brother, Woodzell Harris Jr. (Angela) of Oklahoma City, OK; his sister, Wanda Harris of Atlanta, GA; four bonus children whom he loved and helped raise, Kayla Smith (John), Maxie Smith, Tamaron Smith, and Shaquille Smith.

Larry's memory will also be cherished by his uncles, Edward Lamar Jr. (Etta) and Jerry Lamar; his seven aunts, Pearline Mayweather (L.S.), Christine Bennett, Carolyn Randall, Patricia Lamar, Jannie Lamar, Brenda Lamar, and Donna Luster (Donald); and two very special cousins, Nikki Lamar and Lamarsha McClain.

His memory will forever live on in the hearts of all who knew and loved him.