Incident Response Program praised at 10th anniversary celebration

By Bob Kudelka

What a difference 10 years makes

RIGHT: Incident Responders James Williams, left, and Brian O’Cain pose at the same location where the Incident Responder Program began. ABOVE: Original members of the program, including Williams and O’Cain, posed during the April 1996 announcement of the start of the program near the interchange of I-126 and Greystone Boulevard.

West Columbia woman who had a flat tire on Interstate 20 in Richland County. She is one of thousands of people assisted by SCDOT employees patrolling interstate blue trucks and known formally as the Department’s Incident Response Program.

Executive Director Elizabeth S. Mabry read the woman’s letter to SCDOT aloud during an April 4 news conference in Columbia commemorating the 10th anniversary of the Incident Response Program.

Mabry was joined by partners Bob Lee, of the Federal Highway Administration, and Highway Patrol Col. Russell Roark, as well as Safety and Systems Engineer Dick Jenkins.

The news conference was held near the Riverbanks Zoo entrance and overlooked a stretch of I-126 where the first incident responders began patrolling in April 1996.

“We first began with limited hours, primarily during the rush hours. The program was an immediate success,” Mabry said. “We now have 71 total Responders patrolling with 28 trucks.”

Over the years, Mabry said, the Department has received hundreds of thank you letters from stranded motorists helped by the program.

Hugh Atkins, Marvin Stevenson join Transportation Commission

The SCDOT Commission has two new members. The terms for John M. “Moot” Truluck and Bud Turner ended recently and those seats have been filled by F. Hugh Atkins and Marvin Stevenson.

F. Hugh Atkins

F. Hugh Atkins, returns to the Commission serving the Fourth Congressional District, a post he held from 1998 to 2002. Atkins is a 1955 graduate of Clemson. He served as a First Lieutenant in the Army in Germany in 1957. The following year, he began building homes and developing residential subdivisions in Spartanburg.

In 1963 he was recalled to the Army where he served one year as Captain of the Corps of Engineers during the Berlin crisis. When he returned, he became the second president of the Home Builders Association of Spartanburg. In 1963, he was named Spartanburg Home Builder of the Year.

Continuing his career in home building, Atkins was elected to be the 5th President of the Spartanburg Board of Realtors in 1967. In 1973 he was accepted as a member of the Spartanburg Board of Realtors Distinguished Honor Board. One year later, the Spartanburg Board of Realtors deemed Atkins Realtor of the Year.

From 1976 through 1984 Atkins held the position of Director of the Spartanburg Area Chamber of Commerce. In 1978 Atkins became Vice President of the South Carolina Association of Realtors, region 5.

In 1980 Atkins served as Chairman of the Spartanburg County Planning and Development Commission, along with serving as a member of the Spartanburg County Commission for Technical Education from 1980 through 1982. Also in 1980, Atkins was sent as a Delegate (Alternate) to the National Republican Convention.

From 1992 through 1994, Atkins served on the State Development Board and became a permanent member of the Advisory Council as well as becoming a representative on the Board of Visitors at Spartanburg Regional Medical Center. Also, in 1992, Atkins received the Builder of the Year award.

Atkins served on the Clemson University Board of Visitors from 1994 through 1996. Also in 1996 he was elected as the first member of the South Carolina Housing Hall of Fame. Alongside this high honor Atkins also received the state’s highest honor, the Order of the Palmetto.

Atkins received the South Carolina Homebuilder’s Keystone Award for lifetime dedication to the homebuilding industry in 2002.

Marvin Stevenson

Marvin Stevenson, a native of Marion County, joins the SCDOT Commission representing the South Carolina’s Sixth Congressional District.

Stevenson, the fourth child of Benjamin Stevenson and Ella Livingston Stevenson, was born on December 11, 1940, in Marion, SC. His parents believed in cultivating the land and maintaining its inheritance.

See COMMISSION on page 2
As the seasons change, and the summer of 2006 begins, we have some events that deserve special attention here at SCDOT.

Memorial Day always marks the beginning of summer, and it’s a day when America honors those who have given their lives for their country. In addition, we use Memorial Day as a time to honor the men and women in our SCDOT family who have returned from military duty, after giving many months in service to our nation.

We recently held our annual ceremony to honor the latest group of employees who have come home after being deployed (see page 13 for the photo). As the War on Terror goes on, I have noticed that many of our employees are returning from their second and even third deployments.

These men and women are spending months and even years away from their families, their jobs and their country. They deserve our highest respect, and a tremendous amount of thanks for defending the freedom that we all enjoy.

On June 2, SCDOT and our partners will launch the South Carolina celebration of the 50th Anniversary of the Interstate Highway System. A news conference, and a large exhibition will be held at Headquarters in Columbia. This event is designed to call attention to the importance of interstate highways in our state, as the infrastructure for our economy. We also want the public to know that economic growth will be difficult, unless SCDOT has the funding to properly maintain and improve our interstate.

On June 15, we will have employee celebrations, with events scheduled for Headquarters and every county office across the state. Every SCDOT employee will have an opportunity to participate. The summer of 2006 is a time to say good-bye to an old friend, Commissioner Moot Truluck, who has completed his third term on the SCDOT Commission. He has made many significant contributions to our agency. At the same time, we welcome Commissioner Marvin Stevenson from Marion, who will represent the 6th Congressional District. Commissioner Stevenson understands the transportation needs of South Carolina, and he’ll be a great leader.

A familiar face has also taken a seat on the Commission. F. Hugh Atkins from Spartanburg has begun a new term, representing the 4th Congressional District. Commissioner Atkins has served on our Commission before, and he’s well aware of our needs and challenges. He replaces Bud Turner from Greer. We want to welcome back Commissioner Atkins, and thank Commissioner Turner for the significant contributions he made to his district and the entire state during his time on the Commission.

As always, remember that Memorial Day marks the beginning of what’s known as the 100 most deadly days on the highways. Summer means more travelers and more work taking place on the roads. I urge all SCDOT employees to take every measure to make sure that you, your families, and everyone else who uses our highways remain safe, and have a wonderful summer.
President Dwight D. Eisenhower signed the Federal-Aid Highway Act on June 29, 1956, creating the Highway Trust Fund. Since that time, the interstate system has become an integral part of America’s transportation network, providing a safe and efficient means for people and goods to travel across the country. The system includes more than 90,000 miles of interstate highways, with approximately 50,000 miles in the five states of South Carolina, Georgia, Tennessee, Florida, and Alabama. The interstate system is responsible for an 844-mile American forces were under the command of General Thomas Sumter who had with him the regiments of Colonels Thomas Taylor, Richard Winn, William Brantoon, Edward Lacey, and William Hill. The Battle of Fish Dam Ford was fought in the early morning hours of November 9, 1780. The American forces were under the command of General Thomas Sumter who had with him the regiments of Colonels Thomas Taylor, Richard Winn, William Brantoon, Edward Lacey, and William Hill. The Battle of Fish Dam Ford was fought in the early morning hours of November 9, 1780. The Battle of Fish Dam Ford is historically significant not only because it was a Revolutionary War battle, but because it was one of several battles during the campaign of 1780 in the Upstate that led to the British being driven out of the area leading to the ultimate surrender of Lord Cornwallis at Yorktown, Virginia.

SCDOT and FHWA on Tuesday, March 28, received a 2006 South Carolina Historic Preservation Award for the preservation of the long-lost Revolutionary War Battlefield.

Governor Mark Sanford presented awards from the Palmetto Trust for Historic Preservation, in conjunction with the Governor’s Office and the South Carolina State Historic Preservation Office.

“Each one of you are heroes as it relates to historic preservation,” Governor Sanford told the award winners during the ceremony at the SC Department of Archives and History in Columbia. SCDOT and FHWA received an Honor Award for the preservation of the Fish Dam Ford Battlefield in Chester County.

The battlefield was discovered while working on a bridge replacement project over the Broad River in Chester and Union Counties.

“After the discovery of the long-lost battlefield, SCDOT consulted our partner, the Federal Highway Administration, and other experts on the next course of action to make sure the battlefield would be preserved,” SCDOT Executive Director Elizabeth S. Mabry said. We learned that removing the seven feet of sediment, which has built up over the past 225 years, and the excavation of the river bottom camp could have cost as much as $2 million. On top of the cost, the bridge project would be delayed and local citizens would be impacted.

Mabry said, “SCDOT and FHWA came up with what I believe is a “win-win” idea – to purchase the battlefield outright. This is a win for the taxpayers and citizens of South Carolina. By purchasing the battlefield for preservation, it will not only result in securing the historic land for future generations and allow the bridge replacement to be completed much sooner, but it will save taxpayers approximately $1.7 million. Purchasing the land is far more cost effective than excavation, which may have cost $2 million.”

Bob Lee, Division Administrator at FHWA, said: “This is such a great example of people and agencies working together on many levels of federal, state and local government. Preserving this land through a purchase agreement was clearly the right thing to do. It is a savings to taxpayers; a benefit to local motorists who will use the new bridge much sooner than had we gone the excavation route; and, of course, it is also a treasured resource for historian.

Mabry and Lee thanked the many partners including the Department of Natural Resources, the US Forest Service, the SC Department of Archives and History, the SC Department of Parks, Recreation and Tourism, Union County, Chester County and York County.

The Battle of Fish Dam Ford was fought in the early morning hours of November 9, 1780. The Battle of Fish Dam Ford is historically significant not only because it was a Revolutionary War battle, but because it was one of several battles during the campaign of 1780 in the Upstate that led to the British being driven out of the area leading to the ultimate surrender of Lord Cornwallis at Yorktown, Virginia.
Lee Maintenance celebrates 500 safe days

On Wednesday, April 12, SCDOT Executive Director Elizabeth S. Mabry commended Resident Maintenance Engineer Wayne Keeys and the entire Lee Maintenance unit for 500 consecutive days without a lost workday due to work-related injury or illness. This record began on Jan. 27, 2004 and the safe days are still counting.

Attending the ceremony were SCDOT Commissioner Bobby T. Jones, of the 5th Congressional District; State Highway Engineer Tony Chapman; District 1 Engineering Administrator Thad Brunson; District 1 Maintenance Engineer Bryan Jones; District 1 Safety Coordinator Mike Gilchrist; Lee County Safety Representative Garnet McKalsen; Fleet Safety Manager Philip Brooks; Human Resources Director Mary Gail Monts; Deputy State Highway Engineer Clem Watson; Director of Safety Terecia Wilson; and Acting Deputy Director for Finance, Administration and Operations Morgan Denny.

Lee Maintenance employees were commended for making a personal commitment and “Leading by Example” through teamwork, pride, and watching out for each other. The Lee Maintenance office employs 53 people and is responsible for maintaining approximately 620 miles of state roads and 94 bridges in the county.

“A Letter From Elizabeth S. Mabry

March 31, 2006

RME Wayne Keeys
SC Department of Transportation
Lee Maintenance
Bishopville, S.C.

Dear Mr. Keeys:

I would like to congratulate Lee Maintenance employees for outstanding safety performance in achieving 500 safe days, (January 27, 2004 through February 16, 2006) without a loss-time injury. Lee Maintenance employees also distinguished themselves by maintaining the best lost workday case rate for 2004 and 2005 among District One Maintenance Units.

The South Carolina Chamber of Commerce recognized Lee Maintenance employees for having no work-related lost workdays due to injuries or illnesses during calendar year 2005. This is a very significant accomplishment and I am very proud of all Lee Maintenance employees.

As you know, safety is the number one goal of SCDOT. It is by working together as a team that we will accomplish our goal of improving safety within our agency and for all that travel on South Carolina’s highways. I appreciate your leadership and the safe work ethic maintained by each Lee Maintenance employee in making the Department a safe place to work.

Nothing is more important than the health and safety of our employees. Please pass on my congratulations and very best wishes to all employees in Lee Maintenance.

Safety First!

Elizabeth S. Mabry
Executive Director

A sign outside the Lee Maintenance office keeps a tally of the number of days the unit has worked without a lost time injury. At press time, the total was more than 559 days.

A group of SCDOT staff was on hand to congratulate the group for its commitment to safety. A sampling of the well wishers include, from left, Terecia Wilson, Thad Brunson, Wayne Keeys and Bryan Jones.
Newberry group honored at 2005 Adopt-A-Highway Ceremony

By Bob Kudelka

The Newberry County Adopt-A-Highway winners shouted out in joy when they heard Vivian Patterson announce their group’s name as 2005 statewide champions.

For Nell George, it was an emotional day to celebrate, coming exactly four months after her husband, T.D., passed away. T.D. George had been the chairman of the group, Maybinton Community Cares, which accepted the statewide winner’s plaque during SCDOT’s Adopt-A-Highway ceremony April 11 in Columbia.

“We did all this in memory of him,” said Shirley Adams. “We are so excited because we know he’s up there right now watching us.”

Adams and the other members of the volunteer group hugged Mrs. George, who wept but smiled after the awards ceremony.

“She’s the main reason why we’re so happy that we won,” Adams said. “He (T.D. George) worked so hard in our little community. It’s just a blessing for us, just a blessing.”

The emotional statewide category capped off a day of honoring volunteers in one of South Carolina’s most successful litter pickup programs.

The 2005 Adopt-A-Highway program included 1,997 groups picking up more than 1.6 million pounds of trash from the state’s roadways.

SCDOT Executive Director Elizabeth S. Mabry, 3rd Congressional District Commissioner Marion P. Carnell, State Highway Engineer Tony Chapman, Deputy Director Dr. Arlene Prince and Adopt-A-Highway Coordinator Tina Hembree presented the awards as Vivian Patterson, Director of Community Relations, announced the winners.

“It’s our opportunity to recognize you for the wonderful work you have done this year and to thank you for that work,” Mabry told the crowd of volunteers. “It’s a lot of time that you put into the program, and it’s well worth it for our state.”

The Adopt-A-Highway program began 18 years ago and is one of the state’s longest running anti-litter programs, Mabry said.

South Carolina Senator Phil Leventis won 2nd Place award in the Outstanding Achievement category for his efforts to combat litter.

Ceremony sponsors were Spartanburg-based Milliken & Company, LPA Group, Inc., of Columbia, and Palmetto Pride.

STATEWIDE CHAMPIONS - MAYBINTON COMMUNITY CARES of NEWBERRY COUNTY

ABOVE: Members of the Maybinton Community Cares group of Newberry County accept the 2005 Outstanding Adopt-A-Highway Group of the Year Award. The award was presented April 11 in Columbia. From left are: Nell George, Etta Clark, Sherry Scott, Shirley Adams, SCDOT State Highway Engineer Tony Chapman, SCDOT Commissioner Marion Carnell, SCDOT Executive Director Elizabeth S. Mabry and Deputy Director Arlene Prince.

Clifton White
McCormick County
5-Year Service Award

Kay Smith
Newberry County
10-Year Service Award

Ernie Church
Greenwood County
10-Year Service Award

Senator Phil Leventis
Outstanding Achievement
2nd Place

J.D. Wilcox
Outstanding Engineer
1st Place

Wayne Keeyes
Outstanding Engineer
2nd Place

Bobby Patterson
Outstanding Engineer
3rd Place

Richie Knight
Learn TV
Lancaster County
1st Place - Most Supportive Media

Alice Lang
Hometown News
Spartanburg County
2nd Place - Most Supportive Media

 Carlton Bridges
Cherokee County
1st Place Coordinator
3rd Place Achievement

Denise Brown
Outstanding AAH Coordinator
2nd Place

Kay Farmer
Lee County
3rd Place Coordinator

DISTRICT WINNERS

District 1
Lugoff Optimist
Kershaw County

District 2
Maybinton Community Cares
Newberry County

District 3
Blake H. Hughes
Anderson County

District 4
Lukesville Community Care Club
Union County

District 5
Governor’s School for Science/Math
Darlington County

District 6
Shell Point Baptist Church
Beaufort County

District 7
Backyard Garden Club
Clarendon County
Heat and humidity, the hallmarks of summer in the eastern part of the country, can result in heat stroke when you’re outside doing garden or yard work. You may know the feeling – your face turns beet red and you feel dizzy and faint. You keep looking and feeling that way for a few hours. At its worst, heat stroke can kill you; and trust me, even at its best, it’s a hellish feeling. (Some reward for mowing the lawn!)

Surviving the heat, humidity

You need to use a sharp blade. A dull blade hacks grass tips, inviting disease organisms. Cut grass most often in the early spring, up to two times per week. In summer, let grass grow taller than normal, mowing about every five days. The taller blades will shade roots and conserve moisture.

Never cut wet grass, or the blades will be torn. Wet clippings can also foster fungal diseases. Mow in the evening after 6 p.m. to allow the cut ends enough time to recover before the dry hot breezes begin.

The Flower Man

By Ernest Jones

By Ernest Jones

You keep looking and feeling that way for a few hours. At its worst, heat stroke can kill you; and trust me, even at its best, it’s a hellish feeling. (Some reward for mowing the lawn!)

Mercifully, you can avoid heat stroke by taking a few simple precautions. Work during the coolest parts of the day, early morning or early evening. Wear a hat or cap. Take drink breaks every 15 minutes or so. Keep drinking that water, Gatorade, or other sports drink. Don’t work too long at a stretch. Make yourself stop before you drop. You can always work in the house for a while, and come back to the yard or garden later.

THE ART OF MOWING

Mowing is the most important thing you will ever do to your lawn. It could be the most harmful, or the most beneficial. Yet few of us understand how to do the job. Probably the extent of your lessons was the time your father showed you how to start the mower and pointed you in the direction of the front yard.

WHEN AND HOW TO MOW

The season’s first mowing should be a scalping to remove all brown matting from winter. After that, lawns should be mowed often enough to cut only one-third of the leaf at a time. Mowing too low will damage roots, which will create a harmful layer of thatch. The one-third rule encourages a lawn to spread and to develop a healthy root system.

It’s also important to mow in a different direction each time to prevent a lean that results in an uneven cut.
Photo quiz

By Rob Thompson

SCDOT Chief Photographer

Here’s a brain teaser especially for SCDOT employees

Who?

This is a photo combination of three well known employees at SCDOT. Can you name the three people who make up this photo?

What?

This is a close-up photo of an item most of us see everyday. And you get extra points if you can be very specific!

Where?

You can search high and low and never find it, but it’s there!

Send your guess to thompsonwr@scdot.org. The first person to answer each question correctly will be announced along with the answers at: www.scdot-transfer.org/scdotphotos/WhoWhatWhere.jpg

Interstate Quiz

By Bob Lee and Jessica Hekter

Federal Highway Administration, SC Division

How well do you know the interstate system?

1. The interstate system makes up only 1% of the nation’s road network but carries (25% or 40%) of all traffic and (25% or 40%) of road-shipped freight.

2. What state contains the most interstate miles?
   a) Texas  b) California  c) Florida  d) New York

3. How many miles are included in the interstate system?
   a) 42,843  b) 46,726  c) 49,127  d) 52,321

4. Would a major east-west route be named with an odd or an even number?
   a) True  b) False

5. If the first number in a three digit interstate route is even, then it is a spur.
   a) True  b) False

6. Which interstate route is the longest drive?
   a) I-80, Teaneck, NJ to San Francisco, CA
   b) I-90, Boston, MA to Seattle, WA
   c) I-10, Jacksonville, FL to Los Angeles, CA

7. Which interstate route traverses the most states?
   a) I-80, Teaneck, NJ to San Francisco, CA
   b) I-10, Jacksonville, FL to Los Angeles, CA
   c) I-35, Laredo, TX to Dubuque, IA
   d) I-95, Miami, FL to Houlton, ME

8. There are 5 state capitals that are not directly served by the interstate system. Name one.

9. What year did construction begin on the interstate system?

10. What President signed the necessary legislation?

11. What foreign system was this inspiration for the US interstate system?

Answers are at the bottom of page 9.

LEFT: The Gervais Street Bridge had a grand relighting ceremony April 3. Local dignitaries including Senator Jake Knotts, Lt. Governor Andre Bauer and SCDOT Commissioner John Hardee spoke at the event which ending with a spectacular fireworks display. The lights on the bridge had been inoperative for a number of years due to complications in rewiring the original fixtures.

ABOVE: Members of the U.S. Coast Guard watch as the last remaining section of the Grace Bridge over the Cooper River is hauled away on a 300-foot barge March 1. The section was lowered onto the barge by four 900-ton hydraulic strand jacks before being taken to the old naval base where the steel is being recycled.

LEFT: On April 1, approximately 50,000 runners and walkers participated in the first Cooper River Bridge Run on the new Arthur Ravenel Jr. Bridge. The 4-mile route started in Mount Pleasant and ended in Marion Square in Charleston. On the new bridge, runners ran on the east-bound lanes which left the west-bound lanes open for media and medical personnel.

Photographs by Rob Thompson/SCDOT

RIGHT: New rest areas are under construction on I-20 in Kershaw County. The new facilities will replace buildings built in 1983. The new facilities are scheduled to open later this year.

LEFT: On April 1, approximately 50,000 runners and walkers participated in the first Cooper River Bridge Run on the new Arthur Ravenel Jr. Bridge. The 4-mile route started in Mount Pleasant and ended in Marion Square in Charleston. On the new bridge, runners ran on the east-bound lanes which left the west-bound lanes open for media and medical personnel.

Photographs by Rob Thompson/SCDOT
On April 17th, the 2006 STTAR class hosted their annual scholarship tournament. Sixty three golfers were in attendance for a beautiful outing where over $6,800 was raised for scholarships. The winning team consisted of Brian Parnell, Brian Jones, Randy Snow of US Constructors and Phil Gee of RDA. All winnings were donated to the scholarship fund.

PHOTOGRAPHS BY BRENDA FARREN/CECS INC.

Sid Bacchus, right, gives his thumbs up as Steven Jackson enjoys the day at the 2006 STTAR Golf Tournament.

George Kinard, Jay Hawkins, Mark Noll and Rob Bedenbaugh pose on the greens during the scholarship fund-raising event.
Deaths

Willie H. Shands, of Laurens, trades specialist III at Spartanburg Maintenance, died March 3, after 20 years of service.

Joseph J. Booser, of Prosperity, state planner IV in Road Data Services, retired March 31, after 42 years of service.

Enoch J. Booser, of Prosperity, engineer/associate engineer I, Road Design, retired March 31, after 43 years of service.

Paul E. Felker, of Newberry, engineer/associate engineer I at Newberry Construction, retired March 31, after 40 years of service.

Thomas L. Crocker, of Carlisle, trades specialist IV at Union Maintenance, retired March 31, after 32 years of service.

James P. Jones, of Newberry, trades specialist III at Newberry Maintenance, retired March 31, after 37 years of service.

Shedrick Murphy, of Camden, trades specialist III at Kershaw Maintenance, retired March 31, after 32 years of service.

Daniel L. Cates, of Florence, trades specialist IV at Florence Maintenance, retired March 31, after 35 years of service.

Jeffrey L. Zettie, of Simpsonville, engineer/associate engineer I in District 3, retired March 31, after 36 years of service.

Marvin Edgemon Jr., of Orangeburg, trades specialist V at Orangeburg Maintenance, retired March 31, after 35 years of state service.

William G. Derrick, of West Columbia, engineering/geodetic technician III at Lexington Construction, retired April 7, after 32 years of service.

James A. Driggers, of Moncks Corner, supply specialist III at Berkeley Maintenance, retired April 14, after 33 years of service.

Frank A. Green, of Saluda, trades specialist III at Saluda Maintenance, retired March 31 after 42 years of state service.

Retirements

Donald L. Campbell, of York, trades specialist III at York Maintenance, retired Feb. 1, after 11 years of service.

Herbert L. Willingham, of Charleston, trades specialist II at Charleston Maintenance, retired Feb. 1, after 16 years of state service.

Roger T. Jackson, of Cayce, engineering/geodetic technician III at Lexington Construction, retired Feb. 1, after 29 years of state service.

Alvin L.Found, of North, trades specialist II at Lexington Maintenance, retired Feb. 2, after 19 years of service.

Evelyn C. Montgomery, of Greeleyville, trades specialist II at Williamsburg Maintenance, retired Feb. 7, after 20 years of state service.

Hazel Stevens, of Lancaster, trades specialist II at Lancaster Maintenance, retired, Feb. 10, after eight years of service.

James R. Herndon, of West Columbia, trades specialist III at Lexington Maintenance, retired Feb. 10, after 11 years of service.

Freddy L. Berry, of Lexington, engineer/associate engineer I in C Potrillo Detention, retired Feb. 10, after 33 years of service.

Arthur Brown, of Charleston, engineer/associate engineer at Charleston Maintenance, retired Feb. 15, after 13 years of state service.

Harold Morris, of Camden, trades specialist II at Kershaw Maintenance, retired Feb. 16, after 23 years of service.

Eugene E. Hyde, of Travelers Rest, trades specialist II at Greenville Maintenance, retired Feb. 19, after 13 years of service.

Henry C. Bohhin Jr., of Orangeburg, engineering/geodetic technician II at Orangeburg Construction, retired Feb. 28, after 35 years of state service.

Fletcher G. Harman, of Saluda, trades specialist II at Newberry Maintenance, retired Feb. 28, after 30 years of service.

Nelson L. Travis, of Columbia, engineer/associate engineer, Bridge Construction, retired Feb. 28, after 37 years of service.

Kenneth W. Denton, of Camden, engineering/geodetic technician II at Spartanburg Construction, retired March 1, after 20 years of service.

Jerry C. Brewer, of Cordova, trades specialist III at Bamberg Maintenance, retired March 1, after 15 years of service.

Paul King, of Green Pond, trades specialist II at Colleton Maintenance, retired March 3, after 35 years of service.

Archie L. Proffitt, of Santee, trades specialist II at Holly Hill Maintenance, retired March 3, after 12 years of service.

Silas Snider, of Elloree, trades specialist IV at Holly Hill Maintenance, retired March 3, after 18 years of service.

Jimmy E. Norris, of Loris, trades specialist IV at District 6 Office, retired March 7, after 26 years of state service.

Paul E. Edenton, of Blythewood, trades specialist III at Richland Maintenance, retired March 8, after 23 years of state service.

Junius D. Ridley, of Westminister, trades specialist III at Aiken County, retired March 9, after 26 years of service.

Glennie Dingle, of St. Stephen, trades specialist II at Berkeley Maintenance, retired March 14, after seven years of service.

James M. Cross, of Marion, trades specialist III at Murrow Maintenance, retired March 16, after 28 years of service.

Stephen L. Noh, of Chester, engineering/geodetic technician III at Fairfield Maintenance, retired March 16, after 22 years of service.

Melvin Greene, of Winnsboro, trades specialist III at Fairfield Maintenance, retired March 19, after 28 years of service.

Earl Berry, of Saluda, engineering/geodetic technician III at Edgefield Maintenance, retired March 30, after 33 years of service.

Theodore T. Worden, of McCormick, trades specialist III at McCormick Maintenance, retired March 24, after 27 years of service.

Leon W. Truesdale, of Cassatt, trades specialist II at Kershaw Maintenance, retired March 30, after 11 years of service.

Theodore L. Morgan, of Landrum, trades specialist II at Greenville Maintenance, retired March 30 after 32 years of service.

Curtis M. Powell Jr., of Florence, engineer/associate engineer at Williamsburg Construction, retired March 31, after 28 years of service.

Eddie Brown Jr., of Lake City, trades specialist III at Florence Maintenance, retired March 31, after 20 years of service.

Robert E. Powers, of Timmonsville, engineer/associate engineer I at Florence Construction, retired March 31, after 37 years of service.

Lyles B. Cannon Jr., of Chester, engineer/associate engineer I at Chester Maintenance, retired March 31, after 38 years of state service.

Roosevelt Johnson, of Orangeburg, trades specialist IV at Orangeburg Maintenance, retired March 31, after 35 years of service.

Joseph S. Bouzer, of Prosperity, state planner IV in Road Data Services, retired March 31, after 42 years of service.

Enoch J. Booser, of Prosperity, state planner IV in Road Data Services, retired March 31, after 42 years of service.

Paul E. Felker, of Newberry, engineer/associate engineer I at Newberry Construction, retired March 31, after 40 years of service.

Thomas L. Crocker, of Carlisle, trades specialist IV at Union Maintenance, retired March 31, after 32 years of service.

James P. Jones, of Newberry, trades specialist III at Newberry Maintenance, retired March 31, after 37 years of service.

Shedrick Murphy, of Camden, trades specialist III at Kershaw Maintenance, retired March 31, after 32 years of service.

Daniel L. Cates, of Florence, trades specialist IV at Florence Maintenance, retired March 31, after 35 years of service.

Jeffrey L. Zettie, of Simpsonville, engineer/associate engineer I in District 3, retired March 31, after 36 years of service.

Marvin Edgemon Jr., of Orangeburg, trades specialist V at Orangeburg Maintenance, retired March 31, after 35 years of state service.

Thomas A. Powell, of Summerville, engineer/associate engineer I at Charleston Construction, retired March 31, after 31 years of state service.

David E. Settle, of Leesville, engineer/associate engineer I in Road Data Service, retired April 12, after 35 years of service.

Garland R. Hughes, of Orangeburg, mechanic III at Orangeburg Maintenance, retired March 31, after 23 years of service.

Walter L. Holloway Jr., of Neeses, engineer/associate engineer I at Colleton Maintenance, retired March 31, after 35 years of state service.

Charles P. Berry, of Branchville, mechanic III at Orangeburg Maintenance, retired March 31, after 34 years of service.

Richard Bobo, of Abbeville, trades specialist III at Abbeville Maintenance, retired March 31, after 36 years of service.

Philip L. Tucker, of Hopkins, Supply Manager I at Supply Depot, retired March 31, after 34 years of service.

Edward J. Mitchell, of York, engineer/associate engineer in York Construction, retired April 16, after 39 years of service.

James E. Noftz Jr., of Abbeville, engineer/associate engineer I, District 2, retired March 31, after 35 years of state service.

Larry M. Lake, of Prosperity, engineering/geodetic technician III at Newberry Construction, retired March 31, after 28 years of state service.

William B. Ewald, of Rock Hill, trades specialist II at York Orangeburg Maintenance, retired March 31, after nine years of service.

Don H. Marshe, of Columbus, engineer/associate engineer I, Road Design, retired April 1 after 34 years of state service.

James E. Clappint, of St. Helena Island, equipment operator II in District 6 Bridge Inspection, retired April 1, after 34 years of service.

Bobby J. King, of Summerville, engineer/associate engineer I at Dorchester Surveys, retired March 31, after 45 years of state service.

Sammy S. Jackson, of Pelion, engineer/associate engineer I in Surveys, retired April 1, after 38 years of state service.

Willie Pelzer, of Columbia, engineer/associate engineer I, Road Design, retired April 1 after 33 years of service.

Benjamin Taylor Jr., of Allendale, trades specialist II at Allendale Maintenance, retired April 6, after three years of state service.

William G. Derrick, of West Columbia, engineering/geodetic technician III at Lexington Construction, retired April 7, after 32 years of service.

James A. Driggers, of Moncks Corner, supply specialist III at Berkeley Maintenance, retired April 14, after 33 years of service.

Frank A. Green, of Saluda, trades specialist III at Saluda Maintenance, retired April 1, after 16 years of service.
2006 SCDOT Softball Tournament
APRIL 29, 2006 - OAK GROVE BALLPARK - LEXINGTON, SC

FIRST PLACE - DISTRICT 2

SECOND PLACE - TRAFFIC & PLANNING

THIRD PLACE - PATROL SUPPLY

FOURTH PLACE - DISTRICT 4

If you’d like to play next year, contact Michael Dennis at (803) 737-1445.

Freddie Jackson from District 4 was named M.I.P. – Most Injured Player. He got beaned with a ball and hurt a finger.

Carol Jones, center, brought children, Eric (9), left, and Anna (3), right, to cheer on their dad, Marvin Jones.

It was a family outing for Rusty Snider. From left, Rusty Snider, son Luke (12), wife Kelly, son Adam (9) and a family friend, Red.

Carolyn Kendrick, left, and James Lee take a break between games. The two SCDOT employees served as umpires for the tournament.

Wallace Dobbs - District 2 Most Valuable Player

David Cook - Traffic/Planning Spirit Award

Many employees brought their families to enjoy the competition.

BELOW: Tony Magwood and his son, Trae’ (8), enjoy the perfect weather during the games.

John Richardson of the Traffic and Planning team rounds third base.

Jacob Courtney from the District 2 team broke an aluminum bat during the game.

Carolyn Kendrick, left, and James Lee take a break between games. The two SCDOT employees served as umpires for the tournament.

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Moving Up

HEADQUARTERS

Jose’ L. Valdivieso, from information technology manager to information technology manager II, IT Services.

Belcher, from administrative assistant to administrative coordinator I, in the Office of Deputy Director of Construction Engineering Planning.

Kirk, from engineer/associate engineer I to engineer/associate engineer II, Program Controls Unit of Construction Engineering Planning.

Crawley, from engineering assistant (spec) to engineering/geodetic technician I, Research & Materials.

Korene A. McDow, from engineering assistant (spec) to engineering/geodetic technician III, Pre-Construction.

Alan M. Matienzo, from engineer/associate engineer II to engineer/associate engineer III, C-Project Development.

Donald M. Lienert, from program coordinator II to program manager I, Rights-of-Way.

Kristen D. Bandelier, from administrative specialist II to administrative coordinator II, Rights-of-Way.

Deborah M. Atkinson, from engineering/geodetic technician III to engineer/associate engineer I, Road Design.

Chad R. Elledge, from engineer/associate engineer I to engineer/associate engineer II, Road Design.

Christopher R. Lacy, from engineer/associate engineer III to engineer/associate engineer IV, Program Development West.

Brent L. Rewis, from engineer/associate engineer II to engineer/associate engineer III, Program Development East.

David A. Kinard, from engineer/associate engineer II to engineer/associate engineer III, Program Development East.

Nasser Vakili-Rad, from engineer/associate engineer II to engineer/associate engineer III, Planning.

Wayne D. Roberts, from archaeologist II to program coordinator II, Environmental Administration’s office.

Corey M. Milton, from engineering/geodetic technician III to state planner III, Road Data Services in Traffic Engineering.

Bruce S. Wells, from engineer/associate engineer II to engineer/associate engineer III, District I Office.

Jeffrey C. Jordan, from engineer/associate engineer II to engineer/associate engineer III, District I Office.

William C. Lindsey III, from engineering/geodetic technician III to engineer/associate engineer I, District I Office.

Carl Smith Jr., from trades specialist II to trades specialist III, Aiken Maintenance.

James G. Adams, from trades specialist II to trades specialist III, Aiken Maintenance.

Henry Long, from trades specialist IV to trades specialist V, Charleston Maintenance.

James M. Rollison, from mechanic III to trades specialist V, Lexington Maintenance.

Marion H. Hood, from trades specialist II to trades specialist III, Sumter Maintenance.

William B. Brantham, from engineering/geodetic technician III to engineer/electrical technician III, Lexington Construction.

James E. Lamb Jr., from trades specialist II to trades specialist V, Edgefield Maintenance.

John W. Lybrand IV, from engineer/associate engineer II to engineer/associate engineer III, Greenwood Maintenance.

Mitchell Z. Connelly, from engineering/geodetic technician II to engineer/geodetic technician III, Newberry Maintenance.

Jessica C. Crane, from administrative specialist I to administrative coordinator II, District 3 Traffic Signal.

Robert G. Honeycutt, from trades specialist II to trades specialist III, Lancaster Maintenance.

Randall E. Rogers, from trades specialist III to trades specialist IV, Lancaster Maintenance.

Clint J. Beaver, from OSHA Officer I to engineer/associate engineer I, Lancaster Maintenance.

Hawatha Robinson, from trades specialist II to trades specialist III, Lancaster Maintenance.

Donnie L. Vinson, from trades specialist III to trades specialist IV, Union Maintenance.

Ronald W. Rolls, from engineer/geodetic technician II to OSHA Officer I, York Maintenance.

Thomas A. Schmidt, from trades specialist II to trades specialist III, York Maintenance.

Jason M. Wyatt, from engineering/geodetic technician II to engineering/geodetic technician III, York Construction.

Richard E. Singleton, from trades specialist II to trades specialist III, Berkeley Maintenance.

Kenneth R. Mills, from trades specialist II to mechanic III, Berkeley Maintenance.

Jimmie D. Bryant, from trades specialist II to trades specialist IV, Colleton Maintenance.

David W. Pilch, from engineer/associate engineer II to engineer/associate engineer III, Dorchester Construction.

Adam L. Bishop, from engineer/associate engineer I to engineer/associate engineer II, Charleston Construction.

Laura A. Medus, from engineering/geodetic technician I to engineer/associate engineer I, Charleston Construction.

Bennie Fogle, from trades specialist III to trades specialist IV, Holly Hill Maintenance.

Ronnie D. McGee, from trades specialist II to trades specialist III, Holly Hill Maintenance.

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Dennis W. Cline promoted to Payroll Manager

Dennis W. Cline, of Lexington, has been promoted to Payroll Manager, responsible for processing the agency’s $160 million payroll. He succeeds Jack Sturkie, who retired.

Cline, joined SCDOT in 1990, and was senior accountant prior to his recent promotion. He is a native of Columbia.

He is a 1974 graduate of Spring Valley High School. He received an AB in Accounting from Midlands Technical College in 1988 and a BS in Business from Southern Wesleyan University in 2004 and an MBA in Business from the University of South Carolina in 2005.

He is married to the former Patrice Chasten of Columbia, and they have two sons, Matthew, 14, and Ryan. Cline is a member of the SC Society of Certified Public Managers, the American Legion, Lexington District One Parents Advisory Council, Oak Grove Elementary PTSA President, and member of the St. James American Legion.

He is a member of Northside Baptist Church in West Columbia.

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Johnny K. Mmanuike named Assistant Deputy of Mass Transit

Johnny K. Mmanuike, of Columbia, has been named Deputy Engineer Development Program and is a native of ABA, Nigeria, he graduated from Boys High School. He received a BA degree from Louisiana Tech University in 1987 and a BS degree in November 1989. He received an MA in Management from Webster University in 1994. He has a three-year-old son, Louis.

He is a member of Harbison Recreational Center and Our Lady of the Hills Catholic Church.

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Jim Watson promoted to Deputy State Highway Engineer

Jim Watson of Irmo has been named Deputy State Highway Engineer in Richland County from 1997-2000, District 1 Maintenance Engineer from 2000-2003 and Director of CRP operations/Assistant Deputy State Highway Engineer from 2003-2006.

A native of Columbia, he is a 1984 graduate of Chapin High School. He graduated from Midlands Technical College in 1987 and the University of South Carolina in 1992. He has a son, Brock, and is a member of St. Mary’s Episcopal Church.

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Russ Touchberry named Asst. Deputy State Highway Engineer

Russ Touchberry has been named Assistant Deputy State Highway Engineer. He will assist Assistant Deputy State Highway Engineer Tony Shepard and Deputy State Highway Engineer Clem Watson with Engineering Operations.

Touchberry has been with SCDOT for five years. He has a background in bridge construction and worked on the Cooper River Bridge project for about three years. He has a chocolate lab named Charlie and call him their son. Russ enjoys fishing, golfing, and spending time with his family.
H ealthy day, those SCDOT employees patrol high ways and help stranded motorists. In the 13 years since the Incident Response Program began in 1996, we’ve been through an April 15 news conference celebrating the anniversary.

Malley and Dick Jenkins, head of the Incident Response Program, were joined by partner Bob Low, of the Federal Highway Administration, and Highway Patrol Capt. Russell Roark to cel ebrate the 13th year anniversary of the Incident Response Program.

While Roark and C南山 said they enjoy their jobs, although the work can be stressful at times. As Malley pointed out, the employees help stranded motorists, the Incident Responders are ready to handle vehicle breakdowns as well as managing traffic around a drain or disabled vehicle.

“Incident Responders are ready to handle vehicle breakdowns as well as managing traffic around a drain or disabled vehicle.”

Williams averages 200 to 300 miles a day. On the miles, he has helped people from as far away as Canada and Hawaii, and even from his hometown of Mobile, Ala. “They’re just so glad to see us,” Williams said. “If they see us, they’re glad to see us.”

While the number of people assisted is a measure of success, Malley believes there are other benefits to the program. “They get to interact with motorists and help stranded motorists, the Incident Responders are ready to handle vehicle breakdowns as well as managing traffic around a drain or disabled vehicle.”

“Incident Responders are ready to handle vehicle breakdowns as well as managing traffic around a drain or disabled vehicle.”

Williams said he got the idea from a television show about Hurricane Hunters. “I thought it was a good idea for the public to see us,” he said.

“The Incident Responder Unit provides a critical safety measure by assisting with traffic evacuations,” said SCDOT Incident Responder Coordinator John Hardee. “They are dealing with life-threatening conditions.”

Incident Responsive the Incident Responders play a critical role in helping motorists evacuate from coastal regions.

Roark said the Incident Responders assist with traffic evacuations at times of potential danger. “The Incident Responder Unit provides a critical safety measure by assisting with traffic evacuations,” said SCDOT Incident Responder Coordinator John Hardee. “They are dealing with life-threatening conditions.”

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Supply and Equipment eyes new purchasing methods

By John White
Director of Supply and Equipment

Last year’s statewide motor grader operator’s rodeo champions Chuck Reynolds (Spartanburg Maintenance) and James Cato (Kershaw Maintenance) put Caterpillar, Komatsu, and Volvo motor graders to the test. Their evaluations are helping SCDOT choose the next motor graders that are purchased.

The Supply and Equipment Office, District 1, 5, and 6 Mechanical Engineers, Procurement Office, and Accounting Office have teamed together to investigate alternative methods to purchase equipment. Currently being compared are 1) traditional low bid, 2) best value bidding, 3) municipal leases, and 4) guaranteed buy back.

If you have any questions or would like additional information on this, please call the Supply and Equipment Office.

Employees spend state holiday on lake, reeling in the bass

By Greg Rikard
Preconstruction

The 27th Annual SCDOT Bass Tournament was held May 10th on Lake Murray. Fifteen two-man teams competed in the event. First Place honors went to the team of Greg Rikard (Preconstruction – Utilities) of Leesville and Norman Monts (Richland Surveys – Retired) of Chapin. They weighed in a seven bass limit weighing 22 pounds 6 ounces. They also had the big bass of the tournament at 7 pounds 7 ounces.

Second Place honors went to the team of Mike McCaslin (District 1 – Mechanical Engineering) of Chapin and Blair McCaslin of Chapin with a seven bass limit weighing 21 pounds 6 ounces.

Third Place honors went to the team of Dusty Turner (District 2 – District Maintenance) of Greenwood and Bobby Stanfill of Greenwood. They weighed in a seven bass limit at 19 pounds 13.5 ounces.

Small Fish honors went to the team of Mike Rector (District 4) and Allen Ramsey (Chester Construction) with a bass that weighed 13 ounces.

Congratulations go out to these winning teams for a job well done. Thanks to all who participated. Be sure to mark your calendars for next year’s planned event to be held on Lake Murray. The event will be held again next year on Confederate Memorial Day.

For more information on the event, please contact Greg Rikard at (803)737-5005 or Wayne Corley at (803)737-1725.

Sibling revelry

2 brothers, sisters enjoy working at SCDOT

Bill Doyle, Margie Carter, Teddie Gillette and Jim Brunson took different routes to South Carolina from their native New Jersey. But the family members all wound up at the same destination -- SCDOT.

The move south all began after their parents, Mildred and James Brunson, retired from New Jersey and moved to South Carolina in 1984.

Jim Brunson, the youngest of the group, came down 22 years ago. He has been working at Lexington Maintenance for 10 years as a trades specialist.

Teddie Gillette moved to SC 15 years ago and has been with SCDOT for nine years as a Data Base Administrator for IT Services.

Bill Doyle, the eldest of the group, followed his family down five years ago and has been a consultant for Mass Transit for two years.

Mildred and James Brunson have eight children. Six of them have moved to SC, one to Florida, and one remains in NJ.

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Directions:

- Large Pot filled with water, boil together stew beef, celery, onion, green pepper, garlic powder, onion powder, seasoned salt, black pepper and cayenne pepper for about 1 hour. Then add the potatoes and carrots for another hour. Then pour in your gravy mix for about 10 minutes. Add flour and water mixture for thickening if desired.

- Put on apron, pull out the pots and pans, and whip up one of these culinary delights.

**Bacon and Egg Casserole**

- 1 (16 oz.) Hawaiian bread loaf, cut into 3/4-inch cubes
- 2 cups (8 oz.) finely shredded Mexican four-cheese blend
- 1/2 pound bacon, cooked and crumbled (8 slices)
- 8 large eggs
- 2 1/2 cups milk
- 1/2 teaspoon salt
- 1 teaspoon pepper
- 1 teaspoon dried mustard
- 1 teaspoon Worcestershire sauce
- Salsa or sliced fresh tomatoes

Arrange bread cubes in a lightly greased 13- x 9-in bak- ing dish. Sprinkle with shredded cheese and crumbled bacon. Whisk together eggs, milk, salt, pepper, mustard, and Worcestershire sauce. Pour over prepared dish; press down bread cubes with a spoon to allow bread to soak up liquid. Cover and chill 8 hours. Let stand 30 minutes before baking. Bake at 350° for 35 minutes or until set and golden. Serve with salsa or sliced fresh tomatoes.

**Jello Cake With Cool Whip Icing**

- 1 package of Yellow or Butter Cake Mix
- 1 Container of Cool Whip
- 1 package of Gelatin (any flavor)

Directions:

- Bake cake as instructed. Mix gelatin mix as instructed. When cake is done and cooled, then poke holes in the top of the cake and pour gelatin mixture on top of holes. Refrigerate overnight. Frost cake with Cool Whip and enjoy!!

**Bacon and Egg Casserole**

- 2 packages of brown gravy mix
- Green Pepper (diced)
- Onion - small (diced)
- Celery (diced)
- 3 or 4 large potatoes (diced)
- One large package of Stew Beef

**Beef Stew**

- 1/2 teaspoon pepper
- 2 1/2 cups milk
- 8 large eggs
- 1/2 pound bacon, cooked and crumbled (8 slices)

**School To Work Program leads couple to transportation careers**

During the summer of 2000, Candace and Coray Q. Davis participated in the School-To-Work Transitional Pro- gram (STWT) sponsored by the School of Business and the School of Engineering Technology and Sci- ences at South Carolina State Uni- versity (SCSU), a program designed to encourage students to pursue transportation-related careers.

Candace interned at SCDOT in the Mass Transit-Program Man- agement Section. Her responsibili- ties included: coordinating with the Deputy Director, Assistant Deputy Director, and program managers to prepare contract-related information, program announcements, statistical graphs, and progress charts for Mass Transit Special Projects, and the Commission Workbook 1999-2000 for the upcoming year. She also as- sisted with preparing a Federal Tran- sit Administration (FTA) Corrective Action for re-submission after the FTA audit. She spoke to students participating in the Summer Trans- portation Internship (STI) at Benedict College and South Carolina State Uni- versity to encourage them to ex- plore careers in transportation.

Coray interned with Holnam, Inc. in the transportation department working with purchasing agents to track packages to close purchase or- ders for parts and equipment. In August of 2000, the two went to graduate school at Morgan State University in Baltimore, MD to pur- sue Master of Science degrees in Transportation. While in the gradu-
District 1 News

Aiken, Kershaw, Lee, Lexington, Richland and Sumter counties

District Engineer: Thad Brunson (803) 737-6660
FAX (803) 737-6401

Got news? Contact Teresa Harley at: 803-737-6650 or e-mail her at HarleyTL@scdot.org

Meet Our District 1 Office Managers

Jane Huckabee, District One Office, has been with the Department of 33 years. She loves gardening, cooking, and bird watching, and of course there is her husband, Perry, and their 4-legged baby, Skipper.

Judy Parrot, Aiken Maintenance, has been with SCDOT for 21 years. She has three children and four grandchildren. In her spare time, Judy enjoys traveling.

Vivian Ray, Kershaw Maintenance, has been with SCDOT for 11 years. She has four children, six grandchildren and one on the way. She enjoys traveling, spending time with family, and friends, and meeting new people. She is an Elder in her church and a member of the Wateree Homeowner’s Association.

Denise Sloan, Lexington Construction, has been with SCDOT for 13 years. She has two children and three grandchildren. She enjoys working with plants, her horses and dogs, and spending time in the mountains with her husband.

Sandra Snipes, Lee Maintenance, has been with SCDOT for 20 years. She has two children. She enjoys time with her children, scrapbooking, photography, baking, Mission work, and Operation Christmas Child. She is a Girl Scout leader and church youth leader, and a member of the Lee County Pride Task Force on Litter.

Joan Davis, Sumter Construction, has been with SCDOT for 5 years. She has two children. She enjoys cooking and baking, meeting new people, working in her church and community. She also does catering on the side from time to time.

Judy Sapp, Aiken Construction, has been with SCDOT for 38 years. She has one daughter and three grandchildren. She sings in the choir at her church, enjoys reading, playing with the grandchildren, and church related activities.

Evelyn Parrot, Aiken Maintenance, has been with SCDOT for 21 years. She has one daughter and three grandchildren. She sings in the choir at her church, enjoys reading, playing with the grandchildren, and church related activities.

Sandy Huckabee, District One Office, has been with District One Office for 33 years. She enjoys traveling, spending time with the grandchildren, and her church, enjoys reading, playing with plants, her horses and dogs, and spending time in the mountains with her husband.

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Meet Ramona Eckrote

Name: Ramona Eckrote
Title: Construction Inspector
Unit: District 1
Start Date: May 1997

Ramona Eckrote (Mona) was originally hired as an equipment operator in Richland Maintenance in May of 1997. Since then she has proven herself time and again to be an outstanding employee and has moved up the ranks to become one of the premier construction inspectors in District One. Long hours, difficult conditions and unruly contractors are no match for her selfless dedication and sharp wit. Although quite an asset to the SCDOT, her true light shines as the mother of two outstanding children.

Eckrote’s daughter, Krystle, and son, Irvin, are the focus of her attention at the end of every workday. Krystle is currently a student at USC. When Irvin’s not tearing up the country side on his four-wheeler, he attends Spring Valley High School. When she finds time during her busy schedule, she enjoys relaxing in a tree stand and blowing whitetail deer to kingdom come. She is 2003 graduate of STEP-21.

She has three children and a brand new grandchild. She graduated from USC with a teaching degree. She was a flight attendant and taught 7th grade English. She enjoys planning events for groups, working with the local theater groups, traveling, reading, golf and tennis. She also plays bells in a handbell choir.

She has three children and four grand children. She loves gardening, cooking, and bird watching, and of course there is her husband, Perry, and their 4-legged baby, Skipper.

She has two children and three grandchildren. She enjoys work, and Operation Christmas Child. She is a Girl Scout leader and church youth leader, and a member of the Lee County Pride Task Force on Litter.

She has two children.  She enjoys traveling, spending time with family, and friends, and of course there is her husband, Perry, and their 4-legged baby, Skipper.

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Meet Margaret Hazel

Name: Margaret Hazel  
Title: Administrative Assistant  
Unit: McCormick Maintenance  
Years at SCDOT: 22

Margaret enjoys spending time with her daughter and grandson. She also enjoys reading, taking pictures, creating flower arrangements, painting, walking, fishing and shopping. Margaret also enjoys going outside and just gazing at the beautiful night sky, especially when the moon is full, when there are meteor showers and when Venus or other beautiful planets are visible.

Margaret Hazel

Crossroads visits Greenwood Maintenance

The March edition of Crossroads was filmed in Greenwood County of District 2 on February 24, 2006. Greenwood Maintenance welcomed Elizabeth Mabry, Kati Holland, Peter Tarpley and Pete Poore.

Pictured from left to right: Dee Garner, Tom Evans, Phillip Brooks and Elizabeth Mabry.

ABOVE: Mabry thanks the cooks who prepared the meal she enjoyed in Greenwood. From left are: Ricky Bowie, Neal Jones, Mabry and Jerry Tafta.

RIGHT: Dee “Bubba” Garner talks to the video audience.

Meet Margaret Hazel

District 2 News
Abbeville, Edgefield, Greenwood, Laurens, McCormick, Newberry, Saluda

District Engineer: Phillip M. Brooks (864) 227-6971  
FAX (864) 227-6567

Retirements

Phillip Garner

Resident Maintenance Engineer  
Phillip “Dee” Garner retired from SCDOT on February 28, 2006, from Greenwood Maintenance. Dee had been employed with SCDOT for 34 years in numerous capacities throughout District 2.

Jimmy Noftz

Jimmy Noftz celebrated his retirement from SCDOT at a drop-in on March 29, 2006. Jimmy was the Resident Construction Engineer for the CRM projects in District 2 and had been employed 35 years with SCDOT.

Barbara Sprouse

Greenwood Maintenance Administrative Specialist, Barbara Sprouse, retired from SCDOT with 13 years of service on April 28. A drop-in was held in her honor at the Greenwood Assembly Room on Thursday, April 20.

Congratulations to all District 2 employees who have retired from SCDOT!

Equipment Operator’s Roadeo

There were 276 competitors in this year’s Equipment Operator’s Roadeo. The competition was divided into six different events on various SCDOT equipment. The event winners are listed at right. Congratulations to winners from District 2 and all participants.

Margaret Hazel
The ‘sunshine’ of District 3 retires

Jeff Zettle retires after 36 years of service

On his last day at SCDOT, Jeff Zettle never ignored his work phone. In this photo, he was at his own retirement party handling a maintenance issue.

A nyone who knows Jeff Zettle would agree that he is never seen without a smile on his face. That’s why he gained the nickname “Sunshine.”

His legacy began on March 30, 1970 in the Bridge Department. Zettle was assigned to a field office in Sumter to work on the bridges along I-95. After four years in the lower part of the state, Zettle decided that he wanted to be an “upstate” man. So, for the next ten years, he broadened his knowledge in Anderson Construction.

For those of you who knew him back then, well it was time to experience what maintenance was all about. In 1984 he began that challenge and stayed in Anderson Maintenance until 2001. Of course Jeff was not stopping at that point. The opportunity to become the Assistant District Maintenance Engineer became available and he took the challenge. He later held the positions of District Mechanical Engineer and District Maintenance Engineer.

On March 31, 2006 the District 3 office staff held a farewell party in the District Office building. Knowing Jeff the way we all do, he was still working until the last minute when Mr. Busbee had to take his phone and pager from him! The whole day was a very sad day in the building, as no one wanted to see him leave.

He had brought so much brightness to those around him and always had a kind word to say. It literally was like a cloud, when it came time to say goodbye, as we all knew that on Monday morning his office would be dark and SCDOT would be without the service of a capable and dedicated employee.

April 4, 2006 brought a chance to see Jeff again! Anderson Maintenance hosted a large retirement drop-in for Zettle. About 150 people came to say goodbye and have some great laughs with him. He had impacted so many people that a former co-worker, Walt Holladay traveled from Walterboro just to say thank you and good luck. Huley Shumpert, of the Director of Maintenance office shared some very kind words. Shumpert stated that Zettle’s leaving will not go unnoticed, as anytime, any day or any hour he could call him about a situation and it was already taken care of or Zettle knew about it and was handling it.

There is another side of Jeff Zettle that a large number of his friends did not know existed. Bobby Patterson, RME of Anderson, and former co-worker of Zettle’s began telling the “hidden secrets.”

One secret was that Jeff is a “great athlete.” Apparently, years ago they played on softball teams together with the great “left-handed” leader being placed in right field. But that did not stop Zettle. He still could grab a ball barehanded with that left hand!

Everyone shared stories of how much he will be missed and the impact he placed on each person’s life. Zettle cared about everyone he came in contact with on a daily basis. He was known to be the most dedicated man around to the SCDOT. Just ask Brenda, his wife. She spent many Saturdays at work with him! This all helped make him the great person we all know so well.

We all wish him a happy farewell and best of luck. Now he will finally be able to sit back and enjoy his hobbies of reading, History, gardening and yard work, and working on small engines, but most importantly spending time with his family. He has a new little grandchild and another grandchild on the way!

Leroy Brown of Anderson Maintenance thanks Jeff Zettle for the opportunity to work for him. Bobby Patterson, RME, hosted a retirement party in Anderson.

A letter we liked

Dear Jeff Zettle,

The Maintenance Department came out last week and delivered our rocks. They did a wonderful job. Thank you so much.

I called your office today to thank you and they told me you retired last Friday. The lady with whom I spoke said that you would be greatly missed by many. I don’t doubt it a bit. You certainly gave us hope...and help when it seemed there wasn’t going to be any, and I’m sure you did that for others.

We wish you well and hope that you’ve got a lot of fun things planned. It was great meeting you.

Sincerely,

Martha and Bruce Malone
Greenville

Pickens RME retires

John Sanders retires after 38 years

John Sanders holds his granddaughter Mackenzie at his retirement party.

F or the past 38 years, John Sanders has dedicated his life to the South Carolina Department of Highways and Public Transportation, which later became the South Carolina Department of Transportation. On April 25, 2006, Pickens Maintenance hosted a luncheon for John in the shop.

Sanders began his career in pre-construction surveys assigned to Oconee County. During his service he moved to Pickens Construction for a 6-year period. After these challenges, Sanders was chosen as the District Three Bridge Inspection Team Leader for the next 14 years. The last 11 years of his career, Sanders held the position of Resident Maintenance Engineer of Pickens County.

For those who know the “quiet” Sanders so well, knew he would make an impression in the end. Recently, the Pickens Office caught fire, so he has been operating in temporary housing.

Crossroads decided to conduct the next segment in Pickens County and it also occurred on his last day as the RME. This farewell included “lights and action.”

SCDOT Executive Director Elizabeth S. Mabry, Commissioner Marion P. Carmell of the Third Congressional District, Tony Maywood, Pete Poore and Kenny Eargle all of Columbia were at this celebration. Mayor David Owen of Pickens County also was invited to celebrate the day with Sanders and his family.

Fellow co-workers spoke of the great leader Sanders was to them. He was known as caring, dedicated, supportive and a leader who let you do your job.

His wife, Cathy, two sons, Adam and Derek, along with “Mackenzie,” the greatest granddaughter were present to share in this moment with him. All of his friends know that he can be found now out hunting, fishing or working in his shop.

Meet Bill McCall

Name: Bill McCall
Job Title: CEA II, District #3 Bridge Inspection Team Leader
Years With SCDOT: 27 years
Family: Bill has been happily married to Debbie for 27 years. They have two beautiful daughters. Ashley McCall Bowers who is a 1st grade teacher at Liberty Elementary and Amy, a Freshman at Furman University.
Hobbies: Bill enjoys landscaping and building / remodeling projects.
Other Facts: Lives in Pickens and attends Red Hill Baptist Church.
District 4 News

Cherokee, Chester, Chesterfield, Fairfield, Lancaster, Union and York counties

District Engineer: Stan Bland  (803) 377-4155
FAX (803) 581-2088

DEA recognizes top equipment operators in district

District Engineering Administrator Stan Bland recognizes the winners of the District Equipment Operators Roadeo.

The winners are: Front row, left to right: Lewis Brazell, York, Backhoe; Tim Smith, Cherokee, 5 yard; Nathan Pierce, Cherokee, Tractor/Mower. Back row, left to right: Vernon Lingerfeldt, York, Tandem; J.W. Austin, Chester, Lowboy; Melvin Lott, Union, Motorgrader; DEA Stan Bland.

Extinguishing an inferno
Chesterfield employees come to the rescue

During working hours in March of 2006, shop Foreman Billy Williams, was on his way to Florence to pick up vehicle parts when fellow employee Diana Evans noticed smoke off in the distance and asked Williams to check it out. He arrived at the scene and realized a house was on fire. He then approached the fire and realized the owners were panicked and frightened. Williams went back to his truck grabbed the fire extinguisher and called for help on the radio. Crew Foreman Mike Mills was in the area when he heard the call on the radio and went to the fire to help Williams.

SCDOT awards Transportation Enhancement Program grants

On March 31, 2006, Stan Bland, District #4 Engineering Administrator presented a check for $200,000 to York County. The check was a TEA-21 Rural Enhancement Grant that will be used to assist in the construction of a multi-purpose bike trail along Highway 55 from the Town of Clover to Highway 557.

From left are Wes Spurrier, Clover Town Council; Perry Johnston, York County Council District 2; Dr. Vickie Phelps, Clover School District Superintendent; T. Steve McNeely, Chairman, York County Council; Donnie Burris, Mayor, Town of Clover; Harvey S. Peeler, Senator, South Carolina Senate, District 14; and Stan Bland SCDOT, District 4 Engineer. Commissioner Jones not pictured.

Retirees From District 4

L. B. Cannon, Chester Maintenance 37 years of service. Eddie Mitchell, York Construction 38 years of service. Larry Nichols, York Construction 31 years of service.

Got news?
Contact Edward Moore with your ideas at 803-377-4155 or by e-mailing him at MooreEO@scdot.
Traffic accidents claim two District 5 lives

Austin Enzor
Austin Enzor
Horry Construction Office
Austin Enzor began his career with SCDOT on May 29, 2002 in our summer internship program. Almost instantly it became apparent that he had special characterics. He was a very intelligent, diligent worker, and a quick learner who was committed to his assignments. By the time he was hired as a permanent employee he was experienced in many phases of our inspection duties, proficient on the computer, and productive to our unit. He had the potential and promise to rise through the ranks of our office. Tragically, he lost his life in a terrible traffic accident on February 10. The sorrow and grief was felt by all. Knowing Austin has given us the strength to deal with this difficult time. A plaque has been placed in the Horry Construction Office in his honor, and his memory will serve as a model for other young technicians. Everyone who worked with Austin, considered him a privilege to have known him during his career with SCDOT.

Adrian Daniel Smith
Darlington Maintenance
On April 17, employee Adrian Daniel Smith was tragically killed in a vehicle accident while performing his duties. Adrian had worked with Darlington Maintenance since July 19, 2004. During this time Adrian was the main operator of the AMZ machine. He was a very dependable employee and he stated many times how much he loved his job. Since Adrian started operating the AMZ machine it has been more productive and very little down time. He was well liked by all fellow employees and was a valuable asset to the crew.

A memorial will be placed in the Darlington Maintenance Foyer consisting of a picture of Adrian and engraved plaque.

He is survived by his wife Audrey, two sons, Dylan and Cameron, his father and mother, Donnie K. and Sheila G. Smith and one brother Corey.
On April 11, Corey Washington, with the Specialized Bridge Division, set his first bridge deck on Beaver Dam Road in Jasper County. In January, he attended NCCCO training where he received his certification on the Lattice Boom Crane. Washington has been training under Mike Phillips, Resident Maintenance Foreman for the Specialized Bridge Division.

Meet Debra Jerideau

Debra Jerideau began her career with the DOT in October 1997 in Beaufort/Jasper Construction and transferred to Jasper Maintenance in August 2006. She is pursuing a degree in Human Resource Management at the University of Phoenix. Her hobbies include spending time with her family, reading and shopping. She and her husband, Thomas, have an eight-year-old son, Elliott. She is a member and attends Mt. Nebo Baptist Church.

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Got news?
Contact Janet Hendrix at: 843-740-1667 ext. 128 or by e-mailing her at HendrixJL@scdot.org

District 6 News
Beaufort, Berkeley, Charleston, Colleton, Dorchester and Jasper counties

District Engineer: Robert Clark (843) 740-1665
FAX (843) 740-1663

Equipment Operators Roadeo
Employees show skill at district-level competition

The hard working men and women of District 6 came together for some friendly competition and to test their equipment operating skills. There were a total of 64 participants during the two-day county competition.

And the winners are...

Ricky Stoble
Charleston
Tractor-Mower and Tractor with Lowboy

John Shuler
Dorchester
Single Axle

Leonard Boyd
Dorchester
Tractor-Mower

Maurice Murdaugh
Jasper
Backhoe

Matt Sanford
Charleston
Motorgrader

Congratulations to Corey Washington for getting certification on the lattice boom crane.

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Charleston
Motorgrader

Congratulations to Corey Washington for getting certification on the lattice boom crane.
District 7 News
Allendale, Bamberg, Barnwell, Calhoun, Clarendon, Hampton and Orangeburg counties

District Engineer: Jo Ann Woodrum (803) 531-6850
FAX (803) 531-6854

Got news?
Contact Deborah Berry at: 803-531-6850 or by e-mailing her at BerryDS@scdot.org

H. G. Cooner retires
46 years of dedicated service to SCDOT

H. G. Cooner, Resident Maintenance Engineer, retired from Bamberg Maintenance after 46 years of dedicated service to the department. Cooner became the Resident Maintenance Engineer in 1982. Bamberg Maintenance and Construction employees honored Cooner with a gift of appreciation during his retirement dinner held on November 9, 2005.

Meet Carrie Miller

Name: Carrie Miller
Title: Trades Specialist II
Location: Orangeburg Maintenance

Carrie has worked with Orangeburg Maintenance since May of 2000. Carrie was reassigned in May of 2005 and now operates the broom truck for District 7. She assisted District 6 in sweeping the Cooper River Bridge and a bridge in Beaufort. She is a single mother with one daughter, Jessica. Carrie enjoys fishing and meeting new people!

STEP-21 2006
Grillin’ the Bird in Orangeburg for March of Dimes

STEP-21 2006 participants Gerald Bonnette (left) and Mary Prince (center) coordinated a barbecued-chicken fund raiser on April 6, 2006 in support of the March of Dimes. Darryl and George Kenneth cooked their famous barbecued chicken, and Van Walters (right), Deborah Jamison, Lisa Perry, Bea Kemmerlin, Jeff Smith and Carrie Miller helped prepare and serve the food. Tickets were sold in advance of the event that contributed to the successful turnout of area employees including DMV and Patrol. From Mary and Gerald: “Thank you for supporting STEP-21 2006 and the March of Dimes.”

Bamberg Maintenance earns 2005 safety award

Administrative Assistant Jill McDonald, left, accepts the 2005 Safety Award on behalf of Bamberg Maintenance during the Chamber of Commerce Safety Awards luncheon on March 22. Shown with her is District Seven Safety Representative Debbie Berry, right.
When it comes to health . . .
SCDOT employees walk the walk

By Nurse Dale Thomas

Forty-two SCDOT employees participated in the 2006 Prevention Partners Wellness Walk at Riverfront Park April 28. The walk is sponsored by the Employee Insurance Program/Prevention Partner’s Group and is held annually in the spring at Riverfront Park.

Donna Price of the Human Resources Office and Jennifer Brown of Medical Services managed SCDOT’s participation in the walk.

The park is a 5-mile paved track along the Columbia Canal and Congaree River, and participants were able to walk any distance they desired during their lunch break.

Regular exercise, including walking, running and biking can decrease your risk of premature death, heart attacks, high blood pressure, stroke, cancers, depression, anxiety and obesity.

Just walking improves overall health, lightens mood, and helps improve osteoarthritis.

Watch for information on next April’s walk. Join the SCDOT group and stay healthy as you walk toward a future of better health.

Staff from the Budget and Control Board’s Employee Insurance Program passed out donated fruit, water and bagels to walkers. From left are Annette Taylor, Jim Coples and Ramsey Makhuli. Earthfare, Senn Brothers, Coca-Cola and Manhattan Bagel donated food and water to the program.

SCDOT employees burned off a few hundred calories over lunch April 28 during the annual Wellness Walk at Riverfront Park.

Information provided by the 2006 Employee Insurance Benefits Guide.
**Assets Management**

By Carl Chase Jr., Assets Manager

Air quality in buildings owned by SCDOT employees is of paramount concern to the agency’s top management, and an aggressive campaign is underway to ensure a healthy workplace. This aggressive campaign involves employee education, plans for control of mold, and an awareness campaign that focuses on the importance of a clean and healthy environment.

**STTAR Tips: Delivering Exceptional Customer Service**

By Anne Futch, Secretary, STTAR Alumni Chapter

One of the objectives of the STTAR Alumni Chapter is to promote the Agency’s mission, values and goals to various entities. The Executive Leadership has identified customer service as a “big rock” or critical success factor for the agency. Improving existing service satisfaction by 10% are long-term outcomes that drive the SCDOT strategic plan. With this in mind, the Special Projects Committee of the STTAR Alumni Chapter agreed to write a series of articles about customer service. All employees must take the Quality Customer Service course, which focuses on improving communication skills that enable employees to interact more effectively with others in a courteous and professional manner. The module introduces individuals to customer service, and the skills to be used in performing customer service tasks.

Chris Huenepencker shows the difference between a dirty and clean air filter. The building maintenance staff is changing filters in the heating and air system to ensure clean, fresh air circulates in the building.

SCDOT takes lead role in Assistive Technology Program

Mark Hooper, right, chairman of the South Carolina Assistive Technology Program, talks with John Knope, a Clemson University student, about a blind-friendly PDA at one of the exhibits at the SC Web Accessibility Conference on March 30.