



## Mountain Home named 2003 Project of the Year

by Raini Wright  
LRDispatch Staff

The Little Rock District Mountain Home Project Office won the 2003 Natural Resource Management Project of the Year Award from not only the district, but also Southwestern Division and U.S. Army Corps of Engineers Headquarters.

Each year, the district chief of Operations Division selects the best project office to nominate for the award. That office competes with others in Southwestern Division and finally Corps-wide. SWL projects have won this award for three consecutive years at all three levels.

Each submission is judged by general selection criteria, according to Jack Johnson, an outdoor recreation planner in Natural Resources Management Section. These criteria are management efficiency, public involvement, public safety, management effectiveness and partnerships.

“We owe a great part of our success to management that supported ‘outside the box’ thinking and employees willing to cross traditional boundaries,” Roger Howell, a park ranger at Mountain Home, said. “We have a long history of recruiting and retaining very talented, dedicated and concerned team members.”

All Corps operated land and water projects with significant natural resources management programs are eligible to compete for the award provided they meet the criteria. Project offices must submit a nomination that describes how it meets each of



photo courtesy of Mountain Home Project Office

*Ranger Ronald Sallee gave fishing tips during Norfolk Fishing Derby hosted by Mountain Home Project Office. The goal of the derby is to expose children to the outdoors. More than 260 youngsters participated last year.*

the selection criteria.

“The district has awarded this title to a project office for 25 years,” Johnson said.

This is the first year that Mountain Home has received this award.

(See “Mountain Home” on page 3.)

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[www.swl.usace.army.mil/thewire](http://www.swl.usace.army.mil/thewire)

## Grant fulfills patriotic tradition

by Alan Dooley  
Special to LRDispatch

Because service to the country was one of her family traditions, Logistics Chief Eileen Grant said she wanted to experience firsthand what serving in the military was like. Being a part of Task Force Restore Iraqi Oil gave her this opportunity.



Grant

Ironically, in the past, military service has taken the men of Grant’s family away from home. One of her sons served in the first Gulf War, and her brother-in-law is a Vietnam veteran.

But this time, Grant and other women of her family carried the tradition. Grant’s daughter-in-law drove the refueling trucks to keep the rapidly advancing 101st Airborne Division supplied with fuel and her sister-in-law commanded the Army’s 53rd Transportation Battalion.

Grant left in April to serve with TF RIO in Iraq and Kuwait, with the task of helping reestablish Iraq’s all-essential petroleum system that supplies the nation and provides almost all of its income.

“I wasn’t in favor of America going to war this time,” Grant said. “But once we did, I fell in immediately to support our troops. It couldn’t be any other way.”

Grant said what she heard and saw while in the Middle East has changed her

(See “Grant” on page 7.)

# Fiscal Year 2004 may bring change to district

Power Blackout in Northeast! Catastrophic failure. Fifty million people without power. While the exact cause has not yet been determined, the general consensus is that failing infrastructure was the root of the problem.

Little Rock District also has a failing infrastructure. We have structures over half a century old that have outlived their design life. We have delayed periodic maintenance in order to save money. Much of our infrastructure no longer meets the needs of our constituents.

Funding for maintenance has not increased for the last 10 years. After accounting for inflation, our buying power has effectively been reduced by about 25 percent. It is indeed a credit to the fine people we have working for us that things are as well as they are after considering this severe funding shortfall.

We are about at the end of our fiscal year, and we have been able to live within our budget this year. As we look to fiscal year 2004, things are not as rosy. The budget has not yet been passed, so things might change. However, at this time it looks like we will be making tough choices next year.

At this time, we are not anticipating any major restructuring that will require reductions in force, voluntary separation incentive programs or voluntary early retirement authorities. We are instead looking to bring our requirements in line with our budget. That is, we will not continue to do things that we have done in the past. We will reduce the number of parks that we run and maintain. We will reduce the dredging that we perform. We will reduce operating hours at our visitor centers. We will limit our season on our parks. We may selectively not replace personnel who retire or go elsewhere. We will limit our NRRS involvement.

Our District has done a great job in the past, living on an austere budget. We have earned the USACE Project of the Year for three straight years, with Beaver, Russellville, and this year Mountain Home. We were number one in the military customer satisfaction survey in 2002. We earned Honorable Mention for Environmental Stewardship this past January. We have earned more than our fair share of individual awards at Division and USACE level for the past couple of years. We have done well with our limited resources.

The insufficient funds are now having a very significant effect. Until this August, in my two years as DE, I had not received any letters from patrons commenting on the gross state of disrepair in our parks. That has now changed as I received two in August. Our problems are greater than these two letters acknowledge. We have erosion that has washed away two campsites and threatening a third that we have no funds to fix. We had high water damage in 2002 that we still have not been able to repair.

Rather than try to keep everything running at below acceptable

## From where I sit

by Col. Benjamin Butler  
District Engineer



levels, we will instead stop maintaining certain things in order to keep others at acceptable levels. Of course, those places that we stop maintaining and close will upset some people. We will do our best to limit the impact. Regardless of our efforts to minimize impacts, we know we will still adversely affect someone. It cannot be helped.

People who you know may stop you and ask you why we are no longer keeping these parks open. Please explain to them that national priorities are such that funding for these functions have not kept up with inflation, and we can no longer do what we did. Then thank them for their understanding of the situation.

In summary, our budget outlook for FY04 and beyond is severely limited. Be that as it may, we will ensure we do not have catastrophic failures in our district as they had in the northeast's electrical system. We will be taking the steps that ensure we maintain our infrastructure, but we may stop providing certain services or reduce our operations. Throughout this we will continue to take care of personnel. As you know, SWL has maintained a minimum level of staffing and because we are already lean I feel confident we have the flexibility to adjust to the anticipated future workload. We will make our concerns known to higher authorities and let them decide the priorities of what should be funded and what our nation can no longer afford. We will continue to be good stewards of the taxpayer's dollars.

On another note, this last month we saw Chester Shaw retire after over 40 years of service to the Corps. MAJ John Brown has departed for Ft Leavenworth, and MAJ Trina Patterson has arrived as our new Deputy District Engineer. Many people have returned from their USACE duty in Iraq/Kuwait. We also have had some of our reservists return from their call-up. We still have personnel deployed working either with USACE or the reserves aiding our nation as we continue our struggle to keep the world safe.

More slots are available for those who desire to serve their country overseas. I thank you all for your service wherever you work, as our nation goes through these trying times.

## LRDispatch

- Col. Benjamin Butler** . . . *District Engineer*
- Bob Faletti** . . . . . *Public Affairs Officer*
- Valerie Buckingham** . . . *Command Information Officer*
- Dorothy Seals** . . . . . *Issue Editor*
- Raini Wright** . . . . . *Writer*

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# Shaw completes overseas deployment, retires

by Dorothy Seals  
LRDispatch Staff



Shaw

Although Chester Shaw originally announced in August 2001 that he would be retiring the following January, the

employees at the Pine Bluff Project Office did not have to say good-bye to their operations manager for another two years.

"I made plans to retire, but Sept. 11 came," Shaw said. "It was a devastating

attack not on our military, but on our citizens, and there were threats for more. Our country was not going to stand by, and I was sure that the Corps would be part of something to help prevent future terrorist attacks. So I decided to stay."

Operations Division Chief Mike Miller said he was not surprised by Shaw's patriotic attitude.

"Chester had announced his retirement early to ensure a seamless turnover in the office," Miller said. "But during a site visit in Pine Bluff shortly after Sept. 11, Chester told me that he believed he would be more of a service to the nation working than in retirement. I was not surprised by his decision, but it was gratifying to hear."

Not only did Shaw decide that he could be of more service if he put off retiring, but according to Miller, he also thought he could serve better overseas.

"Chester told me that he had never served overseas and that he would like to

before he retired, especially now when the country really needed him," Miller said.

With Miller's help, Shaw volunteered for the district's Forward Engineer Support Team, which was connected to the 555th Combat Engineering Group from Fort Lewis, Wash.

"When they went to Iraq, we went with them," Shaw said.

Shaw and other FEST members from the district spent two months in Iraq during the later part of the war rebuilding infrastructure, developing base camps and answering engineering questions for the military.

One of Shaw's duties was inspecting the Tikrit Hotel where Saddam's special forces had been organized during the war, according to Associated Press writer Peggy Harris. He said that it had to be destroyed after an observation area was found, which was a good hideout for snipers.

Miller said he is not only proud of what the FEST members accomplished, but he is proud someone from Operations could go and be so effective.

This was Shaw's first trip outside of the United States. He said his wife still doesn't understand why he volunteered for this mission.

"I knew somebody had to step up and do something before it was too late," Shaw said. "My wife didn't like it and thought somebody else could do it, but I know there isn't always someone else."

This decision was right in character for Shaw, according to Hal Lee, park manager at Pine Bluff.

"He never allowed his personal life to

interfere with his professional life, and vice-versa," Lee said. "He worked to support his family and sometimes that meant he had to be away from them for extended periods of time."

Going to Iraq was only Shaw's most recent act of service. He began his career working on the McClellan-Kerr Arkansas River Navigation System during the construction of Norrell, Wilbur D. Mills and Joe Hardin Dams. He has also had significant input on concepts, operations plans and staffing plans at Montgomery Point Lock and Dam.

But he said that two of his fondest memories were working with the district diving program, where from 1974 until a couple of years ago, he served as a diving coordinator, and worked with Dewayne Combs, a retiree from Pine Bluff, on the hydrographic survey system.

His daily duties at Pine Bluff consisted of overseeing operation and maintenance of six locks and dams, 125 miles of navigation channel and 15 recreation areas. For this service, he was named SWL Civilian of the Year for 2003, and, according to Miller, he was also awarded the respect of those around him.

"I knew I could count on things to be taken care of at Pine Bluff," Miller said.

"I had great confidence in Chester. He has always been a strong proponent of the Corps in the community and with key customers. He is a man of integrity and is well respected by his peers, the higher-ups and the customers."

And according to Bob Harris, chief of navigation branch at Pine Bluff, Chester was simply a good supervisor.

(See "Shaw" on page 8.)

## Mountain Home

(Continued from Page 1.)

"It was a tremendous honor to receive this award," Tracy Fancher, park manager of Norfolk and Bull Shoals, said. "It was a team effort from the district down to division. We've worked really hard for a lot of years. The effort was culminated in this award."

Mountain Home's staff also received two other awards this year. John Hiser, a park ranger, was awarded the 2003 Natural Resources Management Employee of the Year. Leah Morrow, a former park ranger at the office, received the 2003 Hiram M. Chittenden Award for Interpretive Excellence. Both employees received these awards on district and division levels.

"I am proud for the Mountain Home Project Office Team," said

Mark Milholland, operations manager. "Recognition by their peers of their accomplishments is most significant. Receipt of these awards is indicative of their passion for their work and their loyalty to the Corps."

Mountain Home is the largest multipurpose project in SWD, operating 30 parks and access areas. Since 1998, 18 of these parks have been listed in the Natural Recreation Reservation Service system for the high quality of its resources.

For 50 years, Mountain Home has provided flood control, hydropower generation, water supply, resource management and recreation for the district.

# District holds first-ever Diversity Day celebration

by Raini Wright  
LRDispatch Staff

Little Rock District celebrated its first Diversity Day on July 30 in the District Engineer's Conference Room.

Col. Benjamin Butler, district engineer, gave opening remarks in which he stressed the day's purpose.

"The intent is to celebrate our diverse past and future as we progress as an organization," Butler said.

According to Michael Johnson, realty specialist in Real Estate Division, Diversity Day was actually the brainchild of a diversity committee formed by Tyrone Hammond, chief of Equal Employment Opportunity Office.

Hammond said he formed the diversity committee in response to a segment of corps employees who felt their heritage was being unrecognized.

The Personal and Professional Enhancement Program 2003 class facilitated the day's program. Presentations were made by Maj. Trina Patterson, deputy district engineer; Lee Bass, assistant chief of project management; and Jorge Gutierrez, chief of programs and project management branch.

Patterson recounted her experiences at Ft. Leavenworth and her pride in being the first African-American female deputy engineer in Little Rock District.

"Diversity is important to an organization," Patterson said. "When we accept and take advantage of all talents, we are ultimately more efficient."

Bass, using a variety of hats, recalled many of his life experiences. Each hat he wore represented a different time of his life.

"We are where we are because of where we've been," Bass said.

Gutierrez educated the audience about the diverse racial background of Hispanic Americans. He stressed the message "we are all cousins." Using a series of PowerPoint slides Gutierrez linked

the heritage of Hispanic Americans with that of Arkansans.

"Diversity Day gives us a chance to really see how alike we are despite our differences," Gutierrez said.

After the presentations, attendees were invited to tour diversity booths displaying cuisine and other artifacts from cultures worldwide. The nine cultures represented were: Korean, Hawaiian, Panamanian, Black Grecian, Polish, Japanese, Yugoslavian, Native American and Indian.

Prior to the afternoon's festivities, Equal Employment Opportunity Office conducted diversity training from 8 a.m. to Noon. The workshop entitled "Diversity: A Matter of Respect," featured guest trainer Dr. Wil Brower. Brower is an educational and management consultant.

Sixty employees attended the training, which is mandatory for all staff, managers and team leaders.

"Our district leaders are required to take four hours of diversity training each year," Hammond said.

During the training, Brower covered topics such as the history of discrimination, the need for affirmative action, case histories and multicultural management. Attendees were frequently separated into discussion groups to arrive at solutions to mock scenarios.

The district's intent is to make Diversity Day an annual celebration.

"By having an all-inclusive event where everyone's heritage can be recognized, Diversity Day further empowers the district by helping us appreciate how our diverse backgrounds contribute to being the 'All American Team' Col. Butler referred to," Johnson said.

Butler summarized the importance of celebrating diversity.

"The world would be boring without difference," Butler said. "When we take the best of everything, we get superb products. The strength of our country lies in its willingness to learn from and accept others."

## Little Rock District loses employee

by Valerie Buckingham  
LRDispatch Staff



He was only with the Little Rock District for two years, but John Geffken made a life-long impression on his co-workers in the survey and data section.

Geffken, died August 14 after a bout with cancer. According

to team leader, Steve Atherton, Geffken was proud to be a part of his profession.

"He was proud to be a registered land

surveyor. He felt very strongly about surveyors being educated and doing a professional job."

Atherton said Geffken would always complete his task in a professional and timely manner and didn't require close supervision. Geffken had been a land surveyor for 20 years. Prior to his employment with the Corps, he worked for a private company and at times worked as a private contractor for the Corps. Atherton said his contract work was one of the reasons he was chosen as a candidate for Corps employment.

"When he came to work here, he required very little training. He already had experience in doing the kind of work we do," Atherton said.

One of the last projects Geffken was working on was writing standard operat-

ing procedures for structural behavior measurements on all locks and dams in the district. Atherton said, even though the measurements are done regularly, there had never been an SOP written. He had completed one SOP and was working on others when he took ill three months ago.

"We set him up at home to work, because the SOP's were something he could do at home."

He continued to work on them up until the last couple of days." Steve Corley, land surveyor in survey and data section, said.

Geffken put his all into any project he took on, but family came first. He was an avid fly fisherman and loved the outdoors. So much so, that he requested his ashes be spread at his favorite campsite.

# Family News

## Births

Carson Bookhout was born July 23 to Jennifer and **Troy Bookhout**. Troy is a maintenance worker at Table Rock Powerhouse.

## Deaths

**Eva Rutt** died July 29. Rutt was the widow of Edward Rutt, retired chief of Engineering Division and one of the initial inductees in the Gallery of Distinguished Employees.

**Bob Myers** died Aug. 15. Myers was a retiree from Real Estate Division.

## Congratulations

**Mickey Beville** completed Table Rock Project Office's four-year power plant trainee program on July 22 and was promoted to journeyman mechanic.

**Rose Garrett**, a mechanical engineer in Mechanical and Electrical Section, was a member of team Pin Busters for the Army Corps of Engineers Bowling League. The team finished second overall this season.

**Steve Harris** from Information Management Office achieved the CompTIA Security+ certification in information technology. Harris also holds Cisco Certified Network Administrator, CompTIA A+, CompTIA Network+, Fiber Optics, Data Communications and Wireless certifications.

Little Rock District's Contracting Team won the Federal Employee of the Year award on May 6. The team members included **Helen McCullough**, **Dea Knight** and **Chuck Sontag**.

**Jeremy Brown** married Michelle Meloy on July 12. Brown is a civil engineering technician co-op student at Clearwater Project Office.

**Mike Richards**, a park ranger at Table Rock Project Office, was selected chief ranger at Beaver Project Office. His last day at Table Rock was Aug. 22.

**Tricia Tannehill**, a temporary park ranger at Table Rock Project Office, was promoted to a GS-09 temporary ranger position.

Jeffrey Lindsey, son of **David Lindsey**, crane operator at Dardanelle Marine Terminal, won first place awards for his graphic design portfolio in larger daily newspapers from the Arkansas Press Association.

## Customer Care

Dear **Robin Parks**:

We are very excited at the Ashdown Mill about the opportunities in front of us to work with the City of Ashdown, Little River County and organizations like the Little River Chamber of Commerce in building partnerships that will contribute to the growth and prosperity of our community. I want to personally thank you for the role you played in developing these partnership opportunities.

I am committed to delivering on the Mill's promise to be a more involved community citizen. Thank you for your dedication to making Ashdown the best it can be, and for your keen understanding of how important it is to develop positive partnerships for growth. I look forward to continuing to work with you.

Respectfully,  
Warren L. Allen  
Domtar, General Manager

Dear **Mark. Milholland**:

This letter is to advise you that dealing with Rangers **Mark Case** and **Allan Griffin** was a pleasure. Both gentlemen were courteous and efficient in their dealing with me. I have heard horror stories about dealing with the Corps. That was not the case in my instance. I feel that if documents are presented in a proper manner the Corps is most efficient and impartial.

Ranger Mark Case was very helpful in guiding me through the procedure in obtaining a permit for a private floating facility. His assistance, and I am sure some patience, was invaluable. The same for Ranger Alan Griffin who was quick to return telephone calls and answer questions I had. Both gentlemen are a credit to their positions.

Thank you for the permit and a pleasurable experience in obtaining same.

Sincerely,  
Mark Didden



# Seminar gives insight to other profession

by **Pat Bennett**  
Special to LRDispatch



**Bennett**

During the month of April I had the opportunity and pleasure of helping with one of the special emphasis programs held each year in the Little Rock District. When I first heard about the particular program Real Estate

Division had been assigned -- Administrative Professionals Week -- I will admit my first thoughts were, "Not another program taking up my time. I have so much to do and here is something else infringing on my schedule." After taking the time to think about the program, I realized this really was a very deserving group worthy of recognition. Not to say other groups aren't, but I am a little prejudice, having worked as a realty

clerk, legal technician and a budget/program analyst. They are a group of people you work with and see in the building every day. That group of individuals helps you remember all the meetings you scheduled, prepares your budget, orders your supplies, pays the bills, prepares your travel orders/vouchers, correspondence and many other tasks too numerous to list. Doing all these things while drudging through the dreaded Corps of Engineers Financial Management System beast. They take lots of flack for things over which they have no control. They smile and listen politely while you whine about everything and anything.

As part of the special emphasis program a group of administrative professionals from throughout the district traveled to Branson, Mo., for a seminar. Some might think this was just another boondoggle. I will admit it was a nice trip to a beautiful place, but it was also good to see all the interaction and discussion that took place amongst the presen-

ters and attendees. The staff at Table Rock was great. They not only welcomed everyone with open arms, they took time from their busy schedules to prepare and present programs about varying subjects. We heard about the many resources available on Table Rock Lake, such as shoreline management, hydropower and natural resources/recreation. Thanks to all the great Table Rock personnel - Ken Foersterling, Marilyn Jones, Stan Jones, Greg Oller, Rodney Raley and all the people who worked behind the scenes to make our visit so memorable. I would also like to thank Mr. Donald Dunn for his motivational presentation. Last, but not least, thanks to Col. Butler for all his input and support in this endeavor.

All in all I had a great time and came away with a renewed appreciation for all the administrative personnel in the district. I want to personally thank you for all the things you do everyday - supporting the Corps of Engineers...supporting the mission...supporting the Nation.



Valerie Buckingham

Tim Bohannon, Ordnance and Explosive Safety Specialist, Fort Worth District, admires the 3-star coin from Lt. Gen. Robert Flowers, chief of Engineers that was presented to Dallas Lynch, retired Emergency Management chief, during Formerly Used Defense Sites training at the district August 21.

## Congratulations



**Rodney Kelley**, Real Estate Division, has been certified in Negotiation and Acquisition by the International Right of Way Association. He is the first in the district to receive this certification.

## RETIREES!

Join us for a trip on the MV Shorty Baird and visit with other members of the Corps of yesterday at

**Retiree Day 2003  
Sept. 9**

Boarding will begin 8:30 a.m. at Murray Lock and Dam. The cost for breakfast and lunch is \$14.00. For more information, call (501)324-5551.

# Grant

(Continued from Page 1.)

for life. She said one thing she will never forget is the image of the Iraqi children standing alongside the road to Basra.

"I wish I could have brought all of them back to America with me," she said sadly. "I've got to find ways to help them. Maybe I can persuade companies to contribute clothes, or some of the other things they so desperately need."

Grant went on to note how Iraqis have been mentally imprisoned for decades.

"It's such a rich nation for the people to be so poor," she said.

But Grant spoke with pride and warmth of her colleagues. She was especially glowing over the young soldiers she shared her living quarters and meals with.

"They were all so young, but they were so good too," she said. "I heard some people complain about the latrines being dirty. These kids hadn't had latrines, showers or even cots to sleep on for weeks when they came to Camp Doha to rest and recover."

Grant said she tried to serve them by being a good listener as they relived their experiences, expressed concerns or fears about home, or just talked about nothing in particular.

"Just being with them made me proud to be an American," she said. "I wanted to do whatever I could for them."

She also showed concern for her teammates in Kuwait. For the Fourth of July, she spearheaded a successful program to collect money from senior members of the group to sponsor a catered meal for everyone.

"I felt it was even more important to celebrate our nation's liberty over here," she noted.

She also pushed to create an especially well-received Camp Doha observance of Engineer Day.

During her last few days at Camp Doha, Kuwait, Grant took several of the TF RIO replacements to visit the group's first work place in a warehouse that had no air conditioning or doors.

"They had A/C when I arrived, but when the dust blew, it came in through the cracks so badly that you could write your notes on your desk each morning without paper," Grant said.

During her time in Iraq, Grant watched a small group merely trying to survive become a functional organization directing over \$1 billion. Grant said the experience was satisfying.

"We've accomplished extraordinary things there. And more are coming," she said.

Grant said this could be a life changing experience for others as well.

"If they are coming for the money, or think they will live somewhere luxurious, they shouldn't come," she said. "If they come to learn and serve, it will change their lives forever."

What is she taking home with her? "It's not the souvenirs," she said. "It's satisfaction. I know I can look myself in the mirror, and again, be proud to be an American."



Steven Wright

*Eileen Grant was presented an Army Civilian Meritorious Service Award by Task Force Commander and Southwestern Division Commander, Brig. Gen. Robert Crear for her superior service as chief of logistics from April through August while assigned to the mission Restore Iraqi Oil.*

Grant reported that her perspective on life has changed.

"Different things are important now. I like my job at home, but past concerns kind of pale into insignificance," she said. "I will never again be able to get too upset over the square footage of someone's office space. I guess it's all relative, but after you have managed more than \$1 billion with 70 people, hearing ten times as many people obsess over one-tenth as much money won't have the same impact."

This experience has also cast the die for a future change in career direction for Grant.

"I've got a dream of a combined care center for children and the elderly," she said. "I think they'd be so good for each other," she said. "But this is all in the future – sometime after 2008."

Grant flew out of the Kuwait City on Aug. 9, marking the end of her assignment with TF RIO. She returned home Aug. 11. While in Kuwait, Grant said she was eager to return home.

"I knew my friends and family were eager for me to get back," she said. "And so was my district commander, Col. Benjamin Butler. He's been great. He was at the airport for each of our departures, and he sent us pictures of our families while we were gone."

Grant has three children, two sons and a daughter. Her son served in the Army and is now employed as an aircraft mechanic by Cessna, in Wichita, Kan. Another son Raymond, works in the insurance industry in Oklahoma City. Her daughter Stacey is a schoolteacher in Jacksonville. She also has eight grandchildren.

*(Editor's Note: Alan Dooley is St. Louis District's chief of Public Affairs. Dooley submitted this article while he was in Kuwait for Task Force Restore Iraqi Oil.)*

# Shaw

(Continued from Page 3.)

“Chester gave you a job to do, the resources, and just let you go do it,” Harris said. “He wanted you to let him know the status of things, but did not excessively impose himself on your time or your plans. This developed people and provided the Pine Bluff team opportunities to innovate and modify how jobs get done.

“When people are allowed to work this way, they get a great deal of job satisfaction, and the work place is friendlier and safer.”

Kay Dice, an administrative officer at Pine Bluff who worked with Shaw for 25 years, agreed with Harris.

“Chester is just an outstanding individual, both personally and professionally,” she said.

“I could not have asked for a finer supervisor. He was always fair and took the time to listen.”

Lee added that he learned several valuable lessons from Shaw.

“As an engineer, he taught me that sometimes the size of the pump doesn’t matter as long as the water continued to run downhill and had a place to go,” Lee said.

“As a government employee, he allowed me the freedom to work and do whatever ‘my britches were big enough to handle’ as long as it was done within the rules, and I kept an eye on the taxpayers’ money.

Shaw’s last day at the office was Aug. 2. Although he has not been gone long, Harris said he already misses him.

“I have worked with Chester Shaw for as long as I have been



photo courtesy of Pine Bluff Project Office

*Chester Shaw, middle, was joined at his retirement party by two former Pine Bluff resident engineers Cleveland Kerry, left, and Harold Hammersla, right.*

with the district, about 17 years,” Harris said.

“Chester is already missed. He had a sense of confidence about him that he was somehow able to share with those around him.”



## Annual Float on the Arkansas River

**Tuesday, Sept. 9  
6:00 to 8:00 p.m.**

The Arkansas Post of Society of American Military Engineers is hosting an Arkansas River Float Trip aboard the Little Rock District Army Corps of Engineers Inspection Barge with boarding beginning at 5:30 p.m. The barge will depart from Murray Lock and Dam. Parking will be available. A barbecue dinner will be served and music will be provided for your entertainment. The cost for the trip is \$12 per person for SAME members and their families, \$15 per person for non-members, and \$7 for children 13 and under.

Please R.S.V.P by Sept. 4 by sending a check made out to Arkansas Post SAME to Carter & Burgess, Inc. ATTN: Alaina Johnson, 10809 Executive Center Suite 204. Little Rock, Ark. 72211-6021. Those at the Corps may also send their check to Mr. Wayne Lewis, Assistant Chief of Engineering and Construction.

## Tell Us What You Think

*Editor’s note: The LRDispatch staff welcomes your opinions. Letters must be signed. If you choose to have your name withheld from publication, we will honor your request.*

*Comments and Family News submissions must be received by October 1 for publication in the November issue. Send your comments to [valerie.d.buckingham](mailto:valerie.d.buckingham)*

*@[usace.army.mil](mailto:usace.army.mil) or mail them to Public Affairs Office at P.O. Box 867, Little Rock, AR 72203-0867.*

*We reserve the right to refuse publication of any letter that is deemed libelous.*

*Remember to keep the criticism constructive and the questions coming.*

# Children of all ages benefit from swim lessons

by Tasha Stratton

Special to LRDispatch

The story is that I could swim before I could walk. My parents had me taking swim lessons when I was 9 months old, and by 2, I had the ability to swim. At the ripe old age of 4, I was competing on a swim team. About six years ago, I started teaching as a career.

To me, there is nothing better than watching a child learn the joys and freedom of swimming.

This importance was brought home about seven years ago when my daughter, who was 2 at the time, went to a local lake with my mother to feed the ducks. While peering over the edge of the dock, my daughter fell in. From taking lessons, she knew to turn around and head back to the dock, where my mother was able to pull her out of the water safely. When asked what it was like under the water, my daughter said it was "rose colored and pretty."

With all the lakes and rivers in Arkansas, it is important for everyone to know how to swim no matter their age. You can never completely "drown proof" your child, or make a child "water safe," but children exposed to water at a young age gain a respect and understanding of the water.

Aquatic instruction is an ongoing process that should continue over the long term to maximize the child's learning of proper swimming techniques and respect for the water.

For children 6 months to 3 years old, starting in a parent/child class can be very rewarding. This class is designed to introduce your child to the water in a comfortable and trusting environment. The goal is to teach proper technique and routines that make the transition to swimming easier for your child.

Another option is to take private lessons.

A beginner-level group swim lesson is a fun activity for children older than 3. The

first step is to develop water comfort if your child has never been exposed to the water or has had a traumatic experience. After your child is comfortable in the water, the learning-to-swim process is easier. Water safety is also reiterated at this level.

The beginner-level lessons are in no way a stopping point. Intermediate-lessons will help your child develop better technique and better breath control and learn advanced water safety. When your child learns to swim, a swim team is a great way to teach perfect technique, exercise and participate in a team sport. It's a lot of fun building values and friendships that last a lifetime.

For those who have never had contact with the water, it's never too late to learn to swim. One young man that comes to mind learned how to swim in his late 20's. He was petrified of the water at his first lesson. When he went into chest-deep

(See "Swimming" on page 11.)

# Tire safety is important; your life is riding on it

Last week driving to work I witnessed a tire blowout. The 6 a.m. traffic was traveling about 65 to 70 mph. We slowed our vehicles and stayed well out of the way while the operator maneuvered her vehicle to a safe stop.

When is the last time you gave serious thought to the components of your vehicle, such as the tires? Tires are a vital part of vehicle safety. The National Safety Council reported Americans drove 2.4 trillion miles in 2001, and that number doesn't include commercial vehicles. The NSC also reported 647 tire-related deaths that year.

All four tires and the spare tire should be checked once a month and before every medium or long trip to ensure all parts are in safe working order.

Under-inflated tires result in unnecessary tire stress, irregular wear, loss of control and accidents. A tire can lose up to half of its air pressure and still not appear flat. It is important to have the proper air pressure in your tires, as under-inflation could lead to tire failure. The vehicle manufacturer specifies the right amount of air for the tires and that infor-



mation is shown on the vehicle door edge, doorpost, glove box door, fuel door or owner's manual. Before checking your tires be conscious of the weather. You should add air pressure in a tire when the weather turns warm or lower the pressure in cold weather. Add one to two pounds of pressure for every 10-degree temperature change.

When checking air pressure in your tires makes sure the tires are cool, meaning they are not hot from driving even a mile. If you have to drive to a service station check the air, record the pressure first and add the appropriate amount when you get to the pump. It is normal for tires to heat up and the air pressure inside the tire to go up as you drive. Never reduce air pressure when tires are hot.

If you overfill a tire, release air by pushing on the metal stem in the center of the valve with either a fingernail or the tip of a pen. Then recheck the pressure with the tire gage. Visually inspect the tires to make sure there are no nails or other objects embedded to cause an air leak. Also check the sidewalls of the tires for gouges, cuts, bulges, or other roughness.

A hard jolt from hitting a curb or pothole can throw your front end out of alignment and damage your tires. If your car's suspension is out of alignment, your tires will wear unevenly and you could experience handling problems. Have a tire dealer check your alignment periodically as specified by the owner's manual. In addition to alignment, also have the balance checked periodically. An unbalanced tire and wheel assembly could result in irregular wear.

Rotating your tires is important. Regularly rotating your tires will help you achieve more uniform wear. Each tire on your car supports a different amount of weight, and this uneven weight distribu-

(See "Safety" on page 10.)

# New park, leadership materials added to library

## Park Materials

“Official Study for the Certified Park and Recreation Professional Examination” (GV787.35 .R68 2001) now includes information about the computerized exam. Published by the National Recreation and Park Association, the volume covers an overview, the content of the test, major subject areas tested, a bibliography on all areas and a practice test.

“Prophet of the Parks; the Story of William Penn Mott, Jr.” (SB482 .A4 B88 1999) covers Mott’s personal and professional life while highlighting the traits and principles that made him an outstanding leader. Mott was a major figure in the advancement and expansion of parks in California. The author presents “Six Principles of Leadership” extracted from his words and actions.

“Playground Safety Is No Accident: Developing a Public Playground Safety and Maintenance Program” (GV425 .K87 2002). The book includes chapters on playground safety audit process, playground inspections, high and low frequency inspections, signage, accidents and documentation. The work also includes forms and case studies.

“Standard Consumer Safety Performance Specifications for Playground Equipment for Public Use” (GV425 .S42 2001) is the American Society for Testing Materials standard that establishes nationally recognized safety standards for public playground equipment to address injuries identified



by the U.S. Consumer Product Safety Commission.

## New Leadership and Team Building Materials

“The Five Dysfunctions of a Team” (HD 66 .L456 2002) offers analysis and improvement suggestions for building good teams through fable. The last part of the volume provides a model with team assessment and steps to overcome the five dysfunctions.

“First Among Equals; How to Manage a Group of Professionals” (HD66 .M3946 2002) addresses the leading professionals and technical experts. The book gives practical advice, usable tools and case examples. It is filled with workable advice for both team leaders and managers.

“Making Six Sigma Last; Managing the Balance Between Cultural and Technical Change” (HD58.8 .E275 2001) gives practical application of the management philosophy of Six Sigma which was popularized by General Electric in the 1990’s. The book focuses on management activi-

ties to create a balance between the technical elements of Six Sigma and the cultural elements that must exist.

“Good to Great” (HD 57.7 C645 2001) provides lessons for success from the study of 28 companies. Based on the empirical research, the work surprises the reader with the key concepts for managers to consider. Both the book and the audio CD can be found in the PPEP collection.

The second edition of “Leadership Challenge” (HD57.7 .K68 2002) presents practical insights derived from hundreds of interviews. Written by James Kouzes, the volume addresses such topics as what leaders do and constituents expect, modeling the way, enabling others to act and leadership for everyone.

## Resource for Technical Managers

“From Engineer to Manager; Mastering the Transition” (TA 190 .A93 2002) teaches important skills needed to move from technical worker to the management of technical workers. The work contains six fundamental principles to promote success.

### Hot Web Site of the Month

<http://www.studentjobs.gov/e-scholar.htm>

**Student opportunities for federal government internships, scholarships and grants.**

## Safety

(Continued from Page 9.)

tion causes your tires to wear at different rates. If you rotate your tires you will extend their life.

Unless your vehicle owner’s manual has a specific recommendation, the guideline for tire rotation is every 6,000 miles. If your tires show uneven wear, ask your tire dealer to check for and correct any misalignment, imbalance or other mechanical problem involved before rotation. Sometimes front and rear tires use different pressures. After rotation, adjust individual tire air pressure to the figures recommended for each wheel position by the vehicle manufacturer.

Advanced and unusual wear can reduce the ability of tread to grip the road in adverse conditions. Visually check your tires for uneven wear, looking for high and low areas or unusually smooth areas. Also check for signs of damage.

Tires must be replaced when the tread is worn down to 1/16 inch in order to minimize blowouts, skidding and hydroplaning. An easy test is to place a penny into a tread groove. If part of Lincoln’s head is covered by the tread, you are driving with the proper amount of tread. If you can see all of Lincoln’s head, it’s time to buy a new tire.

Built in tread wear indicators or wear bars that look like narrow strips of smooth rubber across the tread will appear on the tire when the tread is worn down to 1/16 inch. When you see these bars, the tire is worn out and must be replaced.

The fact is driving with tires in good condition on your vehicle are as important as a seatbelt. Check your tires often and replace them when signs show wear. Your very life may depend on the condition of your tires.

# Customizing Word makes word-processing easier

In the default installation of Microsoft Word, only the standard toolbar is displayed. However, Word has 16 different toolbars and many built-in buttons that can be customized to fit your word processing needs. For example, if you routinely make formatting changes to your documents, you should add the formatting toolbar.

There are several ways to customize your toolbars.

For a list of options, select the *View* menu and choose *Toolbars*, or simply right-click on the toolbar area. A pull-down menu will appear with different toolbars to choose from. To add a toolbar, click on the one you want to add, and it will be placed in the toolbar area. Toolbars that are already selected will have checkmarks beside them in the pull-down menu. You can add multiple toolbars by selecting the ones you want.

Adding all of the toolbars will make your screen very cluttered. It is also likely you will have many buttons that you will never use. So, a more suitable option is to customize your toolbar. To do this, pull down the *Toolbar* menu and choose *Customize*. Select the *Commands* tab. The left side will list the categories of commands that are available. The right side will display the buttons that are available for that category. To add one of these commands to your toolbar, select the button and drag it to an existing toolbar. To delete a button from a toolbar, press *ALT* key while clicking and dragging the button off the toolbar.

Another way to add and remove buttons is by clicking on the *More Buttons* option at the end of the toolbar.

## Swimming

(Continued from Page 9.)

water, I thought he was going to have a full-blown panic attack, but he was unwavering.

By the second lesson, he was determined to go under water. I gave him my goggles, we worked on breath control, and down he went. He stayed under water for a good 30 seconds looking around. When he came up he had the most amazed look on his face.

"I could never have imagined that it would look like that under water," he said. He spent the rest of the lesson under water.

Giving your child swimming lessons is a gift that can never be matched. At some point in your child's life he or she will be invited to a pool party, water skiing, canoeing or to the beach with a friend. With all the pools and bodies of water around Little Rock, it is vitally important that everyone learns to swim.

A few important reminders of water safety are: Constantly supervise your child around pools and open water no matter his or her swimming ability. Pool areas should be completely fenced in. Parents and caretakers should be certified in CPR. Never swim alone. Never swim during a thunderstorm. Give your child swimming instructions in a high-quality aquatics environment.

(Editor's Note: This article is reprinted with permission from Little Rock Family Magazine. Tasha Stratton is the daughter-in-law of retiree Don Dugan. She works with Little Rock Athletic Club's Lasers Swim Team.)

A pull-down menu will appear, and you can select or deselect buttons for the toolbar.

There are other options you can customize. Right-click in the toolbar area and choose *Customize* then select the *Options* tab. You can choose to have your *Standard* and *Formatting* toolbars share one row by checking that option.

You can also choose to have your menus show recently used commands first. If this box is unchecked, when you pull down a menu, you will see all of the available menu options. If the box is checked, your pull-down menus will only display recently used commands. To access other menu options you need to click the double-headed arrow or choose the *Show full menus after a short delay* option.



**Lissa Simpson**  
Customer Assistance &  
Applications Section

### Underwater welding



photo courtesy of Glenn Proffitt

In May, dive teams from Russellville and Pine Bluff Project Offices took to the waters of Greers Ferry Lake for training in underwater exothermic cutting and shielded material arc welding. This training consisted of underwater cutting and welding, and classroom work, including safety aspects and precautionary measures.

Russellville dive team members included Spencer Cox, David Gibson, Aaron McGee, Glenn Proffitt and James Robinson. Paul Brown, James Childers, Dale Green, Gary Martin, Blake McCord, Wes Sparks and Rockie Sullivan represented the Pine Bluff team. Proffitt said this training could not have been completed without the help of Tommy Park and the Greers Ferry Project Office.

# Auxillary spillway will provide flood protection

by **Raini Wright**  
LRDispatch Staff

The Table Rock Dam Auxiliary Gated Spillway, located eight miles upstream from Branson, Mo., will provide eight additional gates for water release from Table Rock Lake if extreme flooding occurs.

This spillway is a new structure designed to prevent the existing dam from becoming overtopped and destroying its embankment and surrounding areas.

About 10 years ago, the Corps began nationwide testing of its dams to ensure structural soundness along with adequate storage and spillway capacity to withstand probable maximum floods. While testing, they discovered that the initial calculations for Table Rock Lake were inaccurate.

"The probable maximum flood would overtop the dam by more than five feet and cause the earthen embankment to fail, and catastrophic flooding in downstream areas," Margaret Morehead, a project manager in Programs and Project Management Division, said.

In 1993, Little Rock District launched

the Table Rock Dam Safety Assurance Evaluation study, and from this, determined that an auxiliary spillway was the best solution.

The new spillway will appear almost identical to the existing one except it will have eight tainter gates instead of 10. Each gate will be 45 feet wide for a total length of 500 feet.

The project is being built with two major contracts. The first contract was for clearing the site and digging the hole for the new spillway. The second contract is for the actual construction of the spillway.

The project consists of three phases. Phase I, completed in September 2000, dealt with spillway excavation, grout curtain installation and embankment construction. Phase II, set for completion in July 2004, includes construction of the new gated spillway, spillway road bridge, and excavation of the entrance channel. Phase III, set for completion in October, consists of the relocation of Moonshine Beach and construction of new beach facilities and a pavilion.

"All phases of the project have proceeded with no major setbacks," Acting Resident Engineer Jon Wedgeworth said.

Since the new spillway site is near the Moonshine Beach day use area, public interest in the area created the need for a replacement facility. Restrictions were placed on spillway construction to minimize disruptions to existing park facilities.

Improvements for the new park included an extended sand beach area, waterborne restrooms with outside rinse off showers, water fountains, picnic tables with grills, playground, group pavilion, paved roads and a parking area. The group pavilion will include a fireplace, cooking area, serving counters and picnic tables, accommodating up to 100 people. The relocated Moonshine Beach opened Aug. 1.

Construction has caused minimal impacts on the environment.

"Two sediment ponds were constructed downstream to collect rainfall runoff and allow sediment to settle out," Morehead said.

The project will benefit the environment through the construction of a new pipeline providing water to the fish hatchery, and will benefit the public through an improved recreational facility.

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