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LRDispatch

Cruise celebrates river's benefits

by P.J. Spaul
LRDispatch staff

Representatives from the Arkansas Game and Fish Commission, Arkansas Hospitality Association and Little Rock District, as well as private citizens, traveled the Arkansas River in June from Fort Smith to Dumas with a flotilla of motor yachts, houseboats, cruisers and runabouts in what was dubbed the "Arkansas River Good News Cruise."

The good news being spread was that the McClellan-Kerr Arkansas River Navigation System is an important economic asset to the state. But more importantly, the message the cruise touted was that local, state and federal agencies are working together with private interests to increase the benefits this resource has to offer.

From June 11 through 15, the 11-vessel flotilla, which included Little Rock District's vessel the *Montgomery Point* from Fort Smith to Lake Dardanelle and the *Shorty Baird* and *Inspection Barge* on the rest of the trip, stopped at 10 communities along the way to hold news conferences and, at some locations, evening social events.

Besides the Corps vessels and AGFC's law enforcement boats, the flotilla consisted of an impressive array of privately-owned yachts and vessels. These citizens were dedicated to helping spread the word during the trip.

"It was one of the biggest public relations events in the Corps," said Ed Watford, deputy district engineer for project management.

Watford, who was the district's main spokesman, told the gatherings about the many benefits the river brings, to include navigation,

hydropower, flood reduction and recreation. But his main theme, along with others in the flotilla, was the cooperation among federal, state, local and private sectors that is working to improve the benefits.

"The best aspect of the cruise was the ability to get the word out about our partnership and relationship with Game and Fish," he said. "It's not what we said about it, it's what they said about it."

Allen Carter, senior fisheries biologist for AGFC, spoke highly of the ongoing cooperative efforts, especially as they pertain to the ongoing habitat restoration efforts that have resulted as part of the Arkansas River Navigation Study, as reported in previous editions of the *LRDispatch*.

At Clarksville, while speaking at a news conference adjacent to a new launch ramp built through a cooperative effort between the district and AGFC, Carter referred to the ongoing habitat improvements.

He said he "would never have believed he would see biologists, engineers and anglers sit together and agree with one other."

He praised the relationship that has developed between the Corps and AGFC, as well as with private groups.

At Russellville State Park, Richard Davies,
(See "Cruise" on Page 10.)



Photo by P.J. Spaul

Ed Watford discusses benefits of the Arkansas River with a Ft. Smith television news crew during the Arkansas River Good News Cruise.

Anniversaries give time to reflect, plan ahead

June 14 was the 227th birthday of our United States Army. On June 21, we celebrated our USACE heritage with Engineer Day.

We will celebrate the 226th birthday of our country July 4, and July 20 will mark the first anniversary of my assignment to this outstanding district.

We need to highlight these events, not just to mark the passing of time, but also to celebrate our past victories and learn from our mistakes. It is an opportunity to examine where we are today, to see what we are doing well and where we can make improvements.

It is a time to dream of how our future should look, and to begin taking the first steps that will allow us to transform those dreams into reality.

Our past is truly something that should make us all proud. Our country, more than any other, is a land of opportunity. We have a system that encourages evolutionary change so we do not have to resort to revolutionary eruptions.

While not quite perfect, it gives hard working people the opportunity to improve their lives. It looks out for both public interests and private concerns.

Our system thrives on the grand diversity that comprises the population. Though some call America a melting pot, I think it is more like a good stew, where each ingredient maintains its own distinction, but the final product is much better than any one ingredient could have been alone.

Our Army and Corps of Engineers likewise have a fine history. Militarily, we are the strongest in the world.

Our forefathers had the insight to see how our waterways are tied to national security, so we now have a superb infrastructure that supports commerce and provides power that helps run the leading economic power in the world. You should be proud of the part you play in supporting our military and our economy.

During my year here, I have learned a lot. I have learned what a great mission and what outstanding employees we have here in Little Rock District.

Our mission encompasses everything from supporting the war on terrorism to providing power to some of your homes. We help the Air Force train pilots. We provide recreational opportunities for thousands each year.

The Corps' mission ranges from supporting the navigation industry as they inexpensively move goods, to providing flood control so that fewer Americans lose what they have worked so hard and so many years to earn.

I have found out what great public servants we have. They not only work hard all day for their government, giving their all

From where I sit

by Col. Benjamin Butler
District Engineer



to their fellow taxpayers, but they work hard after hours supporting their communities by volunteering. I am truly proud to be part of such an organization.

We have done so much in the past, but in order to continue doing our best in the future, we must adapt. Our country is struggling balancing necessary security requirements with our Bill of Rights.

We must protect our Constitution from all enemies, both foreign and domestic. We must ensure that our people are free from fear of terrorists, while maintaining the freedoms guaranteed in our Constitution.

Our Army is training hard in preparation to win our nation's wars. However, there is no consensus on what the next war will look like and what is the best way to prepare.

Thus, we must be ready to fight terrorists, oppose guerilla actions, and conduct major force on force combat. These are diverse missions and staying prepared for each of the above is not an easy task.

It is a task in which we cannot and must not fail.

Our USACE is continuing to change, so as to provide the best possible contributions to our nation. We are placing more emphasis on the environment, while we continue to put the nation's resources to their best use.

Water is fast becoming as precious as oil. Your Corps is well positioned to protect this resource.

Our method of doing business is also changing as we move to our Project Management Business Process. This is largely a change of mindset.

We now look more for mutually beneficial choices, instead of making decisions in favor of one interest at the expense of others. The process focuses on teamwork, ensuring that all are involved until the mission is complete.

PMPB is not the old system where one element works the

(See "Colonel" on Page 9.)

LRDispatch



U.S. Army Corps
of Engineers
Little Rock District

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Family news

Births

Lauren Josephine was born June 5. She is the grandchild of **Richard Reiter**, a facility maintenance inspector at Table Rock Project Office.

Congratulations

Rebecca Shortt, a co-op park ranger at Table Rock Lake, graduated May 17 from Southwest Missouri State University with a masters of science in administrative studies.

Charles Hagston, son of Table Rock Powerhouse Mechanic **Charlie Hagston**, graduated May 12 from the College of the Ozarks with a bachelors of science in business.

Recipients of SAME scholarships for the 2002-2003 school year were:

First Place: Stephen Lee of Bryant High School. Lee will attend either Louisiana Tech or Arkansas State University.

Second Place: Christopher Payne of J.A. Fair High School. Payne will attend either University of Arkansas at Fayetteville, University of Alabama or Vanderbilt.

Third Place: Marquis Mitchell of Sylvan Hills High School. Mitchell will attend the University of Arkansas at Fayetteville.

First and second place receive \$1,000 scholarships and third place is worth a \$500 scholarship.

Chris Smith and **Roger Howell** received the Commander's Award May 20 from General Melcher for exceptional leadership during a meeting at division involving the finalization of the Division Critical Incident Stress Management program. Smith is an outdoor recreation planner in Operations Division. Howell is a park ranger at Mountain Home Project Office.

Wes Sparks successfully completed all requirements and earned his Arkansas Registered Professional Forester designation on May 15. Sparks is a park

ranger at Pine Bluff Project Office.

Deaths

Robert Wenger's brother, William Wenger, passed away June 1. Dardanelle Field Office.

David Kimery's father passed away in June. David is a park ranger at Ozark Field Office.

New Faces

Rachel Smith is a new biological science technician for the Environmental Section of Planning, Environment and Regulatory Division.

Promotions

Jan Jones was selected as chief, Reservoir Control Branch on a temporary assignment.

Speaker's Bureau

Beaver Lake Operations Manager

Marilyn Jones conducted a 30-minute radio program for KFAY in Fayetteville on May 23 concerning Beaver Lake high water conditions and what people could expect for Memorial Day weekend.

Beaver Lake Park Ranger **Alan Bland** conducted a program for 31 people May 22 on eagles and other birds of prey for the Brookstone Assisted Living Center in Fayetteville.

Russellville Project Office Park Rangers **Allison Smedley**, **Ruth Millsaps**, **Jennifer Hoban**, **John Bridgeman** and volunteer Jerry Millsaps conducted six lock tours for 150 Dardanelle sixth-grade students on May 22.

Conrad Miller and **Glenn Proffitt** hosted the Southwest Federal Hydropower Conference May 13-15 in Branson. Proffitt is a mechanical engineer and Miller is the chief of Hydropower Section.

(See "Family News" on Page 4.)

227th Army Birthday

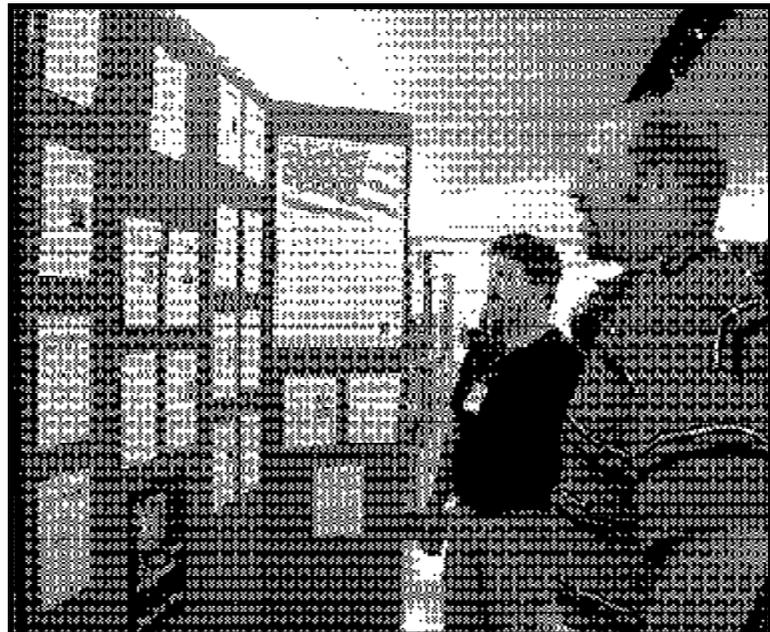


Photo by Jamie Oliver

Chris Reicks and Mike Biggs read information posted about their co-workers in honor of the Army's birthday June 14. The display and information, assembled by the Public Affairs Office, paid tribute to district employees who have served or are serving in the Army.

Corps chaplain tours district office, Toad Suck

by **Jamie Oliver**
LRDispatch staff

Corps of Engineers Chaplain (Colonel) Lowell Moore visited Little Rock District June 3 and 4.

His visit included a breakfast with district employees, Tuesday, June 4 in the Blue Cross cafeteria and a tour of Toad Suck Lock and Dam in Conway. During the breakfast, the chaplain held an informal question and answer session with employees,

followed by a brief devotional.

Although the visit was short, Moore said he tried pass through every section in the district office.

He said that during trips like this, he tries to meet as many employees as he possibly can.

"I want to be available in case some of my people happen to have a need and are looking for someone to help them with a particular situation," Moore said.

"I hope to establish enough of a relationship with everyone I meet so if they encounter a problem in the future, they might feel comfortable contacting me and letting me try to help."

Moore said he found religion during a stint in the Marines. He said he joined the Marines after a fight with his mother.

"I thought, well I'll show her and I joined the Marines," Moore said. "Yeah, I was really showing her when I was doing all those pushups."

Although he calls Washington, D.C., home, the chaplain said he travels extensively because of his duties and that he tries to visit all Corps districts for several reasons.

"The very fact that I am visiting Corps members shows that Lt. Gen. Flowers and the Corps leadership cares about the members of the Corps," Moore said. "And they care about them as people, not just for the work they perform."

Prior to Lt. Gen. Joe Ballard's term as Chief of Engineers, the Corps did not have a chaplain.

Unlike the Army, which has a chaplain for each battalion, Moore serves as the chaplain for all 38,000 Corps employees worldwide.

While it might seem like a lot of ground for one man to cover, Moore said

it's a step in the right direction.

He said Ballard wanted to make the Corps more similar to the makeup of the Army.

"At that point, most people in the Army didn't know or recognize that the Corps was even a part of the Army," Moore said.

After Moore was brought in as chaplain, Ballard requested eight more men to serve with him.

Today, there is still only one chaplain for the Corps, but Moore acknowledged that "it's a start."

Moore's devotional after breakfast focused on the power of prayer, a concept he firmly believes in.

He said that during Vietnam, the country turned away from God and lost 52,000 men. During Operation Desert Storm, people feared the same thing, Moore said.

But instead of losing hope, Americans began praying "in earnest" back home.

"I was in Desert Storm," Moore said. "And I saw soldiers unloading 10,000 body bags off airplanes. My wife wrote me letters telling me that back home, churches had started holding extra prayer meetings.

"America turned to prayer and we
(See "Chaplain" on Page 8.)

Family News

(Continued from Page 3.)

Russellville Project Office Park Rangers **Joel Epperson, Allison Smedley, John Bridgeman** and **Jeff McCarty**, along with officials from Arkansas Game and Fish Commission and Arkansas State Parks offered a boating education course June 10 and 11. Fifteen people attended and completed the course.

Temporaries and New Student Aides

Allen Tidwell is a new summer engineering student at the Pine Bluff Arsenal Project Office.

Travis Boatright is a new summer engineering student for the Table Rock

Dam Safety Resident Office.

Billy Carter is a new summer engineering student at the Montgomery Point L&D Resident Office.

Sara West is a new clerk in the administration department at Greers Ferry Project Office.

Carter Stein is returning as a summer law clerk in Office of Counsel.

Phillip Renfro is the new electric engineering co-op student in Design Branch.

Ryan Strom is a new student aid ranger at Table Rock Project Office.

Tressa Allen is the temporary administrative support assistant at Table Rock Project Office.

Thank You

On May 30, my mother Marie passed away after a long 10 year fight with cancer. I want to thank everyone who offered a kind word or sent a not to support me during this difficult period. Your kindness and prayers were much appreciated. One card I recieved sums up everything: 'When the golden sun is setting and the path no more you trod, May your name in gold be written in the autograph of God.'

Wayne Lewis, assistant chief, Engineering and Contracting Division

Batey, Dunn, Perser claim bronze deFluerys

by **Jamie Oliver**
LRDispatch staff

Little Rock District decorated three individuals with deFluery Medals for carrying on the values, service and commitment of the Corps of Engineers.

Tony Batey, Donald Dunn and Joyce Perser were recognized June 21 during the Engineer Day awards ceremony.

The deFluery Medal was struck by the Continental Congress in 1779 in honor of French Engineer volunteer Francois Louis Tesseidre de Fluery for his courage during the battle of Stony Point, New York, earlier that year.

Formed to emphasize the customs and celebrate the history of the Corps, the Army Regimental System began searching for an award that would combine the values of both the Corps and the Army.

The deFluery Medal has long been understood as the first Congressional medal struck, and is awarded at three levels.

The bronze medal is presented to an individual who has made significant contributions to the Engineer Regiment.

Silver medals are presented to those who have made outstanding contributions to the regiment.

Only one gold deFluery Medal is presented each year during the annual Engineer Regimental Dinner at Fort Leonard Wood each spring. The United States Army Chief of Engineers presents this prestigious award to an individual who exemplifies a strong commitment to national defense.

Tony Batey: Project Manager, Programs and Project Management Division

Although he said it was an honor to receive the award and that he did not expect it, Batey said he really "dislikes" receiving awards.

"There are so many people who help achieve the successes that we have that it is almost embarrassing to accept an individual award," Batey said. "I almost feel like everyone else who had a part in it is being cheated. I am simply the point person."

Batey has been a "point person" with

Little Rock District for 16 years. During his time, he served as project manager of the Table Rock Lake Auxiliary Gated Spillway project.

As project manager, Batey was "instrumental" in ensuring Phase I and Phase II contracts were awarded on time and within budget, Lee Bass, assistant chief of PPMD, wrote in his nomination of Batey for the medal.

Prior to being named project manager, he was the engineering leader for the project.

Because of this, Batey was responsible for all the engineering products generated during the design phase.

Currently, Batey is the project manager at Pine Bluff Arsenal and is the district's single point of contact for all issues relating to that installation.

"Primarily, I am an interface between the customer and the district," Batey said. "I try to balance getting the customer what they want while at the same time working with our internal teams to establish the best environment for success."

Batey said his job as a "salesman" for the district is a rewarding one.

"Anyone with a high energy level and a desire to do something different would be well served to consider a stop in PPMD," Batey said.

Donald Dunn: Chief, Engineering and Construction Division

The Phase II Personal and Professional Enhancement Program Class of 2002 nominated Dunn in recognition of his service to the engineer regiment and for his leadership and management of PPEP. Dunn began working with the district as a summer intern in 1968.

He said he did not know he had been nominated until he was looking through the Engineer Day program

prior to the start of the awards ceremony. Dunn called receiving the medal an "incredible honor."

"It is far and away the most prestigious award that can be received by an Army engineer," Dunn said. "It was quite an honor, particularly knowing that other notable military officers and civilians had been past recipients."

In 1992, SWL began a Leadership Development Program. Although 57 employees have participated in the program since its inception, no classes were held in the program in 1994 and 1996-98.

Towboat supervisor and PPEP class of 2002 participant Mike Bagley said if not for Dunn's diligence, the program would not be what it is today.

"If it wasn't for Donald marketing it and believing in giving people enough to give them the opportunity to do self development and show their leadership skills, we wouldn't have the people who are graduating and excelling like they are now," Bagley said.

When Dunn joined the district in 1999, he saw that the program needed revamping and became the program's champion. The program now serves as a model for other leadership development programs in SWD and Corpwide.

His duties are not limited to the leadership program. As chief of E&C, Dunn is responsible for civil works

(See "Medals" on Page 6.)

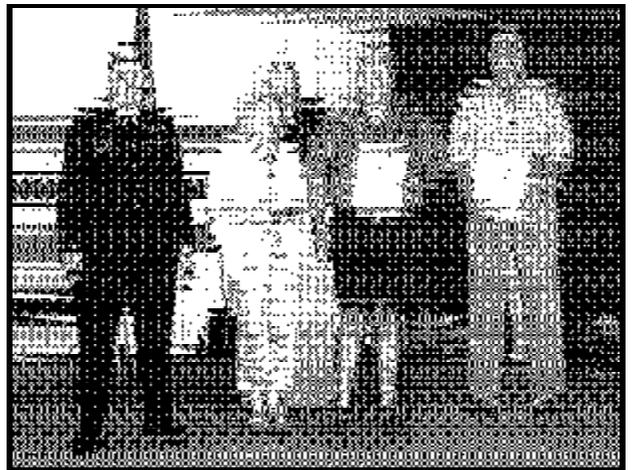


Photo by David Virden

Colonel Butler stands with deFluery winners Joyce Perser, Donald Dunn and Tony Batey during the Engineer Day award ceremony.

SWL honors its own with Engineer Day celebration

by Dorothy Seals
LRDispatch staff

This year's Engineer Day went off without a hitch.

After an awards ceremony where many employees received recognition for jobs well done, came the most anticipated event of the day — lunch, a luscious spread catered by Mr. Mason's Pit Bar-B-Q.

"The awards ceremony was well organized and was reasonably quick," said Clyde Gates, a biologist in Natural Resources Branch. "The food was the best I can ever recall!"

And with full bellies came the glorious "free-from-the-office feeling."

Many desk-dwellers and their families jumped at the opportunity to play basketball, volleyball, golf, and horseshoes.

In the basketball tournament, it all came down to "Air DeJuan," DeJuan Carter that is, a structural engineer in Design Branch, who led his team to victory.

"When things got tough we just gave him the ball," said teammate Elmo Webb, a civil engineer in Design Branch. "It kind of felt like being a part of the Chicago Bulls Championship team. Just like the Bulls rode Michael's coat tail, we rode DeJuan's."

For teammates Carter and Webb, who were joined by Carter Stein, a law clerk in Office of Council, and Erik Johnson, a clerk in Design Branch, the victory was not easy.

Before the final game of the double-elimination tournament, the entire supply of water at the picnic had been exhausted, and both teams had to play on Pepsi.

"It was hard on some," Webb said. "But I had my stash."

After all of the hard work, Johnson said, the team was only rewarded with a pat on the back.

The competition heated up between the "Slammers" and the "Others" for victory in the volleyball tournament. Fourteen people, including Colonel Benjamin Butler and Major John

Brown, jumped, dove, and sweated for bragging rights.

"It was a great competition," said Donna Wilkerson, a budget analyst in Operations Division.

"The 'Others' won the first game, but the 'Slammers' came back and won the last two games for a match victory."

Unbeknownst to them, the volleyball and basketball players were under the watchful eye of Peggy Paulsen, chief of Safety and Occupational Health Office.

Paulsen was concerned about people possibly being overcome with fatigue or heat stress.

"Not one employee was injured this year," Paulsen said. "That's the first time in five years."

Workforce Management Specialist Lori Spath's husband, Curtis, and Tim Tripp, a civil engineer in Construction Branch, pitched their way to victory in the horseshoe tournament.

Tripp said you do not have to be an athlete to play horseshoes, just someone who is willing to have fun.

In the golf contest, Trish Anslow, an environmental team leader in Planning Environmental and Regulatory Division, putted her way to the top.

For those who chose to remain in the air-conditioning, Lee Bass and Elizabeth Whitmore, both of Programs and Project Management Division, organized bingo games.

Engineer Day would not be complete without kids running around in swimsuits with smiley faces, flowers, and American flags painted on their bodies.

Events for the children included face painting, a water slide, a Jupiter Jump Room, and cartoon drawings.

All in all, Engineer Day was great fun for everyone involved.

"My Engineer Day experience was a fun one," said Tamika Slaughter, a realty specialist in Real Estate Division.

"It's nice to meet the families and loved ones of your fellow Corps employees."

Medals

(Continued from Page 5.)

design and construction over a 35,000 square-mile area covering parts of Arkansas and Missouri.

"The job entails so much yet requires so little particularly when surrounded by professionals of the very highest quality and caliber as exists in Little Rock District," Dunn said. "No finer team exists anywhere in the Corps of Engineers."

Joyce Perser: Chief, Evaluation Section, Regulatory Branch

Admittedly shocked and surprised by seeing her name in the program for receiving a deFluery, Perser said she had to fight to hold back tears when she went on stage to pick up her medal.

"I had to keep from crying the whole time," said Perser, who has 16 years of service with the Corps. "I am still really honored, just shocked."

She called the medal one of the best traditions of the Army and one of its best awards. "The medal carries on the traditions of the Continental Army," Perser said. "And is just a wonderful thing."

Jerry Harris, chief of Regulatory Branch, nominated Perser for the award. In his nomination, Harris wrote that Perser "supportive attitude endears her to fellow workers." Her work as chief of Evaluation Section began in May, 2001, and involves insuring compliance with technical environmental laws that maintain the integrity of the nation's waters.

She also worked with SWL attorneys developing an agreement between Little Rock and Memphis Districts that clarified the boundaries between the neighboring districts.

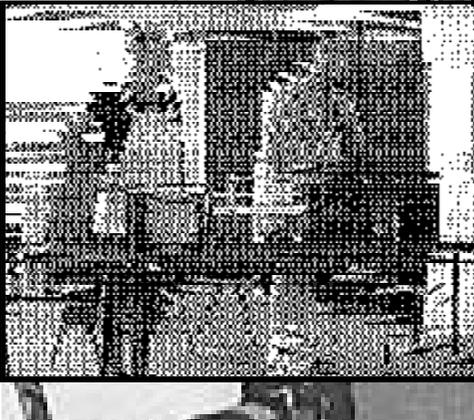
Perser works to stay updated on wetlands and improve herself; Perser completed her master's degree in biology while still working full-time. She graduated from law school this year after five years of night classes.

Despite her busy workload, she arranged for co-workers to attend a workshop on stress solutions for women. Perser said in a job that requires knowing your co-workers talents and abilities and how to put those to effective use, the people she works with are the greatest asset to her job.

"Jerry is the best boss to work for," Perser said. "They are all just the greatest group of people in the world to work for."

A day at the forest

District employees play hard during festivities



*Photos by
District
Photographer
David
Virden.*

Individuals garner awards for excellent work

Tony Hill: Planning Excellence Award

Hill contributed to the advancement of the Little Rock District's planning process by integrating Geographic Information System into all aspects of the district's water resources analysis. His efforts led to time and cost savings for a number of studies.

Phil Risher: Little Rock District EEO Award

Risher is the deputy of the Operations Division. Through his dedication, hard work and leadership, he improved handicap accessibility at our projects and resolved Equal Employment Office complaints at the lowest possible level.

Al Reins: Architect of the Year

Reins brings a wealth of experience to the district. Even though he has only been with the district for two years, he quickly earned the respect of his fellow team members as well as management. His professionalism coupled with his easy-going personality had project managers and fellow design coordinators asking him to be assigned to their projects.

Jan Jones: Woman of the Year

Jones, chief of Reservoir Control Branch, received the Woman of the Year Award for achieving the highest overall standards of excellence as a Corps employee. She tirelessly worked to improve the image of the Corps and women.

Mark Dixon: Engineer of the Year

As an electrical engineer in the Design Branch's Mechanical and Electrical Section, Dixon worked on several of the district's most complicated and visible design projects including the C-130J Flight Simulator Facility for the Little Rock Air Force Base. He was also an independent technical reviewer for other projects including the 61st C-130 Squad-Ops facility.

Michael Bagley: Wage-Grade Employee of the Year

As the captain of the Motor Vessel

Shorty Baird, Bagley's leadership ability, technical skills and loyalty to duty contributed significantly to the accomplishment of the project's mission on the Arkansas River.

Russellville Project Office: SWD and Little Rock District Project of the Year

Russellville Project Office was recognized for exceptionally creative and innovative operation. The management of the project was commended for extraordinary development, motivation and empowerment of personnel resulting in exemplary program and customer service in all facets of natural resources management.

Benny Rorie: SWD and SWL Natural Resources Employee of the Year

These awards signify excellence in management supervision and/or administration, natural resources management, recreation management, and land management. They are given to the employee who demonstrates outstanding results throughout the entire year.

Rocky Presley: Regulator of the Year

As project manager at SWL's Northwest Regulatory Field Office in Branson, MO., Presley handled numerous complex projects impacting high quality wetlands and other waters. He employs ingenuity, creativity and common sense in making decisions. Presley has earned the respect of his co-workers and customers alike.

Rod Garner: Construction Management Excellence Award

Garner, civil engineer at the Central Arkansas Area Office, played a vital role in bringing the office to full speed in contract administration. He provided outstanding support to the district office on design changes. His reputation for quality work is respected in the district, as well as at Little Rock Air Force Base and Pine Bluff Arsenal.

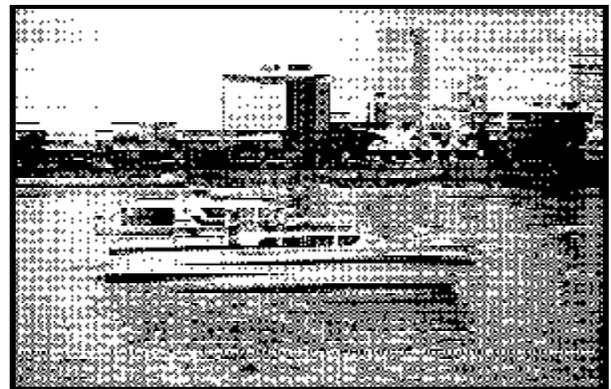
Joe Goodson: SWD and SWL Hard Hat of the Year

Goodson's dedication to quality assurance and safety efforts, leadership abilities, foresight and caring attitude have helped set the standard as Quality Assurance Team Leader in the construction of Montgomery Point Lock and Dam.

Darrel Johnson: Civilian of the Year

A contract specialist in Contracting Division, Johnson has been involved with the construction of Montgomery Point Lock and Dam through negotiating and documenting actions and taking a pro-active position when problems occur. He willingly does whatever it takes to accomplish a mission.

A different view of Little Rock



One boat from the Good News Cruise flotilla rolls into Little Rock on the way to Dumas. For more information on the cruise and its benefits for the Arkansas River, see page 1. (Photo courtesy of Marilyn Bratton)

Isbell creates lock and dam simulator cartoon

by Dorothy Seals
LRDispatch staff

Have you ever wondered just exactly how locks work on the river? For the curious among you, Toby Isbell developed a "Lock Operation Simulator" that debuted on Engineer Day, June 21.

"It is an interactive animated presentation," said Isbell, a visual information specialist in Information Management Office.

"Instead of just watching the presentation, the viewer controls the locking process of a small pleasure craft or a large tow."

By following arrows on the screen, the viewer can not only see but also experience each task that is required to operate a lock.

The simulator simplifies the locking process, said Jamie Oliver, an editorial assistant in Public Affairs Office, who assisted Isbell in editing the simulator.

She said that if someone tried to explain the process, it would almost seem overwhelming, but this shows it step by step and makes it fun.

This project was the brainchild of Belinda Byrns, a Russellville Project Office park ranger who died in Sept. 2001, said Russellville Park Ranger Allison Smedley.

The original idea was tossed to the side until this year when Isbell and Smedley met again to discuss the project.

"We wanted to teach the general public about how a lock works and the importance of safety while locking through," Smedley said.

The locking process is presented through the lock operator's point of view, Isbell said.

There are many tasks that the operator must attend to that many people might not realize exist when they go through the locks.

"It is really a daunting task," Isbell said. "Because of a lack of time, I couldn't even include everything in the presentation."

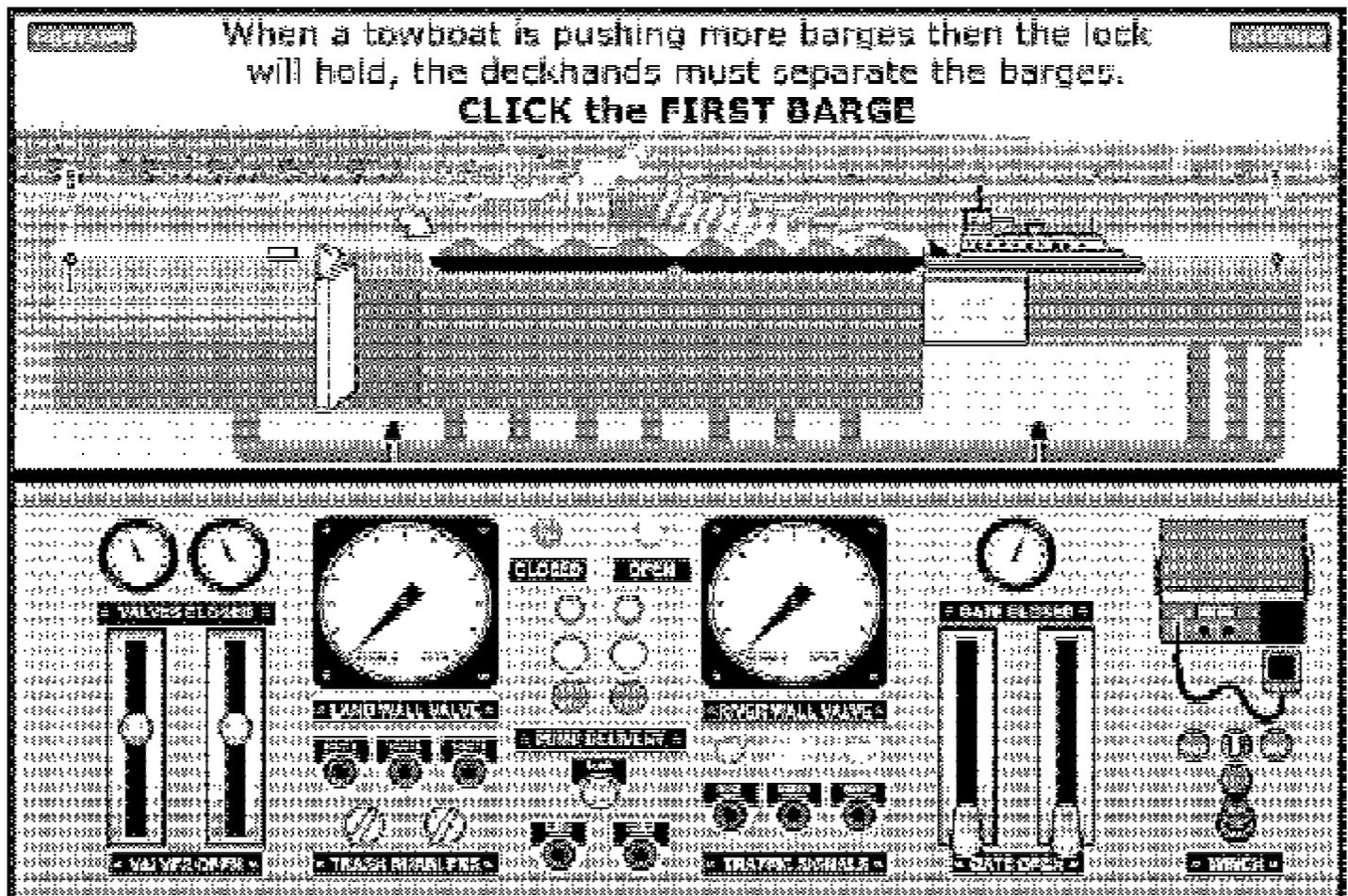
Although not everything is included, the simulator does show minute details that some may not even think about.

"The trash bubblers are my favorite part for some reason," Oliver said. "Though it seems almost silly to have trash bubblers for something this size."

The simulator is currently on display in the Arkansas River Center in Dardanelle. Smedley said the simulator will be taken to boat shows and fair booths to help promote water safety in the district.

Isbell said that he is working on an Internet version that will be available on the SWL website.

"I hope that this simulator may inspire some young people to consider a career with the Corps," Isbell said.



This is one scene from the simulator. Visual Information Specialist Toby Isbell spent more than 80 hours working on this project. The simulator is currently on display at Russellville Project Office's visitor center.

Writer offers different view of PPEP program

I had plans for a different subject for my article this month, but a recent conversation steered me down a different road.

Through the years, I've overheard conversations concerning PPEP and the former LDP program. Along with positive feedback, I also pick up negative "vibes" among people.

Despite the success of the program and its participants, you still hear people knocking the program or viewing the participants in a negative way.

One comment heard often is that PPEP is a way to get your "ticket punched" and that only a "select group" can participate. This negativity made me somewhat hesitant to even apply.

After applying, interviewing and being selected to participate, it has become apparently that some of this talk may be true. Let me explain.

The individuals who request to be in this program must be unique which would classify them as a select group. In this case, unique simply means that not everyone is willing to invest the amount of personal time the program requires for self-improvement.

Currently, 100 hours of self-development is required and all must be done on your own time through reading books, watching tapes and listening to audio cassettes.

Also, completion of 160 hours of formal training must be juggled with monthly meetings and at least a 60-day developmental assignment.

PPEP participants do all this while balancing their normal workload, family and personal commitments. This aspect of the program alone is not for everyone.

Maybe "select group" is a good way to describe the individuals who have and will participate in this program.

The fact that some past program participants have been selected for promotion speaks highly of both the individual and the program.

Successful participants are highly motivated and have proven managerial and leadership capabilities.

Through training received in the program, participants are equipped with the necessary tools to lead. These are traits that are sought after when looking for individuals to fill leadership positions. If you want to call that hard work, then maybe it is.

A common view some people have expressed is they are unable to get things done because participants are away on developmental assignments.

While it can't be said that point of view is wrong, perhaps those people should look elsewhere for the cause of the problem.

Supervisors are involved from the very beginning. They must endorse the participant before selection by signing a "contract" allowing the person full participation in the program.

In anticipation of the developmental assignment, the supervisor should make the necessary adjustments so no one is inconvenienced by the person's absence.

If you think about it, PPEP should only be viewed as a positive for the district. The program is aimed at preparing and meeting challenges and changes headed our way.

We all know change is inevitable, but those who maintain their comfort zone with the status quo will be left behind.



PPEP 2002
High Performance
Leadership
by Fred Esser

Both the world and the Corps are constantly changing and evolving. PPEP helps those motivated individuals prepare for what the future holds by increasing efficiency, providing better customer service or a myriad of other changes.

Change doesn't only happen on the job. The program is called "Personal and Professional Enhancement Program" for a reason.

Most of what is learned in this program can be applied to your personal life just as well as your professional life.

Some participants may find they have no desire to be supervisors or leaders. On a personal level though, they might want to enhance their skills, allowing them to become better coaches or a better money managers at home.

Personal enhancement comes in many forms.

By taking a slightly different view, it is easy to see where the program is a "win-win" situation for everyone.

The Corps wins by having employees and leaders better equipped to meet future demands.

Participants win by gaining better insight of themselves as well as gaining a better perspective of the Corps and the various business functions making up the Corps. No matter how you view it, PPEP is a winner.

Chaplain

(Continued from Page 4.)

only lost around 250 people. That is the power of prayer."

District Photographer David Virden was one of the employees in attendance during the breakfast and agreed with Moore.

"The way he compared and contrasted the spiritual health of America pointed out how our nation forgets or ignores the power of prayer with the result being our land suffering," Virden said. "And the instant that we remember to pray, we prosper."

Moore said meeting all the "wonderful people" the Corps employs is one of the best aspects of his job, and his visit to

Little Rock District was no exception.

"I loved Little Rock District," Moore said. "The people are as friendly as you will find anywhere. I tell you the truth – the Corps has a lot of smart, hard-working, dedicated, good people and they are fun to be with."

He said that although his job is not always fun, it does have its own rewards.

"Every once in a while, I am at the right place at the right time to help someone," Moore said. "And when that happens, I really sleep well that night."

Library adds sets for improving the workforce

Written by attorneys specializing in federal employment law, "Federal Employees Legal Survival Guide; How to Protect and Enforce Your Job Rights" (KF5337 .Z9 F43 1999) provides practical advice for federal employees.

Topics include performance appraisals, discipline, misconduct, discrimination, unions, RIFs, overtime, workers' compensation and more. Throughout the volume, "tip" blocks highlight important ideas.

New Publications from FEDWEEK

Several new titles from the popular publisher of FEDWEEK update the library holdings. "2002 FERS Retirement Planning Guide" (JK791 .F47 2002) covers all aspects of FERS retirement including returning to work for the government.

Presenting up-to-date information for the retiree, "2002 Retired Federal Employees Handbook" (JK791 .J65 2002) is a good book to review for those planning retirement in the near future.

"Eldercare; Protecting Your Aging Parents' Assets & Preserving Your Own Inheritance" (HG179 .E37 2001) discusses finances, health care concerns, safety at home, estate planning and tax issues. "Thrift Savings Plan Investor's Handbook 2002" (JK791 .T58 2002) provides updated information.

Colonel

(Continued from Page 2.)

problem until it is handed off to another and then forgotten about. SWL has already made some strides in this arena, but many more are needed.

As we go forward, I want our district to re-examine our metrics. We need to ensure that we are measuring the correct things.

What we measure should reflect what is important. It should be things that are relevant and timely. But most importantly, we should measure things that will cause us to take action if we are off target.

To the largest degree possible, I want us to measure teamwork and team



Mechanical Materials Available Electronically

The TRC has added a CD-ROM containing all the ASHRAE Handbooks (TH7011 .A74 2001).

The product contains fundamentals, HVAC systems and equipment, HVAC applications and refrigeration and provides both inch-pound and metric data. The CD can be found in the Electrical & Mechanical Section.

Performance Review Software

"Performance Now" (HF5549.5 .R3 .P47 1999) is a CD-ROM that assists supervisors in preparing for performance reviews. The product contains sections for tracking and measuring goals and automatic calculations for ratings.

Additionally, the work offers tips for improving employee performance.

New Leadership Materials

"Focus on Leadership; Servant-

Leadership for the 21st Century" (HD57.7 .F63 2002) contains essays on aspects of leadership that emphasize serving the welfare of the employees and a holistic approach to business.

Leading thinkers in the field such as Stephen Covey, Margaret Wheatley, Ken Blanchard and Warren Bennis have contributed to the work which provides an overview of the principles of servant leadership.

Written by the pioneer of the hierarchy of needs and self-actualization, "Maslow on Management" (HF5548.8 .M3754 1998) reaffirms his earlier writings and applies them to current management practice.

Maslow emphasized many of the concepts we use today, such as synergy, empowerment and continuous improvement. Interviews with prominent business leaders compliment the volume.

Hot Website of the Month

Online newspapers
from around the globe
www.ipl.org/reading/news/

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 that request.

Comments and Family News submissions must be received by July 15 for publication in the next issue. Send your comments to laurie.driver@usace.army.mil or mail them to the 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.

Cruise

(Continued from Page 1.)

director of the Arkansas Department of Parks and Tourism, met with flotilla participants and praised the effort. He said everyone agrees fishing in the state's lakes and trout fishing below Corps dams is important to the economy, but the "Arkansas River is perhaps the biggest, most understated asset" to tourism, especially since it traverses the entire state.

AGFC Director Hugh Durham, who was unable to travel with the flotilla, had complimentary things to say in a news release about the aquatic habitat

improvement efforts.

"But fishing is not the only important aspect of the Arkansas River," Durham went on to say in the release. "It is a great natural resource with unlimited recreational opportunities, and, perhaps most important, it is a well-maintained, clean navigational system that helps our state's economy."

Arkansas Hospitality Association Executive Director Montine McNulty was along for the trip. She too praised the cooperation and pointed out that the July 12 and 13 Arkansas Ford Dealers Big

Bass Bonanza fishing tournament will generate significant recreation spending.

It will involve thousands of amateur bass enthusiasts who will be angling the entire length of the river for a \$100,000 grand prize.

She said it will be the largest amateur fishing tournament in the nation and pointed out that large fishing tournaments can bring millions of dollars into local communities.

Lee Bass, assistant chief of

Programs and Project Management Division, who also traveled with the flotilla, helped represent the Little Rock District and shared his knowledge of the Arkansas River Navigation Study and other river issues along the way.

"People along the river recognize they have a resource that is not fully tapped," Bass said. "We've done it before touting navigation benefits (during previous river inspection trips), but this time we also touted recreation, hydropower, flood reduction and economic benefits.

"We stressed the importance of local, state and federal agencies working together. The messages were well received by everyone we ran into."

The four-day cruise included stops at Fort Smith City Park, Ozark Lock and Dam, Spadra Park at Clarksville, Russellville State Park, Ormond Lock and Dam near Morrilton, Toad Suck Ferry Lock and Dam at Conway, Maumelle Park near Little Rock, North Little Rock's Riverfront Park, Pine Bluff Harbor and Pendleton Park near Dumas.

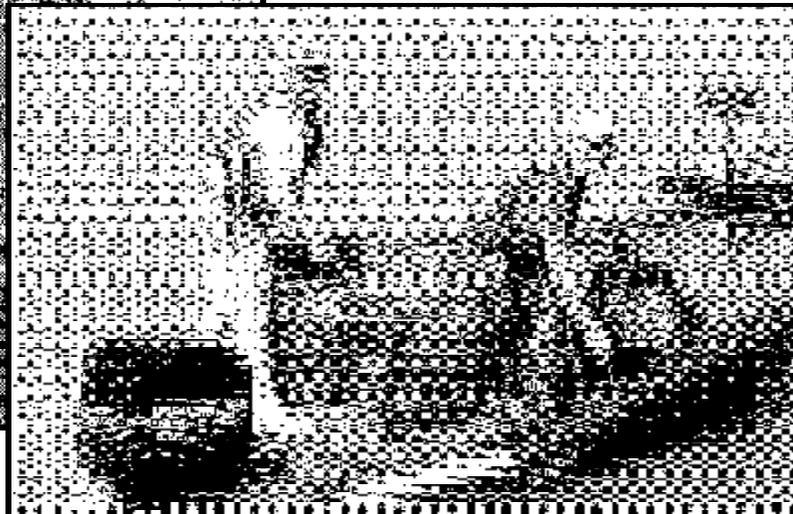
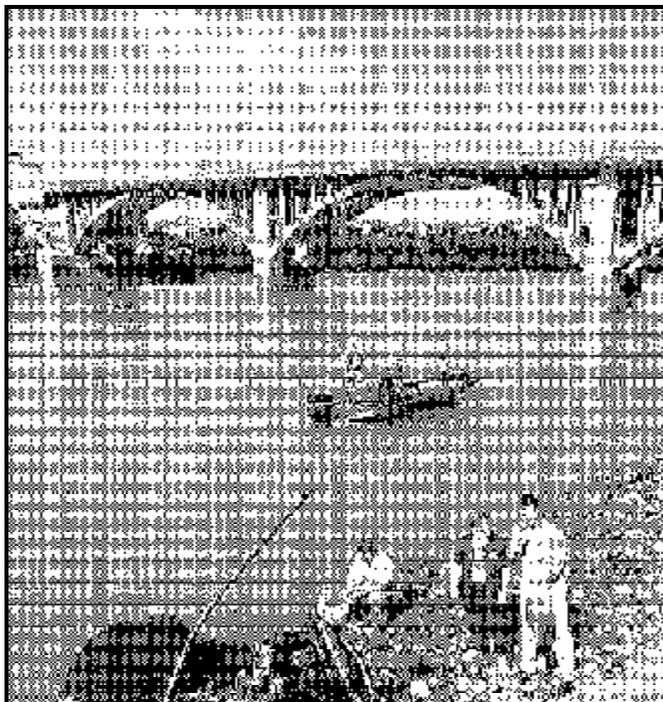
At each stop, local officials and chambers of commerce met the flotilla and helped sponsor the news conferences and evening social events.

The event sparked news coverage that ranged from ESPN, to newspaper articles, to evening television newscasts, to a live morning news show in Little Rock, to local radio stations taping and

airing portions of the news conferences.

The ESPN report is expected to air in July.

From the park rangers, to the lock operators to the boat crews, dozens of district project personnel from the Russellville and Pine Bluff offices and the district office assisted in making the event a success.



Photos by Laurie Driver & P.J. Spaul

ABC affiliate KATV interviews Montine McNulty and Allen Carter as local fishermen stock the Arkansas River during the Good News Cruise last month.

PMBP training continues throughout district

by **Judy Bullwinkle**
Special to LRDispatch staff

In June, Little Rock District began training on Project Management Business Processes, the continuing initiative of Chief of Engineers Bob Flowers.

Comprised of individual study and small group discussions, the training is designed to move the Corps from a stovepipe business to a matrix organization. The goal is to incorporate PMBP into all Corps projects.

Flowers stressed the importance of PMBP in continuing to make the Corps of Engineers a viable part of the nation's future.

The training program consists of eight modules that address various aspects of teamwork, public service, quality, project delivery and the benefits of project management. Participants study a module individually via CD-ROM and web access, then, 30 at a time, meet in facilitated groups of six to discuss questions posed by the modules.

All district employees will be trained on the first module by Aug. 1. New modules will arrive throughout the next year, and each will be taught in the same manner.

All Corps employees will be trained on six of the modules. Sixty percent will be trained on the modules incorporating the P2 project management software into our business processes.



Photo by Jamie Oliver

District employees participate in team building activities during PMBP training.

Safety takes collaborative effort by everyone in workplace

With the various types of team training we've received this year, we've heard a lot about the importance of working together effectively as a team. Because of this, we have rediscovered the true meaning of teamwork.

Webster's Dictionary defines teamwork as "working together for a common goal."

For teamwork to be most effective, we must change our thought process for the good of the team. Workers then must agree on the ultimate goal and the best method needed to achieve that goal.

Take a few minutes now to think about how you and your co-workers can team up to achieve a safer work environment.

By the time a sports team runs onto the field, the team has already agreed on a game winning strategy and is putting that plan into motion. The same is true in the workplace.

You and your co-workers must work together as a team and agree that safety is a goal. Make sure that other people's goals do not conflict with your safety goal.



You don't want to cut corners on safety in order to meet a tight deadline. Following safety procedures can seem unnecessary and time consuming.

However, I encourage you to resist the temptation to speed up your work by cutting procedural corners. Talk about safety with your co-workers. Remember that your actions show others how you feel and what you think about safety.

Think about what could happen if a serious accident occurred in your workplace. How would you react? We all depend on each other, so we must work together to create a safe work environment.

Take an interest in your co-workers and get to know them. By doing this, you will better understand their safety needs. Think about what you can do to reinforce the safety of your co-workers. Open communication is the key to effectively working together.

Unsafe conditions or procedures are accidents waiting to happen. When you see a spill, something broken or misplaced, it's your responsibility to take care of the situation. Talk about any safety problems with members of the team. Then take the necessary steps to correct the situation.

Don't take chances with your own safety. When you correct unsafe conditions or procedures, it shows that you are concerned about the people on your team.

Teamwork takes practice, but the benefit of safety is well worth the effort. Set an example. Respect your own health by protecting yourself and others from workplace hazards. Remember that you have a team at home waiting for your safe return.

Protect your personal information from hackers

Do you worry about your home computer getting a virus?

If you have good anti-virus software installed on your home computer and keep it updated with the latest data definition files, then you greatly reduce the risk of your computer becoming infected.

All district employees can get the latest McAfee anti-virus software from IMO to install on their home computer, as well as the data definition updates.

Hackers can break into your home computer and gather enough of your personal information to make purchases from your credit cards.

They also can commit some other types of financial fraud using your ID. System administrators, however, protect your computer systems at work.

Since you are the system administrator for your home computer, remember that computer protection requires extra effort and that the consequences of failure can be extensive.

Every minute your computer is online, it is vulnerable to intrusions and theft of information.

Many property transactions are public record and contain all of your contact

and tax information. Driver's licenses, social security numbers, phone numbers, and addresses can easily be obtained from any number of online sources.

With this information, it is rather simple to assume someone's identity.



Kathy Brewer
Customer Assistance
& Applications Section

engine and type in your name. You might be amazed at just how much "private" information there is about you circulating on the Internet.

Just as good anti-virus software goes a long way in protecting your home computer from viruses, personal firewall software can keep hackers out and personal data safe.

Most of the software is affordable, selling for \$50 or less. Norton advertises

This may raise the question of how much of your personal information is already on the Internet.

To find out, go to an Internet search

its personal protection firewall software as being a powerful defense against hackers and privacy threats.

This software defends against privacy threats at multiple levels without constantly interrupting your work. It secures your computer by "hiding" it from hackers.

Should anyone attempt to search your system, an auto block feature automatically blocks access to your computer.

But Norton Personal Firewall doesn't stop with intrusion protection.

It also prevents personal information from being sent out without your knowledge by controlling the applications on your computer that can access the Internet. This includes "spyware" and Trojan horse programs.

By setting up firewall rules for the most popular online programs automatically, you get superior protection without a hassle.

Whether you have a dial-up, DSL or cable connection, your home personal computer could benefit from the protection offered by a personal firewall.

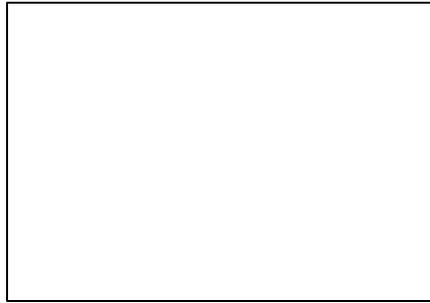
If you have any questions, contact the Help Desk at extension 6824.

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life: Little Rock District employees share thei

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Experiences with organ donations