



# Board Meeting Notes

*The BTU Board of Directors met on Monday, November 12, 2012 and discussed the following topics:*

## Financial

Joe Hegwood, Chief Financial Officer of City of Bryan/BTU, presented the financial report to the Board that stated at the end of the fiscal year, retail sales were .05% over budget in the City and 3% over in Rural. Capital spending was approximately \$10 million under budget due to the South Loop Project being deferred to fiscal year 2013.

Several contracts over \$100,000 were brought to the Board's attention for approval. After review, the Board awarded a blanket contract for overhead unit services to Power Line Utility Services, an underground conductor contract to Synergy Cables USA, a contract for document imaging software—Laserfiche—to Municipal Code Corporation, an AMI IT services contract to Northstar Consulting, Inc. and a contract for land/easement acquisition services to Threshold Land Services, Inc.

## Operations

Mr. Hegwood next presented a list of outdated materials and equipment that the BTU plans to send to auction. Policy requires that the Board approve the sale of these items if the total sale is expected to exceed \$25,000.00. While Mr. Hegwood does not believe that the sale will yield this amount, however, he wanted to have the matter approved just in case. The Board approved the sale.

Randy Trimble, Group Manager of Transmission and Distribution, presented the SAIDI and SAIFI reports from October. He explained that animal contact and a blown fuse caused the majority of the outages in both the City and Rural systems.

Mr. Trimble then updated the Board on the progress of the South Loop Project. BTU is currently constructing Phases 1 and 2. Completion has been postponed until September 2013 due to a delay of steel pole deliveries from the manufacturer.

David Werley, Group Manager of Business and Customer Operations, presented an update on the BTU rebate programs. The staff will review the rebate activities and will discuss recommendations for refocusing the programs' goals and optimizing the 2013 fiscal year's budget to the maximum benefit for customers. The Board approved a motion to stop taking current applications for the rebates and revamp the programs to start again in January 2013.

Michael Hering, Division Manager of Production, presented to the Board the progression of the Dansby Dam Construction repairs from start to finish. He explained that the repair project was completed in September 2012, and that the Texas Commission on Environmental Quality (TCEQ) has made its final inspection and should forward its final approval soon.

## Bryan Texas Utilities

205 East 28th Street • Bryan, TX 77803

UCISMan@btutilities.com

### Hours of Operation

Monday - Friday, 8 am - 5 pm

### Board of Directors

- Mr. Carl L. Benner, Chairman
- Mr. Chris Peterson, Vice Chairman
- Mr. Paul Turney, Secretary/Treasurer
- Mr. Art Hughes, Ex-Officio
- Mr. Flynn Adcock
- Mr. David Bairrington
- Mr. Bill Ballard
- Mr. Ben Hardeman

### City of Bryan

- Kean Register, City Manager
- Joe Hegwood, CFO

### Interim General Manager

- Gary Miller

### Group Managers

- Randy Trimble
- David Werley

### Division Managers

- James Bodine
- Bill Bullock
- Shawndra Green
- Michael Hering
- Ken Lindberg
- Doug Lyles
- Vicki Reim
- Scott Smith
- James Tanneberger

Lee R. Starr, Chief Risk Officer

## IMPORTANT NUMBERS

- Billing/Collections/Connects (979) 821-5700
- Electrical Outage/Lines Down (979) 822-3777
- Distribution/Line Design (979) 821-5770



# Meet Your BTU Board

Story by Louellen S. Coker.



**P**aul Turney is among the newest of Bryan Texas Utilities' (BTU) Board of Directors. Serving on the board since September 2012, Mr. Turney brings a uniquely vital perspective to the utility as an individual who lives in BTU's rural service area and a business professional in the city service area.

When asked why he wanted to serve as a BTU board member, Mr. Turney stated, "As a rural area customer, I wanted to represent other rural customers and ensure we have a voice on the board. I also am interested in learning more about how rates are structured as well as the inner workings of the utility industry."

"During my time thus far on the Board of Directors," he emphasized, "I've learned a great deal about the extent of BTU's production capabilities and the number of power plants in the system. The fluctuating costs involved from a myriad of different sources used to generate electricity have a significant impact on the cost of power."

One of the more enjoyable aspects of serving on the Board for Mr. Turney is to see how effectively BTU's employees work to meet the demands of all its customers as well as maintain a consistently high level of service and customer assistance.

As both a rural and commercial customer of BTU with multiple accounts for the last 23 years, Mr. Turney is dedicated to playing a part in ensuring BTU's high quality standards continue as well as working toward keeping rates as low as possible.

Though he was not born in the immediate Bryan area, he was born in the Brazos Valley. In 1989 Mr. Turney migrated from Brazoria County where he was born and raised to the Bryan area when Wal-Mart brought him and his wife here so he could manage one of their stores. When relocation to one of the chain's California stores became inevitable, Mr. Turney opted to look locally for other career opportunities. He reflected, "California is a great place to visit, but living there was not an exciting option for my family."

For the next two plus years his job was with the Methodist Retirement Services at their Crestview Campus in Bryan before coming to work with the Brazos Valley Council of Governments (COG) in 1992. Not long after Mr. Turney started with the COG, the Brazos Valley Affordable Housing Corporation was formed as a separate 501 (c) 3 non profit agency. He began managing the Brazos Valley Affordable Housing Corporation in 1995 and has been there ever since.

In addition to his extensive work background, this Angleton High School graduate holds a degree in Business Administration from Sam Houston State University. Within his local and state communities, Mr. Turney is active with several professional organizations and groups. He is the President of BCS Homebuilders Association and the Texas Association of Local Housing Financing Agencies, as well as an active member of the Texas Association of Community Development Corporations, Texas Affiliation of Affordable Housing Providers, Opportunity Finance Network, Texas Association of Builders, National Association of Homebuilders, Raise Texas and National Rural Housing Coalition.

He explains that he really enjoys serving and doing volunteer work with these groups because “the community has been so good to me throughout my life that I want to give back. I want to leave the world a better place for my children.”

Mr. Turney is dedicated to his family. When speaking about his parents and grandparents, he reminisced: “My father taught me the difference between right and wrong and the value of hard work. My mother, by example, taught me what it takes and what it means to live a Christian life. From my paternal grandfather, who fought in WWI in the trenches of the Western Front in Europe, I learned how to survive—how to live off of, and in harmony with, the land. My grandmothers taught me too many things to mention but mostly, they taught me about love.”

He enthused, “As for my wonderful bride of 25 years, Cheryl, I owe her everything that I am today. She reigns me in when I go astray and coaxes me out when I’m reluctant to venture. She truly is my better half.”

Mr. Turney’s children are nearly grown and go to school and work in the area. His daughter, Samantha is 21 years old and attends Texas A&M University. His son, Cullen, is a senior and a member of the track team at Rudder High School. The family attends First Presbyterian Church in Bryan, where he serves as an Elder.

When not working, he enjoys hunting, fishing and spending time outdoors with his family and friends. He reflected, “I enjoy bay fishing the most. I have a lake in my backyard, so that type of fishing is not as challenging as it once was. When not fishing, I like to head to my hunting lease in Kerr County, the family farm in Houston County or head to our cabin on the Frio River where we love to tube the river with friends and family.”

We’d like to welcome Mr. Turney to his new position on the BTU Board of Directors. If you need to contact Mr. Turney, please email him at [pturney@btutilities.com](mailto:pturney@btutilities.com).

# Paul Turney

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# POWERFUL PICTURES PORTRAY ELECTRICAL SAFETY

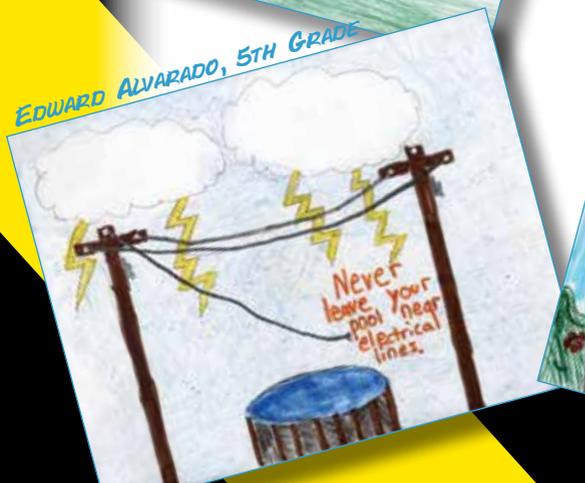
STORY BY LOVELLEN S. COKER. PHOTOS BY AREA STUDENTS.

Each fall, area elementary school teachers have their students create illustrations relating to some aspect of electricity as part of Bryan Texas Utilities' (BTU) Powerful Pictures program. This year, the photos focused on electrical safety.

BTU received literally hundreds of entries which were reviewed by BTU employees who chose twelve drawings—one for each month—as well as sixteen honorable mention submissions. The name of each qualifying student is listed in the calendar.

This year's winners are Edward Alvarado, Milam Elementary; Samuel Dawson, Allen Academy; Kinsey Dent, Bowen Elementary; Rylee Flanagan, Snook Elementary; Emily Hendrick, Sul Ross Elementary; Carlie Lafon, Johnson Elementary; Uriel Murillo, Crockett Elementary; Jacob Oliver, Kemp Elementary; Arlene Reyes, Henderson Elementary; Maddison Rivera, Neal Elementary; Emmi Wilson, Allen Academy and Katherine Wolfe, Bonham Elementary.

This year's honorable mentions are Pete DeLa Garza, Kemp Elementary; Caitlyn Dietert, Johnson Elementary; Alysha Escalante, Crockett Elementary; Madai Esquivel, Henderson Elementary; Kate Georgiades, Allen Academy; Phoebe Hancock, Johnson Elementary; Kyleigh Hruska, Snook Elementary; Aleks Kalaouze, Allen Academy;



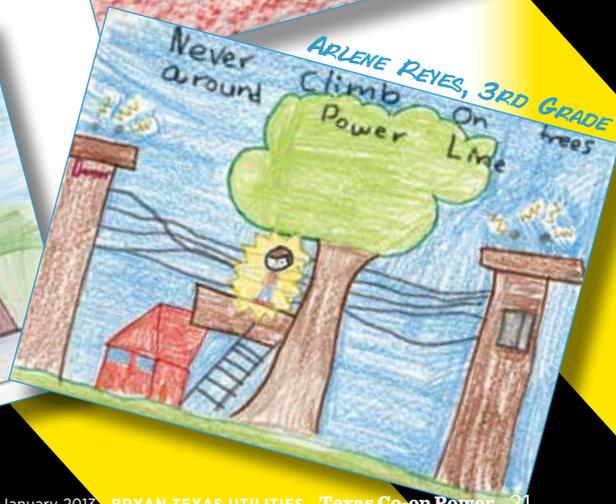
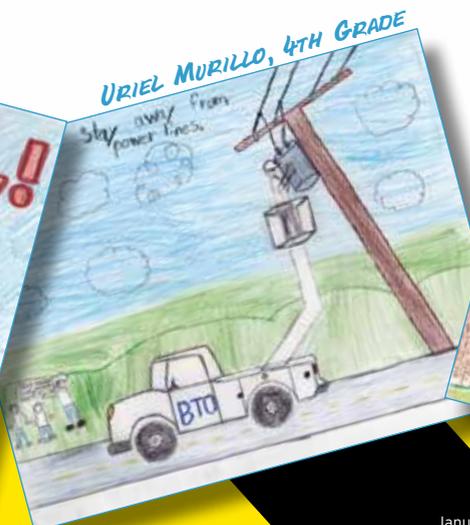
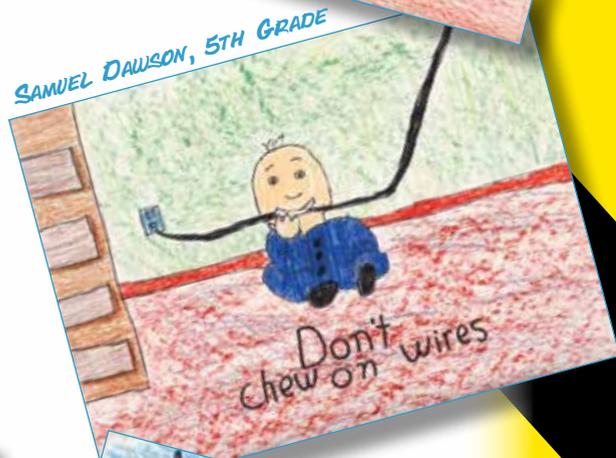
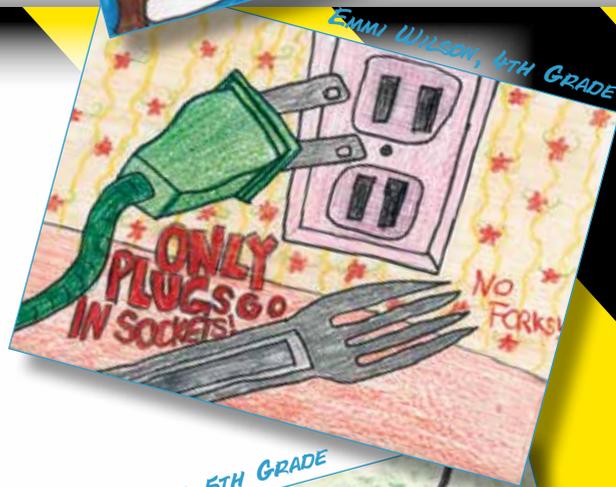
# PICTURES ELECTRICAL SAFETY

Nevaeh Lopez, Sul Ross Elementary; Abigail Martin, Sul Ross Elementary; Michaela Moreno, Allen Academy; Caitlyn Seal, Bowen Elementary; Valeri Sevilla, Milam Elementary; Paige Smith, Bowen Elementary; Bianca Stringfellow, Snook Elementary and Canyon Wood, Henderson Elementary.

In addition to being recognized by BTU, the twelve winners will appear on KBTX-TV's Brazos Valley This Morning on February 18 to discuss their artwork. The BTU calendar is as unique as the artwork it highlights. In the 2013 calendar, you will find important phone numbers and information in addition to tips about how to save on energy and facts about BTU.

Paul Buckner, BTU's Powerful Pictures coordinator, said, "We enjoy this program because it is fascinating to see young children from our service area use their imagination and knowledge to create such wonderful drawings."

To pick up your free copy of the 2013 calendar, please stop by the BTU office. For more information about electrical efficiency or the Powerful Pictures contest, you can obtain it via email from Paul at [pbuckner@btutilities.com](mailto:pbuckner@btutilities.com).



**ENTRIES DUE  
FRIDAY,  
FEBRUARY 22  
5:00 PM.**



## **GOVERNMENT-IN-ACTION YOUTH TOUR BTU OFFERS TEENS A**

### **THIS YEAR'S CONTEST**

Once again, Bryan Texas Utilities (BTU) will select four youths to represent our service area through its Government-in-Action Youth Tour competition. The winners will join hundreds of other teens from around the United States on an all-expenses paid (except for any souvenirs they'd like to buy) trip to Washington, D.C., June 13-21, 2013. Children of BTU customers who are not employed by BTU and are area high school students in their sophomore, junior or senior years are eligible to enter.

Students must write an essay discussing the topic *What is the difference between an electric cooperative, investor owned utility and a municipally owned utility?* An additional requirement for this year's Youth Tour application is a letter of recommendation from a teacher or principal.

For complete information about the contest and to enter online, please visit [www.btutilities.com](http://www.btutilities.com). Entries are due, Friday, February 22, 2013, 5:00 pm. Winners will be notified by March 1, 2013.

You may submit your application and essay in one of the following manners:

- online at [www.btutilities.com](http://www.btutilities.com)
- email to [pbuckner@btutilities.com](mailto:pbuckner@btutilities.com)
- mail or hand deliver to Paul Buckner at the BTU headquarters at 205 East 28th St., Bryan, TX 77803

### **HISTORY OF THE YOUTH TOUR PROGRAM**

The Government-in-Action Youth Tour began in 1957, after then Senator Lyndon B. Johnson addressed the National Rural Electric Cooperatives Association (NRECA) annual meeting.

## **ENTRY CHECKLIST**

- **COMPLETED APPLICATION**
- **ESSAY**
- **LETTER OF RECOMMENDATION FROM TEACHER OR PRINCIPAL**
- **SUBMIT ONLINE OR DELIVER TO THE BTU OFFICE**



## 2013 CAPITAL TRIP

Inspired by his comments regarding the importance of young people visiting Washington, D.C., “where they can actually see what the flag stands for and represents,” some of the Texas electric cooperatives sent groups of young people to Washington, D.C. to work in the Senator’s office over the summer to learn about the federal government in action.

The following year, rural electric officials in Iowa sponsored the first group of 34 students on a week-long tour of our nation’s capital. It wasn’t long before other states jumped on the idea, which increased the total number of students sent each year throughout the summer. In 1959, 130 youths traveled to Washington and in 1964, NRECA decided to coordinate the program, arranging each group’s schedule to be in the capital during the same week. During the first year that NRECA coordinated the program, 400 students participated from 12 states. Since then, the Youth Tour has continued to grow to the point that it now sends nearly 1,500 students and chaperones on the Tour each year.

# Hearty Congratulations to Local Fastpitch Softball Star in the BTU Family

Bryan Texas Utilities would like to congratulate Brittney Jones for recently signing her National Letter of Intent to attend Northwestern State University (NSU) to play first base for the Lady Demons Fastpitch Softball team!

Brittney is the daughter of Mark and Leann (a System Analyst at BTU) Jones and is a senior at Bryan High School (BHS). She will begin her college career at NSU in Natchitoches, LA in the fall where she will pursue Pre-Physical Therapy studies. Though she is beginning a new chapter of her life, Brittney, who began playing when she was eight years old, has nearly ten years of fastpitch softball experience under her belt. Along with her impressive softball resume, Brittney is also a four year BHS volleyball letterman.

Reflecting about her decision, Brittney said, “The opportunity to get a great education and play softball for the Demons means the world to me. With only 1 out of 500 kids being awarded a NCAA College Scholarship, I understand this is truly an honor and a blessing. I am very excited to begin my studies and play for Northwestern, a Division 1 university in the Southland Conference.”



Left: Brittney pitching during a recent game.

Below: Brittney with her family and coaches as she signed her National Letter of Intent. Shown front left to right: Mark Jones, Brittney Jones and Leann Jones. Shown back left to right: Texas Peppers Assistant Coach, Kelly Huey; Kevin Russel; Erica Jones, Brittney’s sister and BHS Coach, Enrique Luna.



# BTU's Shawndra Green Opts to *Be the One* to Help Children Learn to Read

Story by Keri Honea. Photos courtesy of Bryan Independent School District.

**B**ryan Texas Utilities (BTU) employees, beyond being dedicated to outstanding customer service and performing their job duties to their utmost, step out into the community to make a difference. Shawndra Green, Division Manager of Engineering and System Planning, has dedicated her lunch hour once or twice a week for the last 10 years to help young students in the Bryan Independent School District (BISD) develop their reading skills through its *Be the One* (formerly HOSTS) program.

The district's *Be the One* program focuses adult community volunteer efforts to provide one-on-one mentoring to help students develop their reading skills. This early intervention program serves 10 select students in grades 1-2 at Mary Branch Elementary—where Shawndra volunteers.

Ruth Vanoye, BISD ESL Instructor/Reading Specialist, explained how students become involved in the program, “The teachers refer the students and then they are tested to find their reading level to narrow down the list. Then the selected students are tested again to determine which skills need to be developed weekly. We then provide mentors with very targeted materials for each student.”

Mentors come in weekly for 30-45 minutes, from Tuesday through Thursday, giving the students three different mentors to see each week. The program recruits volunteers from Blinn, Texas A&M University, BISD parents, community members and from business, organization and religious-based partners. Volunteers are provided with both guidance and activity materials for their one-on-one sessions with students.

The few minutes a day the volunteers provide reap big

rewards. Ms. Vanoye elaborated, “Teachers can only do so much. They are able to teach the concepts and lay a foundation for the students. Our mentors give the children supplemental supervised practice they need in order to develop into better readers and students. Because of that interaction and attention, we see great academic and social growth in our students.”

Shawndra explained that the program director keeps it very structured, and mentors have set tasks for what they will be doing with the kids that week. “It’s a bit more than just reading together, though,” Shawndra elaborated. “We read most books at least three times, and then I ask the student several questions about what we have read. The student takes a quiz to test their comprehension.”

When Shawndra is assigned a student, she works with that one student for the entire year. “I get to see the kids progress as they go through the school year,” Shawndra said gleefully. “I’m so happy to be part of helping little ones learn to read and to have fun while learning. I’ve been committed to *Be the One* for over ten years because it makes such a difference in these kids’ lives.”

If you are interested in volunteering in this noble cause, contact Mary Walraven at 979-209-2881 or via email at [mary.walraven@bryanisd.org](mailto:mary.walraven@bryanisd.org).

