



Board Meeting Notes

The BTU Board of Directors met on Monday, November 11, 2013 and discussed the following topics:

Financial

Joe Hegwood, City of Bryan/BTU Chief Financial Officer, presented the end of the year financial report. The state of net revenues for the City and Rural systems remains consistent with previous reports.

Mr. Hegwood also presented the BTU Investment Report from September 30, 2013. The weighted average yield for BTU City was 0.45% and 0.37% for BTU Rural.

The Board examined and approved contracts for the following:

- Concrete pole structures for Thompson Creek to Snook and Wellborn-Millican to Highway 6;
- Annual underground unit service;
- Annual repair of transformers; and
- Annual distribution pole inspection.

Operations

David Werley, BTU Group Manager of Business and Customer Operations, detailed possible modifications to the current electric rate ordinance. He explained that the cost of service study was already under way. After a brief discussion, the Board agreed to move forward with adding a new rate rider to the current electric rate ordinance.

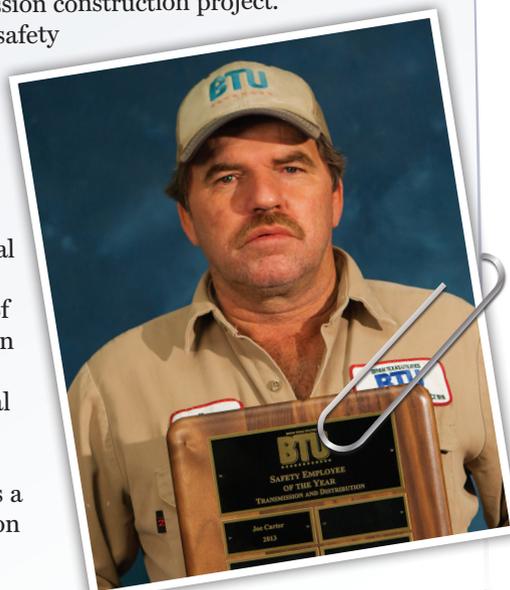
Randy Trimble, BTU Group Manager of Transmission, Distribution and Engineering, presented a number of contracts to be awarded. The Board reviewed and approved contracts for the following:

- Construction preparation of the 138kV transmission line section from Millican to Highway 6;
- Steel poles for the Wellborn to Highway 6 and the Thompson Creek to Snook projects;
- Wellborn and Millican switch substation electrical construction project;
- Triangle Park substation site work project; and
- Triangle Park 138kV transmission construction project.

Mr. Trimble then presented the safety statistics for October and explained that the major outages reported in the SAIDI and SAIFI reports for the City and Rural were due to weather-related storms and equipment failures.

The Board also agreed to a partial release of an easement located on the east corner of the intersection of Victoria Avenue and Barron Road in College Station.

Lastly, Gary Miller, BTU General Manager, announced that Joe Carter was named the 2013 Safety Employee of the Year. Mr. Carter is a Lead Lineman in BTU's Distribution Operation division.



Bryan Texas Utilities

205 East 28th Street • Bryan, TX 77803

email: ContactBTU@btutilities.com

Hours of Operation

Monday - Friday, 8 a.m. - 5 p.m.

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

General Manager

Gary Miller

Group Managers

- Larry Gurley
- 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

City of Bryan

- Kean Register, City Manager
- Joe Hegwood, CFO
- Bernie Acre, CIO

IMPORTANT NUMBERS

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





BTU's Tree Trimming Program Increases Reliability, Saves Money

Story by Louellen S. Coker. Photo by Ryan Stout.

Trees, vines and other types of vegetation don't mix well with electric lines. When vegetation comes in contact with electric lines, the result can be power outages, safety hazards or even fires. Bryan Texas Utilities (BTU) continues its vegetation management program as just one measure to further the utility's primary service goal of providing you with safe, reliable and competitively priced electricity.

"Through this program," explained Bill White, BTU Underground Line and Right of Way Manager, "BTU has initiated a proactive vegetation trimming program in which experienced tree trimming technicians will periodically trim trees away from the power lines in BTU rights-of-way. The entire system will continue to be trimmed on a five-year maintenance schedule that will allow for cost effective vegetation management."

The program

The scope of BTU's trimming program will target trees and vegetation along the lines that run from substations to the end of lateral lines. In short, tree trimmers will be focused on the lines that move electricity around the region, with homeowners taking up responsibility at the point the lines "drop" to their homes or businesses. BTU "reclaims" established rights-of-way to ensure reliable service and to allow the quickest possible restoration in the event of an outage.

According to Bill, "It will take our workers about five years to work all the circuits in our service area."

The benefits

BTU customers are already reaping many of the benefits the program provides. The most obvious one is increased reliability. In addition to significantly reducing the possibility of tree-related outages, repair and maintenance costs will be reduced. Linemen will also have increased access to BTU facilities and lines, allowing for safer and easier inspection. Cleared rights of way will also decrease the time needed to locate and repair downed lines during times of trouble.

"Take for example, a storm," said Bill, "during which

lightning strikes a pole. If our crews have access to the damaged area, the repair may take 60 minutes. If they have to cut their way through downed trees or other vegetation, that same repair could take up to four times as long or more. At the end of the day, regular vegetation management saves time and money and increases reliability."

The tree trimming technicians

BTU uses a contracted workforce that is specially trained and qualified to work close to high voltage power lines. Along with being line clearance certified (a legal requirement for a commercial arborist working within 10 feet of an electric line), workers on BTU's trimming force are closely supervised by a certified arborist.

"Because all electrical lines are potentially lethal," Bill said, "we encourage our customers not to take chances on trimming trees that could contact the lines. We are always happy to meet anyone on-site to offer advice and possible assistance when personal safety and lines are threatened."

The trim

The largest challenge of this type of program is balancing the clearance between the vegetation and the wires and the vegetation's (particularly trees) natural form and aesthetic value. BTU's line contractors follow industry accepted and arboriculturally sound practices whenever possible for maintenance of tree health and to minimize sprout growth from unacceptable "stub" cuts.

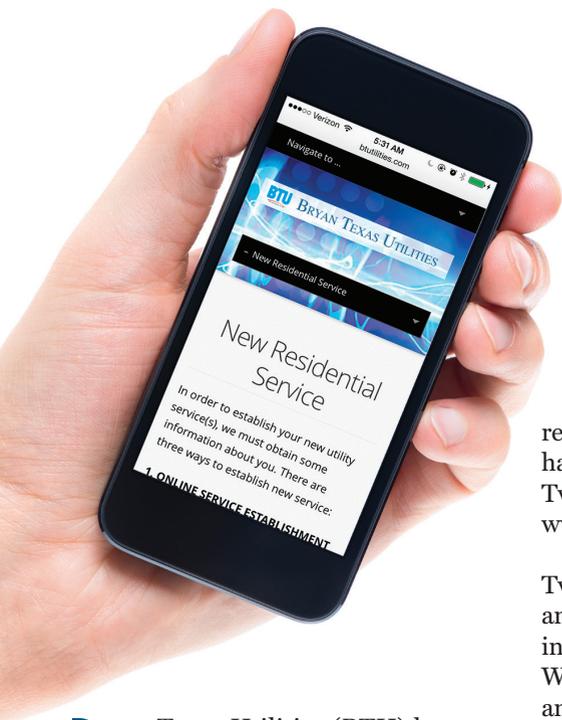
Bill explained, "There is no guarantee that pruning work will leave all trees attractive. With time, the growth of branches near large cuts will mitigate the visual impact of heavy pruning. So far, we have had mostly positive feedback."

He concluded, "We post door hangers with pertinent information about our presence before trimming in an area. I encourage questions as well as the voicing of concerns and input from property owners. And to reiterate, we're happy to meet with customers on-site to ensure they understand the extent and purpose of any trimming we will need to do."

Additional information about the program is available on the BTU website at www.btutilities.com/tree-trimming.

Bryan Texas Utilities is Online and Better than Ever

Story by Jessica Willingham.



Bryan Texas Utilities (BTU) has updated our website with a new look and navigation system. Visitors will find www.btutilities.com to be more user-friendly, easy to navigate and optimized for mobile devices such as tablets and smartphones.

Most Internet users expect mobile responsive websites. According to Mashable.com, 17.4% of global web traffic comes from mobile devices, a 6% increase from 2012. For BTU, going mobile was the next step in customer convenience.

“BTU is dedicated to exceptional customer service,” said Gary Miller, BTU General Manager. “In that spirit, we improved the look and feel of our site. Customers now have easier access to personal account information, payment locations and outage information in real-time. We are confident the improved website will enhance the BTU customer experience.”

The new site also features a search option, access to information about BTU appearing in Texas Co-op Power magazine and information regarding SmartPROGRAMS and energy efficiency tips for home and business owners.

Outage information, including outage locations, is live-streamed to the new website through the City of Bryan’s Twitter page. All tweets

related to outages use the #BTUalerts hash tag. Customers who do not utilize Twitter can access the information at www.btutilities.com.

“The big advantage to using a Twitter feed the way the City of Bryan and BTU use it is the ability to get information out instantly,” said Sam White, brand manager at Zwiack and Associates Real Estate, which owns property in Bryan, Texas. “We like to retweet BTU’s outage information for our homeowners in the community.”

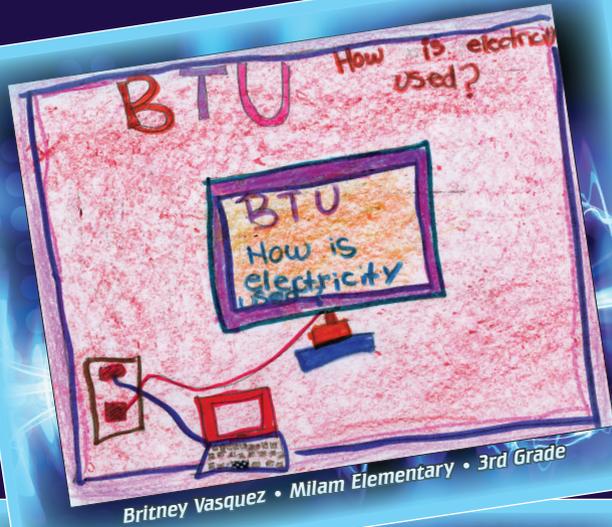
For BTU customers who have been paying their bills online and are having trouble navigating to the new site via your web browser bookmark, we request that you delete your old bookmark and create a new one, directing you to our new online payment and account login pages.

To do this, go to the website, and from there you can find the payment page and account pages in multiple ways. You can:

- Click on “My Account” in the top navigation menu of the page; or
- In the main menu, click on the “I Want To” tab, and select “Pay My Bill”; or
- Scroll down and click through the “My Account” section in the main body of the page.

Customers will only have to follow this process once to update their own computer preferences to bypass the old site and move immediately to the new site. For more information about the new site, please contact the BTU Public Information Officer on duty at btupteam@btutilities.com or (979) 229-1622.





Britney Vasquez • Milam Elementary • 3rd Grade

Area Students Portray How Electricity is Used

Last fall, Allen Academy, Arrow Academy, Bonham, Bowen, Crockett, Fannin, Henderson, Johnson, Jones, Milam, Mitchell, Navarro, Neal, Ross, Saint Michael's Episcopal School, Snook and Saint Joseph elementary teachers had their students create illustrations representing how electricity is used.

BTU received hundreds of entries for their Powerful Pictures program which were reviewed by BTU employees who chose twelve drawings—one for each month—as well as sixteen honorable mention submissions. This year's winners are Sean Barrera from Ross Elementary, Cleo Crouch from Bonham Elementary, Bailey Fannin from Allen Academy, Tyreese Foster from Crockett Elementary, Valentina Gonzalez from Navarro Elementary, Annabel Lee from Mitchell Elementary, Aditya Narayanan from Saint Michael's Episcopal School, Sydney Ocon from Bowen Elementary, Sierra Sebesta from Snook Elementary, Emma Turner from Johnson Elementary, Sergio Umazor from Neal Elementary and Britney Vasquez from Milam Elementary.

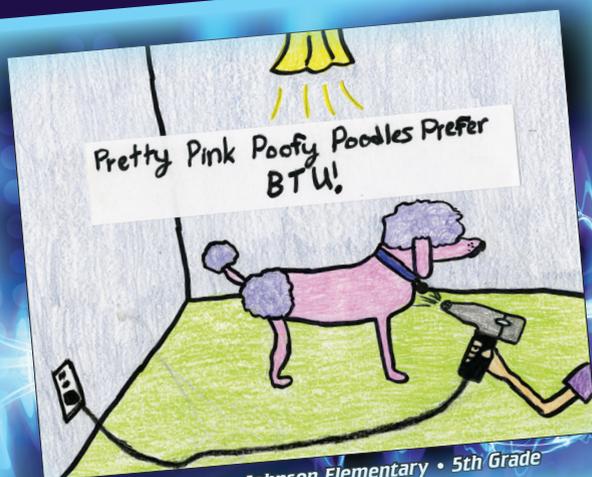
In addition to being recognized by BTU, the twelve winners will appear on KBTX-TV's *Brazos Valley This Morning* to discuss their artwork. The BTU calendar is as unique as the artwork it highlights. In the 2014 calendar, you will find important phone numbers and information, in addition to tips about how to save on energy and updates 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 2014 calendar, please stop by the BTU office. You'll want to hurry as they usually go fast! For more information about electrical efficiency or the Powerful Pictures contest, please email Paul at pbuckner@btutilities.com.



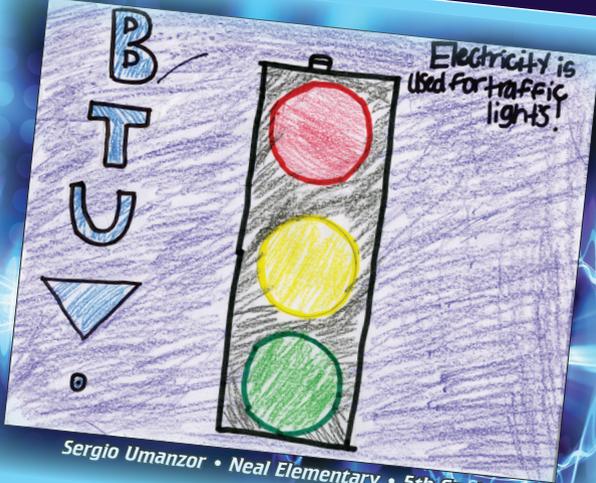
Cleo Crouch • Bonham Elementary • 5th Grade



Emma Turner • Johnson Elementary • 5th Grade



Annabel Lee • Mitchell Elementary • 5th Grade



Sergio Umanzor • Neal Elementary • 5th Grade



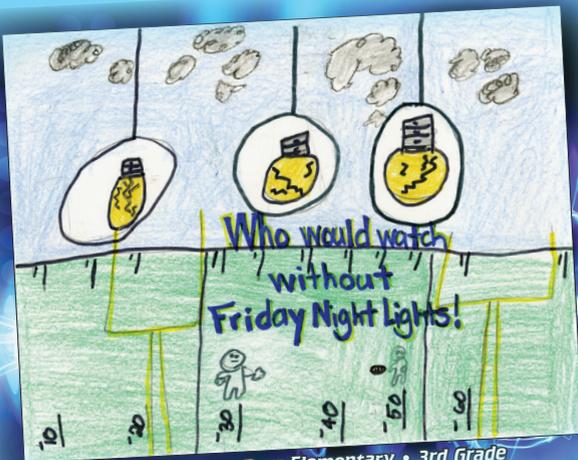
Bailey Fannin • Allen Academy • 2nd Grade



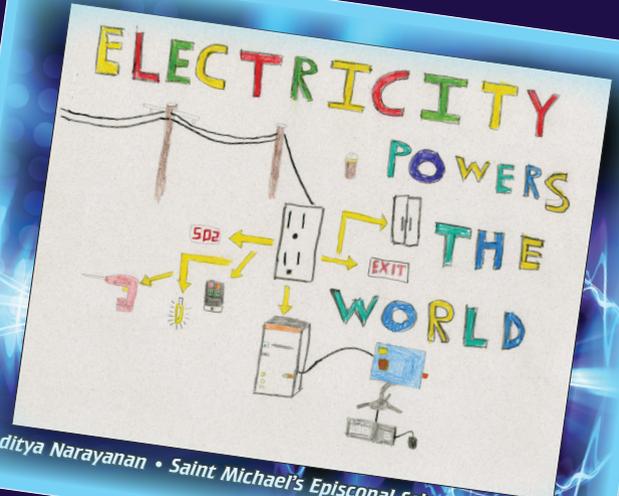
Sierra Sebesta • Snook Elementary • 5th Grade



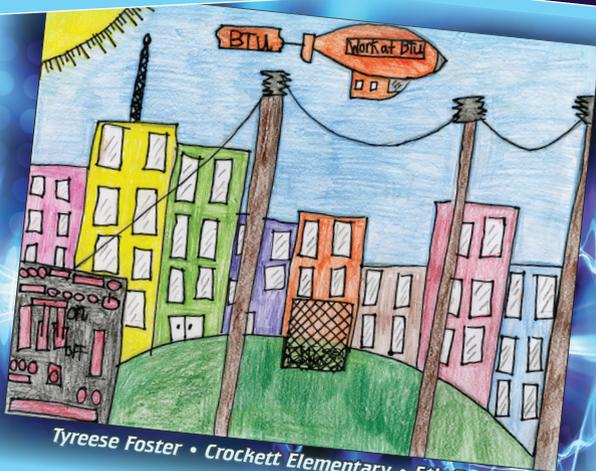
Sydney Ocon • Bowen Elementary • 3rd Grade



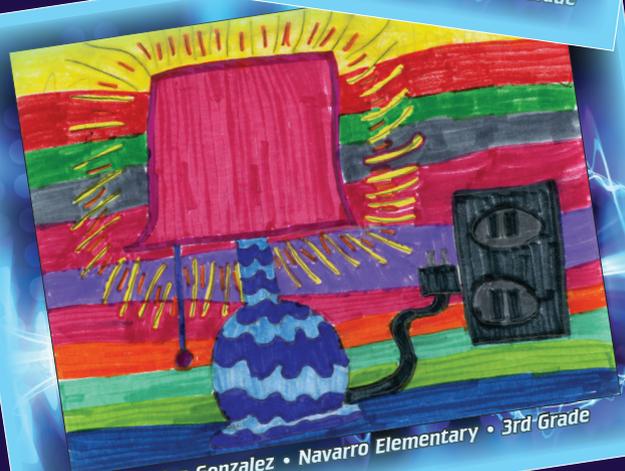
Sean Barrera • Ross Elementary • 3rd Grade



Aditya Narayanan • Saint Michael's Episcopal School • 4th Grade



Tyrese Foster • Crockett Elementary • 5th Grade



Valentina Gonzalez • Navarro Elementary • 3rd Grade



GOVERNMENT-IN-ACTION YOUTH TOUR 2014

BTU OFFERS TEENS A CAPITAL TRIP

ENTRY CHECKLIST

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

THIS YEAR'S CONTEST

This year, Bryan Texas Utilities (BTU) will select three youths to represent our service area through its Government-in-Action Youth Tour competition. The winners will join over 1000 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 12-20, 2014. 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 would life be like without electricity?* 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. Entries are due by 5:00 pm on Friday, February 21, 2014. Winners will be notified by March 3, 2014.

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

- online at www.btutilities.com
- email to pbuckner@btutilities.com
- mail or hand deliver to Paul Buckner at the BTU headquarters at 205 East 28th St., Bryan, TX 77803



**ENTRIES DUE
FRIDAY,
FEBRUARY 21
5:00 PM.**

HISTORY OF THE 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. 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 Senators’ offices 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. Other states embraced the idea, which increased the total number of students sent throughout the summer. In 1964, NRECA decided to coordinate the program, arranging each group’s schedule to be in the capital during the same week. During that first year, 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 Youth Tour each year.



Employee Spotlight

Corey Welch

Lead Meter Technician



Story by Jessica Willingham.

Photos by Ryan Stout.

The dream of working in electricity sparked early in Corey Welch's mind. Born and raised in Bryan, Texas, he spent his summer months of high school helping his uncle, an owner of a small electric company, with maintenance projects. He would also work in the Sanderson Farms chicken houses, doing construction.

"That was where I got my foot in the door in the electrical industry," said Corey. From the beginning, Corey has been a passionate student of the trade.

Corey, 27, began his journey with Bryan Texas Utilities (BTU) in 2006 as an electric meter technician apprentice.

Electricity meters are typically calibrated in billing units, the most common one being the kilowatt-hour. Meters, or devices that measure the amount of electric energy consumed by a residence, business or electrically powered device, take periodic readings to establish billing cycles and energy used during a cycle.

In 2010, Corey became the first meter technician employee to graduate from the apprenticeship program. Today, he is the lead meter technician for the BTU Electric Meter Shop, working to monitor BTU's 58,000 residential and commercial electric meters. Below, he discusses his professional passion, personal pastimes and taking home the prize.

What's a typical day like for you?

Describing my average day is difficult because there is no average day! I could be doing anything from programming and testing meters, working on meters that are sending alarms or meters that are having communication issues to working with Electric Reliability Council of Texas settlement metering. The possibilities are endless.



What's the best part of your job?

One of the most gratifying parts of this position to me is being able to train or teach coworkers. I enjoy learning new material and being able to take that knowledge and use it to teach others. We acquired three new employees in the meter shop whom are currently participating in the apprenticeship program. Believe me, they keep me on my toes. But for me, that is what keeps things interesting. I look forward to continuing to grow with our company and our community.

What's the most frustrating part of your job?

With the way technology continues to advance, we are continuing to learn new things and also acquire new issues. But that's also a perk of the job: it never gets boring.

What are some of the current technological advances in metering?

After graduating the apprenticeship program in 2010, the next few years of work got interesting. BTU moved to a new AMI, or "automated metering infrastructure" system. It changed my whole perspective of metering. After lots of hard work, I became proficient in working with the new meters and metering software.

What are your favorite pastimes?

I enjoy hunting of any kind; I'm currently on a deer lease in Rocksprings, Texas with another co-worker. I was raised in the country and that's where I spend most of my time. This year I was fortunate enough to be able to take my first Trophy Axis buck.

Riding four wheelers and playing in the mud is always a good pastime. Another favorite pastime would be hanging out with friends and cooking something on the BBQ pit. Lately the crowd favorite seems to be dove diablos, we just can't get enough of them.

Favorite music?

Early 90s country: Mark Chesnutt, Clint Black, Sammy Kershaw, Hank Jr. and George Jones just to name a few.