

BOARD MEETING NOTES

THE BTU BOARD OF DIRECTORS MET ON MONDAY, MAY 9, 2016 AND DISCUSSED THE FOLLOWING TOPICS:

MANAGER'S REPORT

DEED Scholarships

Gary Miller informed the BTU Board of Directors that APPA has awarded two students from Texas A&M University grants in the Demonstration of Energy & Efficiency Developments (DEED) Program. This is the only research and demonstration program funded by and for public power utilities.

Mr. Miller stated that BTU has participated in the DEED program for a number of years by sponsoring the program, which then allocates grant money to student research. BTU staff works with students during the research process.

OPERATIONS

Gary Miller presented the safety statistics for the previous month, stating BTU had no recordable incidents and no at-fault vehicle incidents for the month of April.

Mr. Miller stated that all employee training for the "Speak Up, Listen Up" module continues and that most departments have completed. All departments are having safety meetings, either as a separate group or combined with other groups.

COMMUNITY APPRECIATION

The Brazos County 4H, Faith Riders Drill Team presented a plaque of appreciation to BTU for sponsorship and support.

SAFETY: For Work. For Home. For Life.



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Hours of Operation

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



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Important Numbers

Billing/Collections/Connects (979) 821-5700

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BRAZOS COUNTY PRIDE

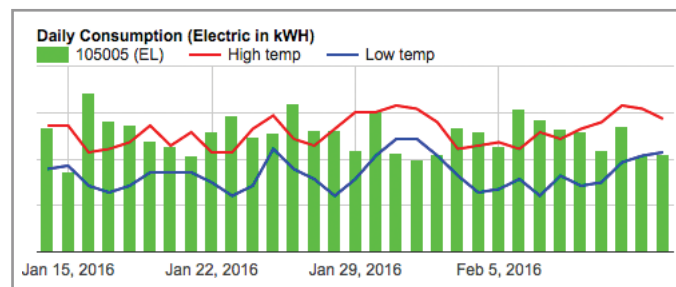


BTU is proud to have been a sponsor of the Brazos County 4H Faith Riders Drill Team in 2015, during which they won the Texas 4H State Grand Champion award for precision drill at the Texas State 4H Horse Show.

The team consists of children of all ages, from elementary to high school, who perform at a number of events, including the Brazos County Fair and Rodeo, the Madison County Rodeo, the Sammy Catalena PRCA Rodeo, and the BCS Christmas Parade. In addition to their Grand Champion award, in 2014 and 2015 the team was also the Reserve Grand Champions at the state level for the theme drill.

When they are not performing or competing, the team participates in a variety of community service events throughout the year.

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LOCAL FAMILY BUSINESS

When Sammy and Carolyn Catalena decided to go into the hat making business shortly after they were married, things didn't go quite as they had expected. After an opportunity to take over ownership of an existing hat shop fell through, they had to put their vision on hold until they could locate the equipment they needed to get their business started.

"Hat equipment, you don't buy new." Carolyn explained, detailing the rarity of the art in today's world. "You either have to find it from someone going out of business or buy a piece that's not working and rehab it to get it working."

When Sammy got word that a western store owner in Florida, Mr. Russell, was selling his hat making equipment, he got on a plane the next day to meet with him. Sammy recalls the one stipulation Mr. Russell made clear to him when he came to see about the equipment. "Most of the big hat companies wanted that equipment to use it for parts, and he didn't want that," Sammy said. "He wanted someone to take it and do what he had envisioned doing with it, but never was able to."

And that's just what Sammy planned to do. Once the equipment was purchased, Sammy and Carolyn got to work on setting up their business in Downtown Bryan. And in 1983, Catalena Hatters was born, at 203 North Main Street.

"Our first [inventory] order for hats was \$3000," said Carolyn, the memory still fresh in her mind. "And I was like 'Oh my gosh, we're never going to sell \$3000 worth of hats'". But they did. And 33 years later, Catalena Hatters can sell that, and much more, in a single order thanks to their widespread customer base, which spans nearly every country in the world. But more about that later.



Left to right: Travis, Carolyn,



"The hat business is something that gets in your blood. You live it, you breathe it, and because it's such a lost art, to me that's what is so intriguing about it."

- Carolyn Catalena

WORLD WIDE CUSTOMERS



Sammy, & Scott Catalena



“We’re doing the things in life that we set out to do, that we wanted to do, and we thank our family, friends, and loyal customers that it was so successful.”

- Sammy Catalena

The Family Business

As business started taking off, the Catalenas relied on their family to help with the day to day operations - primarily their sons, two of which still work in the store today. “I thought it was the neatest thing in the world,” said Travis, who started working in the store when he was twelve. “I got to do something that no one really knows about or gets to do. I started by making hat boxes and washing hats, and eventually I worked my way up to the front.”

Over the years, Travis’ skill for making and creasing hats became so apparent that big name companies started trying to recruit him away from the family store, “He’s probably the best there is,” Sammy confirms. “I’ve creased hats my whole life, but he creases mine.”

Travis spent much of his time learning from the Catalena’s main hatter in the early days of their business - everything from how to shape and iron hats, to making the perfect crease. After 10 years with the store, their hatter left, turning the reigns over to Travis. “You get to learn how to do a bit of everything,” Travis said of working in the store.

Scott, the Catalena’s youngest, is a fixture with the customers at the front of the store and is also heavily relied on for tech support and their web and social media presence, which provides them a “balance of skills” according to Carolyn.

One of the most difficult aspects of the operation is keeping the hundred

year old shop equipment in good working order. “You can’t just call someone to come and fix something when it breaks,” said Travis, “you have to figure it out yourself, and so I learned how to become very mechanically inclined.”



A World Wide Hatter

Nowadays, about half of the business done with Catalena Hatters is mail order. “Most people think that we’re just right here in Bryan - just a local business,” Sammy said. Thanks to ads in magazines such as Western Horseman, Cowboys and Indians, and True West, and the internet, the Catalenas have sent their hats all over the world, and have some good stories to prove it. Two of their customers met by chance at the equator, both wearing their hats from the Catalena’s shop. Once they realized that they both bought their hats from a little shop in Bryan, Texas, they took a picture together and sent it to the Catalenas.

Many of country music and rodeo’s elite have donned a Catalena Hatters’ creation, including Willie Nelson, Garth Brooks, Johnny Lee, Aaron Watson, Clint Cannon, Cody Tele, and Wayne Toups - to name a few. They’ve even made a hat for a doll that was presented to President George Bush. To say that they can make a hat for just about anyone would be an understatement.

SCHOLARSHIP WINNERS

BTU is proud to partner with the George Bush Presidential Library to award scholarships to six outstanding students through the 2016 George Bush High School Public Service Scholarship. These high school seniors have demonstrated commitment to their academics as well as to the community, as evident by their countless hours of community service.

The scholarship, created to honor former President George Bush's service to the Bryan-College Station community, awards each recipient with \$3,000 to be used towards their higher education, and each school receives an academic grant of \$2,500.



Diya Girimaji has been an active participant in the A&M Consolidated High School's Student Council, the National Honor Society, and the tennis team - placing third in the girl's singles at the district level. Diya has also provided tutoring for other students and is active in the art program, receiving a score of 4 out of 4 at the Visual Art Scholastic Event. In addition to her many school activities, Diya is also a Girl Scout, and has volunteered for a number of organizations and businesses including CRY (Child Rights and You), Brazos Valley Worldfest, the Brazos Valley Food Bank, Meals on Wheels, Davita Dialysis Center, the Larry J. Ringer Library, Tiny Tim, the Texas A&M College of Veterinary Medicine, the Gallop Foundation, Camp Howdy, and Kindermusik Camp. After attending Texas A&M University to study Biomedical Science, Diya plans to study veterinary medicine so she can "make a difference in the lives of animals".



Bethany Peterson has been an involved athlete, chorale member, student, and community member during her time at Travis B. Bryan High School. She was a member of the varsity swim team for all 4 years and was named Captain during her senior year. She was a member of the chorale her junior and senior years and competed in a number of events. She was also President of the National Honor Society her senior year, a member of Cord of Three, and Voices of Praise. In the community, Bethany was a member of the United Way Youth Leadership Cabinet, and a volunteer for a number of organizations including the Hope Pregnancy Center, Youth Choir, and for her Church's childcare center and Vacation Bible School. She hopes to attend either Wheaton College or Texas A&M University to major in Bilingual Education and would like to ultimately teach in a bilingual classroom and do mission work.

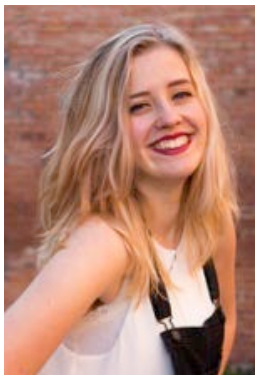


Mariah Barry has been an honor roll student at St. Joseph Catholic High School for all four years. She is a talented clarinetist taking the designation of "Superior" at the district level for her solo and band ensemble and competed in regionals with the High School Symphonic Band. In addition to music, Mariah competed on the Varsity Track and Field team and took several awards in 2013. In the community, she volunteers with the Brazos Valley Food Bank, the St. Joseph Garage Sale, Twin City Mission Homeless Shelter, the BCS Marathon, and multiple church activities. She has over 640 volunteer hours to date. Mariah plans to attend Texas A&M University to major in Biomedical Science and hopes to pursue a medical degree.



Layne Outlaw has been involved in a number of activities at James Earl Rudder High School, including National Honor Society, Key Club, Varsity Football, Marching Band, Jazz Band, and Fellowship of Christian Athletes. Layne was also awarded a number of accolades and several band awards including Most Outstanding Freshman Band Member. Layne was also nominated to attend the National Youth Leadership Forum on Careers in National Security, and was selected for the Texas A&M Aerospace Camp SOAR in which he won for best hovercraft and took 2nd place in the Rocket Flight awards. Outside of school, Layne is an active Eagle Scout, has helped build wheelchairs for handicapped people in foreign countries, works with Brazos Valley Food Bank, participates in Operation Christmas Child, Bowling Buddies, and the Salvation Army. Layne plans to attend Texas A&M University to study Aerospace Engineering with the ultimate goal to "help protect my country by working for the CIA evaluating foreign missile technologies."

"BTU has been proud to partner with the George Bush Library to support this scholarship for several years. We are happy to be a part of helping such bright and promising members of our community reach their goals after displaying such commitment to their school and to serving Bryan and College Station."
- Gary Miller, BTU General Manager



Zoe de Beurs served as the Vice President of Service for the National Honor Society at College Station High School, where she helped to raise nearly \$1000 for space heaters and provide 1000 meals for impoverished families during the holiday season. Zoe also provided tutoring services to fellow classmates in subjects such as Chemistry, Math, and English, and utilized her skills in audio video production (AVP) to promote reading through a PSA for Read Across America Day. For her work in AVP, Zoe was awarded the Audio Video Production Student of the Year and was made head of the film festival committee. In the community, Zoe has volunteered for Habitat for Humanity, United Way, AggieLand Humane Society, the Visual Arts Scholastic Event, and the Texas Independent Film Festival. Zoe will be attending the University of Texas at Austin and will double major in Neuroscience and Radio, Television, and Film. She hopes to conduct research as a neuroscientist that will "educate the public and promote the quality of life of persons with mental illness, physical impairments, and learning disabilities".



Natalie Arredondo has served as the Bryan Collegiate High School's Senior Class President, the Treasurer of the Student Ambassadors, as well as participated in the quilting club, cooking club, French club, and the Business Profession of America. Natalie has also served as a tutor for several elementary schools in Bryan and as the Vice President of the Latinos Unidos. She has volunteered at Lulac Oak Hill and has over 700 hours of community service. Natalie plans to attend Texas A&M University where she will major in Construction Science and minor in Business. After school she plans to own her own construction company.

SAFE RV CAMPING WITH GENERATORS



At this time of year, many head out for sun and fun in nature. For some, that means “roughing it” in a recreational vehicle. If you use a portable generator for lights, TV or heat in your RV, it is imperative that you take safety precautions against carbon monoxide poisoning, including these recommendations:

Take a carbon monoxide detector with you. If you own the RV, mount it permanently inside the vehicle and regularly check to see that it is working. If you are renting the RV, take a detector with you to warn you of elevated carbon monoxide levels.

Inspect your RV’s chassis and generator exhaust system before each outing. It is also good to inspect it in the event that you bottom out, or have any other incident that could cause damage.

Inspect the RV for any openings in the floor or walls. If you locate a hole, seal it with a silicone adhesive or have it repaired before using your generator again.

Inspect windows and door seals to ensure that they are sealing properly.

Do not operate your generator if the exhaust system is damaged in any way or if an unusual noise is present.

Do not sleep with the generator running.

Leave a roof vent open anytime the generator is running, even during the winter, to protect from carbon monoxide from lingering.

If you start feeling ill, be aware that it could be carbon monoxide poisoning. Shut off the generator and step outside for some fresh air, just to be sure.

If you fear you are being overcome by carbon monoxide, stop driving, get to fresh air immediately and seek medical attention.

LAKE BRYAN

WITH ITS PRACTICAL SERVICE AS A PART OF BTU'S ELECTRICAL GENERATION PORTFOLIO AND ITS RECREATIONAL CHARM, LAKE BRYAN IS A UNIQUE ASSET THAT BTU IS PROUD TO SHARE WITH THE CITIZENS OF OUR GREAT COMMUNITY.



Lake Bryan has been a preferred recreation spot for the Bryan/College Station community for many years. Originally built in the 1970s as a cooling element for the Roland C. Dansby Power Plant, the lake is now home to both the Texas A&M University Sailing and Crew Clubs, as well as the Lakeside Icehouse.

The lake is a sought after venue for numerous events, including 5Ks, charitable events, reunions, and more. Patrons of the lake enjoy camping, boating, fishing, wakeboarding, and have access to grills and picnic areas as part of their admission. The Lakeside Icehouse is not only a popular restaurant, but is also a weekend concert venue for local musicians, and a multipurpose event venue during the week.