

## More changes for FPU in efforts of total consolidation

Change means to alter, modify, transform or adjust. However you describe it, that's what we continue to face at Fayetteville Public Utilities. FPU and its employees have certainly worked together to make these consolidation transformations successful. Not only have we experienced changes with office locations over the past few weeks but also with job duties, employee changes and more.

No matter what our circumstance in life, change can be good, or change can be bad. It's all in how we perceive it and form personal opinions about it. Through it all, we know that these changes at FPU are in the best interest of the utility and our customers.

I find it interesting that our local newspaper performed an opinion poll recently, albeit unscientific, relating to the public perception of the continued consolidation of utilities by relocating the natural gas and water offices to the 408 W. College St. location as we work to bring those employees together. A pleasing 71 percent of those polled were in favor of the office relocations.

In your last issue of *The Tennessee Magazine*, you read about some of the plans to redesign the drive-through for easier access, renovate a small portion of the West College Street facility to accommodate offices moving from the water and gas facilities and how

we plan to consolidate additional duplications of duties and services for the utility.

I am proud to report that as of March, the water department office has successfully moved to the West College Street location, and the natural gas showroom has also relocated to the FPU operations department and offers more space to display our gas heaters, fireplaces and other equipment. More plans are under way to continue moving forward to consolidate FPU as one utility.

As an FPU natural gas customer, we welcome you to visit our new showroom at 408 W. College St. to see the many quality, affordable Vanguard heaters, gas logs and fireplaces on display. Ask about our "early-buy" specials on gas heating products and the great deals we now have on our Broilmaster natural gas grill. The Broilmaster offers a lifetime warranty on the cooking grid, burner and shell and has proven to be **the choice** in natural gas outdoor grilling.

In the near future, the remaining offices at the FPU natural gas operations department at 401 N. Main Ave. will be moving to the 408 W. College St. location. Renovations will be complete, and we expect FPU to truly become the place where **one stop does it all** for our customers.



**Britt Dye**  
CEO/General  
Manager,  
Fayetteville Public  
Utilities



408 W. College St.  
P.O. Box 120  
Fayetteville, TN 37334

(931) 433-1522  
Toll-free: 1-800-379-2534

**Office Hours:**  
Monday-Friday  
7:30 a.m.-4:30 p.m.

**Dispatch Hours**  
Seven days a week  
7:30 a.m.-10 p.m.  
24-hour emergency response

To make doing business with FPU more convenient, we offer the following services:

- Bank Draft
- Level Billing
- Project Help
- Delayed Payment
- Surge Protectors
- Security Lights
- Electric and Natural Gas Grills
- Natural Gas Space Heaters, Logs and Mantel Kits
- Dial-Up Internet Service
- Cable TV and High-Speed Internet Access

**Call the FPU Customer Service Department for details at (931) 433-1522.**



# Seventh-graders write, win FPU contest

**E**ighteen seventh-grade students representing six local schools across Lincoln County have won the creative writing contest sponsored by Fayetteville Public Utilities and the Tennessee Valley Authority. Students received their awards at a ceremony held at FPU with Britt Dye, FPU CEO/general manager, and Angela Hamlin, TVA regional marketing manager, congratulating the students and their parents.



The contest offers an opportunity for these students to enhance their creative writing skills while learning about their local utility and the current issues it faces with environmental concerns and utility resources.

This year, students wrote about "Conserving our Natural Resources," relaying their thoughts, in 500 words or less, to describe the current concerns of conserving natural resources, whether through protecting our environment or lowering their family's utility bills.

"We all take our utilities for granted," says Dye. "Most of us don't really know what all goes into providing electricity, natural gas and clean water for our community. We flip on a switch, turn on the faucet and ignite pilot lights without much thought of the utilities being there when we need them. Through this writing contest, we encourage students to consider the true value of our utility services and address ways in which we can become better stewards of our environment and our utilities."

Winners from each participating school received savings bonds funded by FPU and TVA in the amounts of \$150, \$100 and \$50 for first, second and third place, respectively.

Winners at Blanche School were C.J. Dover, first place; Calvin Perry, second place; and Ryan Hamer, third place.

Winners at South Lincoln School were Zach Scivally, first place; Tanner Sanders, second place; and Rex Dunn, third place.

At Stone Bridge Academy, winners were Ty Ford, first place; Keaton Stamps, second place; and Dustin Hood, third place.

Unity School winners were Kala Gleghorn, first place; Brandon Roland, second place; and Will Hiebert, third place.

Flintville School winners were Lorrie Pruett, first place; Ryan Mann, second place; and Kristen Ables, third place.

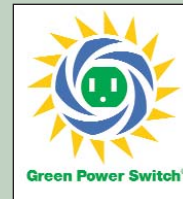
The winners at Riverside Christian Academy were Emma Hammons, first place; Caroline Meadows, second place; and Jared Mills, third place.

"We truly appreciate all our junior high schools participating in the writing contest and being a part of this FPU/TVA-sponsored program," says Dye.

"Learning how to conserve our natural resources will prove a benefit to all of us, now and in the future."

Those stories that garnered first place at each participating school have been posted to the FPU Web site at [www.fpu-tn.com](http://www.fpu-tn.com). We encourage you to visit the site and read what our seventh-graders have to say about conserving our natural resources.

**For more information on how you can use your energy more wisely, visit [www.energyright.com](http://www.energyright.com).**



**To learn more about conserving and protecting our water supply, visit [www.waterwiser.org](http://www.waterwiser.org).**

**If you'd like more information about Green Power Switch®, visit [www.greenpowerswitch.com](http://www.greenpowerswitch.com).**



## *Electric Cooperatives: Where Tradition Powers Today*

# High school juniors learn, write about FPU

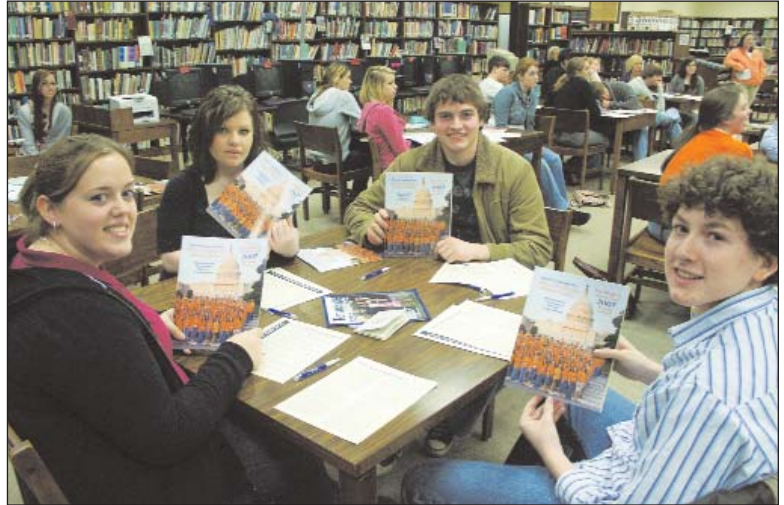
The annual Washington Youth Tour Writing Contest is under way for Tennessee's high school juniors. Fayetteville Public Utilities sponsors the writing contest locally each year as a way of selecting its participants in the annual National Rural Electric Youth Tour to Washington, D.C.

The writing contest engages junior English students to write about "Electric Cooperatives: Where Tradition Powers Today" and relates how traditions of providing low-cost electric service and caring for FPU customers are still practiced today just like they were some 70 years ago.

"The writing contest provides a way for students, our future FPU customers, to learn about FPU and what rural electrification has done for our community over the years," says Gina Warren, FPU public information specialist. "Students learn how FPU is more than just a place where people come to get utilities and pay their utility bills — they learn about WHY we provide the quality of customer service we do by remembering our roots and carrying on the traditions by which the electric co-op was formed."

"The contest gives students an opportunity to win an expense-paid trip to Washington, D.C., savings bonds and possible college scholarships," she adds.

The Washington Youth Tour is sponsored annually by Tennessee's electric cooperatives and includes a week-long tour of our nation's capital. Such popular sites planned for this year's tour include Monticello, Marine Museum, Arlington National Cemetery, Washington National Cathedral, Union Station and visits to the Jefferson, Lincoln, Vietnam War, Korean War and World War II memorials.



**Junior students at Lincoln County High School listen to the writing contest presentation and prepare to write their stories.**

Each year, the Tennessee group has been honored to have a VIP night tour of the U.S. Capitol led by congressmen from our state. In addition to the tour, the group also enjoys breakfast with Tennessee congressmen and -women during the week's stay in D.C.

This year, visits are also planned for the Hard Rock Cafe, Lincoln Theatre, Smithsonian and Library of Congress.

"As you see, the Washington Youth Tour is an action-packed tour of the capital city that our young people will never forget," says Warren.

Four winners of the FPU writing contest will be selected from Lincoln County High School to attend the Youth Tour June 8-14. Winners will be announced later in April.

## SENIOR EXPO 2007

Thursday, May 24

8 a.m.-noon

Lincoln County Museum

If you're age 55 or older, we invite you to Senior Expo 2007!

The Senior Expo 2007 is a joint effort of Fayetteville Public Utilities and Lincoln Medical Center to provide FREE health screenings and an opportunity to learn more about the services and organizations

in our area that are available to assist our senior population. Although plans are still tentative at the time of this issue's publication, we are pleased to announce the inclusion of these services at the Senior Expo 2007:

# Don't dig without calling. You dig?

With the arrival of spring and warmer weather, many of us are planning our building and landscaping projects. Fayetteville Public Utilities reminds you to beware of the possibilities of underground utility lines — electric, natural gas, water and cable or Internet — in the areas you plan to dig.

To help keep you and your family safe, we offer the following information about the Natural Gas Pipeline Safety Improvement Act of 2002 for the education and benefit of the residents of Fayetteville and Lincoln County, Tenn.

We strongly encourage you to use the statewide, toll-free Tennessee One Call (Call Before You Dig) number to report any planned excavation of any type anywhere in the county. Tennessee One Call service will locate and clearly mark any known underground utilities in the areas where you plan to dig. The number to call is 1-800-351-1111.

All underground utilities pose a potential hazard when you dig or excavate. To meet the requirements of the Natural Gas Pipeline Safety Improvement Act of 2002, FPU feels it is important to make you aware of the specific dangers of unintentional damage of underground gas lines.

Some of the hazards that could occur with the unintended release of natural gas may include an explosion or fire. Should a release of natural gas occur, some of the indications would be:

1. An odor similar to the smell best described as "rotten eggs." Fayetteville Public Utilities' natural gas department injects this special odorant into all gas sold on our system as a safety measure for the public.
2. A hissing sound that may be heard in addition to the smell of the natural gas odorant.
3. The blowing up of dirt or dust in the area of an excavation, as well as bubbles on the ground or on facilities where water may be standing.

Should any or all of these indications of a natural gas release be present, the following steps should be taken immediately for your safety:

1. Evacuate the area to a safe distance and, if possible, keep others from entering the area until help arrives.
2. Extinguish any open flame and do not operate any switches of any kind.
3. Do not drive a vehicle into or near the area of concern. Never ignite a lighter or matches if a gas release is suspected.
4. Do not use a telephone in the immediate area of the suspected gas release. If a natural gas release is suspected to have taken place, go to a neighbor's house, well away from the suspected area of concern, and call for help. Call the FPU natural gas department at (931) 433-1522 to report the suspected incident. Do not use a cell phone in the immediate area of suspected gas release. If ignition has occurred or if a suspected gas release appears to be of major concern, immediately call 911 to notify the fire department in your area.

Help us keep natural gas a safe and reliable source of energy for the future. If you have questions or concerns about natural

gas pipelines or any FPU underground utility service in your area, please call (931) 433-1522.



**Remember:  
Call  
BEFORE  
you dig!**

- Blood pressure
- Cholesterol screening
- Diabetes screening
- Oxygen saturation screening
- Proper senior nutrition
- Wellness and low-impact exercise
- Energy savings and utility services
- Quick-and-easy gardening tips
- Financial planning
- Advanced directives/living wills
- Adult education
- And so much more!

**Look for more information about Senior Expo 2007 in coming weeks.**

**If you have questions or suggestions or if you would like to reserve booth space during the Expo, please call Gina Warren at Fayetteville**

**Public Utilities, 433-1522, Ext. 166, or Jennifer Wolaver at Lincoln Medical Center, 438-1100.**

**Make plans now to join us at the Senior Expo on May 24 at the Lincoln County Museum!**

## Utility launches AED program

Since receiving national safety accreditation in March 2005, Fayetteville Public Utilities employees continue to place worker and workplace safety on the forefront of daily operations.

Recently, automated external defibrillators, or AED units, have been placed on lead servicemen vehicles at FPU to aid in case of sudden cardiac arrest. At this time, FPU has installed six AEDs in foremen vehicles of the gas, water and electric departments. An AED is also installed at the FPU office on 408 W. College St.

“We take safety seriously,” says Chuck Barnes, FPU utility safety coordinator. “The idea of being able to provide emergency care not only to employees but also to the public has an immeasurable value to all of us.”

An automated external defibrillator is a portable device used to administer an electric shock to the heart and restore the heart’s normal rhythm during sudden cardiac arrest. Ventricular fibrillation, the abnormal heart rhythm that most often leads to sudden cardiac arrest, is treatable. If the heart can be shocked quickly with an AED, a normal heart rhythm may be restored.

In the past, defibrillators were complicated and cumbersome, and only medical professionals with extensive training in heart rhythm interpretation could use them. AEDs are no longer limited to emergency rooms; they are now placed in airports, schools, gyms and other public places — and most recently in homes.

An AED consists of a small computer (microprocessor), electrical circuitry and adhesive electrode pads. The electrodes collect information about the heart’s rhythm. The microprocessor interprets the rhythm. If the heart is in ventricular fibrillation, the microprocessor recommends a defibrillating shock. The shock is delivered by way of the electrode pads, through the victim’s chest wall and into the heart. The shock stuns the heart momentarily, stopping all activity. This gives the heart a



**Chuck Barnes holds an AED that is installed in an electric crew leader's service truck.**

chance to restart normal activity and resume beating effectively.

Employees are now being trained to use the AED units, but to further ensure proper use, the AED, when it is opened, also provides a voice tutorial to make performing the rescue procedure easy and accurate.

It is essential that defibrillation be administered immediately following cardiac arrest. If the heart does not return to a regular rhythm within 5-7 minutes, this fibrillation could be fatal. If defibrillated within the first minute of collapse, the victim’s chances for survival are close to 90 percent. For every minute that defibrillation is delayed, survival decreases by 7 percent to 10 percent. If it is delayed by more than 10 minutes, the chance of survival in adults is less than 5 percent.

In addition to the installation of the AED units as part of FPU’s overall worker safety program, all FPU employees also receive proper training in cardiovascular pulmonary resuscitation (CPR) as well.

“FPU believes that CPR training is so important that we train every employee in CPR, first aid and now AED every two years after initial training,” says Barnes.

FPU has notified the Lincoln County Emergency Management Agency, the Fayetteville Fire Department and the Lincoln County EMS about its use of the AED program by utility employees.

“FPU employees will not be making ‘911’ rescue calls for the public,” says Barnes. “But if employees are at or near the emergency in the time of need, please feel free to ask for our help until professional medical assistance arrives.”

“Life-threatening emergencies can happen in any place at any time,” says Barnes. “These emergencies can result from pre-existing health problems, violence, unintentional injuries, natural disasters and toxins. As utility employees, we are public servants, and we care for our customers’ safety as well as our own.”



**Watch FPU’s cable TV Channel 6 nightly for local programming!  
Tune in and see local church services, community events  
and interviews with your friends and neighbors.**

**Join us on FPU’s Channel 6 ...  
it’s all about what’s happening in our community!**