

# New Faces in the Field

*Klickitat PUD's staff works hard to provide safe, reliable electricity*

By Lori Froehlich



**Operations Manager Craig Lohrey**



**Mechanic Sohn Kartes**



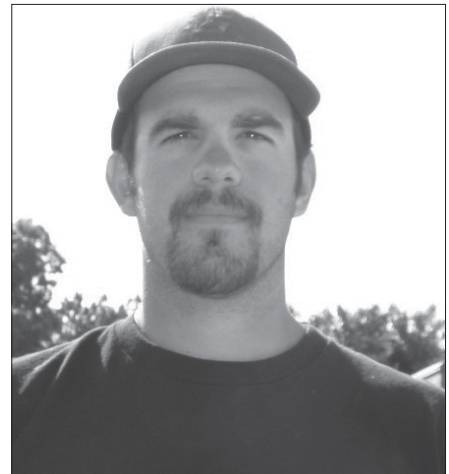
**Lineman TJ Lutz**

Utilities throughout the United States are seeing the retirement of experienced workers. Klickitat PUD is no exception.

Foremen, linemen, mechanics and wiremen have recently retired, taking years of valuable experience with them.

Luckily, many knowledgeable employees who have worked for the district for many years can help new hires learn about the county and how internal processes of KPUD work.

Operations Manager Craig Lohrey joined Klickitat PUD at the end of



**Lineman Anthony Lozano**

August. He has more than 30 years of experience in the utility industry.

Craig oversees the operations personnel, including line crews, the tree crew, mechanics, water-wastewater and purchasing departments.

The line crews also have seen many changes. Two new foremen, both 18-year veterans of the PUD, have taken leadership roles: Bernie Predeek on the White Salmon crew and Lake Howard on the construction crew. Ed Lexa, a 15-year employee, moved to the White



**Mechanic Del Eldred**



**Wireman/Electrician Randy Pimley**



**Staking Engineer Aaron Estey**



**Wireman/Electrician Bobby Batte**



**Justin Beierle**



**Staking Engineer Greg Fahlenkamp**

Salmon serviceman position.

Two new faces joined the team in spring 2015: TJ Lutz on the White Salmon crew and Anthony Lozano on the construction crew. They started as hot apprentices—the qualification required to work on energized power lines—and recently became linemen.

The apprenticeship to become a journeyman lineman is a three-year program that includes on-the-job training and passing an exam through the International Brotherhood of Electrical Workers Local 125.

TJ is a native of Klickitat County. He grew up in the Husum/White Salmon area. His father, Mike Lutz, worked for and retired from Klickitat

PUD as a lineman.

Anthony was an IBEW journeyman wireman for many years before deciding to pursue a career as a lineman.

Jim Brokaw moved from his position in the meter shop to foreman when Rick Pimley retired after 20 years.

Two new substation wiremen trainees joined the meter shop: Bobby Batte and Randy Pimley. Both trainees passed their tests and are now journeymen wiremen/electricians.

New mechanics Sohn Kartes and Del Eldred maintain and repair the fleet since Skip Mulrony retired in the spring.

Aaron Estey and Greg Fahlenkamp are two new hires who joined the Engineering Department as staking

engineers following the retirement of Miquette Ihrig and Mike Blumenstein. Customers on the west end of the county may already recognize Aaron, as he has 20-plus years of experience in utility telecommunications and is from the area.

Greg comes to us from Pioneer Surveying and Engineering, where he was a land surveyor.

The newest addition to Klickitat PUD is Justin Beierle, who also started at the end of August to assist in reading meters. He has 14 years of experience in the industrial fire sprinkler industry and is native to the area. Watch for him in your neighborhood as he gets to know the routes and all the friendly animals. ■