



AUSTIN

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## NEWS



The Industry's Newspaper

www.constructionnews.net

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## Accurate Disposal can't contain their enthusiasm!

## MLA expanding south



L-R: Gerry Rieger, Richard Heye, Michael Hatch, Buddy Hyden, and David Jacobson.

L to R: Abdiel Gonzalez, Jay Conner, Jeff King, Chris Marquardt, and Keli-Sue Holsenback, all of MLAW.

**A**ccurate Disposal picked the day after Labor Day to begin operations for their new company. The major players at the company have been in the business so long, they needed a vacation before they ever opened the doors.

Accurate Disposal is new to the Austin disposal market, but their team brings years of experience to this new venture.

**Richard Heye** heads up the construction roll-off division and has 20 plus years of experience in all facets of the solid waste services industry, including sales, operations, marketing, safety, and management.

**Gerry Rieger** comes to the company with 16 years of experience in the non-

hazardous solid waste industry. Rieger has previously worked as a sales manager, account executive, and major accounts representative for other refuse companies in the Austin area.

Also in sales, **David Jacobson** brings 19 years of experience. For 10 years, Jacobson was a sales manager for the largest solid waste company in the world, and he spent the last 9 years managing a large portfolio of accounts for another refuse company in the area.

**Michael Hatch** is handling administrative and regulatory issues for the company. Hatch has 27 years experience owning small businesses from restaurants to real estate and construction.

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**T**wo local Austin engineering firms are expanding their offices to the New Braunfels/San Antonio area.

**MLAW Consultants & Engineers** is a structural and forensic engineering/foundation design firm. Affiliate, **MLA Labs, Inc.**, specializes in geotechnical investigations and construction materials testing. Both serve the residential and commercial markets.

**Jay Conner**, CEO of both MLAW and MLA Labs, talked about his motivations for extending his firms' services southward.

"Residential building has been strong for several years and should be a hot market for years to come. The entire

I-35 corridor, from Georgetown to Laredo, should exhibit a great level of activity for many years," said Conner.

"Our broad customer base is taking us further outside the Austin area. We are serving our customers and picking up new ones along the way."

Based on conversations and commitments from builders, architects and contractors, Conner estimates MLA could be involved in the construction of as many as 10,000 structures per year by 2005.

He foresees the two offices combining to work on projects in Central Texas even though a customer base overlap is expected. The expansion will help MLAW

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## Architectural Habitat redefines spaces, images

**J**an Cannaday, owner of a general contracting firm in town, is not only changing the image of women's roles in the construction industry, but she is helping to build Austin in the process.

In the early 1990's, Cannaday became owner and president of general contracting firm **Architectural Habitat**. In the years prior to running the firm, Cannaday said she accumulated a steadfast background in business, accounting, property management and legal services.

"I enjoy my work and I feel that I have been successful," says Cannaday. "I have been named one of the top 25 women business owners five times in Austin. I'm pretty proud of that for this small company. Though I am always looking for new clients, I am focused on establishing long-term relationships with current clients, and I am very hands on with projects and enjoy being involved on all levels."



Travis County Tax Office

Architectural Habitat was established in 1983. Cannaday joined the firm during the 1980's building boom and bust. Though the firm was doing well with mostly tenant improvement work, Cannaday said one of the firm's managing partners, **Mike Curtis**, wanted out. It was at that time Cannaday thought about buying Curtis' share of the company.

"My husband, Bobby, reminded me that I had all of the knowledge and background necessary to run the business. I approached Mike about buying his half of the company. He approached the other owners who were old fashioned and really couldn't see a woman running the business alone. The only way they would agree to sell me a portion of the business is if I ran the company with a male partner. I agreed. However, by 1993 my partner and I had gone separate ways and I bought the rest of the shares of the company."

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# Ground breaks for Austin's first tollway

By Rachel Jordan, Associate Editor



**T**raffic. It seems it wouldn't be Austin without it. Yet, a new toll road is expected to unclog IH-35 in Austin and outlying areas, and open avenues to better serve the area's economic growth.

A groundbreaking ceremony for the new State Highway 130 (SH-130) was held Oct. 3, 2003 at the site north of Georgetown, where the tollway will meet with IH-35.

The project is a collaboration between city, county, state and federal agencies, with the Texas Department of Transportation (TxDOT) leading the way, along with the construction management team of **Lone Star Infrastructure**.

"Today, we are doing much more than breaking ground; we are breaking bad habits," said Austin Mayor **Will Wynn** at the groundbreaking. "With this project, the City of Austin and surrounding communities will receive less congestion, less air pollution, better roadway safety and an improved economy. It is a great return on the City of Austin's investment, a mere \$15 million, which came from Austin city residents."

**Gov. Rick Perry** also attended the groundbreaking and said the state expects the 49-mile tollway to relieve traffic in the area by creating a commuter and NAFTA corridor alternative to IH-35. The new SH-130 will extend from north of Georgetown, east of

metropolitan Austin, to I-10 near Seguin.

The Texas Transportation Commission says SH-130 is one element of the Central Texas Turnpike Project (CTTP), which is a collection of highway projects to be built that are expected to improve mobility and safety in the region. Gov. Rick Perry said at the groundbreaking that the first phase of the CTTP is expected to be complete by Dec. 2007, and includes Loop 1, SH-45 North and the northern 49 miles of SH-130.



Gov. Rick Perry greets school children, who along with him, placed their handprints in concrete blocks that will be used to build the first tollway area.

**A**fter 18 years of working for the man, **Gregory Thomas** has hung out his own shingle as **Gregory Thomas, Architects**. Thomas' career training began in earnest in 1978 as an Architecture/Architectural Engineering student at the Univ. of Texas.

Working summers for a construction company, Thomas was hired as an assistant office engineer, which he translated to: runner and all around helper guy. Working on a large commercial jobsite, Thomas learned some realities of construction, for example, the orderly sequence of trades and time being the *essence of the contract*. He also developed a healthy respect for the tradesmen and workers on the jobsite and how different people contributed to the success of a project.

Thomas says, "I hope I've been able to carry that respect forward to my practice today."

Thomas finished his formal education in 1985, though he wasn't through learning. His first jobs after graduation gave him experience in consulting, structural systems, and construction.

During the economic bust in Austin of the late 80's, Thomas moved to Philadelphia and learned about what he calls *contextual architecture*: placing new buildings in historical settings, or adding on to landmark buildings. This type of work taught Thomas to respect the best in existing structures, and ways to expand them gracefully.

## Gregory Thomas finds his own way in architecture



Gregory Thomas relaxes in front of his teahouse design.

After two years of freelancing part-time, Thomas has been phasing out of his position with **Mell Lawrence Architects**, and is now the sole practitioner and proprietor of Gregory Thomas, Architects. Thomas is currently working on several residential

remodels, new home designs, and an addition to a historic landmark-designated residence in Hyde Park.

As for going into business for himself, Thomas says, "I prefer to take on the most rewarding work, not necessarily the projects with the biggest budgets, but rather those that deal with the creation of fresh ideas. Helping people realize their visions is very often like a wonderful journey: we set out with intentions and goals, but are often pleasantly surprised at where we end up."

One of Thomas' unique designs will be featured on KLRU's *Central Texas Gardner* television show. It's a Japanese teahouse where his Austin clients can have a place of calm beauty and delight in the passing of the seasons. More information about this project is available at [www.thomasarchitects.com](http://www.thomasarchitects.com).

Thomas says, "It is quite a blessing to have this new practice unfold as it has: I have just enough new work on hand to establish my practice the way I'd like, with a few fun projects that are about to head into construction."

With such a confident outlook for his firm, Thomas had this to say about his future, "Architecture has sometimes been called an old man's profession, and if that is indeed true, I suppose I'd like to grow old gracefully."

## GeoShack & Spectra Laser joining forces

**T**he two dominant distributors serving the construction laser, machine control, GPS and optical survey instrument markets in Texas have announced their recent merger. **GeoShack**, with locations in Dallas, Ft. Worth, Austin and San Antonio has merged with **Spectra Laser & Precision Instrument, Inc.** of Houston. All of the current personnel and facilities are in place to serve the needs of their contractor/customers across the state.

**Mr. Tom Brennan** will continue to serve as President of Spectra Laser & Precision Instruments in Houston. He was quoted as saying, "This merger will enable our

customers across the state to get service and support at any of our stores statewide and experience the same high quality from our personnel."

**Mr. Scott Beathard** will continue to serve as President of the current GeoShack Texas operations and **Mr. David Owen** as Vice President. Mr. Beathard was quoted as saying, "Our dream for GeoShack North America is to create a more efficient distribution organization that provides quality products and services to our customers, better career opportunities for our employees, a secure return for our shareholders and sales growth for our vendor partners." Mr. Owen added, "Long term, this merger will only enhance our resources, our talent pool, and our expertise; allowing us to perform to an even higher level for our customers."

In response to the rapidly-changing marketplace, GeoShack North America, Inc. has been formed from the merger of four independent distributors and an equity investment by an independent investor. Effective October 14, 2003, the following companies have merged:

- **Construction & Survey Instruments, Inc.** dba GeoShack with operations in Texas & Oklahoma
- **Spectra Laser & Precision Instrument Inc.** with operations in Houston, Texas
- **Ohio Beam, Inc.**, dba **Blue Beam** with operations in Ohio & Michigan
- **Laserline Ontario** with operations in Ontario, Canada

GeoShack North America, Inc., the holding company, will be based in the

Dayton, Ohio area, long considered to be the major center for the industry. All of the companies participating in this merger are major distributors today for Trimble Navigation Ltd. The new organization already covers a vast geographical area and hopes to expand across North America through future mergers and acquisitions. These newly-combined operations are anchored today by sales professionals, technical service specialists and administrative support personnel at facilities in 12 major market areas in North America, with a total employment of over 80 employees.

The major goals of this consolidation are to yield:

- World-class customer service and support
- More effective use of resources and individual talents
- Better product availability
- Purchasing efficiencies and operational cost reductions
- Centralized marketing efforts
- Increased industry influence
- An effective marketing channel for new products and technologies

Each of the existing companies will continue to operate independently under their current identity, as wholly-owned subsidiaries of the holding company. Eventually, all operations will use the GeoShack name for all retail activities. Please direct any questions you may have to at [sbeathard@geoshack.com](mailto:sbeathard@geoshack.com) or [tbrennan@geoshack.com](mailto:tbrennan@geoshack.com).



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## Almost Perfect receives 4-star rating

When **Chris Riley** bought his home in downtown Austin, he knew the structure was historical, but he didn't know the history it would make.

The home, at 1310 San Antonio Street, was constructed in 1892, and in the spring of 2002, it began a major remodel. **Joe Zakes** of **Almost Perfect Construction** and architect **Craig Nasso** worked as a team with the owner, from the initial design through to the last detail.

The 4-star rating from the City of Austin's Green Building Program, earned by Almost Perfect, made history itself. They received 165 points out of a possible 180, which garnered them 4 out of 5 stars. This is 25 points higher than the next highest green building remodeling project to date.

The program's rating system is broken into five categories: energy, materials, water, health, and community.

For energy points, they passed a "duct blaster" test, losing less than 10

percent air flow. In the materials category, Zakes earned points by recycling cardboard packaging material as well as the metal removed during demolition, and donated reusable products to Habitat for Humanity.

In the water category, they used water-efficient appliances, a rainwater collection and irrigation system, and xeriscaping. To earn points in the health category, Almost Perfect used a borate-based termite treatment, formaldehyde-free insulation, and water-based wood floor finishes.

For the community portion, they received points for a large front porch and being close to bus lines, a park, and shopping areas.

As a note to other contractors, Zakes said, "I encourage them to join the green building program. I find it good for marketing. I feel good about building green, and it's a way to offer better value to my clients, as they'll have lower energy costs and better indoor air quality."



Joe Zakes goes over his punch list.

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# Spotlight

## Ben Skoldeberg

### Texas Sun and Shade

Editor's note: A native of Sweden, **Ben Skoldeberg**, owner of **Texas Sun and Shade** took the first chance he got to come to America and pursue the American dream. From a small town in Sweden to the sunny hills of Austin, Skoldeberg says he believes he has found a slice of heaven in the Texas skies.

**ACN:** Where did you grow up?

**BS:** I grew up in Nykoping, a small town in Sweden about 60 miles west of Stockholm.

**ACN:** Were you active with sports or did you have any specific hobbies growing up?

**BS:** I really enjoyed cars and motorcycles. I also was an avid sailor and downhill skier. Anything involving speed kept me interested.

**ACN:** Tell me about your parents?

**BS:** My parents raised me in a very loving home. They both worked full time during my youth and instilled in me a very strong work ethic. Strong moral character was an integral part of growing up in our Christian home.

My mother is now 87 and my father is 92 years old, but that did not stop them from coming over from Sweden earlier this year to visit. I owe them so

much in my life and I love them dearly.

**ACN:** Do you have any siblings?

**BS:** I have two older brothers who live in Sweden. Both work as commercial appraisers.

**ACN:** What did you do after high school?

**BS:** I started college to attain an engineering degree. During my first summer I got a job as an awning installer and realized I enjoyed working much more than going to school.

**ACN:** Where did you attend college and what year did you enter?

**BS:** I attended college in Nykoping in 1972.

**ACN:** Did you quit college altogether to begin working?

**BS:** Yes, I did. I honestly had never enjoyed school and found working to be much more rewarding.

**ACN:** Did you start or run an awning or construction-related business in Sweden?

**BS:** After working for a three-man awning shop for several years, my co-worker and I purchased the awning company from our boss. Over the next nine years we built our company into one of the largest awning companies in Sweden.

**ACN:** When did you come to the U.S.?

**BS:** In July of 1987.

**ACN:** Why did you come to the U.S.?

**BS:** My business partner and I wanted to expand the awning company we had built up in Sweden. It was decided that since I have always been fascinated with America and the American way of life that I would move to the U.S. In July of 1987, my wife, our two kids and I moved to Texas to introduce our retractable shading products and to start enjoying our new life.

**ACN:** Who is your business partner and how did y'all meet?

**BS:** Several years ago I sold our Swedish company and my Swedish business partner and I parted ways. I now run and own Texas Sun and Shade with my wife, Gudrun. She and I are both involved in the day-to-day operations of the company as well as planning where we want to take the company in the future.

**ACN:** Why did you choose to come to Texas?

**BS:** We knew that we wanted to be in the south of the U.S. to take advantage of the hot weather. Some friends of ours in Sweden used to own a bakery in Austin during the 1960's. It was called Vikinghouse. They insisted that Austin was an amazing city and that we had to move here. Since everyone in the world knows it is hot in Texas, we figured that we would take their advice and move to Austin.

**ACN:** How did you meet Gudrun?

**BS:** Gudrun is a very beautiful and loving woman that I met at a Christian conference while we were both living in Stockholm.

**ACN:** What is your favorite thing about living in Texas?

**BS:** There are so many great things about Texas to list, but if I had to choose I would say the friendly people and the weather.

**ACN:** Had you ever come to America before?

**BS:** I had never been to America before. My wife and I took a trip a few months before we moved to check out a few cities. Other than our exploratory trip, we

were really moving into a completely unfamiliar country.

**ACN:** What were your first impressions of Americans and life in America during your first year in the country?

**BS:** Our initial impression of Americans was how friendly and helpful they were. As soon as we arrived our neighbors and members of our church took us in and helped us adjust to life in Texas. Our first year in America was truly a test on our family both financially and emotionally. Our company did not take off as we had initially planned and my wife became

very ill. There are times when I look back now and I don't understand how we made it. When you have no choice but to succeed, it is amazing how you find the strength and faith to persevere.

**ACN:** What led you to begin working in the construction industry?

**BS:** Initially I found a job as an awning installer to satisfy an internship requirement for my engineering degree. After I started I realized I enjoyed my job more than I did my schooling. I simply decided to take a break from school and work for



a while. The break has never ended.

**ACN:** Tell me about starting your company.

**BS:** Starting our company was a real learning experience. In Sweden everyone knew our products and we would have 30 families standing in line to order awnings on any given Sunday. When we

came to Central Texas, retractable sun control was unheard of. As a result, we sold one mini blind for \$100.00 our first year in business. My wife and I

had to invest enormous amounts of time and energy educating people about sun control. As a result, we have become the leader for our industry in Texas and are recognized as one of the leading companies of our kind in the U.S. Initially I was hoping for great success, but after starting off with a new concept in a bottomed-out economy, I can honestly say that only God could have foreseen the success we have had.

**ACN:** What is the difference in marketing retractable awnings abroad as in the United States?

**BS:** In Europe, retractable awnings are very common. No one needs to be told what one is used for, or what it looks like. In the United States, retractable awnings are becoming more common but we still have to spend much time and money educating people about the uses of our awnings and the other products we sell.

**ACN:** Do you have plans to supply your products to other areas outside of the U.S.?

**BS:** At this time we have no plans to start selling internationally. However, we are seriously entertaining the idea of expanding our presence into other Texas markets.

**ACN:** Why is it important for you to

lead in life?

**BS:** I think that we have a responsibility to use the talents we have been given in life and to share those talents with others.

**ACN:** What do you like to do on the weekends?

**BS:** On the weekends we try our hardest to stay away from business. My wife and I enjoy spending time with family and friends, boating, motorcycling and being

involved with our church.

**ACN:** What are the names and ages of your children?

**BS:** I have two children. Rebecka, our daughter, is 21 and my son, Josef is 23.

**ACN:** Do either of them have an inclination to join the family business in the future?

**BS:** My son just graduated from the University of Texas at Austin with an economics and government degree and is moving to Washington, D.C. My

daughter is a retail merchandising major at UT who seems destined to end up in New York working for a designer. While both children have always been involved with our business, they both have other interests and I do not foresee them joining our business in the future. But, then again, you never know. They are both extremely talented and Gudrun and I would certainly be delighted if they did join the business one day.

**ACN:** Do you and your family like to go to one of the Highland Lakes much or go hunting or fishing? If so, where do you go?

**BS:** My family and I love boating and water sports. We try to get out on Lake Travis as much as we can.

**ACN:** Do you and your family visit Sweden often?

**BS:** We usually try to get back to Sweden once a year. Since almost all of our extended family lives there we try to make it a priority to go back as often as we can.

**ACN:** What is something people would be surprised to find out about you?

**BS:** I actually love the hot Texas summers and I really don't like cold weather. I think that I have filled my cold quota growing up in Sweden.

**ACN:** How would you describe yourself?

**BS:** I am easygoing with an appreciation for hard work, relaxing, and enjoying life to the fullest.

**ACN:** What are some things you would still like to do in life?

**BS:** I would like to travel more with my wife, enjoy our two kids and future grandchildren. I hope to someday help build churches and orphanages in a country less fortunate than ours, in order to create hope and joy in people's lives. Restoring old cars and purchasing a speed boat also tops my list.

*"I actually love the hot Texas summers and I really don't like cold weather. I think that I have filled my cold quota growing up in Sweden."*

*"I really enjoyed cars and motorcycles [growing up]. I also was an avid sailor and downhill skier. Anything involving speed kept me interested."*

*"My family and I love boating and water sports. We try to get out on Lake Travis as much as we can."*



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## Bartlett Cocke says thanks, Texas style

**Bartlett Cocke, LP**, a general contracting and construction management company, hosted their annual appreciation picnic for subcontractors, at 6 pm on October 8th, at the Lady Bird Wildflower Center in Austin.

Over 125 subcontractors and Bartlett Cocke employees from the hill country area and San Antonio came out to enjoy a barbecue dinner. Future subcontractors interested in doing business with Bartlett Cocke were also invited.

**Michele Rhodes**, the Office Manager for the Austin regional office, greeted attendees and handed out raffle tickets at the door.

"We hold our annual appreciation picnic every year to invite our subcontractors to come out and have a meal. They get some door prizes and everyone has a good time. We just want to let them know that we appreciate all the work that they have done on our projects," Rose said.

"Bartlett Cocke built the Lady Bird Johnson Wildflower Center a few years ago so this has been a great venue for us to show off some of our work."

**Steve McCleskey**, the Regional Manager for the Central Texas Office, said his company looks forward to this event each year and they plan on having many more in the future.

"We have this event every year because our livelihood is dependent upon our subcontractors and suppliers. We want to show our appreciation to those that worked with us on projects. We hope to get bigger every year," said McCleskey.



L-R: Denise Register (Bartlett Cocke) hands subcontractor a DVD player, and far right Michele Rhodes (Bartlett Cocke)

## Western States begins tradition

Almost a year to the date when it opened its new facility in Pflugerville, **Western States Fire Protection** invited customers, colleagues and guests to an open house on Sept. 26, 2003 at its new location.

The new, larger office has allowed the company to group its designers, inspectors and administrative staff into designated areas, which has helped coordinate the company's flow of work.

Austin Area Manager **Joel Sands** said the open house not only allowed interested persons the chance to see the new facility, but also allowed the staff of Western States the chance to visit with each other and people they work with from other companies.

"We held an open house last year when we moved in," said Sands. "We had such a good turn out that we decided to make it a tradition and have one every year."



(L-R) Ray Hyatt with Bill Murray, Chris Murray, and Valli and Ian Stokes of the University of Texas at Austin.



(L-R) Tammie Sands, Joel Sands, Debbie Hyatt and Jerry Allen of Western States Fire Protection in Pflugerville.

James Gerren, and Joseph Watson of Schirmer Engineering Corporation.



## UT Architecture students get lessons from the pros

**M**asonry Day at the UT School of Architecture brought students and tradesmen together for some hands-on experience.

Tues., Oct. 14, **Central Texas Masonry Contractors Association** and the **Texas Masonry Council** brought the real world to a patio outside the university's Goldsmith Building. Students from Building Construction classes got a break from stiff chairs to learn the basics.

**Dick Butler**, President of the Central Texas Masonry Contractors Association said, "It's amazing how the respect for the skill involved in masonry work increases dramatically after these students actually try laying a few bricks."



Chris Toth of CD Lonestar, Inc., keeps a level head as he instructs UT Architecture students at Masonry Day.

## HCA de Tejas' State Conference in San Antonio

**F**or three days in late September, about 2,000 members representing six chapters from across the state, including Austin, San Antonio, Dallas, Houston, Corpus Christi and the Rio Grande Valley, attended the **Hispanic Contractors Association de Tejas** 8th Annual Expo and Conference in San Antonio, at the historic Sheraton Gunter Hotel.

On Thurs., Sept 25th, 84 players kicked-off the statewide meeting with an action-packed day of golf at The Quarry Golf Club. That evening, they gathered once again at the Gunter for an awards ceremony and a few words of welcome from Mayor Ed Garza.

### Golf tournament results:

**1st Place Net: Jayson Boulet, Keith Manning, Larry Cantwell and Dana Cheney.**  
**2nd Place Net: Arnold Salinas, Brian Whitener, Curt Conroy and Jaime Torres.**  
**1st Place Gross: Dave Sanchez, Christina Pena-Walls, Eddie Ramon and Tim Baker.**

**2nd Place Gross: Ernest Cervantes, Jerry Goodman, Chris Johnson and Thomas Aguillon.**

**Closest-to-the-Pin: Kent Batman #3; Darin Hooper #8; Chad Buffington #12; and Tom Baker #16.**

On Friday, attendees focused on more serious matters. *San Antonio Construction News* spoke with conference chair **Gloria Nevaes, Nevaes Enterprises, Inc.**, who revealed the theme of this year's conference.

"The main focus of the conference is 'A Safe Future.' We have partnered with OSHA to deliver programs and seminars aimed at increasing safety education and awareness among the Hispanic community and across the wide spectrum of the construction industry."

In addition to the conference, a ribbon-cutting ceremony by HCA member City Councilman Richard Perez marked the opening of the Expo, which featured numerous public and private exhibitors who want to do business with Hispanic

contractors, subcontractors, and ancillary entities.

HCA de San Antonio member **Larry Ybarra, Service Shade Shop**, said the exhibitors were pleased with the overall turnout.

"The quality of the contractor traffic who visited the Expo was significant and I got a lot of positive feedback from the exhibitors. The whole point is to help our members get a foot in the door with state agencies, University systems, and larger general contractors. For some, it's a first step in developing relationships."

The Saturday night Gala, at which chapter awards and individual recognitions were presented, concluded the schedule of events.

### Chapter Awards:

**San Antonio Chapter: Jerry Cavazos, Mustang General Contracting, Inc.**  
**Dallas/Ft. Worth Chapter: Bert Nunez, Benco Commercial Roofing.**  
**Houston Chapter: Jose Jimenez, Sr., IQC**

### Services, LLC.

**Austin Chapter: Rick Ramones, Ramones Construction.**

**Corpus Christi Chapter: Raul and Maribel Munoz, Dependable Heating and Air Conditioning, Inc.**

**Outstanding Sponsor Award: Dave Sanchez, HEB San Antonio.**

**Continuous Support Award: Glenn Murray and Dave Sanchez, HEB San Antonio.**



Expo exhibitor Pat Ralph, marketing coordinator, Alpha Building Corp.



L-R: John Marshall, Satterfield & Pontikes (Houston); Javier Arias, State Chair HCA, (Dallas); David Guerrero, DG Services (SA); Gloria Nevaes, Nevaes Enterprises, Inc. (SA); Felix Galan, DFW Airport Small and Emerging Business Dept., Dallas; and Dave Sanchez, HEB (SA).



L-R: SA's Larry Ybarra, Service Shade Shop; Harry Ware, Bill Morris, and Armando Medina, Health and Safety Management (conference sponsor).



Jaime Torres, J.T. Construction Co. (SA); Curt Conroy, Wells Fargo Bank (SA); Brian Whitener, Gomez Floor Covering (SA); and Arnold Salinas, Alice ISD (Alice, TX).



Luis Spinola, Luis Spinola, Sr., Terecita de Leon, and Abraham Achar, Collegiate Development (Irving, TX) and Azteca Enterprises, Inc. (Dallas) / Omega Contracting, Inc.

# INSURANCE



## "Living Death" Preparing for Disability

By Cody L. Naumann

In our last Personnel Benefits column, we discussed the importance of Life Insurance; however, ask any Financial Planner what risk could be termed the "forgotten risk" and chances are the answer will be Disability Insurance.

Disability is called a "living death" for good reason. Suffering a disability can be a far more devastating event for you and your family than death. Imagine the emotional and financial pressures of having the major breadwinner no longer able to work, high medical expenses, and the daily task of dealing with serious physical needs. The bottom line is that if you're working and you need your income to live, then you need Disability Insurance.

The statistics of disability in the U.S. are staggering. One out of every seven workers will suffer a five-year or longer period of disability before age 65, and if you're 35, your chances of experiencing a three-month or longer disability before age 65 are 50%. These odds would not be a problem if people had substantial savings that could be drawn on in the event of a disability. But that's rarely the case and any money that has been saved has been set aside for such goals as college or retirement.

What about Social Security and Workers Compensation? Won't they pay for your disability needs? Did you know that more than 80% of applicants for Social Security Disability benefits are turned down the first time? Workers Compensation pays only if the disability is job related. The benefits are low, and the payments last only a few years.

The answer to the "forgotten risk" is to purchase your own individual Disability Insurance policy. Insurance is always complicated and disability is no exception; however, the basics are simple. The first variable is the amount of monthly benefit that you elect to re-

ceive and that you can qualify for. The second variable is the definition of disability—whether it is "own occ" or the inability to perform the duties of your specific occupation, or "any occ", the inability to perform the duties of any job. The third variable is the waiting period, or the amount of time you are disabled before benefits kick in. The fourth variable is the benefit period, or how long you will receive monthly benefits once your policy starts paying. There are several other options available, but with decisions made on these four variables, you are well on your way to designing your Disability Insurance policy. With the four variables mentioned, keep in mind some rules of thumb to designing your benefit package. First, get the highest monthly benefit for which you can qualify. Second, try to get "own occupation" coverage for life. Third, get the longest waiting period you can afford. Last of all, get the coverage for the longest benefit period possible.

To summarize, let me ask you one simple question. If you could choose between Job A that pays \$50,000.00 annually, but if you get hurt, it pays \$0.00 annually, or Job B which also pays \$50,000.00 annually, but if you get hurt, it pays \$48,500.00 annually, which would you choose? If you just chose Job B, you just decided to purchase Disability Insurance!

*Cody L. Naumann is the owner of Southwest Financial Resources, an independent Insurance and Investment firm located in Lakeway, TX. Mr. Naumann may be reached at 512-608-0733 or by e-mail at [codynaumann@msn.com](mailto:codynaumann@msn.com).*

# ACCOUNTING

## Taxation of Small Contractors. Who qualifies for the small contractor exemption?

### Part 1

By Phillip Mathis, CPA, CFE

To qualify for the small contractor exemption, all of the following must be met:

- The contract is a construction contract.
- At the time the contract is entered into, the taxpayer estimated that the contract will be completed within two years.
- The contractor's average annual gross receipts for the three taxable years preceding the taxable year in which the contract is entered into do not exceed \$10 million.

Gross receipts includes receipts from the active conduct of all trade or businesses including related businesses, and are computed using the tax accounting used by the contractor. Therefore, gross receipts are not limited to construction activities.

When a contractor qualifies for the small contractor exemption he is allowed to use the methods of accounting that were used prior to the enactment of the 1986 Tax Reform Act. The most common of these methods are:

- The completed contract method.
- Percentage of completion method using the 'old rules' prior to the '86 Act.
- The cash method.
- The accrual method and other variation

Under the completed contract method all revenue and costs associated with a contract are booked as assets or liabilities on the Balance Sheet until the project is complete. At the completion of the contract, all revenues and costs associated with the contract are recognized in the income statement. This method offers the greatest benefit to the contractor because the deferral period is for the length of the contract.

Applying the completed contract method is relatively straightforward, though complications can arise in the following two areas:

- Determining when a contract is complete; and,
- Accounting for revenues and expenses relating to disputes.

The IRS regulations says that a contract is complete at the earlier of (1) When at least 95% of the total contract costs

have been incurred by the contractor, or (2) Final completion and acceptance of the contract by the owner.

The recognition of income on contract disputes is covered by new regulations that vary according to whether profits are assured or the amount of the dispute makes it impossible to determine whether the contract will result in a profit or a loss.

Contractors that qualify for the small contractor exemption may elect to use the 'old rules' percentage-of-completion method. The 'old rules' are those in effect under the '86 Act. Under the 'old rules', a small contractor has the flexibility to measure the percentage complete using the cost-to-cost method or physical completion method. Completion may be supported by an architect's or engineer's certificate.

To compute the percent complete using the cost-to-cost method, the costs incurred to date are divided by the estimated costs to complete. This percentage is then multiplied by the contract revenue accrued to date to determine the revenue to be recognized in the income statement.

Under the cash method, income is recognized when actually or constructively received. Expenses are recognized in the year paid. To qualify for the cash method, the contractor must meet the following three conditions:

- Use the cash method does not significantly distort income. Contractors with large contract related receivable and payable generally would not meet this test.
- The taxpayer must not have significant inventories or be required to maintain inventories under other IRS regulations.
- If the taxpayer is a C corporation, the three year average of gross receipts must be \$5 million or less.

Part 2 of this column will be continued in our December issue.

*Phillip Mathis is a CPA, CFE and owner of Mathis and Company CPA's. To reach Mr. Mathis, please call 512-231-0550 or email him at [philmathis@cpamathis.com](mailto:philmathis@cpamathis.com)*

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## LEGAL



## OSHA



### A Stitch In Time Saves Nine

By Matthew C. Ryan

This old proverb stands as one of the enduring themes that I see in any number of the construction law cases our firm participates in. There's always room for preventive maintenance in your contracts, staffing, and business practices generally. In this column, I will offer several tips that can help you avoid burning money and other precious resources on matters that often begin as small oversights, but which can later balloon into colossal disputes.

**•Sign the contract before you start.**

You'd be amazed at the number of people who leave contracts unsigned. A contract, when properly drafted, helps the parties define their expectations, limit liability, establish each party's duties, rule out oral agreements or modifications, and streamline the dispute resolution process. Insist on getting a signed contract in your file before the first patch of earth is turned.

**•Read and obey the contract.**

Contracts often contain a number of requirements that the parties either ignore or simply neglect, and trouble often follows. If you're going to maintain a healthy relationship, read and follow the contract's specific provisions. For example, strictly adhere to the notice provisions, get the architect or construction manager involved in dispute resolution when applicable, get change orders down in writing and signed by both parties, and terminate only under the proper mechanism and for the reasons allowed under the contract.

**•Take special care with lien and bond issues.**

Think ahead of time and get a legal description of the project where you'll be working (you're entitled to get this from the owner). Know your deadlines, based on where you sit in the "food chain" of construction project relationships. Residential projects contain an even stricter set of rules, so be aware of them, too. Implement a ruthless calendaring system for lien and bond claim deadlines, and have solid forms handy with the necessary language for such claims. One blown detail can completely extinguish your rights to a lien or bond claim.

**•Have a document person and a construction person on every project.**

Even if it has to be the same person, don't let one side of the business fall through the cracks. This is where contractors and subs sometimes get into the worst trouble, failing to paper things up and/or neglecting the construction side of the project.

**•Get your subcontractor to sign on to a provision that requires them to live by your general contract.**

This will help you argue later that a sub who causes delays is liable for liquidated damages, and that the sub agreed to follow the exact project specifications.

**•Read what you sign.**

This may sound like an obvious proposition, but since releases very often contain blanket provisions, be sure you agree with each and every statement in the documents you're signing. On a related note, don't swear an oath on a pay application if the statements on it (such as a promise that you've paid all prior funds "downstream" to subs and suppliers) are false. A terrible loss of rights and credibility—and a possible charge of perjury—could very well follow.

**•Protest a subcontractor's demand within 30 days.**

§53.083 of the Texas Property Code says that, unless a general contractor disputes a sub's demand to the owner for payment, the owner "shall pay" the money to the subcontractor. Avoid this trap by calendaring this deadline as soon as a sub sends you a copy of its demand.

Many more tips can come out of scrutinizing a project at the very beginning, but these should offer a good start. If this column seems to be based on simple common sense, that's only because it is—but the number of contractors and subs we see who don't take such steps is surprising. Minding your P's and Q's at the outset and during the project can help you avoid spending money on lawsuits and burning precious energy that could go toward generating receivables for existing jobs and finding new projects. Think them through, and apply them to every project you've got, wherever possible. The efforts you sow may reap you a very rich harvest.

*Mr. Ryan is a partner with the construction law firm of Allensworth and Porter, L.L.P. You can reach him at (512)708-1250, or by email at [mcr@aaplav.com](mailto:mcr@aaplav.com).*



### Power Tool Precautions

By Joann Natarajan

Power tools can be hazardous when improperly used. There are several types of power tools, based on the power source they use: electric, pneumatic, liquid fuel, hydraulic, and power-actuated. Employees should be trained in the use of all tools - not just power tools. They should understand the potential hazards as well as the safety precautions to prevent those hazards from occurring.

The following general precautions should be observed by power tool users:

- Never carry a tool by the cord or hose.
- Never yank the cord or the hose to disconnect it from the receptacle.
- Keep cords and hoses away from heat, oil, and sharp edges.
- Disconnect tools when not in use, before servicing, and when changing accessories such as blades, bits and cutters.
- All observers should be kept at a safe distance away from the work area.
- Secure work with clamps or a vise, freeing both hands to operate the tool.
- Avoid accidental starting. The worker should not hold a finger on the switch button while carrying a plugged-in tool.
- Tools should be maintained with care. They should be kept sharp and clean for the best performance. Follow instructions in the user's manual for lubricating and changing accessories.
- Be sure to keep good footing and maintain good balance.
- The proper apparel should be worn. Loose clothing, ties, or jewelry can become caught in moving parts.
- All portable electric tools that are damaged shall be removed from use and tagged "Do Not Use."

Hazardous moving parts of a power tool need to be safeguarded. For example, belts, gears, shafts, pulleys, sprockets, spindles, drums, fly wheels, chains, or other reciprocating, rotating, or moving parts of equipment must be guarded if such parts are exposed to contact by employees.

Guards, as necessary, should be provided to protect the operator and others from the point of operation, in-running nip points, rotating parts, and flying chips and sparks. Safety guards must never be removed when a tool is being used. For example, portable circular saws must be equipped with guards. An upper guard must cover the entire blade of the saw. A retractable lower guard must cover the teeth of the saw, except when it makes contact with the work material. The lower guard must automatically return to the covering position when the tool is withdrawn from the work.

The following hand-held powered tools must be equipped with a momentary contact "on-off" control switch: drills, tappers, fastener drivers, horizontal, vertical and angle grinders with wheels larger than 2 inches in diameter, disc and belt sanders, reciprocating saws, saber saws, and other similar tools. These tools also may be equipped with a lock-on control provided that turnoff can be accomplished by a single motion of the same finger or fingers that turn it on.

[Natarajan.joann@dol.gov](mailto:Natarajan.joann@dol.gov)

## TSA students complete OSHA Construction Safety

Texas State University (TSA) Industrial Technologies students in the AGC and Homebuilders student chapters completed the OSHA Construction Safety & Health 10-Hr Course.

**Tally & Associates**, owned by **Del** and **Betty Tally** (both CSP's), recently taught these students construction safety to expand their safety knowledge prior to their graduation and entry into the construction industry.

Mr. Gary Winek, the faculty advisor for these students, and student chapters

schedule this OSHA course each year to give students a realistic look at the construction industry safety issues. The course also prepares them for real world safety hazards. The OSHA safety course completion on their resume will give them an added hiring incentive for prospective employers.

Several of Dr. Winek's former students have continued their safety training and now provide safety supervision for their current employers.



**Sharon McGee**, president of **RM Mechanical**, was the guest speaker on Oct.15 for the safety luncheon hosted by the **Central Texas Chapter of Associated Builders and Contractors**. The topic was what OSHA says is a competent person and was held at the Texas Land & Cattle restaurant. McGee currently holds the title of a Certified Safety and Health Officials, as well as a General Industry Outreach Trainer for OSHA. She is also a member of the National Speakers Association.



TSA students with Del Tally, far right. Betty Tally credited for photo.

## DPR hosts golf tournament



L-R Gary Nauert, Texas regional leader for DPR Construction and David Jackson, the founder and executive director of the Theo Project.

**DPR Construction**, a commercial contractor and construction manager in Austin since 1994, hosted their 3rd annual charity golf tournament on October 6 at Lost Creek County Club.

This was the first year DPR Construction held the tournament to benefit the Theo Project.

DPR Construction has projects and clients with Dell, Motorola, St. David's Hospital and Seton Medical. Their main philosophy is to develop relationships and bring back repeat business.

**Gary Nauert**, Texas regional leader for DPR Construction, discussed the company's commitment to the community.

"We want to give back to the community because Austin has been good to us over the years and it is time for us to give some of that back. Our community

service goal is to assist groups that help children in the Austin area. The Theo Project was a perfect fit," said Nauert.

**Dr. Dave Jackson**, founder and executive director for the Theo Project, gave tours of the fully-equipped mobile dentist office. The brightly-painted "Theo Mobile" was parked near the driving range for anyone to take a tour.

"The Theo Project was born five years ago in response to a community need, that need being low income kids who lack access to dental care," said Jackson.

"This year we will go to fifty-one schools to screen all the kids in the school to see who needs what. Low-income schools are where we focus because they have the hardest time accessing care. All our care is free."

## Harvey-Cleary appreciates all hard work

**Harvey-Cleary Engineers and Builders** held an appreciation barbecue lunch on Oct. 13 for everyone involved with the Goodwill building project on Slaughter Lane and Brodie. The expected completion date for the new Goodwill is Nov. 22.

**Jerry Davis**, the CEO of **Goodwill Industries** in Central Texas, said his company is really pleased with the progress of the new building.

"Harvey Cleary has been very easy to work with. I put a really high priority on that. People understand what is expected of them and they are always responsive," said Davis.

The barbecue lunch is a traditional event halfway through a job to thank the subcontractors. Goodwill employees

handed out t-shirts at the door.

According to **Jason Beers**, the Harvey-Cleary project manager, 115 people were expected to show up for lunch.

"Today we are having a safety barbecue to reward all our workers who have worked overtime and show them our appreciation. Harvey Cleary employees, the subcontractors, the design team and 40 Goodwill employees are also here today," said Beers.

**Doug Losey**, the vice president of Harvey-Cleary, gave a speech to all the attendees while they ate a good meal.

"We typically call this a topping out party for the workers. Today, we can see all of the progress we have made on the project. We want to say thanks to everyone involved," said Losey.



L-R: Clay Little, Ruby Maples, Dennett Wensky, Jason Beers, Harvey Cleary, Chris Noack and Jerry Davis.

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## GE Supply celebrates 35 years in Austin



L-R: Bo Jackson, Bruce Troutman, Bob Hill, Ricci Shanks, Jerri Shugart, Travis Williams, Larry Simons, and Stuart Taylor.

**GE Supply** celebrated 35 years in Austin by converting their warehouse space into a vendor trade show and catfish lunch on Thu., Oct 16.

GE's, **Jose Longoria**, had to take special care, filling orders while maneuvering between the checkered tablecloths. But, on this day, electrical contractors were more concerned about the speed of the buffet line than the speed of service at the will-call desk.

Everyone received nametags, goodie bags, and hearty welcomes as they entered. To make their way back to the food, guests walked a gauntlet of GE's vendors and filled their bags with samples, specs, and brochures.

By 11:45am, the seating for 80+ was full and **Ben Reyes**, Senior Inside Sales Representative at GE Supply, was boxing to-go plates to send over to **Austin En-**

**ergy** for some clients who were unable to attend.

Reyes, who has been with GE Supply for 25 years, said, "We've done barbecue or catfish every year, and it's always this crowded."

**Juan Guerrero**, of **Design Electric**, said he's been getting breakers and control panels from GE Supply for over 7 years. Guerrero said, "GE's got it all. And today they've got good food."

Even their regular FedEx delivery guy paused long enough to eat a huge plate of catfish.

So, if you had electrical problems or your overnight package was late on this Thu. in Oct., you might have had to wait, because GE Supply honored their 35th anniversary by saying thank you to Austin with a customer appreciation day and open house.

## What's cookin'?

Over 750 people showed up at Pflugerville Park on Sat., Sept. 27 to participate in the **Central Texas Chapter Associated Builders and Contractors'** 1st Annual BBQ cook off and picnic. Teams for the cook off consisted of a Head Cook and a maximum of 3 assistants. Chefs whipped up old favorites and created new recipes for chicken, ribs, beans, pork loin, and jack pot. The contestants listed below are normally known for their construction skills, but at ABC's cook off, they were standouts for their seasoning and stirring skills.



David Nelson takes a few dips as 'kids' of all sizes try out their luck at the dunking booth

### Chicken

- 1st Place
- 2nd Place
- 3rd Place

### IESI

- McClendon Electric**
- Hutchison Construction**

### Pork Ribs

- 1st Place
- 2nd Place
- 3rd Place

### SpawGlass

- Capitol Aggregates**
- Hutchison Construction**

### Beans

- 1st Place
- 2nd Place
- 3rd Place

### TD Industries

- SpawGlass**
- Baker Drywall**

### Jackpot

- 1st Place
- 2nd Place
- 3rd Place

### Hutchison Construction

- Southwest Contracting**
- Baker Drywall**

### Showmanship

- Skilled Services, Sentinel Waste, Windrose Land Services** (Parrot Head Cookers)

### Best of Show

- SpawGlass Constructors**

### People's Choice Pork Loin

- Capitol Aggregates**



The Parrot Head BBQ Team consisting of Sentinel Waste, Skilled Services and Winrose.

## Able Body Labor expands to Texas

With over 70 locations across the eastern seaboard states, from New York to Florida, **Able Body Labor**, which was established in 1986, has expanded its broad network of workforce placement services to Texas. **Construction News** spoke with the regional manager of Texas, **Steve Meyer**, who said the company is involved in four specific areas of workforce placement.

"Our focus includes the construction industry, the light industrial market, the hospitality sector and special events. Within the construction industry market, we supply general laborers as well as skilled personnel such as carpenters, dry-wall hangers, block masons, electricians, and others to the general contracting and subcontracting communities," Steve explained.

Able Body Labor, whose motto is "Temporary Workers, Full-time Service," has established its first two offices in San Antonio and Austin, and plans to open a Houston office before year's end.

"Texas is a large state and we see a lot of potential here with continued construction growth. Within the next five years, we anticipate the establishment of a number of additional locations in markets throughout Texas."

Traditionally, each of the company's locations is staffed with a branch manager, an assistant manager and one or two sales representatives. In markets where the company needs to provide transportation, it also employs a van driver.

When asked how his company recruits potential workers from the general populace, Steve said, "We market in a variety of ways, including print advertising, job-specific flyers in selected neighborhoods, college and military newspapers, drive by, and word-of-mouth. During the application process we screen each candidate to confirm that they have the proper documentation, determine their job skills and what equipment or tools they have in their possession. We're capable of performing reference and background checks, verifying motor vehicle information, and in-house drug testing if necessary."

Capable of paying its workers daily and weekly, Able Body Labor attempts to put as many people to work as possible. Steve said it's not unrealistic for people to get permanent job offers as a result of their alliance with the company.

"We open a door that allows workers an opportunity to show what they are capable of," he continued. "We go out of our way to make them feel comfortable, recognizing that their assigned task may not be the most glamorous job. We appreciate it when they go out and work hard for us."

Able Body Labor maintains a full-time risk-safety department and has expertise in the certified payroll process, as well as OCIP/CCIP jobs. In the event of a natural disaster, the company can activate mobile command centers to be onsite quickly and set up shop at a moment's notice.

### The Bad News

Something called "the press."  
Something called "the media."

### The Good News

Something called "Construction News"

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## Concrete ideas coming out of Wimberly

**Randy Myers** started *Myers Construction* 25 years ago in Wimberly, Texas. Myers laid down solid roots in the area with some of their first jobs, pouring concrete dams and low water crossings for Hays County. The company remains headquartered in Wimberly and their 45 employees have projects in progress throughout central and south Texas.

Myers Construction supports many local Wimberly organizations financially and with volunteer hours. While they love working out of such a strong, small community, their job scope spreads far and wide. Myers has completed high profile jobs at *Dell Computer* in Round Rock and the Texas State Capitol Restoration in Austin.

Some of Myers' best customers are construction-related themselves. Myers

has worked jobs for *Texas Lehigh Cement Company* in Buda, *Hays Energy Power Plant* in San Marcos, *Pederanales Electric Coop* in Johnson City, *Alamo Cement* in San Antonio, *Rental Service Corporation* in Round Rock, and *Structural Lumber Products* in Kyle.

In addition to commercial projects, Myers has the versatility to do creative residential work. They use chemical stains, integral color, sawing, exposed aggregate, and sealers to enhance home-sites for their customers.

With 25 years experience, Myers has just about done it all in excavation and concrete construction services. Built on a solid foundation, in Wimberly, Myers Construction has grown into an industry mainstay with creativity, courtesy, and longevity.



Randy Myers stands proud in front of a classic concrete mixer.

## Softball and safety skills recognized at AGC outing



AGC president and CEO Phil Thoden plays catcher as an AGC member readies to swing.

As the sunny days of summer were winding down, members of the **Austin Chapter Associated General Contractors (AGC)** gathered at the softball fields in Webberville on Sat., Sept. 20th for a friendly softball tournament and safety awards program. The following are the safety award winners for 2002:

- Category I  
**Austin Commercial**
- Category II  
**Chasco Contracting**
- Category III  
**Martin K. Eby Construction Co.**
- Category V  
**Workman Corporation**
- Category VI  
**Tremur Consulting Contractors**

Austin Chapter AGC also recognized these Associate Members with safety awards for 2002:

**AAA Mill, Austin Engineering Co., Baker Drywall, Brit-Tex Plastering, Capital Excavation, Construction Safety and Health, D&W Painting, DuPont Flooring Systems, Dynamic Systems, Elk Electric, James Interior Specialties, Land Resources & Associates, Larry L. Reed Electric, Lone Star Paving, Marex Bros. Systems, Patriot Erectors, Performance Contracting, PHI Service Agency, Simplex Grinnell, Superstructures, Titus Electrical Contracting, Truform Metalservice, Voges Drilling, Young & Pratt, and YPS.**

## Texas Roofers Annual Conference and Trade Show

For four days in late September, about 500 members representing six local chapters arrived in San Antonio to attend the **Roofing Contractors Association of Texas (RCAT)** 28th Annual Conference and Trade Show.

*Construction News* caught up with RCAT's executive director, **Cindi Morin**, bright and early on day two, Wed., Sept. 24th, where she was spearheading the organization's annual golf tournament at Silverhorn Golf Club.

"We kicked things off last night with a bowling tournament and we're continuing with a friendly, 82-player competition today with a morning on the links."

The roofer's annual conference and trade show featured over eight hours of

contractor-specific educational seminars and a two-day exhibition by roofing material manufacturers, distributors and suppliers at the Henry B. Gonzales Convention Center.

Tournament results:

- 1st Place: Adam Williams, Rick Seeker & Randy Mangold.**
- 2nd Place: Billy Smith, Troy Moody & Ronnie McGlothlin.**
- 3rd Place: Ramon Urreta, Chris Meyer,**

- Robert Amar & Scott Heitmeier.**
- Dead Ass Last: Danny Boes, Tommy Kincaid, Marcelino Garcia & Ruben Garcia.**
- Closest to the Pin: Dan Pitts.**
- Longest Drive: Allen Mayes.**



Representing Dallas and Ft. Worth are John Sutkay, Shelter Distribution, Inc.; Tom Becerra, ABC Supply; and John Bradbury, Shelter Distribution, Inc.



Tony Brown (Austin), Austin Roofing Supply; Don Carrington (Austin), D.R. Kidd Company; Wes Rice (San Antonio), Atlas Roofing; and Jim Floyd (Austin), J-MAR Roofing.



San Juan Ramirez (Ft. Worth), Lee Litton (Dallas), Allen Mayes (Dallas) and Brock Shugart (Houston), First Assist Business Services.

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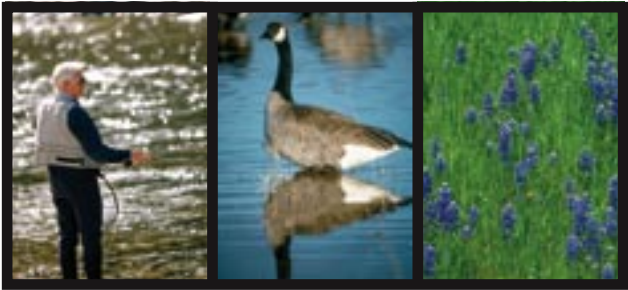
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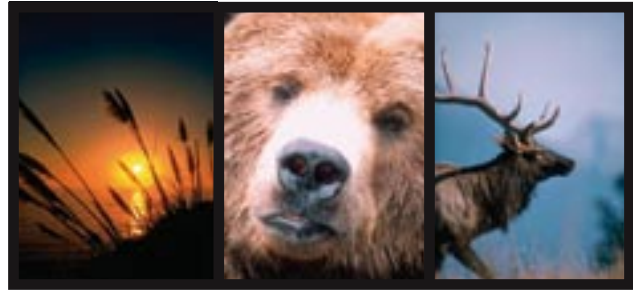
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# THE GREAT OUTDOORS



## Hunting Season is here!



This should be a banner year for quail – and rattlesnakes! Watch your step, as this hunter is doing.

And what a season it should be! Unless we've had too much of a good thing.

To raise quail and deer in South Texas, Macy Ledbetter, manager of Texas Parks & Wildlife's Daughtrey Wildlife Management Area, near Tilden, says "Just add water."

God was listening. It started raining about mid-year last year. The past 16 months have been excellent in many places. "The 1987 and 1992 years were the benchmark quail years," Ledbetter observed, "but 2003 may surpass them. It may be the best ever!"

"We did a helicopter count a few weekends ago and counted 360 coveys on a 9,000 - acre ranch in Liveoak County. We flew the same ranch a couple of years ago and only counted 92 coveys. These are good size coveys, too – 20-plus birds. We've had good range conditions and fewer days of hot weather. It rained during the dog days so the birds had it good – plenty of forbs and insects."

So what's the problem? "Well, the hunters may not be able to get into the field," Ledbetter explained. "Some areas got 16 or 17 inches of rain in mid-October. Roads were closed in the Falfurrias area."

The deer situation is just as good, and just as bad. "They came through the winter in good shape due to the good rains last year, so they had very little catching up to do," he said. "They got off to a great start. We were dry in April, but outside of that, it's been above average."



An adjustable-legged bipod or shooting sticks are indispensable for steady shots at long ranges.

The deer are pig-fat and the antlers look great – a lot of kickers, stickers and forked tines. But it'll be hard for the hunters due to the lush buffet range conditions." In other words, they won't have to travel far to eat, and vegetation may be so thick hunters won't be able to see them when they do.

Reports from the Hill Country are not quite as glowing, but conditions are ripe for a good year, there, too -- especially on places that have been working on getting their numbers and buck-doe ratios in line.

So, are you ready? Got your snake leggings out and your rifle sighted-in? Do you know where your rifle shoots at 100, 200 and 300 yards? And do you know how far that looks in the field? It always looks less to me than it does from the stands in a football stadium.



Before you step out into the hunting fields, do you know where your rifle shoots at various ranges?

I picked up a range finder last year, and have been testing myself at every opportunity. I got the Nikon Laser 400, a compact, waterproof model, and have had trouble keeping it since it gets borrowed a lot. But that's good. Our other hunters are getting better at judging ranges, too.

During antelope season, I saw Pat Reddell, from Burnet, make an incredibly long shot. He asked me not to say how far since it would sound far-stretched. Reddell was a Marine sharpshooter, though, and knows how to shoot. He also carried a range finder in his truck, and had checked several ranges during the hunt, although he was just eye-balling it when the moment of truth came late that afternoon, after an all-day, 30-mile stalk of a nice buck by vehicle and on foot. Reddell also shot from shooting sticks. If you are not shooting from a stand with a good rest, they are imperative. Some use bi-pods, and they are nice if your visibility isn't obstructed by brush, but shooting sticks can be adjusted to whatever height you need.

The other thing Pat Reddell does that distinguishes him from most other hunters is that he shoots a lot. He admits to a thousand rounds a year. If you shot that much, you might be able to hit at 600 yards.

JJ

### GOVERNOR'S HUNTING HERITAGE SYMPOSIUM

In Texas, hunting is more than a sport and management tool – it's a way of life. Gathering around the campfire to celebrate the hunt and honor the game animal is as much a part of the hunt as squeezing the trigger. It's a tradition.

That tradition will rule at the Governor's Symposium on North America's Hunting Heritage in Houston on December 3-6.

The symposium began seven years ago in Montana, and has grown every year. Six hundred are expected to attend this year to help secure the future of hunting. A hunting accord created at the 2000 symposium in Ottawa will be presented for ratification that articulates ethical principles and the strong cultural and economic basis of hunting.

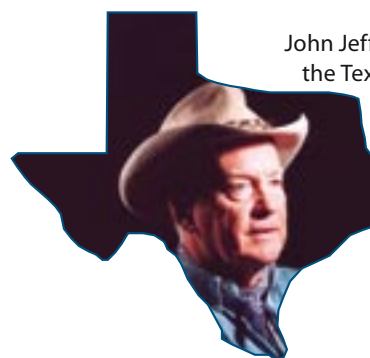
Registration is \$300 and includes all meals. For information, visit [www.tpwd.state.tx.us/hunt/heritage/](http://www.tpwd.state.tx.us/hunt/heritage/) or call (512) 389-4979.

JJ

### RIVERBED VEHICLE PROHIBITION ENACTED

Beginning Jan. 1, motor vehicles may not be operated in most Texas riverbeds unless permitted by local limited access plans.

The ban was passed after landowners complained of public safety and environmental abuses in riverbeds. For more information, call (800) 792-1112, extension 4725. JJ



John Jefferson is past president of the Texas Outdoor Writers Assn., and former executive director of the Texas Chapter of The Wildlife Society.

Photos by John Jefferson.



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# Winter Fishing Strategies

Capt. Steve Schultz  
Baffin Bay Charters  
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Look for birds working the area around the mouth of Baffin Bay and Rocky Slough. This can produce good numbers of trout.

If any of you readers have been fishing down here lately, you would definitely have noticed our extreme high tides. This has made fishing somewhat difficult to say the least. Recent rains have also dumped a considerable amount of fresh water into our bay system. Extreme high tides scatter fish over the bay in search of new structure and bait. Lapping waves now cover most of the exposed spoil islands and reefs you fished all summer. We need a change!!!

The cooler temperatures have already had an effect on the Laguna Madre, especially Baffin Bay. During the first few weeks of October, when temperatures dropped into the 70's for several days and the water started falling out of the bay, fishing seemed to pick-up. Good numbers of specks and reds were being brought in using soft plastics and live shrimp under rattling corks. This can be some of the best fishing and most rewarding for your ice chests. Recently, the birds have been active around the mouth of Baffin Bay, particularly in the badlands and rocky slough areas. On a recent charter, with a cool north wind blowing, we encountered several groups of seagulls working shrimp on the surface and were able to box above average numbers of trout.

In the next few months, look for falling tides and water temperatures to start fish moving. Redfish will continue to migrate towards the gulf and around the jetties in Port "A". Flounder will make their annual migration into the bay system, and speckled trout will start feeding up for the winter. These fronts tell the

fish to start storing up food for the upcoming cold months ahead. This is also the time of year when the birds start working over the migration of shrimp out of the bay system. As I mentioned earlier, we have already seen some bird activity around the mouth of Baffin. Some would say this is their most favorite time of year, when the cooler temperatures make it very comfortable for fishing and there appears to be less pressure on the bay because of the hunting seasons. Fishing pressure affects Baffin Bay as much as the weather sometimes. Best suggestion now is to key-in on diving birds, seagulls and terns, hovering over nervous shrimp skipping across the water.

While working the birds, your best bet for success is a shrimp tail or shad body, with an eighth ounce lead head. Sometimes, you may want to use a heavier head to get the bait past the smaller trout near the surface. Larger trout to three pounds are almost always feeding near the bottom of the area in question. Another excellent bait is a spoon. Because it weighs more and the spoon is larger, the distance to the frenzy birds can be reduced with a longer cast and drops quickly to those larger trout. I often wonder, when the fish are in a feeding frenzy like that, if it really matters what you throw.

As I said earlier, the fishing pressure has as much affect on Baffin Bay as the temperature. During the week, you can see the difference. Birds will be working the whole bay, but as soon as the weekend comes, the activity shuts down quite a bit. When you spot a flock of birds, especially up against a shoreline, a trolling motor can be a big advantage. If you go plowing in there too fast with your big engine, the fish will scatter and very few will be caught.

Use common sense, and stay approximately one hundred feet upwind of the diving birds and drift in with the aid of your trolling motor. I know, sometimes this can be frustrating because you know the fish are there and you want to get there quickly. But I promise, if you motor right in on top of the birds, the fish will scatter. Remember, if there are boats already working the birds, they do have first right, so be courteous toward those anglers already fishing. Start looking for other birds, including smaller numbers of birds (less than five) working as larger trout can sometimes be found under those birds as opposed to thirty to forty birds working a larger school of trout where the fish are smaller.

I hope to see y'all on the water and remember to be courteous to the other anglers when fishing the birds. Good luck and good fishing.



Mike Means of New Braunfels, with Constance Rakin and her son Hunter, from Seguin, had plenty of action on a trip to Baffin Bay.

Capt. Steve Schultz is sponsored by Skeeter Boats, Yamaha, Anchor Marine, Minn-Kota, All-Star Rods, Shimano, Ocean Waves, Mirr-o-Lure, Gambler, and Columbia. To reserve your next trip, call 1-888-724-FISH.



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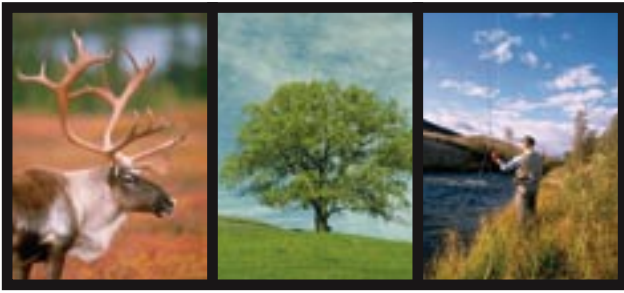
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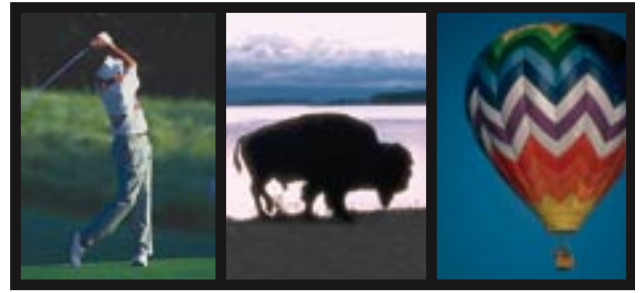
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## KC's Outdoors builds it own new beginnings

After 15 years at their Oak Hill location, **Mark and Bobbi Bowles**, owners of KC's Outdoors, thought it was time for a change.

They bought land and sent a design to **Impact Steel** in San Antonio. The land is located 8 miles west of 620 on Hwy. 71, just before the Pederanales River.

They poured a slab and Impact delivered their building...in pieces. From this point on, the Bowles' became their own contractors. They erected the structure, roofed it, and finished the interior themselves.

Through the cold winter, last year, Mark and Bobbi created a playground for archery and a well-stocked inventory in their showroom.



Mark Bowles stands proudly in his 3-D target range.

Bobbie Bowles said, "We're not contractors, but we sure felt like it by the time it was finished!"

KC's has a 20-yard paper target range and a forest full of 3-D targets on another range. They carry archery equipment from Bow Tech, Hoyt USA, Fred Bear, Jennings, Pearson, Parker, and Golden Eagle. And, anglers, if you've forgotten something on the way to Lake Travis, they also have fishing tackle and live bait.

KC's offers bow tuning and arrow construction. They host tournaments regularly, but shut down competition during the fall for bow season.

## TCA players head to north Texas

The sun was shining and the birdies were abundant at the **Texas Construction Association DFW Golf Scramble**, held at Bridlewood Golf Course in Flower Mound. The tournament was sponsored by the **North Texas Chapter of the American Subcontractors Association**. **Brad Neely of Neely-Price Plumbing** won a Ruger Red Label shotgun and a second golfer became \$400 richer having won the cash raffle. According to tournament officials, the cash winner remains unnamed, as Texas is a community property state. Other prizes included a space-age Nike putter contributed by **BBS Leasing**.

With a sly grin, tournament organizers jokingly stated that the tournament results should be tentative while awaiting results of various performance-enhancing tests to be returned from a lab in California.



Using a course handicapping system, **Roger Cotton, Fran McCann, Richard Pickren, and Ken Polk** were the 1st place winners.



2nd place went to the team of **Bruce Carter, Larry Curtis, Dick Herman, and Joe Waldrop**.



3rd place winners were **Bob Prange, Brad Sammis, Elmer Strieker, and Richard Young**.



Those displaying a more delicate touch were **Bob Helm, Sterling King, David Husted and Kevin Boscamp**, having won the Closest to the Pin contest, and the Longest Drive competition.



**Brad Neely of Neely-Price Plumbing** won a Ruger Red Label shotgun



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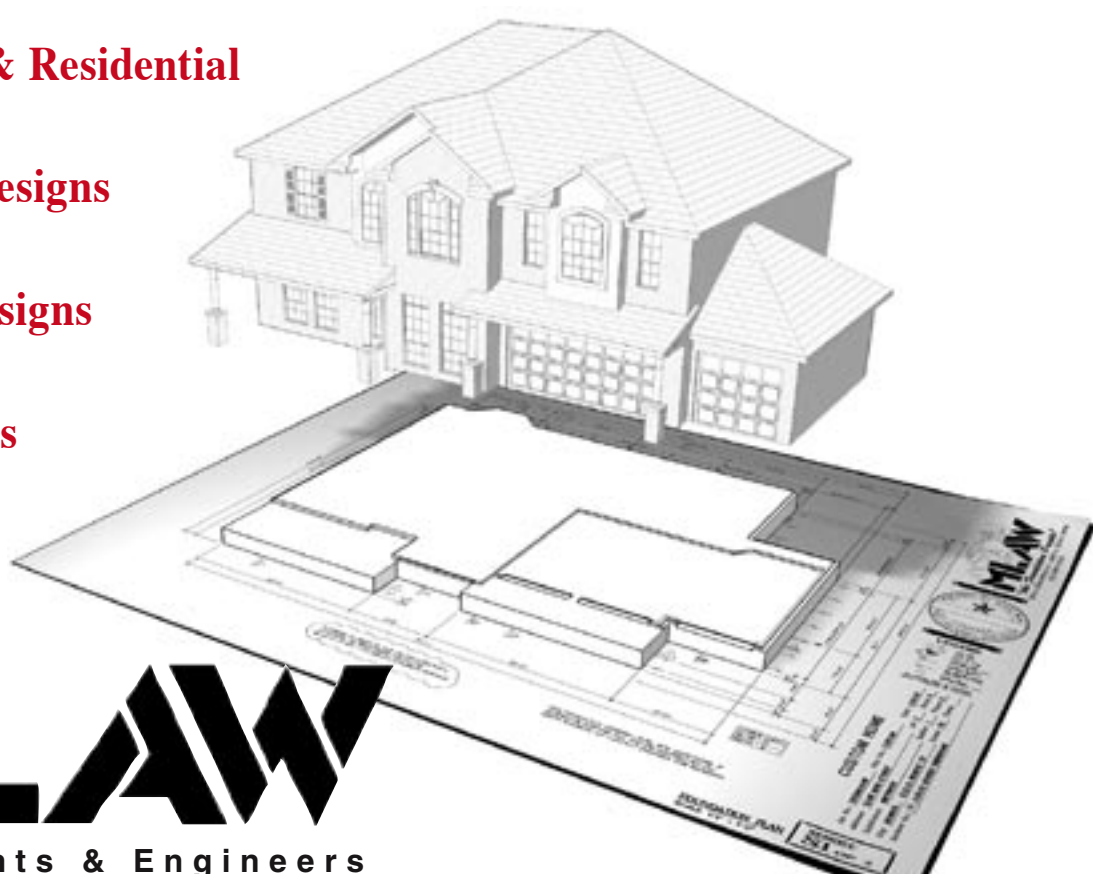
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# AGC Trade Show celebrates 20 years



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The 20th Annual AGC of Texas Trade and Equipment Show kicked off another successful year for the construction industry on Oct. 7th and 8th at the Austin Convention Center.

Tonya Clarkson, the AGC Trade Show coordinator and webmaster, said there was an increase in exhibitors (130) this year and that about 3,500 visitors attended the show. "This year was the biggest trade show since it began 20 years ago," said Clarkson.

Construction industry companies from all over Texas and outside the state came to exhibit their latest and greatest products, services and technologies that help the construction industry thrive in modern times.

Dale Layne, regional sales manager for Holt Cat, has been attending the AGC Trade Show for all 20 years. "These trade shows are put on every year so people can see the new technology, both for your company and other companies. The overall value of the trade show to our customer group is to show them all of this in one place," Layne said.

Ben Ward, vice president, DINA Industries, said his company came to the AGC Trade Show to inform attendees about DINA Industries. "We want to familiarize people with dust and erosion control and what our company does, here in Texas, and outside the state."

David Owen with GeoShack, the Trimble survey and machine control dealer for Texas, said, "We want to expose the contractors to the latest technologies, such as the machine control survey to help them increase their profits."



HoltCAT

A.R. Walters, RDO Equipment Co., the John Deere dealer in Austin, pointed at a large tractor and smiled. "We are here to sell John Deere brand equipment, from mini excavators all the way up to the 1050 C Dozer, on display at the show this year," said Walters.

History buffs could take a trip through time to see how the construction industry has evolved over the years. The first-ever Construction History Display allowed attendees and exhibitors to take a look at the historical equipment, photographs and artifacts. In addition, informative conferences and seminars throughout the AGC Trade Show provided education about construction safety and pavement preservation.

The popular Live and Silent Auction raised \$120,000 this year. Proceeds from the auctions will promote vocational education in public schools and maintain the Chapter's scholarship program.

Throughout the trade show, everyone kept their ears open to the featured prize drawings for a chance to win complimentary hotel accommodations and a laptop computer.

On the last day, 1,200 people gathered at the back of the Austin Convention Center for the fish fry, one of the favorite events at the trade show. H. Richards Oil Company cooked all the fish.

Bill O'Leary, the tradeshow chairman and president of Prime Material and Supply Corp., was pleased with how the exhibit booths were set up this year.

"The location of the 10x10 booths in a single corridor made exhibitors happy because they got good exposure on both days," O'Leary said. "Overall, the 20th annual trade show went very well and, if we work with the same format, next year should go just as smooth."

## John King Construction raises the roof

Sat., Oct. 18, was a very special day for Covenant United Methodist Church and all those associated with the construction of the church's new sanctuary.

Representatives from virtually every company involved in the project and members of the congregation watched as a 60-ton crane from Crocker Crane Rental hoisted the new steeple into position.

Project manager and Covenant UMC member John King, said, "The subcontractors seemed to be pleased when we suggested the steeple be built on the ground. Safety was our primary concern. We felt like the steeple lift would be an exciting event for the congregation to observe and to bless."

The steeple, fully-constructed, weighs about 18,000 pounds and rises 68 feet above the finished floor. John King Construction has been on the job for four months, and it's scheduled for completion at the end of February.

Key players involved in the project include Brent Wood, superintendent; Gayle Cipriano, co-building chair; and John King, co-building chair.

John King is a fortunate man. He said, "In the last two years, I've been blessed to have built my kids'

school, NYOS Charter School, the soccer field where they play, St. Francis Athletic Field, and now the church, where my family have been members since 1989."



Pat Bedynek, of Dennis Steel, lifts Gayle Cipriano, Co-Building Chair, and Dick West, Covenant UMC Senior Pastor, to get a better view.



A 60-ton crane from Crocker Crane Rental lifts the 18,000 pound steeple into position at Covenant UMC.

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# FOCUS

This  
Month

## Exterior Finishes

### Subcontractors contribute to curb appeal

This month in FOCUS, *Austin Construction News* spoke with local contractors who specialize in commercial exterior finishes. We discussed emerging trends within their respective niches, the ever-increasing challenges they face, and the personal rewards they reap.

Arrowall Company  
Bill Morris, Jr.



Incorporated in 1976, **Arrowall Company** designs, manufactures and installs high-performance glazed wall systems, metal panel systems and, most recently, stone curtainwall systems. **Bill Morris, Jr.** was contacted to discuss emerging trends within his industry. He pointed out one trend that has been perpetuated in recent years on smaller, two and three-story commercial buildings.

"It's what I call collage facades," Bill began, "where the architect details numerous materials on to the exterior envelope, including glazed walls, store front, siding, metal panels, stone, masonry, steel shapes and more. Aside from the fact that they are very beautiful, there are intrinsic challenges because of the mixture of components. More care in engineering detailing and installation has to be taken because the normal approach will not suffice. I spend a lot of time as a consultant to architects."

For larger, multiple story high-rises, Bill said the total glazed envelope is the most cost-competitive exterior finish on the market.

"Because the glazing systems are light, they can be installed from all floors from the inside, eliminating the need for scaffolds or staging," he explained. "The larger the project, the more the wall is optimized to the requirements, becoming a custom wall designed with no wasted strength, weight or cost."

On large commercial projects, Bill is typically involved in the early conceptual phases of design and development.

"Very rarely do architectural firms proceed much beyond the schematic design without bringing somebody like Arrowall on board. The whole building and its

structure will be designed around the skin, whereas smaller projects are designed around standard systems. On large projects the walls are customized, and that has to be incorporated into the construction documents. To avoid potential problems with water infiltration, and subsequent mold issues, architects are being forced to deal with more detail in order to make sure these projects are successful."

Arrowall recently completed a major 33-story project in downtown Houston, which from the street appears to be a large stone building with punch windows.

"In effect," he continued, "it is an office tower clad with granite and glass unitized curtainwall systems, which incorporate the glass, metal and stone in pre-assembled units. Very few companies attempt to do projects of this nature, and the success steadfastly remains in the acute product installation methodologies."

In Bill's opinion, one of the greatest rewards of his hard work is having the opportunity to drive by a project for the rest of his life, knowing that he contributed to its success.

"Of course," he concluded, "when customers call me back the second or third time, for repeat business, I consider their compliment a true measure of our success!"

Genlyte / Lightolier  
Bill Smith



**Bill Smith**, of **Genlyte** and **Lightolier**, brings 31 years of experience in lighting sales to the table when he walks through your door. As a manufacturer's representative in lighting, he calls on architects, engineers, designers, electrical wholesalers, and contractors in the Austin and San Antonio areas.

Smith assists lighting designers with all types of scenarios, both interior and exterior, offering suggestions for their specific applications.

He says, "My primary company has a software program that I use to show the designers what light levels they obtain with different arrays, quantities, and types of fixtures. From that information, it will give them good analysis criteria, both in lighting as well as economics, both initially, as well as maintained, with different systems."

Smith says distributors and contractors are always interested in new and updated product information and in always getting the best value they can for their customers.

Smith sees large commercial projects being built at a greater distance from the roadway to facilitate parking and drive-up accessibility, creating new issues for lighting.

In all types of facilities, Smith has noticed, "More attention being given to security and landscape lighting. In many ways, the two can be tied together, and with

the automation and lighting control technology available today, it makes it an economical and doable combination."

With emergency lighting, Smith said, "We are seeing greater emphasis being put into this area of design, not only because of safety issues, but also because of the liability aspect."

Two projects Smith was recently involved with were the Vignette Building on South Mopac in Austin and City Public Service Company in San Antonio. Energy-efficient lighting or "DALI" technology was used in both projects. Smith said, "Local and national codes are requiring more emphasis being put on efficiency in lighting, as well as HVAC, windows, screens, and filtering equipment."

In conclusion, Smith said, "The technologies will always be changing, hopefully in a positive manner, and being on the forefront of that is quite rewarding. But, meeting and establishing the working relationships and friendships with the many people in our industry has to be the most rewarding aspect of this business."

Specialty Concrete  
Randy Rodgers



Local entrepreneur **Randy Rodgers** established **Blue Heron Designs**, a landscape design construction company, 30 years ago. Within five years, he ventured into the world of decorative concrete, an industry that first gained popularity in California and Florida, when he established **Specialty Concrete**. Today, he operates both companies from one location, employs a staff of 25 personnel, and performs the bulk of his work throughout central and south Texas.

"Specialty Concrete is an architectural concrete construction and installation company," Randy explained, "serving the residential and commercial sec-

tors. Our services include colored, stained, stamped, and textured applications for interior and exterior projects. Although the majority of our work is in Texas, we have completed projects throughout the U.S. and in Mexico, Spain, France and the Caribbean."

During the evolution of the decorative concrete industry, architects and designers have begun to realize that large expanses of white/gray concrete have become passé. Private and public commercial projects that sustain large volumes of pedestrian traffic have benefited from the concrete's color hardening components, which achieve a hard and dense surface, resulting in improved "cleanability" and durability.

Randy said architects frequently rely on his expertise. "Often it's confusing for an architect to determine exactly what kind of decorative concrete products to specify and utilize. Fortunately, since we've been around for a long time, we're called upon to help them determine the best and most cost-effective methods to achieve their goals. We've seen a lot of specifications over the years that were not 'buildable,' which is why we stay in close contact with the architectural community."

An artist at heart, Randy credits the success of his decorative concrete business to the talented, technical, mechanical technicians on his staff. A technical process mixed with artistic presentation, for the best results decorative concrete installations are executed with true

craftsmanship.

As the industry's learning curve continues to spiral with continuous innovations, Randy has broadened his reach with another spin-off company, established only nine months ago.

"I am a partner in **Concrete Impressions, LLP**, an Internet company that sells concrete imprinting tools, texturing tools, colors, sealers, and other products for the professional subcontracting community. We offer a selection of new tooling systems, developed by our own technicians, that broaden the possibilities for unique applications."

To his credit, Specialty Concrete designed the interior concrete for the SBC Center, the new award-winning City of San Antonio One-Stop Development Center, Sunset Station, as well as several large school and college projects.

"Decorative concrete is having a huge impact in the public and private construction sector," he added. "We have utilized the latest and greatest products and textures, and can pull from a selection of 3,000 pantone colors to complete a variety of high-traffic projects."

In conclusion, Randy said the most rewarding aspect of his business is seeing the successful completion of high profile projects, and watching people actually study his team's work.

## Metal roofing comes of age

By Patrick Berridge, Berridge Manufacturing

More than a century ago, metal roofing occupied an important but rather limited niche in construction. Cathedrals and landmark government buildings were topped with handcrafted sheets of copper, lead or zinc, which would last indefinitely. But this type of roofing was out of reach for most of the commercial and residential market.

Over the next fifty or sixty years, metal roofs grew in number but were usually relegated to industrial or agricultural markets and were typically unpainted corrugated galvanized panels, hence the term "tin roof."

After World War II and during the late sixties and early seventies, however, several important innovations would bring metal roofing to the forefront of institutional, as well as commercial, educational and residential construction. Some of these innovations dealt with aesthetics, while others were concerned with performance, energy conservation and longevity. The most significant of these developments were:

**Long-Life Color Finishes:** A new polymer coating was introduced which, for the first time, provided a true twenty-year warranty against fading, chalking and peeling. Today, most manufacturers offer a wide palette of colors, including premium metallic finishes.

**Concealed Fastener Standing Seam Roof Design:** In the mid-seventies, the older corrugated metal roofs, which were attached with exposed fasteners, began to give way to the more aesthetic standing seam roofs, which are attached by means of concealed clips and a more eye-pleasing flat pan design with raised standing seams spaced twelve inches or more apart. Not only are standing seam roofs more attractive, they also reduce chances of leakage, as fastening screws are not exposed to the

elements.

**Advances in Roll-Forming Production Technology:** In the early 1900's, metal roofing was hand-formed by tin-smiths from soft copper or metal sheets, then soldered or welded in place. By mid-century, large high-speed factory roll formers mass were being used to produce metal roofing and siding panels for shipment to the construction site. Over the past thirty years, a new generation of smaller, precision-tolerance portable roll forming equipment has made it possible for the roofing contractor to form long, continuous-length roofing panels at the job site which do not require end lap splices and penetrations for splice screws.

**High-Strength Aluminum-Zinc Alloy Coated Steel Material and Fasteners:** Today's metal roofing is formed with high-strength steel coil with yield strengths of 40,000 or 80,000 pounds per square inch and topped with a zinc or zinc/aluminum coating to provide decades of protection against rusting or corrosion. Steel roof panels are secured to wood, metal decking or metal framing with high-strength galvanized steel screws, which enable today's metal roofs to withstand high wind loads as well as resist damage from hail, which afford the owner lower insurance premiums. Leading testing laboratories, including Underwriter's Laboratory and Factory Mutual, have done extensive testing of metal roofing assemblies and have granted ratings for hurricane-force winds for these roofs. In hurricane-prone areas such as South Florida, local building code authorities have instituted extremely demanding performance criteria and metal roofing has met these criteria.

**A Wide Variety of Metal Panel and Shingle Designs and Applications:** Architects and designers can choose from a virtually unlimited range of designs and textures, including standing seam panels,



Express Bank, Round Rock, TX.

simulated tile, horizontal Bermuda-style roofing, shake shingles, turn-of-the-century stamped metal shingles, curved barrel vault, domes, tapered metal panels, batten design and of course, the traditional corrugated ribbed panels. Most of these new designs have appeared over the past fifteen years, and as metal becomes more acceptable, new textures and styles continue to be introduced.

**Flexibility of Function:** Metal is not only ideal as a roof covering – its color, texture and maintenance-free performance makes it a good choice for architects as soffiting, siding, trim, equipment screens, decorative mansards, fascia systems, interior liner and ceiling panels. The durability of prefinished metal panels makes it extremely popular for schools and institutional applications.

**Life-Cycle Costing:** Asphalt shingle roofs generally have a lifetime of twelve to fifteen years, while built-up tar and gravel flat roofs require frequent maintenance, tear-off and replacement at regular intervals. Metal roofing, on the other hand, is truly a "lifetime" roof solution. Add to this longevity the relative ease with which metal roofs can be insulated using rigid insulation board or glass fiber insulation, and the metal roof has a decisive life-cycle cost advantage over the life of the roof versus any other type of roofing.

**Metal is Environmentally Friendly,**

**"Green" Construction:** Steel is recyclable and metal roofing uses from twenty to fifty percent recycled steel. In addition, most modern color finishes have high reflectivity and emissivity ratings, which reduce air conditioning energy costs.

A drive through the suburbs of most cities provides a quick overview of the current popularity of metal roofing in the residential sector. An increasing number of public and municipal buildings feature standing seam roofs; school gymnasiums and arenas flaunt large barrel vault metal roofs; and offices and shopping centers display colorful metal mansard facades. There are churches with graceful domes and homes with a wide variety of colors and shapes – simulated tile, standing seam, metal shake shingles or Bermuda-style roofs. Metal roofing has indeed come of age!



Becky Wynne and Patrick Berridge

## Brick for Life: Why building with brick improves the quality of life for building owners and communities

by Glen Duncan, Southwestern Brick Council



Glen Duncan

Improving quality of life sounds like a tall order for a building product. But brick, a product guaranteed to last for 100 years or more, is up to the task. When used as part of a solid masonry system, brick can reduce health worries associated with mold and decrease the stress on those responsible for facility maintenance. All this in addition to creating an appearance of stability and enduring beauty, two qualities often sought after in commercial and public buildings.

**Christopher Huckabee, AIA,** CEO of Fort Worth-based **Huckabee Inc.,** has built a reputation as one of the country's preeminent architects of educational facilities by adhering to the principles of solid masonry construction, a building system he learned from his father and one which he has almost single-handedly revived among those in the education community here in Texas and beyond.

According to Huckabee, to avoid mold problems, designers should choose materials that will be "forgiving" when moisture enters a building. Although masonry materials do not counteract moisture problems, they are more forgiving

when buildings leak or plumbing problems occur. Brick and other masonry products can be cleaned and dried easily, and are not destroyed by mold. Huckabee believes that the proper choice of material for the building envelope – roof and wall systems – is critical in controlling moisture and keeping mold at bay.

He goes on to say that properly designed masonry provides many levels of protection in real world applications. Pushing material to perform beyond limits in a "perfect-world" scenario is unrealistic. Instead, planners should focus on designing a building with materials that can sustain moisture breaches without catastrophic results.

In addition to reducing mold problems, buildings constructed with masonry have the advantage of requiring less annual maintenance. Selecting materials, such as face brick, concrete block and other similar materials, allows building owners and managers to focus limited maintenance budgets on issues other than wall repairs and replacement. Masonry construction can enhance the health and quality of all our public and commercial buildings, making it one of the most environmentally-friendly building materials around.

Too often when green building standards are discussed and sustainability is defined, the actual life of products are not taken into account. According to Huckabee, "Sustainability, by definition, cannot be evaluated unless you consider

the fundamental issue of how long the materials used can be 'sustained' without repair or replacement. A material which uses a modest amount of energy and is highly efficient on a building is still not 'green' if it needs to be painted with toxic products every few years and replaced every ten. In the case of the nation's mold epidemic in schools, untold millions of dollars are being spent to replace new buildings which were not built with the right materials to start with."



Mansfield High School, designed by Christopher Huckabee, AIA. (Photo credit: Paul Chaplo Architectural Photography)

Huckabee's firm has designed and built hundreds of solid masonry schools during its 36-year history, with Mansfield High School, completed in 2002, a shining example of the system. The 410,000-square-foot facility was built on a budget of \$42,608,000. At \$104 a square foot, the solid masonry system is very competitive with traditional wood or steel stud construction in the budget arena, while providing all the maintenance, durability and mold-resistant benefits that come with a solid masonry and brick system.

Some municipalities have gone so far as to mandate brick and masonry construction for commercial buildings hoping to reap the performance benefits of brick while improving the appearance of the community by upgrading the standard look of "big box" and other chain retail establishments. These ordinances are often part of a city's building code or architectural standards document and are quite common throughout Texas.

Solid masonry, brick-clad construction is the new standard for our schools – facilities in which health and other environmental concerns are taken very seriously. If such systems can be built within the same budgets as stud construction, why not go the extra mile and build with solid masonry on more of the commercial and public buildings in our community? After all, the structures we build today are leaving an architectural legacy – good or bad – for future generations.





## Greater Texas Landscape Services

**Deborah E. Cole, TCLP, CCLP**  
President

In such a beautiful area as Central Texas, a stunning landscape is essential to curb appeal. **Deborah Cole, Greater Texas Landscape Services**, has been creating innovative landscapes for 22 years.

Cole knows her greenery, as Greater Texas was listed as one of the top 25 women-owned businesses in Austin and *Landscape Management* magazine listed them as one of the top 100 in the nation.

Greater Texas has one central office and three satellite locations to serve areas from Georgetown to San Antonio, and as far west as Marble Falls.

Water features have become one aspect of landscape design that has gained increasing popularity in this area.

"Re-circulating water features are a significant part of landscapes and very much appreciated, although landscape architects are being very careful to design features that are environmentally friendly," Cole said.

The landscape ordinance passed by the City of Austin in 1981 specifically dictates what commercial landscapes can look like. The quantity of previous cover, number of trees, and areas of development, are all factors the city ordinance governs.

"The landscape ordinance has been a very good measure," Cole added. "It has prevented Austin from becoming a sea of asphalt and concrete."

One of Greater Texas Landscape's most recent projects was at The Crossings, a wellness center in northwest Travis County. Along with landscape architect, **Kyle Feddelke**, Greater Texas completed the job on a very short time-line, just before the grand opening.

Cole said the most rewarding aspect of working in her industry is, "definitely, the people. I am privileged to know some very special clients and I'm grateful to have the best employees in Austin."

## Calypso Restorations, LLC

**Steve Halladay**, the owner of **Calypso Restorations LLC** in Austin, started his business in 1999. His company specializes in the historic restoration of commercial and residential structures.

With business territory mainly in Austin, sometimes Calypso Restorations will work within a fifty-mile radius of Austin or if a project is interesting or unusual they consider going further.

According to Halladay, his company tries to retain the historic flavor of the buildings by utilizing materials and finishes that are similar to the original.

"Virtually all the exterior finishes we use are very traditional. On wood exteriors, we apply either oil-based or acrylic finish and on masonry finishes we gently clean the surface so that the original, aged patina of the mortar and either the rock or brick is retained," Halladay said.

A few years ago, the move of the Castleman-Bull house

from the grounds of St. David's Church to Red River was a project well remembered by Halladay.

"The preparation and move of this 120 year-old brick structure was amazing. The brittle building weighed in excess of three hundred tons," said Halladay.

More recently, his company completed the restoration of a hundred year-old building in the University of Texas area.

"The structural challenge involved making a former ceiling into a load-bearing floor. Usually this requires an engineer and a major amount of work. This building had many new coats of paint over the years. We scraped down to the original finish and used this color for the new finish.

The field of construction is rewarding for Halladay. He said when a restoration project is completed, contractors have a high degree of pride in the work they collaborated on.

"Personally, my business allows me to combine my passions for history and construction," Halladay said.

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## MGPT . . . sound familiar?



Entrepreneur, Mark Gosney at MGPT's yard in Buda.

When **Mark Gosney** moved to Austin in 1983, he had no idea that he'd start a business, sell it, and start another. The name of the new company is **MGPT, Inc.**

MGPT supplies, installs, and stresses post-tension cable. They also supply and install conventional reinforcing. Gosney has been in this trade for 20 years.

In 1985 there were five post-tension suppliers in Austin, but by the middle of 1986, they were all gone. When the company Gosney was with announced their intentions to leave the Austin market, he jumped into action and founded MGPT.

In 1988, he incorporated and changed the name to **Cable Systems, Inc.** Gosney was so successful, that by 1994, he was approached to sell the business and stay on to work for the new company. Five months ago, they parted ways and Gosney says, "I'm on my own again."

Rising from the ashes, MGPT was reborn. They operate a yard in Buda that has wire mesh, poly, redwood, nails, and form material. He works jobs within a 70 mile radius of that location.

His location, in Buda is significant to Gosney. He says, "I see the growth of the IH-35 corridor as one of the best opportunities for the future."

Currently MGPT is working on some single-family home jobs, but he has the capability to do multifamily and light commercial.

Being a supplier and installer, MGPT is diverse and Gosney's experience in the industry will surely serve him well.

## Technology earns award for Brath

On Oct. 16, **Brath General Contractors** was awarded the Gold Vision Award by *Constructech Magazine*, for the use of technology to improve their business practices. The Constructech Vision Awards honor companies that have realized the advantages of applying modern technologies to their everyday business.

"The winners of this year's awards are a testament to the talent it takes to be successful in the construction industry. These leading edge companies have made significant investments in the latest technology tools available and the benefits they have received are visible," said **Peggy Smedley**, editorial director and publisher for Constructech.

Brath's mission is to know everyday if each of their projects have accomplished the tasks necessary to achieve the scheduled completion date. Brath implemented a unique schedule management program that has helped them accomplish this mission. They use **Time Saver Technologies'** Project Assistant software.

By starting out with Time Saver's Project Schedule, Brath has been able to reduce the amount of time it takes them to produce a detailed and accurate project schedule.

**Michael Smith**, with Brath said, "The use of Time Saver's schedule management program has allowed us to take control of our project's finish date each day. Subcontractors, owners, and the design teams realize this and are able to rely on us to complete projects on or ahead of schedule, which has greatly increased our competitiveness in the market place."





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**The Texas Accessibility Standards (TAS)**

ARCHITECTURAL BARRIERS  
Texas Civil Statutes, Article 9102  
**ACCESSIBLE PARKING**

**TAS 4.6 Parking and Passenger Loading Zones**

Accessible parking and passenger loading zones require aisles alongside parking and pull-up spaces so that persons using mobility aids can transfer and maneuver to and from vehicles. Wider aisles are necessary to accommodate vans equipped with lifts, which are often mounted on the side but sometimes the back. Accessibility also includes the appropriate designation and location of spaces and passenger loading zones, their connection to an accessible route, and vertical circulation for vans.

**TAS 4.3.2(5) Vehicle Hazards**

Accessible routes must be located so that users **are not required to wheel or walk behind parked vehicles** (except the one they operate or in which they are a passenger) or **in traffic lanes**.

**TAS 4.6.2 Accessible Parking Locations**

Accessible parking spaces serving a particular building **must be located on the shortest accessible route of travel from adjacent parking to an accessible entrance**. In buildings with multiple accessible entrances with adjacent parking, accessible parking spaces must be dispersed and located closest to the accessible entrances.

**TAS 4.6.3-"Van Accessible" Parking Spaces**

The increasing use of vans with side-mounted lifts or ramps by persons with disabilities has necessitated some revisions in specifications for parking spaces and adjacent access aisles. The typical accessible parking space is 96" wide with an adjacent 60" access aisle. However, this aisle does not permit lifts or ramps to be deployed and still leave room for a person using a wheelchair or other mobility aid to exit the lift platform or ramp.

In tests conducted with actual lift/van/wheelchair combinations, (under a U.S. Access Board- sponsored accessible parking project) researchers found that a space and aisle totaling almost 204" wide was needed to deploy a lift and exit conveniently. The "van accessible" parking space required by the TAS provides a 96" wide space with a 96" wide adjacent access aisle which is just wide enough to maneuver and exit from a side mounted lift. If a 96" wide access aisle is placed between two spaces, two "van accessible" spaces are created. TAS requires that one in every eight accessible spaces, but not less than one, must be "van accessible". **Vehicle parking spaces and access aisles must be level with surface slopes not exceeding 1:50 (2%) in all directions.**

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*A HOLT field technician on site at the IH-35 highway construction project in Austin, Texas during the 1950s.*

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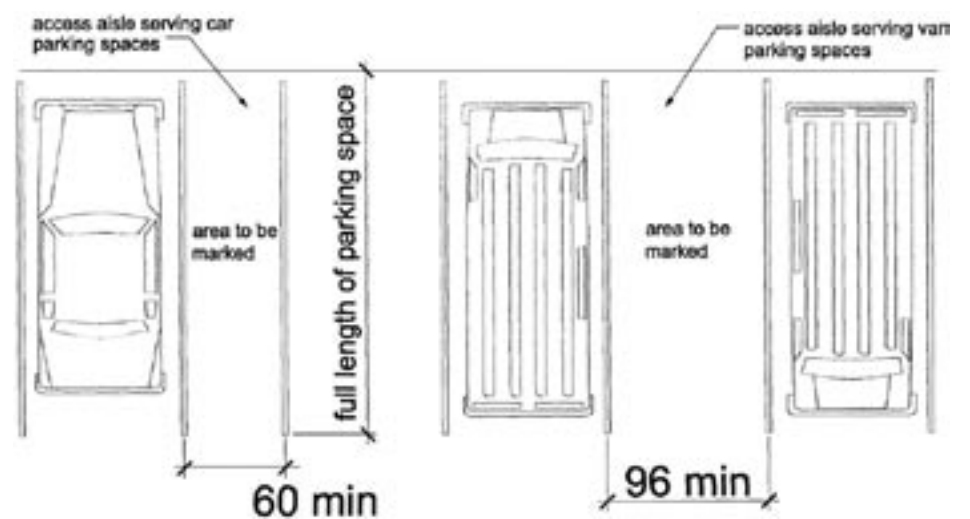
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The method and color of marking an access aisle is not specified in TAS. However, since van access aisles are required to be as wide as the accessible parking space, it is important that they be clearly marked. Bollards or other barriers can help prevent misuse of the aisle provided that they do not obstruct the access aisle or required connecting accessible route. If used, bollards must be placed at the boundary of the access aisle so they do not prevent the deployment of wheelchair lifts or the use of mobility aids.

**TAS 4.6.4 Signage**

Signs designating parking places for persons with disabilities can be seen from a driver's seat if the signs are mounted high enough above the paving and located at the front of an accessible parking space. TAS 4.6.4(1) requires characters and symbols on accessible parking signage to be located **60" minimum above the ground, floor, or paving surface** so they cannot be obscured by a vehicle parked in the space.

*Robert Buck, AIA, has provided architectural accessibility plan reviews/inspections for over 4035 projects in 18 states. He is a Texas Department of Licensing & Regulation Registered Accessibility Specialist (RAS); consultant to the U. S. Department of Justice-Housing and Civil Enforcement Section; and Fair Housing consultant for the City of Austin. 13438 Bandera Road, #104, Helotes, TX 78023 (210-695-5326)*

continued from Page 1 - Architectural Habitat redefines spaces, images

Cannaday says Architectural Habitat has always held a stronghold in tenant improvement work, though the company does do ground-up commercial construction, commercial remodeling and construction management.

"A majority of our work has been in the private sector, but in the last two or three years we have done more work in the public sector. A few of our larger clients include Travis County, The University of Texas at Austin, Capital Metro and renovations of several federal courtrooms."

This is from a company, Cannaday says, that has never paid an OSHA fine nor had an injury on a job.

"In all, we have done about 2.5 to 3 million square feet of interior construction in Austin since the company started," said Cannaday. "I have two project managers, **Mike Baker** and **Mike Waag**, each having more than 20 years of experience in the industry outside of Architectural Habitat."

Cannaday's husband has also become recently involved with the company and handles maintenance projects for the University of Texas and several property management companies around town. Cannaday says this is a new area of work for Architectural Habitat, due to continuing requests.

This summer, Cannaday says her firm worked on building the first two of five phases of a new and much anticipated project for Travis County, the Travis County Tax Office and County Clerk's Office.

Cannaday worked with **Nisha Baweja**, EIT, Travis County project manager and architect, to design and construct 80,000-sf of the new offices at 5501 Airport Blvd. Baweja said the county decided to find a new facility because it wanted to consolidate all of its departments into one location that it owned.

"The new location also provides convenience and ease for customers who now only have one building to go to that

is more centrally located," said Baweja. "I have worked with Jan Cannaday before on other county projects and was pleased to have the chance to do so again on this project. Travis County has a two-year contract with Architectural Habitat for construction and renovation services."

Construction on the new Travis County Tax Office began in late summer and was complete by the end of Sept. Work to the Travis County Clerk's office began in Sept., and was finished ahead of schedule at the end of Oct.

The project's budget for construction is \$3.2 million for all five phases. Upon completion, the building will house approximately 241 employees in 104,000-sf of space.

The remaining Travis County departments will move to the new location as the last three phases of the renovation are complete. The other departments include the Domestic Relations Office, the

Travis County Print Shop and Imaging department and the Community Education Services department. Baweja said the expected completion date for the entire project is Aug. 2005.

"The new location will offer free parking as opposed to meter parking downtown," said Baweja. We will have a four-lane drive-through for the tax office, as opposed to the two vehicle lanes and no drive up window at our former location. As well, the new location offers the added feature for people to pick up their license plates."

Subcontractors who worked on phase one and two include: **Baker Drywall, Global Electric, TDIndustries, Coburn and Company, Lone Star Carpets, Austin Acoustical Materials, Hull Supply, Morris Glass, K&J Woodworks, A&R Demolition** and **Western States Fire Protection**.

continued from Page 1 - Accurate Disposal can't contain their enthusiasm!

Since Sept. 2, Accurate Disposal has placed over 350 containers at businesses and construction sites. On either a call-in or scheduled basis, they provide dumpsters and then haul the boxes to a certified landfill.

For roll-offs, Accurate Disposal has three different sizes available: 20-cubic yard, 30-cubic yard, and 40-cubic yard.

Commercial customers are offered front loading containers ranging in size from 2-cubic yard to 10-cubic yard. Pick-ups for these containers can be scheduled anywhere from every other week to 6 days a week.

Gerry Rieger assures, "All services are provided with a firm commitment to being fully insured with our trucks and drivers. If insurance requirements, such as Worker's Compensation, are a question on a jobsite, a contractor can be provided proof of any type of coverage that they require."

Currently, Accurate Disposal's roll-off services are provided as far north as Walburg, as far south as San Marcos, as far east as Bastrop, as far west as Bee Caves, and all points in between.

As the company grows, it plans to

diversify into specialty-type hauls and residential contracts for municipalities.

On the outlook for their future, Rieger says, "State-of-the-art equipment and

the best employees in the industry will assure Accurate Disposal's customers that they are getting the biggest bang for their buck."

## ARA raises funds on the golf course

**A**ustin Remodelers Association held their 1st annual Golf Tournament on October 8th, at Jimmy Clay golf course. The tournament kicked off at 1:30 pm.

The ARA came up with the idea to have a golf tournament because they wanted to fortify its fundraising efforts within the association.

**Dolores Davis**, the Vice President of the ARA and General Manager and Project Manager of **CG&S Design-Build**, said the tournament was a kickoff event to have the tournament every year.

"We wanted to create something the Austin Remodeling Association could do that was fun and bring all the different remodelers and vendors together," said Davis.

"There were 12 teams with four players each. Our goal was to have 18 teams on each hole and do a shotgun start. We are short this year by 6 teams so that is something to work towards next year."

**Wanda Poe**, the ARA Executive Director and the owner of Marketing Doctor, emphasized the importance of networking at the event.

"When everyone gets together to play golf, they get to know one another. The exposure of the suppliers in the tourna-



L-R: First place team: Mike Konderia, Stewart Polvado and Dennis Jordan

ment is a crucial way to get their products and services to our members," said Poe.

"The 1st annual golf tournament will raise funds that will stay within the organization to benefit education and community services."

The first place team included **Mike Konderia, Stewart Polvado** and **Dennis Jordan**.

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# ROUND-UP

**Bury+Partners** is pleased to announce these additions to their Austin office:

**Mark Thomas Burson, P.E.** joins the firm as a senior project manager with over 20 years of experience in a broad range of civil engineering disciplines. Burson graduated from the University of Texas with a Bachelor of Science in Civil Engineering.

**Kelly Barney** joins the firm as Engineer-In-Training with a background in design and development of public works and land development projects. Barney graduated from Rose-Hulman Institute of Technology in Terra Haute, Indiana, with her Bachelor of Science in Civil Engineering.

**Charles E. Fowler, P.E.** joins the firm as a senior project manager with over 10 years of experience in a broad range of civil engineering disciplines. Fowler graduated from the Texas A&M University with a Bachelors of Science in Civil Engineering.

**Benjamin Gammie** joins the firm as an Engineer-In-Training. Gammie graduated from Ohio Northern University with a Bachelor of Science in Civil Engineering.

**Sharon Vik** joined the **Larry Nelson Company** as the project administrative assistant. Vik brings three years of construction administration experience from the subcontracting world to the company.



**John R. (Bob) Fritsch, Jr.** recently joined the **Larry Nelson Company** as Estimator. His responsibilities include all of the estimating and he is also involved in business procurement and development. Fritsch has prior experience as a Senior Estimator at the Weitz Company, Colorado Division.



**Engineering Consulting Services, Ltd.**, is pleased to announce:

**Reinold M. Von Fange, P.E.**, has joined ECS, Ltd. as Geotechnical Department Manager.

**Daniel L. Franklin, Jr., P.E.**, has joined ECS, Ltd., as Vice President/Principal Engineer.

**Mark Carter** has joined the **National Association for the Self-Employed** as a field insurance agent, focusing on business and personal benefits, including medical and life insurance, for the self-employed and small business owners. Mark brings 32 years of construction-related experience and knowledge to this position.



**3D/I** is pleased to announce the following promotions:

**Lindsay Rose** has been promoted to associate. Rose has worked at the firm for two years as an architectural designer and construction administrator. Rose also performs marketing, human resources and accounting services. 3D/I says Rose has helped develop a strong relationship with one of the office's most important clients, the University of Texas System. Rose also is an Austin native who remains involved in her community by designing homes and landscape plans for Habitat for Humanity.



**Daniel Alexander** has been promoted to senior vice president. Alexander has worked for the company since January 2000, and he opened the Austin office in 2001. He manages higher education, K-12 and institution projects. Throughout his career, he has worked for 33 colleges and university projects including student/faculty housing, recreation facilities, student unions and academic buildings.



**Paul Brown** has been promoted to senior vice president. Brown has worked with the company since February 2003 as the project definition practice leader. His responsibilities include programming, aesthetic definition, design guidelines, master plan integration, project process and delivery strategies. By using pre-construction services, Brown helps to create a clear understanding in the beginning stages of the process.



**Susman Tisdale Gayle** is pleased to announce the following additions and promotions:

**Timothy Pellowski, AIA**, has been promoted to the position of principal and shareholder. During his nine years with the firm, Pellowski has been responsible for projects such as National Instruments headquarters, the Truchard Design Center, the Gateway Courtyard Retail/Office Building and the ACES Building on the Univ. of Texas at Austin Campus. Pellowski also is director of an architectural studio of the firm where he is responsible for project oversight and creative direction.

**Bobby Zamen** has been promoted to the position of principal and shareholder. During his six years with the firm, Zamen has managed the firm's financial and administrative functions. Zamen's expertise lies in the areas of finance, human resources, facilities management and strategic business planning. His key responsibilities include project accounting, contracts, budgeting and financial analysis and reporting.

**Kevin Blackburn** has been promoted to the position of principal and shareholder. During his six years as director of marketing for the firm, Blackburn has been responsible for both coordinating new business development and enhancing overall public relations for the firm.

**Pollyanna Little, R.I.D.** recently

joined the firm as an interior designer. Little received her Interior Design degree from the Univ. of Texas at Austin. She is currently working on the Texas Culinary Academy, CCI TRIAD and other corporate projects in Austin. Little has prior experience designing senior living and hospitality projects in Japan and she has also worked on Samsung, Intel and Texas A&M University projects.



**Kelly Halls, AIA**

has joined the firm as Director of Healthcare Design. Prior to his new position, Kelly was responsible for the design of major additions and renovations at St. David's Hospital and numerous other hospitals throughout Western United States. Kelly attended the Univ. of Utah and has practiced architecture since 1978.



**PDCA** The **Texas Council of the Painting & Decorating Contractors of America (PDCA)** held its annual convention in Mesquite, TX and elected new officers.

The 2003-2004 Texas Council PDCA officers are: Immediate Past President **James Pearson, Pearson Paint Shop, Inc.**, (Waco); President **Gerry Pugil, TEKO Contractors, Inc.** (Houston); Vice President **Doug Harms, Electro Painters, Inc.**, (Dallas); and Secretary/ Treasurer **Jason Schnurr, Schnurr, Inc.**, (Austin). The council's new executive director is **Richard Bruns**.

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## There's gold at end of RCAT's rainbow

The **Roofing Contractors Association of Texas (RCAT)**, a statewide trade association of roofing and waterproofing contractors, sold 300 raffle tickets, at \$100 a pop, to raise funds benefiting the Annie Born Memorial Scholarship.

A pot of gold, specifically \$15,000 in gold coins, awaited the fortunate ticket holder. Two men purchased the winning ticket drawn on Sept. 30th at the Palmer Events Center in Austin! Congratulations to RCAT member **Kenneth Kozlovsky, Bent Tree Roofing**, Garland, TX, and his buddy, **Taylor Maliska**.

The Annie Born Memorial Scholarship awards two scholarships annually.

# ASSOCIATION NEWS

## ABC

**Nov. 1,8,15,22,29:** The Central Texas Associated Builders and Contractors will hold their Defensive Driving classes at the ABC office from 9 am until 3:30 pm.

**Nov. 5:** Membership Committee meeting beginning at 11:30 am at the ABC office.

**Nov. 10:** Safety Committee meeting beginning at 11:30 am at the ABC office.

**Nov. 11:** Education & Apprenticeship Committee meeting beginning at 11:30 am at the ABC office.

**Nov. 13:** Excellence in Construction Award Banquet at the DoubleTree Hotel.

**Nov. 14:** ESO class from 8 am until noon at the ABC office.

**Nov. 24:** PR Committee meeting beginning at 11:30 am at the ABC office.

**Nov. 26-28:** ABC office will be closed.

**Dec. 11:** Christmas party.

For more information call 512-719-5263.

## ACEA

**Nov. 13:** The Austin Contractors and Engineers Association will hold its membership luncheon at the County Line On The Hill. Non-members are welcome.

**Nov. 19:** Political Affairs committee meeting beginning at 11:30 am at the ACEA office.

**Nov. 19:** Regulatory Oversight committee meeting beginning at noon at the ACEA office.

For more information call 512-836-3140.

## AGC

**Nov. 3:** The Austin Chapter of Associated General Contractors will hold its Education Committee meeting beginning at 11:30 am at the AGC office.

**Nov. 5:** There will be an open discussion with AGC of America and the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency about 'The Construction Industry & Environmental Regulation'. The discussion is from 9 am until 10:30 am at the AGC office.

**Nov. 11:** Safety Committee meeting beginning at 11:30 am at the AGC office.

**Nov. 12:** Activities Committee meeting beginning at 11:30 am at the AGC office.

**Dec. 1-3:** Supervisory Training Program-Unit 2; Oral & Written Communication class held at the office of Construction Safety and Health.

**Dec. 4:** AGC Holiday Party at the Austin Club downtown.

For more information call 512-442-7887.

## AIA

**Nov. 4:** The American Institute of Architects Austin Chapter will hold its Executive Committee meeting beginning at 11:30 am at the AIA office.

**Nov. 10:** There will be a lecture and reception at the UT School of Architecture sponsored by the AIA. Time and room still to be announced.

**Nov. 14:** There will be a Wilsonart International and Engrave Detail Tour in Temple, TX from 8:30 am until 4:30 pm. The cost is \$15 per person, which includes transportation, a light breakfast and lunch.

**Nov. 21-22:** TSA Grassroots.

**Nov. 27-28:** The AIA office will be closed.

**Dec. 4:** AIA Awards Gala at the Omni Hotel Downtown beginning at 7 pm.

For more information call 512-452-4332.

## APHCC

The Associated Plumbing-Heating-Cooling Contractors of Texas offers several classes and events in Austin. Members and non-members are welcome.

**Nov. 15 & 22:** Plumbers Professional Continuing Education at the Four Points Hotel at 7800 N. IH-35. Check-in time is 7:45 am.

**Dec. 6:** Plumbers Professional Continuing Education at the Four Points Hotel at 7800 N. IH-35. Check-in time is 7:45 am.

For more information call David Palacio, education director, at 1-800-831-9313 or email at [dpal@phcc-tx-org](mailto:dpal@phcc-tx-org).

## ARA

**Nov. 1-2:** The Austin Remodelers Association will host "Let's Get Cookin'" trade show.

**Nov. 8:** Garage Sale.

**Nov. 13:** Board of Director's meeting at Nuevo Leon's.

**Nov. 20:** Annual General Membership meeting.

For more information call 512-708-0637.

## TSA

**Nov. 21-22:** The Texas Society of Architects will hold its Grass Roots at the Lakeway Inn Conference Resort in Austin. For more information call 512-478-7386.

## Industry alert: ACQ treated lumber

An EPA action will result in major changes in the use of treated lumber and fasteners used in such wood. On Mar. 17 of this year, the EPA granted the voluntary cancellation and use termination requests affecting virtually all residential uses of chromated copper arsenate (CCA) treated wood.

Under this action, affected CCA products cannot be used after Dec. 30, 2003 to treat lumber intended for use in most residential applications, including: play structures, decks, picnic tables, landscape timbers, residential fencing, patios, walkways and boardwalks.

While this action is intended to reduce the potential exposure risk to arsenic, a known human carcinogen, there are other factors for the construction industry to consider.

The replacement treatment process is called alkaline copper quaternary (ACQ). ACQ has proven to have corrosive effects on fasteners. While effective as a wood preserver, these chemicals accelerate corrosion with carbon steel-based products and traditional zinc galva-

nizing. What this means is that standard bright or electro-galvanized products will not work in ACQ-treated lumber. Hot-dipped galvanized, stainless steel, and other specialty-coated products are the only coated fasteners that meet specifications for ACQ applications. Note: Hot-dipped galvanized fasteners do meet the minimum requirements, but have tested poorly in the new lumber.

ACQ lumber may create problems for many builders, lumberyards and manufacturers. Keep in mind, this is a structural situation, not one of aesthetics. Streaking fences and rusty nail heads are not the issue with ACQ. Test data indicates complete failure of some fasteners in as little as 60 days. Base plates, stairs, or elevated decks create serious problems.

Some test numbers show that in the laboratory, ACQ corrodes steel about 4 times faster than CCA does, and removes galvanizing coatings twice as fast. In fact, one lab report found that ACQ-treated wood attacked galvanized metal slightly faster than CCA corroded the

mild steel used for ordinary nails.

Fastener manufacturers have already jumped into action to help their customers deal with problems associated with the ACQ lumber.

Steve Burton, of Southern Fastening Systems, said, "PT2000 coated fasteners are EPA compliant and stand up to the corrosiveness of ACQ-treated lumber. Though more expensive than standard hot-dipped galvanized fasteners, PT2000-coated fasteners are substantially lower priced than stainless steel."

Burton added, "Over the last year, Southern Fastening Systems, our sister companies, and Plating Technology Co. have spent thousands of dollars to develop, test, and bring PT2000 ACQ and Copper Azoles resistant coating to the market. We are currently working with other well recognized fastener manufacturers and related businesses to license our technology to them."

Wood treaters are hustling to reduce the corrosiveness of their formulas. ACQ uses chlorine in the salt solution, used to carry the active ingredients. This process may be replaced with a less corrosive carbonate mix.

## Future builders

Fifth grade students at Hillcrest Elementary, in Del Valle, were introduced to the construction industry in a fun and unique way. For 10 years, the **Austin Chapter of the National Association of Women in Construction** have been visiting this school to expand the minds of their students with the Block Kids Program.

The students are given legos, a piece of foil, a string and a small rock. With these materials, the students are set loose to build and create anything they desire. After 'construction,' 17 judges consisting of NAWIC members and friends choose the top three winners of every class who received a goodie tool bag filled with a do-it-yourself bird feeder kit, hammer screwdrivers and safety goggles. First place in each class was reviewed, and an overall winner was chosen. This year, the winning project was a castle and catapult that actually worked. The winner received a \$100 savings bond and will compete in a regional competition.

"It was a wonderful experience to be able to see the young imaginations at work," said Block Kids Committee Chair **Ruby Maples**.

"We greatly appreciate the sponsors, judges and Hillcrest Elementary for their support. The children all



Block Kids judges

worked very hard and the judges had a difficult time narrowing down the winners as all of the projects were unique."

## Subs and suppliers rub elbows

Who can turn down a buffet dinner, drinks, and hours of networking . . . indoors? Members of the **Central Texas Chapter Associated Builders and Contractors (ABC)** sure couldn't on Tues., Sept. 16, at the Double-tree Hotel in north Austin.

Approximately 50 or more area subcontractors and suppliers lined the main ballroom with booths. This helped promote and educate attendees about the displays latest services and products.

L-R: Reggie Nisbett, owner of Greater Texas Water Co. and Chuck Simpson of Austin Sales and Scaffolds.



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## Team Titus holds celebration

Over 300 customers, team members, suppliers, and their families attended **Titus Electric's** 7th annual Total Quality Commitment celebration on Fri., Oct. 10.

Festivities ran from 6-10 pm at Titus' shop and offices at 615 W. Yager Lane.

Pok E Joe's BBQ catered the event, serving fajitas with the works, ham, and turkey. The Chippery provided cookies. Thirst was quenched with margaritas, Dos Equis, sodas and snow cones.

Good-natured competition won prizes for many guests who participated in activities including: horse shoes, washers, soccer shoot, golf putt, slot machine, glow-in-the-dark hula hoops, and remote control 4-wheel drive monster truck races. Over 50 Team Titus hats and shirts were given out to these participants.

Great door prizes included an electrician's tool set and \$100 Academy gift certificate from **Wesco**, Klein ratcheting cable cutters from **Dealers Electrical Supply**, and a black leather, custom-embroidered jacket from Team Titus.

A noteworthy side attraction was an original Thomas Edison light bulb that **Ty Runyan**, Titus owner, had on display. At over 120 years old, it is one on the oldest working light bulbs in existence.

One of the highlights of the evening was Runyan appearing on stage with the band for a duet. Dario and Su Comborican delivered the red-hot salsa music all night long.

Team Titus shows its commitment to



Ty Runyan, at right, sings La Bamba with Dario of Dario and Su Comborican. Photo courtesy of 2 Bright Stars Photography.

their customers, team members, and suppliers with this annual party. It has grown every year, and the Runyan's will undoubtedly have more great surprises at the next one.

*continued from Page 1*  
 MLA expanding south

serve clients exclusive to the South Texas area when in the past this was not possible.

"Response times to field issues will be greatly enhanced. However, many of the services will not be affected, such as plan production turn-around, because of the technologies already in place. We now email plans and reports to our clients in other cities," said Conner.

Headquarters for MLA will still be based on Longhorn Boulevard in north Austin.

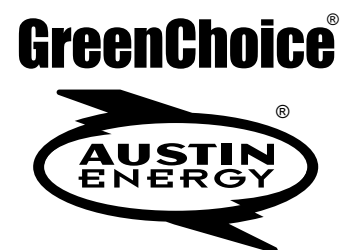


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## Stronghold Demolition knocks down walls to break into Austin market



Jeremy Thompson wields a sledgehammer to keep his head above water and Stronghold Demolition afloat.

Don't underestimate **Jeremy Thompson**. Though he's new to the demolition business, he's no stranger to the business world. **Stronghold Demolition** opened for business in June of 2003, but Thompson's prior career points towards his current success.

Thompson's background is all business. He's been a Business Development Director and President of the Austin Executives Association. In these roles, Thompson has written business plans for new companies for years and now he's done it for himself.

Thompson said, "I wanted to do something more active and different than anything I have ever done before." Recently, Stronghold has demolished and mobile home, destroyed a giant backyard deck, and some commercial offices. He has been active and it certainly is different from the corporate world.

Stronghold's services include anything a contractor or homeowner needs

deconstructed and disposed, no matter what the size.

**Jim Sims**, of **Integrity Tile** (and also Thompson's brother-in-law), gave Stronghold their first demolition jobs. These tearout jobs wet Thompson's appetite for destruction and, "It's snow-balled from there," Thompson said.

Thompson has found allies in the business and said, "I met a good contact at **Keating Demolition** and they have given me good advice."

With his background in the business world, Thompson said, "I am thinking of someday starting a networking group for contractors and subcontractors to boost and create a good source of lead generation for the industry."

When he's not tearing things up, Thompson likes spending time with his family, his church, camping, fishing and off-roading in his Jeep. These activities show that he's a regular guy and much more comfortable out of a suit and tie.

## Don Young Co. marks 25th anniversary

The youngest of thirteen children, **Don Young, Don Young Company**, was born and raised in rural Arkansas. The chronicle of his rise from very humble beginnings and limited formal education to the ownership of a multi-million dollar window manufacturing company is an American success story.

As a young man, Don engaged in employment as an installer with a national window manufacturing company. Drawing on his innate ability to "build a better mousetrap," so to speak, he began to fabricate storm windows and storm doors in his garage, with the support and assistance of his wife and business partner, **Sue Young**. Together, they assembled and installed each unit, and the Don Young Company was established in 1978, in Dallas, TX.

Born of necessity, Don's keen grasp of mechanical applications led him to continuous product improvement. Lacking an engineering background, he literally taught himself how to make machinery work and keep it running, on a tight budget. While Sue maintained the office paper chase, Don focused on the products and began hiring key people to help them grow the company.

In those early days, the popularity of energy-saving storm windows and doors was fast emerging, and the orders started to flood in when the DYC became a key supplier to Sears. Through that alliance, Don and Sue became integrated into the residential remodeling market via their network of installers, many of whom later founded

their own residential remodeling companies.

DYC's product line expanded from storm windows and doors to include high-end, thermally-engineered aluminum windows, which continue to be the backbone of the company's product line. In time, DYC started to produce its own insulated glass. Responding to market changes, the company later introduced fusion-welded vinyl window products.

Today, the company's Dallas headquarters occupies 100,000-sf of office and manufacturing space in the Brookhollow industrial area of Dallas. The window manufacturer has four successful branches serving the San Antonio, Houston, Lubbock and Oklahoma City markets.

The company's products are also marketed within the custom homebuilding sector and the light commercial sector, including hotels, schools, colleges, nursing homes, and multi-family. Its products are compliant with NFRC, TDI, and Energy Star™ standards.

About ten years ago, Don and Sue retired to Arkansas, leaving the company in the capable hands of its trusted management team. To mark its 25th anniversary, the Don Young Company hosted an Open House and educational seminar for selected customers on Fri., Oct. 17th, which featured award-winning marketing specialist **Gale Brown**, and executives from **Dayton Technologies, Installation-Masters™**, and **Cardinal Glass**.

## On Location



Eusevio Rios, of Lakeridge Custom Homes, marks rafters for the Longo residence in Dripping Springs.



Jeremy Daley of White, Inc., frames an awning for a new LDS church in Pflugerville, built by Bud Bailey Construction.



Mike Beasley, of Jordan Construction, measures exterior wall board to hang at 404 Rio Grande.



Israel Tinajero with Davey Tree Experts, clears limbs along FM 969 for the Austin Energy.



Crew with Alpha Concrete pouring a slab in downtown Liberty Hill.



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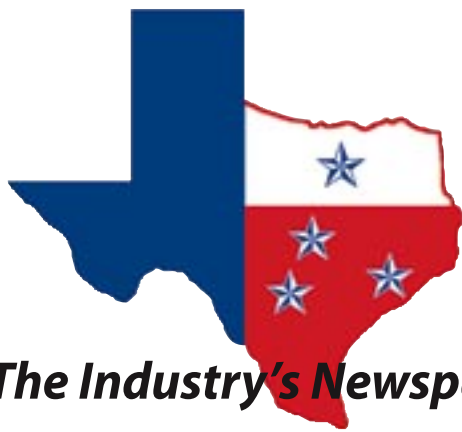
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