



Houston

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A 'paws-itive' influence



L-R: Kristin Valdez, Mama Dog, and Jennifer Lout

Every dog may have its day, but not every dog has an official title at a specialty construction company.

That's where "Mama Dog" separates herself from the pack. The beloved mutt is celebrating her fifth year with New Caney company **J.M. Maly Inc.**, which thinks highly enough of her to give her the title "office dog," and include her on the "Our Team" page of its website.

Don't confuse this for a tale about a company adopting a dog. **Autumn Dickerson** says that really, it was the other way around.

"When we moved into our new building, we were the first company to move into this industrial park," says Dick-

erson, who handles architectural sales, promotion and marketing for the company. "We noticed these two feral dogs – a mama dog and a papa dog. We decided to put out food for them to see if they would come a bit closer. They did, but would wait until you would leave to come eat."

The two dogs were content largely to fend for themselves – Dickerson recalled once seeing Mama Dog walking proudly up the road with a deer antler in her mouth – but the tables turned for the canine couple when **Papa Dog** was hit and killed by a parcel delivery truck.

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A concrete family



L-R: Administrative Vice President Kellie Vazquez, Vice President of Construction Pat Stepanski, CEO Susan Hollingsworth and President Darlene East.

Holes Incorporated in Houston has been a family affair since its creation 40 years ago by **Susan Hollingsworth** and her late husband, **Ken Major**.

Today, Hollingsworth still presides as CEO with her daughter, **Darlene East**, running the show as president and chief operating officer.

However, as the old Beatles song goes, East and the concrete-cutting company get by with a little help from their friends.

"I just have to say it's our employees," East explains. "We're very fortunate to have employees that have been with us for a long time. Many of our people have

been here for over 20 years.

"It just makes a difference when you have that kind of loyalty. We have such hard-working and dedicated people."

Both East and her sister, Administrative Vice President **Kellie Vazquez**, have been involved with the company since they were tykes.

"My mom didn't believe in leaving us at home to get into trouble, so we came in to work," East said. "I started working here as an adult about 22 years ago."

Vazquez and Vice President of Construction **Pat Stepanski** manage operations and take care of the company's clients.

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Moving forward

The Harris County Flood Control District recently launched the final construction phase of a 150-acre stormwater detention basin project in northwest Harris County.

According to **Heather Saucier**, Harris County Flood Control District spokeswoman, the general contractor for the project is **N & Z Contracting Inc.** and the majority of the stormwater detention basin was excavated by **Sprint, Sand & Clay LLC**.

"The Sprint, Sand & Clay crew excavated and removed the soil from the site," Saucier said. "We are currently working on the final phases of the project, which will complete the excavation and ensure that the stormwater detention basin is fully operational."

The basin is located at the upstream end of Horsepen Creek, approximately 0.5 miles east of Barker-Cypress Road, she said.



An aerial view of the Horsepen Creek stormwater detention basin

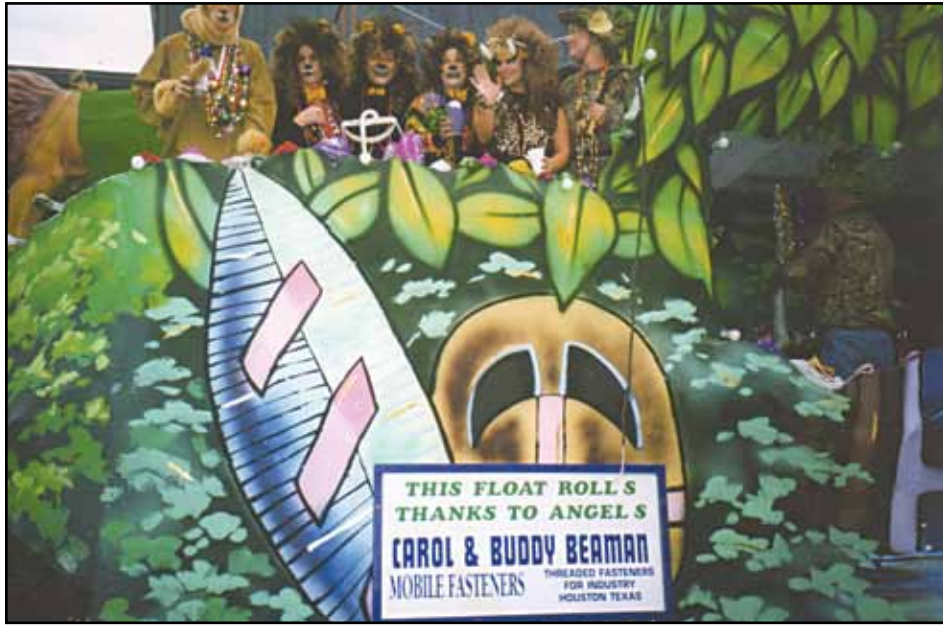
The project manager for the basin is **Naser Salem** with **N & Z Contracting**. He says the company is installing new drainage pipes and the weir structure.

"The weir structure serves as a spillway whereby stormwater rising in a channel, in this case, Horsepen Creek – can spill into the detention basin during times of heavy rain where it will be temporarily stored and slowly released back into the creek," he said.

"After construction of the weir structure and regrading of the detention basin's slopes, the basin will retain approximately 360 million gallons of stormwater that otherwise might flood homes and businesses. In addition, the basin will help reduce flooding risks for those who live downstream along the creek's banks."

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Fasten up



The Mobile Fasteners Mardi Gras float

Mobile Fasteners, a division of **Big H Corp.**, began in 1964 as a small pop rivet distributorship operated from the home of **H.F. "Buddy" Beaman**.

The business is still family owned and located in South Houston. Beaman is the president and CEO and **Josie Beaman** is the secretary and treasurer. **Rob Polasek** has been the sales manager since 1985.

Polasek says that Mobile Fasteners has company dinners throughout the year.

"For the Fourth of July, we have hot dogs and around Thanksgiving we have pizza," he said. "Our annual Christmas

party takes place at the Hobby Hilton. In addition, we also help with a Mardi Gras float every year."

According to Polasek, all of the folks at the company are Houston sports fans and support the Astros, Texans, Rockets and Dynamo.

"My main hobby these days is playing golf," he said. "I play at River Terrace Golf Course in Channelview, TX. Buddy's favorite hobby is fishing. He likes to go saltwater fishing at Tiki Island."

Mobile Fasteners is a distributor of fasteners, directed to selling to the construction, industrial, oilfield and chemical industries. —ab



The company has expanded 10 times the original size since 1964.

Reaching the top

Representatives from **Anslow Bryant Construction Ltd.** recently attended a traditional topping out ceremony at the Nexen Petroleum U.S.A. job-site in West Houston.

The ceremony was carried out at the 14-story, 333,000sf office building. According to project manager **Steve Thomas**, Anslow Bryant Construction topped out the structure in three months and 28 days.

"By working seven days a week since the beginning, we were able to complete the precast concrete skin before the structure was complete and poured concrete at a rate of one and a half floors per week," he said. "We have a great team and everything is clicking."

Founded in 1995, Anslow Bryant Construction is a general con-



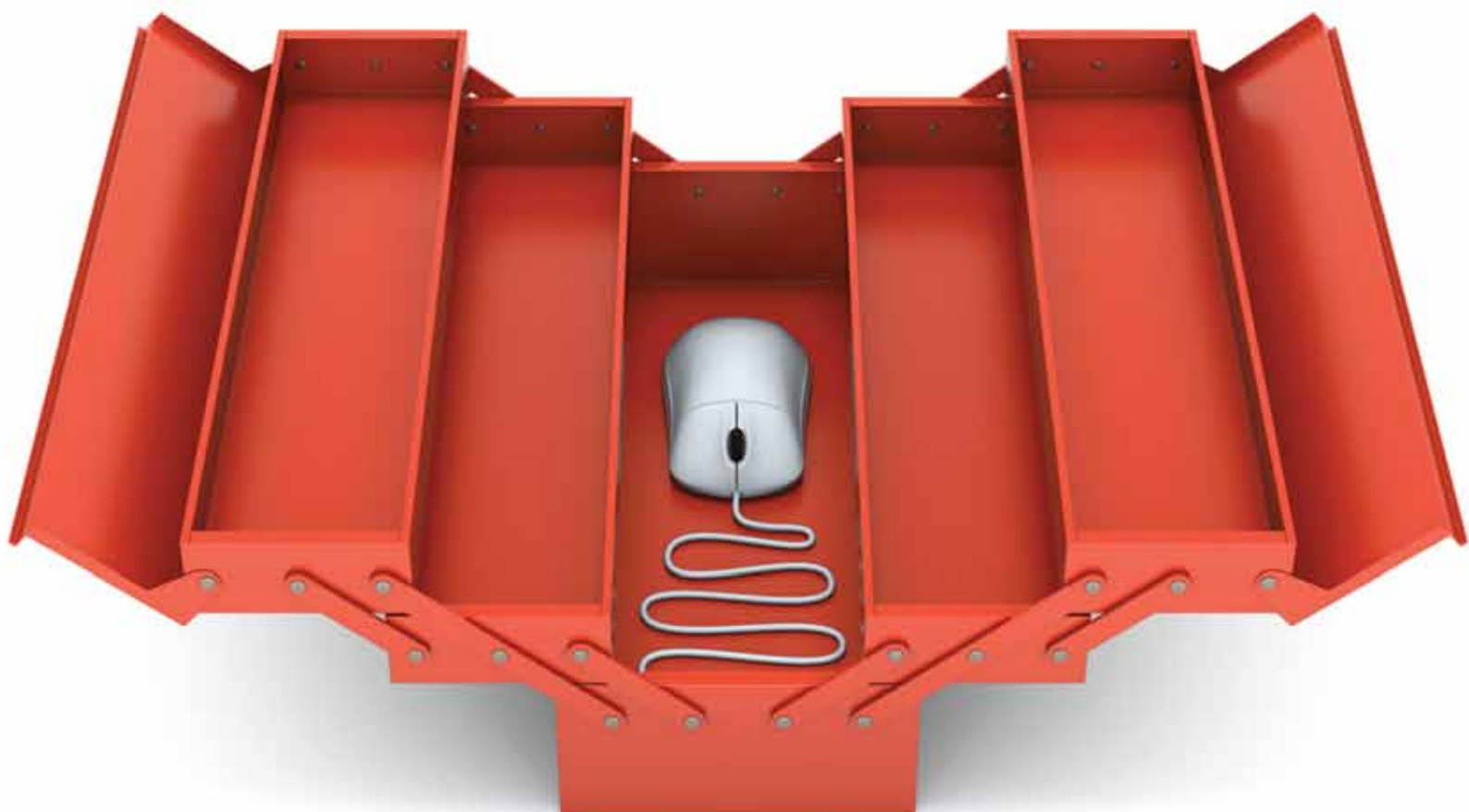
The Nexen Petroleum U.S.A. project

tractor, design-builder and construction manager in Houston. —ab



Anslow Bryant Construction held a catered lunch for the subcontractors.

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Going international

International Stoneworks opened its doors in 1982 and is celebrating 30 years in business in March.

President **Rawi Tabbah** says he began his business by introducing one product to maintain natural stone without wax.

"After I was given the opportunity to restore one marble bathroom floor with this new technique in a major Houston hotel, I expanded the business by performing stone restoration, maintenance work and selling various stone care products," he said.

"It is quite an accomplishment for any company to successfully stay in business for 30 years and I am very proud of International Stoneworks and its employees. I am always looking for ways for our business to improve and grow and I enjoy teaching my daughter, **Jacqueline**, who joined us in 2009, about the services provided by our company. I look forward to celebrating another 30 years!"

Tabbah says at Christmas time, the company has any annual party for employees and their families. Everyone cooks and brings in a dish to share.

"My hobbies today are listening to music and traveling with my wife," he said. "We enjoy exploring places that we have never been to before. We have seen the Pyramids in Egypt and ancient buildings in Turkey."



Rawi Tabbah says he is grateful for his dedicated employees and clientele.

Tabbah says the company now sells its products nationally and internationally.

"While typically we perform stone and tile restoration in residences and major buildings in Texas, we have traveled as far as California, Florida and New Jersey."

International Stoneworks is a natural stone restoration and maintenance business. -ab

ON THE SPOT What's your favorite lunchtime restaurant?

Las Carretas and I eat the steak ala Mexicana. Absolutely! Since I left San Antonio, I really miss it. In Houston, it's Miyako Sushi Bar, right next door to our office. They do a rib eye sushi roll. It has crab and onion and it's wrapped in a really rare steak and you just can't beat it. It's just perfect.

Joshua Meyer, Builders Exchange Houston

One of my favorite restaurants is Pappadeaux's. I like their pan-grilled Tilapia.

Debbie Wadlington, Briggs Equipment

My favorite restaurant is Pappas and I like their lump crab and shrimp salad.

Mark Johnson, Briggs Equipment

My favorite lunchtime restaurant is the Red Onion Café and my favorite entree is the Mayan Chicken. It's very good.

Valerie Delafosse, Women Contractors Association

Java Java on 11th street has fantastic chicken salad. I love it. That's my favorite.

Lenora Sorola-Pohlman, Navarro Insurance

My favorite place to eat during lunch would be Pappadeaux's. I always get their specialty salad. It's a great salad!

Chrysanthie Pappas, Triangle Reproductions

My favorite place would be Jimmy Johns because they deliver.

Becky Manzel, Energy Waterproofing and Roofing Systems

My favorite place for lunch in the Houston metro area is Mel's Country Café in Tomball. My favorite meal there is the hamburger steak. A close second to that would be their fried mushrooms. Mel's Country Café is absolutely the No. 1 restaurant in the state of Texas. In fact, they have a lot of construction people that meet there for lunch.

Dan Rowlen, Triangle Reproductions

There are so many good restaurants, but I would have to say Ouisie's on San Felipe St. I love their shrimp and grits. Also Kiran's Indian Restaurant in Highland Village. I eat the combo plate. It has several different foods that represent well.

Janice Peters, Build Houston

Veronas Flying Pizza and I get the babe ziti with Italian sausage. It's fantastic!

Amber Hobbs, HG Fire Systems

My favorite lunchtime spot is Which Wich. I like the chicken pesto sandwich.

Sandi Hinson, Northstar Fire Protection

Koto Japanese Restaurant and it is their Sushi special.

Amber Mavridis, Northstar Fire Protection

My favorite lunch is at Panera Bread and I do their pick two: soup and sandwich.

Cindy Wade, Simplex Grinnell

My favorite place for business clients is Houston's on Kirby Drive.

Cathy McDow, RLI Insurance

Construction News ON LOCATION

Take two



L-R: **Devin Flato** and **Doug Lowe** are friendly surveyors at **Halff Associates Inc.**, a full-service engineering, surveying and architecture firm. -ab

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Houston Editor — Abby BeMent — HoustonEditor@ConstructionNews.net — 713-599-1774

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Managing Editor..... Debra Nicholas
Editorial..... Miles Smith
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Ted Garcia

A Pro Air Heating and A/C Inc.

Ted Garcia has worked in the heating and air conditioning business for 37 years. He says he likes to simply be called "Mr. Garcia".

A Pro Air Heating and A/C is a heating and air conditioning company focusing on both service and installations for new construction projects.

Where are you from, Mr. Garcia?

I grew up in the Rio Grande Valley in McAllen, TX. I remember it was really hot in the summers.

Football was my biggest interest when I was a kid. I played football on the elementary and junior high school teams.

What did your parents do when you were growing up?

My parents were good folks and always worked hard.

My father was a delivery guy when I was growing up. He delivered anything from eggs to pies to chickens.

My mother grew up in a large family with 12 kids. They lived and worked on a big ranch in South Texas.

Did you have a part-time job as a teenager?

The first job I had as a teenager was working at a bus barn at McAllen School District. I did mechanic work at the time.

I actually worked on the buses and also did lawn mower repairs. I went to work after school and on the weekends.

In addition, I had one of the largest paper routes in McAllen. I started off selling newspapers on the streets and then I went on to deliver papers.

I started out with one route and then the owner of the newspaper wanted me to work six routes. I woke up early in the morning to deliver papers in the local neighborhoods. I tried to have nickels in my pocket all the time.

What did you do after school?

I actually dropped out of school when I was in the 10th grade. I did eventually finish my education with a GED.

I wanted to get into the trades and there really weren't any good vocational training schools in the area.

So, I decided to go to a school in San Marcos, TX and take a two and half hour class in automotive air conditioning. At first, I wanted to do mechanic work.

What sparked your interest to get into the heating and air conditioning business?

I started out doing automotive air conditioning and then I started reading about heating and air conditioning at the vocational training school in San Marcos.

After that, I eventually got into residential and commercial air conditioning and heating.

I worked for several different heating and cooling contractors, where I gained valuable experience in estimating, scheduling, purchasing, inventory control, labor management, and running the day-to-day operations of an HVAC contractor.

I am still learning so much about the business, especially the commercial side. Things have constantly changed since I earned my apprenticeship license.

Have you ever lived anywhere besides Texas?

Yes, I did sheet metal work in Kansas at one time. I did a lot of bending and forming sheet metal at my job there. I also gained experience in duct design and installation.

During that time, I sold a variety of HVAC related products into the new residential construction market. The products included heat pumps, sheet metal fabrication, thermostat wiring, start-ups, flexible ductwork and floor furnaces.

Did you have any mentors along the way that taught you the business?

I had to learn the business the hard way. There was no one back then who wanted to teach me how to make money. I had to teach myself.

What does a typical day look like for you nowadays?

I oversee the commercial projects and I do all the estimates. I have done this for the past 15 years.

I go out to the jobsites on a daily basis.

How many employees do you have?

Depending on the economy, we have had as many as 17 employees. Right now, I have four employees. We are still a small company.

We try not to hire subcontractors, but we do when we have to. When we do that, we only hire the people who are qualified and good workers. You don't want to hire just anybody.

Eboeio "Boyo" Moreno is my helper and Tammy Ferguson is the secretary.

What does it take to be successful at what you do?

I think you have to have drive and you have to like what you do for a living.

You also have to be versatile and wear different hats on the job.

There is always something going on in this business and it is never the same thing every day.

It is important to provide the highest quality service for a reasonable price.

It takes dedication to get the job done right.

What if a young person wants to get into the trade? What advice would you give him or her?

I would say the best thing to do is to stay in school.



L-R: Ted Garcia and his helper Eboeio "Boyo" Moreno

There is so much going on now in the industry. It would be best for a young person to learn the business in a trade school for a few years.

Then, get experience in the field.

Have there been any positive happenings recently at the company?

Yes, right now we are doing a lot of bids with the Blue Book.

As a matter of fact, we just got some new software that we bought last year that we are implementing for all the new commercial jobs.

We are in the works on that and we are about a year away from finishing it. I am still doing a lot of training.

Have you always operated at your current location?

We were at a different location for about seven years.

We moved to our current location about three years ago. I bought three acres of land and put up a shop.

I have added an office to the shop. I eventually want to double our office space. We have a total of 4,000sf of shop space and I think it is too small. I want to add more shop space in the future.

What are a few commercial jobs you have worked on lately?

We have completed jobs for Holiday Inn Express and Hilton Garden Inn and other hotel and motel projects.

We also had a job at a Department of Public Safety (DPS) office in Pasadena, TX. We converted the office into a dance hall.

We will do commercial and residential work within a 50-mile radius of Houston.

Are you a member of any local associations?

Yes, we are members of the Air Conditioning Contractors Association of Greater Houston, the Air Conditioning Contractors of America, the Pearland Chamber of Commerce and the National Balancing Institute.

Why do you enjoy your job?

My favorite part of my job is every single project is different. There is always something new to learn. I have done this type of work for 37 years. I am never bored because I am always learning something new.

What are your favorite hobbies these days?

When I get the chance, I like to go fishing in the Pearland area and Galveston Bay. I go crabbing in Galveston too.

My family and I enjoy going swimming at the beach in the summertime. I usually don't go to far from the Gulf Coast area because I want to stay dedicated to my customers. I'm available for my customers to call 24 hours a day, seven days a week.

My wife and I have three children that keep us busy. Two of them can play the guitar and drums. We all like to spend time as a family on the weekends.

In addition, I love to cook when I get home from work. My wife likes when I cook healthy foods such as rice, beans and pasta.

Are you a sports fan?

Yes, my favorite football teams are the Dallas Cowboys and the Houston Texans.

My father was a big Dallas Cowboys fan. I used to watch the Cowboys all the time as a kid. The Texans are a great team too!

Do you ever have company events during the year?

On occasion, we have an annual event. What we normally do in the summer is go to a Holiday Inn by the beach in Galveston and go fishing. It is nice to get away from the norm every now and then.

What are your plans for the company?

In the future, I look forward to growing the company and staying on top of everything going on in the industry! -ab



INSURANCE



Obtaining competitive proposals

Mike Abelow, Senior Account Executive
Guaranty/Insurica Insurance Services
San Antonio, TX

After seven years of declining rates and minimal underwriting the insurance markets are at the beginning stages of change. Rates are starting to trend upward and companies are being more selective in their underwriting. Many of the contractors I talk with are confused about the process of obtaining competitive proposals. The best results can only be obtained when certain procedures are followed. Should you elect to obtain quotes the best results can be obtained by following the procedures outlined below:

1. When selecting an agent, be selective. Interview the agent prior to agreeing to let him/her provide a proposal. Make sure he/she has experience with writing contractors. Contracting accounts require more services and specialized knowledge about construction contracts and law. Select only the agents with whom you feel most comfortable. Test each ones knowledge with select questions. Choose no more than three agents, including the incumbent.
2. Prepare detailed specifications sheets. This should include property values, equipment schedules, auto schedule, payrolls per code, required additional insured clause, blanket waiver of subrogation and any other specific coverages you carry or desire. Ask the competing agent to recommend coverage that is not in the specifications as separate line items. Provide the same information to all agents.
3. Provide loss runs for five (5) years. Provide each agent a copy of your master subcontractor contract agreement, a copy of your drivers list and a contractor's questionnaire (this can be obtained from your current agent). Provide a de-

tailed explanation of any large claims or open reserves.

4. Market assignment is very important. Your incumbent agent gets first choice of companies. Ask each agent to provide a list of the markets they would prefer in order of priority. To be fair to the competing agent, you should limit the incumbent to his/her top three markets and then let the competing agents have the highest three remaining markets on his/her list.

5. Provide a detailed description of your operations, scope of work, type and amount of work subcontracted. If you subcontract work to others, your subcontract agreement is very important as it should contain both an indemnification clause and insurance requirements.

Following these simple steps will reduce your time in obtaining the best value for your dollar and will put you in control of the bidding process.

Unfortunately, the bids may have wide variances. Allow each bidder who presents a reasonable bid an opportunity to explain his/her coverages and premiums. Make certain each bid has the correct/required coverages that conform to your specifications and that the carriers have acceptable financial ratings.

Mike Abelow is Senior Account Executive Guaranty/Insurica Insurance Services, San Antonio, Tx. He is a 25-year construction specialist and can be reached at: mabelow@insurica.com 210-805-5910

Reaching 115 years



L-R: Chamberlin Roofing & Waterproofing partners Art Canales, John Kafka and David Neal

John Kafka, President and CEO of **Chamberlin Roofing & Waterproofing**, admits his company has had a little help in reaching its 115th anniversary.

"By the grace of God," Kafka replied when asked how his company has kept going since the nineteenth century.

The company founded in 1897 in Detroit was originally named Chamberlin Metal Weather Strip Company. The company manufactured and installed some of the nation's first weatherproofing products.

Today, with locations in Dallas, San Antonio, Houston, Austin and Oklahoma, the company continues to grow and is still looking at ways to stay ahead of the game.

"It is a combination of a lot of things, but I think our real commitment to installing our work at the best possible quality along with a can-do spirit of cooperation on each project is the foundation of our growth," Kafka explained. "We

have further embraced technology to improve communication, reduce costs and better analyze our business."

The 600-employee company is led by Kafka and partners **Art Canales** and **Doug Neal**. A new senior vice president, **Doug Combes**, recently joined the management team.

The award-winning company's work in Texas includes such projects as Minute Maid Park, Texas A&M Bright Football Complex, Reliant NFL Stadium and the DFW International Airport.

Maintaining a focus on teamwork has helped the company keep employees happy and productivity up, Kafka said.

"Foundational to our culture is respect," he said. "At Chamberlin, we believe in getting problems on the table, discussing them, making a decision, supporting the decision and moving on. Treating others in all situations as one would like to be treated is the underpinning of a great place to work." -ms

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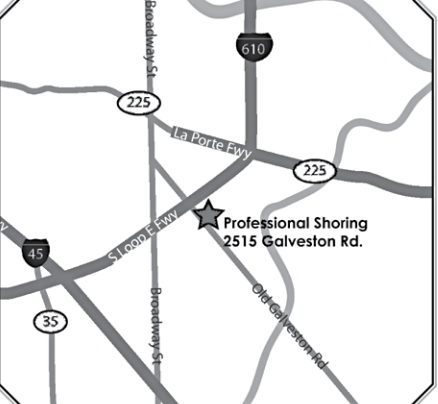


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Wading the bay step by step

by Capt. Steve Schultz

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Trophy trout fishing in the Laguna Madre/Baffin Bay complex is in full swing. For the past month most of my charters have consisted of long hours wading the shallow flats and shoreline of our bay system, in search of every coastal angler's dream. Thousands of casts everyday with my 6½-ft. "FTU" Green rod and chronarch reel have made this set-up seem like an extension to my right arm. Our trout bite has been consistently yielding reasonable numbers and a handful of fish over the 5-lb. mark on the Boga. However, the best fishing is yet to come. Typically we start seeing the heavier sow trout in March and into April that will reach double digits numbers on the scale.

Wade fishing the next few months will be the preferred method for pursuing monster trout. When wading, please exercise extreme caution. Often our water temperatures are in the low 50- to 70-degree range. If you're wading soft mud on the rocks down in Baffin Bay you can lose your balance causing you to fall and fill your waders with cold water and possibly

getting hypothermia. Take things very slow and be sure of your next step before you commit your weight to your lead foot. Weather conditions should carefully be considered before venturing out on a wading trip. Changing weather conditions can develop very quickly and can catch you off guard and possibly far from the boat. Determine not where you should fish, but instead where you shouldn't. Key on protected shorelines and structure that you know might hold baitfish and have reasonably clear water. Observations like these will definitely improve your odds in landing the big one. When wade fishing, look beyond what's immediately apparent. Constantly examine both the surface and feel what's under your feet. Keep your eyes peeled for jumping mullet and shrimp or nervous water. Slick spots appearing on the water's surface are sure signs of feeding fish. When people read a book, many of them need a pair of reading glasses. The same goes for reading the water. A good pair of polarized sunglasses by Maui Jim or Oakley are a must for water penetration and contrast. When selecting your sunglasses, pick lenses that are green, vermilion or amber for bay fishing and blue or gray for offshore waters. A good pair of these glasses can cost anywhere from \$150 to \$400.

Make sure all your reels are tuned up with new line and a fluorocarbon leader. Dull hooks can make for a frustrating day as fish typically shake loose on the way to the end of the rod. Lately, most of the fish caught have come off of soft plastics like the Gambler Flapp-n-Shad and Bass Assassin with several of the bigger trout falling to Topdogs and Corky's. Light winds have allowed anglers to fan their cast nearly 360 degrees covering every square foot around them. All these tips should better your odds on catching your fish of a lifetime.

For more information or to schedule your next bay fishing trip, give Capt. Steve Schultz a call at 361-949-7359 or 361-813-3716 or email him at SteveSchultzOutdoors@gmail.com. www.steveschultzoutdoors.com Good Luck and Good Fishing.



Chase Clark of Floresville tricked this Baffin speck using a white soft plastic wading near the mouth of the bay with Steve Schultz Outdoors.

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THE GREAT OUTDOORS



Ken Milam's Fishing Line

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My name is Ken Milam and, for the past 26 years, I have been guiding fishing trips for striped bass on Lake Buchanan in the Texas Hill Country. Over the years, I've had the opportunity of getting to know a good many folks in the construction trade.



Get outta here

There I was, pulling out of the Wal-Mart parking lot and down the road comes a truck pulling a nice looking bass boat, piled high with fresh cut cedar branches. That can only mean one thing...spring is just about here and the crappie are biting! I bet those fellows spend all weekend tempting those crappie with nice brush to hide in.

Over all it has been a pretty mild winter, but I'm ready for spring too. Longer days and milder weather make me want to root around in the garden and start planting. Time to get out of the house and see what all we can find to get into.

The fish are starting to get more active also. White bass are running up river and the fishing docks are seeing good crappie fishing under the lights at night. Stripers and hybrids and, I guess catfish, are all beginning to feed better in order to be ready to spawn in the coming weeks.

Have you heard about the three Share-Lunkers that have already come out of Lady Bird Lake in Austin this year? One of them was caught for her second time around as a ShareLunker. Now that is a successful breeding program!

Spring break is upon us too. Don't panic though, there is plenty to go and do and explore that is inexpensive and close to home.

Texas Parks and Wildlife Dept. has 93 state parks for your next adventure. It doesn't matter what you are into - fishing, birding, paddling, hiking, wildflow-

ers, spelunking, biking, swimming, sight-seeing or archeology - there is something for any taste. These parks are our precious gift to ourselves and our children, but we need to get out and use them. Money is tight for the state too, and it would be a great investment both in our parks and our kids to get them acquainted with each other.

Don't overlook all the spring festivals either. Just about every town has some kind of shindig going on in the next few weeks. I'm sure there is one coming to a town near you. Just go online and check out the local Chambers of Commerce or check out www.texashighways.com and look at their current event search feature. You can know what's happening anywhere in Texas at any time of the year.

Personally, I hear that something big is on the horizon just west of here in the tiny little riverside town of Castell. It will be before their annual kayak race on the Llano River, and the wild rumors I've heard so far sound like a whole lot of fun. Keep your ears open, I'll tell you more about it later on.

Come on now - just load up Momma and the kids and Granny and Grandpa too. We are going to have bluebonnets this year, thanks to the nice little rain showers. You know you have to get some of those precious bluebonnet pictures, and who knows, maybe some good barbeque while you are on the road too!

Kick the door open and let's get outta here!



Landon Glass of Jarrell caught this 13.03-lb. bass, Toyota ShareLunker 528, from Lake Austin February 14. The fish was 25.75 inches long and 21.75 inches in girth. Ryan Fontana, © Texas Parks and Wildlife Department





Lake bottom bluebonnets - half the blue in the lake bed is fields of bluebonnets



Spring in the hill country - historic oak tree with a thunderstorm in the background

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A few things to consider before riding

Submitted by **Bruce Blanks**
San Antonio Powersports
 San Antonio, TX



L-R: Brian Borhardt and Bruce Blanks

A major safety factor that is commonly overlooked by a large number of riders is tire air pressure. Improper air pressure greatly affects the stability of the motorcycle. In a hard stop or collision avoidance, proper air pressure could be the difference of staying upright or not. Additionally improper air pressure also causes premature tire wear. I recommend checking tire air pressure at least weekly.

Motorcycles equipped with drive chains require more attention and maintenance than rubber drive belts or shaft drive. Drive chains require lubrication on a regular basis. The frequency depends on the type of lubricant used and riding conditions. The more gooey and thicker the lube the better it is for the chain. However, the down side to the gooey lube is it tends to leave a mess on the rear wheel. An alternative to this is a product known as Chain Wax that is a paraffin based lubricant. Chain wax does not have the same lubricating ability and should be applied more frequently. The only benefit to the chain wax is that it does not leave as big a mess on the rear wheel. Chains wear faster than the rubber drive belts and require adjustment more frequently. Rubber drive belts last a long, long time and require little adjustment in its serviceable life span. Shaft drive motorcycles require practically no maintenance for the final drive, but I do recommend changing the gear oil with every engine oil change.

Engine oil should be checked at least weekly but daily would be better. Some particular models of motorcycles have a reputation of consuming oil, so check it frequently in case you may by chance have such a model. I recommend that you change the oil every 3,000 miles and

be careful as to the type of oil you choose. Some oils are not suited for use in motorcycle due to being too slippery for the clutch.

Cable activated clutches require periodic adjustment. Most of the time the adjustment can be made at the handlebar without the use of tools. Improper adjustment of the cable of course will cause premature wear or improper disengagement of the clutch.

Don't take for granted that all of your lights will be working. You should check the turn signals, brake lights and tail lights prior to riding. It is not uncommon for the brake lights not to work due to the rear brake light switch needing adjustment or a failed front brake light switch in need of replacement. Remember that unlike automobiles and trucks, the controls and switches on motorcycles are subjected to moisture and weather. Corrosion and/or oxidation can be a factor in lights and horn not always working. Check your horn for proper operation as well.

Mirrors are important items and they should be kept clean. Dirty mirrors require too much time looking at to make distance judgments. And this additional time looking backwards distracts you from the direction you are going, which of course is where your undivided attention should be focused.

These checks do require a few minutes of your time but the time spent is well worth it. Safety is the main issue, which means that these checks could save your life as well as some money. Ride safely and stay alert.

San Antonio Powersports provides motorcycle and ATV sales, parts, accessories and service.

From exhibits to dinosaurs

Professionals from across the United States involved with the decorative concrete industry came together under one roof in San Antonio Feb. 20-24.

Companies from the San Antonio, Austin, Houston and Dallas/Fort Worth areas represented the Lone Star State at the five-day event, which included exhibits, training sessions, seminars, mixers, awards presentations and even a project to participate in sculpting a concrete large-scale Jurassic-era dinosaur. – ms



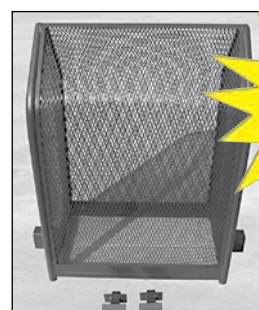
This large-scale concrete dinosaur comes to life with the addition of paint.

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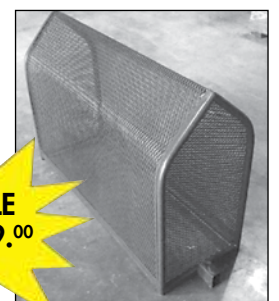
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HoustonEditor@constructionnews.net

Food, festivities and fellowship



Bud Griffin Associates

Inviting friends and colleagues in the industry, **Balfour Beatty Construction** held the 2012 Trade Partner Barbecue Cook-off at 4321 Directors Row Feb. 10.

The cook-off took place all day and folks from the competition booths served barbecue until 6pm. This year's event benefited the Wounded Warriors Project.

Balfour Beatty Construction is a commercial construction contractor. -ab



A large crowd gathers at the Balfour Beatty Construction office.



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A sensible move



The team at Door King in Houston has moved to Hurfus Dr.

Door King recently relocated, trading in its Channelview address for a venue close to the west side of town – a move **President Harry Heitkamp** said “just makes sense.”

The seller and installer of commercial doors and frames, which got its start in 1983, is now located near US 290 and I-610 at 2209 Hurfus Dr.

“We moved into an area where our customers are,” Heitkamp explained. “It’s kind of a more sensible location for our customer base and our suppliers.”

“The reality of it was everything we’re doing, and everyone we’re doing it for is located over here (in this part of town).”

Heitkamp said business had been good lately for the company, which has 19 employees.

“Through the last couple of years, we’ve continued to grow,” he noted. “That’s a good thing. The way I see it, this means there’s room to grow up in this town.”

“It’s usually slow at the beginning of the year, but we’ve got a lot of work coming up, and we’re looking to have a banner year.”

While small commercial jobs are the company’s bread and butter, Heitkamp said a couple of noteworthy projects were either nearing completion or about to be underway.

“We’re just now wrapping up our work on the baseball stadium in Sugar Land,” he said. “That’s the biggest thing we’ve had on hand lately.”

“We’re about to do a renovation over at Houston Christian High School, too.”

Heitkamp, an avid angler, joined Door King in 2009. He says the move was a lucky one.

“I had recently gotten out of school and was just living in Galveston and fishing a lot when this popped up,” said the Texas State grad who studied construction technology. “I’m the everyday operations guy – just kind of the guy who makes sure everything happens.” –ms

F O C U S

This
Month

Construction Education



Making education work

Michael M. Holland, CPC, AIC
American Council for Construction Education
San Antonio, TX

When most people think about education for the construction industry, they have in mind training for the skilled trades – plumbing, painting, electrical work, etc. In addition to the skilled trades, there is another segment which is also the future of the industry – professionals who will become the owners and senior management of construction companies of all kinds – Construction Management professionals who have a college degree in one of the technical/management degrees which provides the foundation to lead a company with a special focus in construction.

At the high school level, the Architecture Construction and Engineering (ACE) Mentor Program is focused on introducing students to construction professions. By linking mentors with students, students develop an understanding of career paths and the knowledge and skills that will lead them toward a successful profession. Students also work on a design project, working in teams to develop the design, engineering and the construction plan, budget and schedule. Making a presentation to a panel of professionals, students develop experience in teamwork, verbal and presentation skills, while working on their project. The ACE Mentor Programs are locally organized with the support of the national organization. Scholarships are made available to students who are both deserving and needing financial support.

The American Council for Construction Education (ACCE) is the accrediting body for college and university construction management (CM) programs in the

United States. With over 65 four-year programs and 11 two-year programs accredited, there is a wide range of choices. Accredited programs meet the high level of standards developed by industry and academic professionals and are a guide for quality education for students, parents, employers and owners of construction projects alike.

As the members of ACCE look into the future of construction management education, there are several elements that provide challenges and opportunities:

Industry involvement is important for a quality program. The council requires an accredited program have an active Industry Advisory Board. Industry practitioners assure the academic program has a strong connection to real world practices. They also provide insight into what is needed to provide a quality construction education for the graduates they will hire. This connection and balance allows both groups to work on cur-

riculum, research for future trends, continuing education for graduates and support for the program, which is needed as the universities' financial support is always under attack from the state legislatures and other funding sources. It is important local construction professionals be involved with the program to contribute to the community and the quality of the college program.

Industry collaboration between A+C+E students. Construction management, design-build, integrated project delivery and other project delivery methods are being developed to find the strengths of each of the design/construction professionals and build on the synergy that is developed by working together. The desired result is to have a higher quality project with no (or fewer) conflicts/lawsuits coming out of the construction process, resulting in a lower cost to the project owner and a project that is of higher quality and more fun to build.

University programs which have construction science within an institution having architecture and/or engineering would be progressive and benefit their students if they would find ways for their students to work together. A+C+E students need to learn to respect each others' knowledge and skills and to understand that it takes all three groups to have a strong base and to support the important elements of the total project. There is resistance in the academic world, just like in the real world for this collaboration to take place. It is greatly important to facilitate the students to learn to collaborate and respect the other professions.

The economy has been a chal-

lenge for our country and throughout the world. Parents who see in the press that construction unemployment is higher than many segments of our economy have impacted student enrollment in construction programs. Though that is true, it has little affect on a student beginning his or her college career. We know with certainty the construction industry cannot be exported to another country, and the employment picture will be better as a new student graduates four or five years from now. This short-term perspectives unfortunate and will impact the future management of construction companies for years to come.

University funding. State funding of universities as a whole has been reduced from 70 percent in 1970s to 5-15 percent today. Student tuition has risen tremendously over the last 30 years. More recently tuition has been a larger restriction to the ability of a student to begin their college career. Governments have not dealt with the lack of funding to our higher education system. As a country, not just in the construction science world, it's our higher educated population that will set us apart from others in the world.

As the Executive Vice President and CEO of ACCE, Mike Holland leads the council in promoting quality education for construction management at colleges and universities across the country. Prior to joining ACCE, Holland was president of Southern Steel Co. as well as vice president at Hensel Phelps Construction Company. He has a Bachelors of Mechanical Engineering from Texas Tech, and a Masters in Construction Science and Management from Clemson University. -dn



Electrical apprenticeship in the Lone Star state

Laurie Montanus,
Independent Electrical Contractors (IEC)
Alexandria, VA

Before the Great Recession hit America, most severely in the construction sector, there was wide-spread concern for the health of the trades. The workforce was graying, yet there wasn't a steady flow of young apprentices and laborers replacing the aging workforce. This fear was replaced by another, the recession. Businesses were closing, construction projects were dwindling, and virtually everybody in the country was tightening their belts. Another thing changed: a renewed interest in the trades and apprenticeship programs.

Although the construction industry as a whole is still lagging, the Bureau of Labor Statistics (BLS) believes employment for electricians will actually increase by 12 percent between 2008 and 2018. Out of the top 10 cities that have the highest employment numbers of electricians, the great state of Texas occupies two of those slots: Houston ranks third in the country, while Dallas ranks eighth.

With such a large growth rate in electrical employment projected across the country, and especially in Texas, apprenticeship programs have seen a stable

stream of applicants. On average, the Department of Labor reports that 10,000-20,000 Texans join an apprenticeship program each year. The reason for such an increase of apprentices, most specifically in the electrical industry, is not all just the economy. "When Texas changed to State Licensing and grandfathered in some other laws, we saw that there continued to be a steady flow of applicants for our apprentice training program, which is a good sign in this economy," said IEC Texas Gulf Coast Chapter long time Executive Director Bob Wilkinson. "We usually have 600 students go through the program each year, and that number hasn't dropped at all."

The industry is aware that the numbers are steadily increasing for electrical apprentices in Texas, but another important question to ask is why these numbers are on the rise. Is it because of the new state licensing procedures? Maybe there's been a greater emphasis on math and science in schools, leading young students to enter the trades. Perhaps, the younger generations are starting to see the trades as an attractive, flexible, and

affordable career?

"Students are realizing they need a career," explains Julie Howard, executive director of IEC San Antonio Chapter. At IEC San Antonio, apprentice applicants must be employed through a member company of IEC San Antonio to be placed in the program. Although applicants have increased, not all applicants can be ensured a spot in the program without a job. That's why Howard provides a list of her applicants to contractors in the area looking for new employees. Not every IEC Chapter operates like this. IEC Fort Worth/Tarrant County does not require applicants to have a set job and actually offers an employment placement program for their students, to help them start their careers once their schooling is finished.

There is no "one size fits all" definition of the average Texan electrical apprentice. Some apprenticeship programs see younger, right out of high school applicants, while others are seeing an increased number of applicants in their late 20's and 30's.

"A majority of my apprentices already had some experience in the field and they want to take that extra step to advance their career," explains Lloyd Quinney, of Quinney Electric Company based in San Antonio, Texas. Because his shop encourages those who already have some experience to pursue apprentice training, drop-out rates of his apprentices are very low.

With a national growing emphasis on pursuing a career in the trades, pro-

grams all across the country can expect to see a steady hike in applicants. As Texas remains one of the country's most flourishing states in terms of job growth, apprentice training programs for all trades should be prepared to educate the future generation of electricians, mechanics, carpenters, construction craft laborers, and more. There are hundreds of electrical apprenticeship and training programs in the state of Texas, whether it is through a community college, an IEC chapter, or any other apprentice training center throughout the state. There has also been an increase in both state and federal funding aimed at helping apprentices afford schooling and providing state programs with the necessary tools to advance the next generation of skilled tradesmen.

The conversation has changed drastically from five years ago, when there was a shortage of skilled laborers entering the trades market. Workforce development has taken center stage, especially within the Federal Government, and focus on the construction trades will be an increased topic of conversation.

Laurie Montanus is the Director of Communications for the Independent Electrical Contractors (IEC). IEC is a trade association for the nation's merit shop electrical and systems contractors, with nearly 3,000 members and 60 chapters nationwide. She is also the Managing Editor for the association's trade publication, Insights. Feel free to contact her at lmontanus@ieci.org. -dn

F O C U S

This Month

Construction Education



Importance of education and training

Dave Muehlbauer, Sundt
Tempe, AZ

What in-house training is available at Sundt?

We have a broad range of training courses and programs, driven by our business priorities and a set of competencies we have identified for employees. Some training is focused on meeting legal or other requirements, but most is based on the skills and processes associated with our business. We do offer internships, primarily for college students in construction management or civil engineering programs. We also partner with several construction associations to provide apprenticeship programs for our craft employees.

How has employee training impacted employee performance and productivity?

Our company's performance has improved dramatically over the past 10-12 years, and while there are a number of factors that have contributed to that our senior leadership sincerely believes that our commitment to training and development has played a key role in that improvement.

What training is your company focusing on since the downturn in the economy?

Like many companies, we have increased our focus on business development. We have always had a strong culture of customer service, but with greater competition among contractors it has become even more important for us to make sure our employees have the tools and skills needed to get new work also.

Have you seen an increase in training costs over the last few years?

The cost of some services has increased, but that has not been a major factor for us. The largest category of expenses for our training function, like most other companies, is payroll for training staff. Our company has continued to give employees annual increases and that does drive training costs up.

What is your company's strategy to control rising costs?

Travel for employees to live, instructor-led training is a cost that the company is trying to reduce. For that reason, we are offering more of our training courses either through remote (webinar) training or online training courses. This helps us make classes available to employees more often, and in the various geographic areas where we operate.

Does Sundt utilize other sources of training?

Many of our employees participate

in training programs and conferences sponsored by the Associated General Contractors (AGC) and other organizations. We also utilize these associations to provide apprenticeship training for our craft employees.

How has construction education changed over the years?

I think the biggest change is the increase emphasis on business management and leadership skills. Contractors have always provided training on technical skills, but construction is also a business and our project teams need to have a good understanding of business principles as well. We are also a 100% employee owned company, so our employees have a special interest in the financial performance of the company.

What areas of education need to be improved to better serve the industry?

If you are talking about education in general, we believe that the K-12 system needs to provide better preparation for the world of work and not just for college. A large percentage of the good paying jobs in America do not require a four-year degree but they do require a solid high school education and some post-secondary education. Most schools place so much emphasis on college preparation that they have reduced the opportunities for students to participate in high-quality career and technical education programs. We actively support education at all levels (K-12, community college, university), and participate in a variety of programs in Texas, Arizona, California and all states where we have offices and

projects.

How important is "hands on" training?

I believe application of learning is critical. Even the best formal training class can only provide a few opportunities to practice and apply new knowledge and skills. The real application and refinement occurs in the workplace. We strongly encourage employees and their supervisor to make sure that employees get opportunities to practice what they have learned on-the-job, and to receive feedback and coaching to improve their performance.

What are some success stories related to education and the workforce?

There are many, but I think one of the most successful programs we have had at Sundt is a leadership development program that we started in 2000 called LEAP. This program was designed to ensure that we had individuals well prepared to lead the company into its second century. Today, about one-half of the senior managers in the company are graduates of that program.

David Muehlbauer is the Director of Learning at Sundt. Prior to joining Sundt he spent more than 20 years in career and technical education as a teacher, staff development specialist and administrator. He has a master's degree in secondary education, and holds the Certified Professional in Learning and Performance (CPLP) designation from the American Society for Training and Development and Human Capital Strategist designation from the Human Capital Institute. -dn

NEXT MONTH April 2012

F O C U S

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Know when to hold 'em

Marek Brothers Systems had a decidedly Vegas feel Feb. 16, when it played host to the ABC Texas Hold 'Em Poker Tournament.

More than 100 poker players competed to win an assortment of prizes ranging from out of town vacation rentals to local sporting event tickets. ABC also raffled two Apple iPads during the event. -ms



L-R: Russell Hamley, ABC Greater Houston President, congratulates Bruce Kenner with Mobile Steel International on his win.



More than 100 players put on their poker faces.



Submitted to Construction News

Mixing it up



Knudson's Traci Koenig, Spawglass's Carol Banowsky, Ferguson Enterprises' Ashley Sundstrom and Melton & Melton's Stacy Cardenas enjoy a few laughs and each others company at a recent Womens Contractors Association, (WCA) mixer. -ms

Still going strong



L-R: Jim Jamail and Greg Smith head Jamail & Smith Construction, which is celebrating its 30th anniversary.

Jamail & Smith Construction is celebrating 30 years in business.

The general contracting company is led by equal partners **Jim Jamail** and **Gregory Smith, PE.**, who joined the firm in 2001, bringing with him 20 years of engineering experience he gained during his time as Navy Civil Engineer Corps Officer and Corporate Construction Executive.

Founded in 1982, the company currently operates offices in Austin, Dallas, Houston, Killeen and San Antonio, and plans to soon expand into Oklahoma, company representatives said.

Jamail founded the company – which primarily focuses on Job Order Contracting (JOC) – immediately after graduating college. With more than 30 years in the industry, the company has tipped the \$100-million mark in construction for diverse project types.

“We approach every project with a unique perspective that allows us to tailor our services to each client’s needs,” Jamail said.

To date, they have served more than 55 public agencies and more than 35 school districts using JOC, traditional bid, design build and CM at Risk.

Smith credited his firm’s workers – and his company’s investment in them –

with helping Jamail & Smith stay the course through both booming and lean economic times.

“Our people are our advantage,” said Smith. “Not only have we attracted some of the most talented professionals in the industry, but we also invest in our employees to instill and refresh the performance capabilities of our team and ensure successful outcomes for our clients.”

Providing a fun environment for employees is something the company also believes to be important. Each location organizes individual office events like crawfish boils, barbecues, picnics, monthly cookouts and Friday morning breakfasts.

“The Friday breakfasts are the highlight of my week,” said **Kim Holmes**, Risk Management and Insurance Manager in the Austin office. “It’s a great time for us to ... get to know one another as something more than just coworkers.”

Jamail & Smith Construction also supports foundations for school districts, makes charitable contributions, and sponsor events for local organizations and non-profits. For the past four years, Jamail & Smith Construction employees have participated in the Big Brothers Big Sisters Bowl for Kids’ Sake event with fellow A/E/C industry supporters.–ms

Round-Up

Warwick Construction has recently promoted four employees. **Lilie Myers** was promoted from accounts payable to accounts payable manager and **Frank Myers** was promoted from estimator to chief estimator. **Walt Watzinger** was promoted from director business development to vice president operations and **Matt Sanford** was promoted from senior project manager to vice president construction.



Myers



Myers



Watzinger



Sanford

William T. Ehler, PE, has been promoted to vice president in **LJA Engineering’s** Houston land development division. During the 14 years Ehler has been with LJA, he has provided engineering leadership for the development of numerous master planned communities. During this time, his responsibilities have included both the design and construction of water, sanitary sewer, drainage, levee and stormwater protection and paving facilities related to both residential and commercial projects, in addition to working closely with clients and governmental agencies in the development of projects. Ehler has degrees in Civil Engineering and Microbiology from Texas A&M University.



HOLT Crane & Equipment has named **Chuck Wehring** as a new sales representative for central, north, east and parts of west Texas. Wehring brings a wide range of industry experience including 30 years with companies that represent Grove, Link Belt, Manitowoc and P&H cranes throughout South Texas. Wehring grew up in San Antonio and graduated from the University of Houston.



Dustin O’Brien, AIA, has recently been appointed a shareholder and principal of **Wilson Architectural Group**. O’Brien joined the firm in 2003 and was named an associate in 2009. He has managed numerous projects for healthcare and higher education clients in the Houston area. O’Brien received his Master of Architecture from Texas Tech University.



Sean Wolfe has been named as shareholder of **Cobb, Fendley & Associates Inc.** Wolfe is responsible for subsurface utility engineering and regional development.



Submissions

This is a section for brief company announcements of new or recently promoted personnel, free of charge as space allows.

Email with “Round-Up” in the subject line (w/digital photo, if available) by the 15th of any month, for the next month’s issue to:

houstoneditor@constructionnews.net

Happy
St. PATRICK’S DAY

continued from Page 1 A ‘paws-itive’ influence

“I think that’s when Mama Dog realized Papa Dog wasn’t going to be around anymore,” Dickerson noted. “That’s why she started to adopt us.”

Gradually, the matronly mutt inched her way up to the J.M. Maly crew. She followed people on walks and finally worked up the courage to let a project estimator pet her.

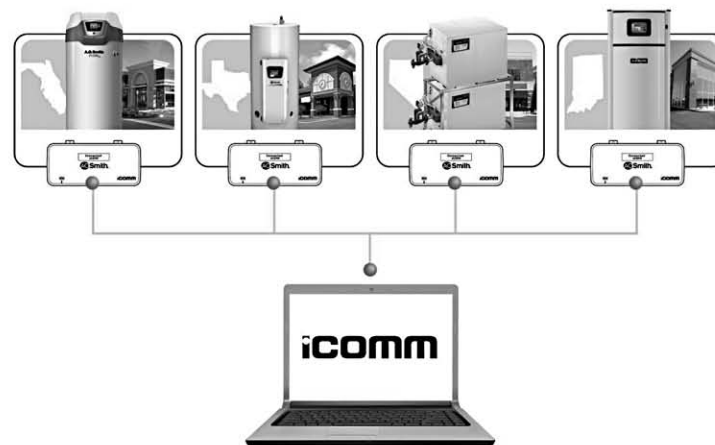
“It was really all over after that,” Dickerson chuckled. “She got close to all of us. She became the warehouse dog after she started running through the door. She proved to be a really good dog, and we let her in the office.”

She’s also a favorite houseguest of owner **Jan M. Maly** and his daughter and successor **Kristin Valdez**. The dog frequently goes home with them on holidays and weekends.

And of course, she’s the life of the party.

“When we have a company picnic, she definitely comes along,” Dickerson said. “She’s a shoo-in!” –ms

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Association Calendar

Content submitted by Associations to Construction News

ABC

Associated Builders & Contractors

Mar. 7: Marketing 101 Seminar
Mar. 12: Spring Golf Tournament
Mar. 14: Seminar
Mar. 23: Win-Win Negotiations
Mar. 27: CMEF State of the Foundation
Mar. 28: Seminar
 For more information call 713-523-6222

ACCA

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Mar. 7: NATE Heat Pump Prep, 3-7pm
Mar. 17: 8-Hour Continuing Education, 8am-5pm
Mar. 30: Annual Cook Off
 For more info: www.accagh.org

AGC

Associated General Contractors

Mar. 1: 1st Thursday Monthly Mixer
Mar. 2: Certificate of Management – Building Information Modeling
Mar. 6-8: OSHA 2225 Respiratory Protection
Mar. 7: OSHA 30 Hour

Mar. 13-16: OSHA 510 Standards for the Construction Industry
Mar. 20: Unit 3: BIM Contract Negotiation and Risk Allocation
Mar. 23-24: Annual Fair and BBQ Cook Off
Mar. 27-30: OSHA 500 Trainer Course for the Construction Industry
Mar. 28: First Aid/CPR/AED
 For more information call 713-843-3700

AIA

American Institute of Architects

Mar. 3: Towers and Trees Downtown Walking Tour, 10am, City Hall/Herman Square Reflecting Pool
Mar. 10: Montrose Walking Tour, 10am, Menil Collection Bookstore
Mar. 17: Musuem District Walking Tour, 10am, MFAH Sculpture Garden
Mar 21: Authors in Architecture
Mar. 24: Buffalo Bayou Walking Tour, 10am, Market Square Park
Mar. 31: Texas Medical Center Walking Tour, 10am, John P. McGovern TMC Commons Building
 For more information call 713-520-0155

ASA

American Subcontractors Association

Mar. 1-3: ASA Business Forum & Convention, San Antonio, TX
Mar. 7: Membership Committee meeting, 11:30am, Bowen, Milette & Britt, 1111 North Loop West
Mar. 8: S.A.C.K. Lunch, noon, What Subcontractors Need to Know About the New Indemnity & Consolidated Insurance Program Law
Mar. 14: Board of Directors meeting, 9am, Marek Brother Systems; Government Advocacy Committee meeting, 10:30am, Marek Brothers Systems
Mar. 15: BPI Session, 11am; General Lunch Meeting, 11:30am
Mar. 27: Safety Committee meeting, 10am, T.A.S. Commercial Concrete, 19319 Oil Center Blvd.
 For more information call 281-679-1877

ASPE

American Society of Professional Estimators

Mar. 12: Chapter meeting, Spagetti Westerns, 1608 N. Shepherd, 6pm dinner, 7pm program, contact Dennis Maale, 832-351-7210, dennis.maale@jacobs.com

FPA

Foundation Performance Assn.

Mar. 14: Presentation "Drainage Guidelines", 5pm-6:30pm, The HESS Club
 For more information call 713-699-4000

IEC

Independent Electrical Contractors

Mar. 1: State Journeyman Exam Prep Class (300), 6-9pm, Contractor Members \$230/Non-Members \$320
Mar. 1, 8, 15, 22, 29: Motor Controls Level 1 Class, 6-9pm, Contractor Members \$386/Non-Members \$450
Mar. 6, 14, 21, 28: Motor Controls Class – PLCs (600) (Wednesdays in February)

NAWIC

Nat'l Assn. of Women in Construction

Mar. 3: Habitat for Humanity build
Mar. 13: General meeting, 5:30pm, HESS Club, 5430 Westheimer, Cost \$35, Speaker: Pat Kiley – Houston's Economic Outlook and the Economic Climate for 2012, Reservations required, guests welcome
 For more information call 713-961-1300 X 128 or visit www.nawic-houston.com

NECA

National Electrical Contractors Assn.

Mar. 1-2: Association Executives Institute, San Diego, CA
Mar. 6: Electrical Medical Trust meeting, 10am
Mar. 6-8: NECA Labor Relations Conference, New Orleans, LA
Mar. 13: Houston JATC meeting, 9am
Mar. 15: CoSab Division meeting, 11:30am, Pappadeaux Seafood; CSLMCC Annual meeting, 12:30pm
Mar. 20: Local Union 527 Pension meeting, 9am
Mar. 22: Board of Directors meeting, 10:30am, Antonio's Italian Grill
Mar. 27: Houston Division meeting, 11:30am, Goode Co. Seafood
 For more information call 713-977-2522

PHCC

Plumbing-Heating-Cooling Contractors

Mar. 14: Member Lunch, 11:30am-1pm
 For more info: www.gulfcoastphcc.org

WCA

Women Contractors Association

Mar. 1: Monthly Luncheon, 11:30am-1pm, The HESS Club, 5340 Westheimer, \$30 Members/\$35 Non-members
 For more information call 713-807-9977

Join
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National Association of Women In Construction
www.nawic.org

continued from Page 1 — A concrete family

Vazquez has also been instrumental in ramping up the company's green practices since coming on board in 2002. The company hauls old concrete to concrete recycling centers and recycles, tires, motor oil, and paper and plastic.

The family atmosphere has continued at Holes Incorporated. Stepanski's son, **Cory**, has worked for the business for several years during summers and on school breaks, and is set to graduate with a construction degree from Sam Houston State University.

East's youngest daughter, a high school senior, has been known to come in and help with administrative tasks, too.

Taking care of its workers remains

important to the company, East noted.

"We've had a fishing tournament the past couple of years for our employees, and we have a Christmas party for them and their families," she said. "We give away rings for service starting at 10 years. There's a lot of demand being put on our employees, so we try to do special things for them."

East believes good times are ahead for the company, which she said has taken a conservative approach to weathering slow economic times.

"I'm a glass-half-full kind of person," she said. "I am optimistic things are going to improve in Houston and in our surrounding greater Gulf Coast area." –ms

continued from Page 1 — Moving forward

Salem says N & Z Contracting has worked on 12 projects so far for the Harris County Flood Control District.

"We have had very good communication with the Harris County Flood Control District along the way," he said. "We have meetings all the time to discuss what we have done and what we are

planning to do. There is also an inspector at the jobsite every day who signs daily reports."

N & Z Contracting is a general contracting company in Houston. The company focuses construction of sidewalks and detention ponds. –ab



The Horsepen Creek stormwater detention basin project

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Job Sights

Grand implosion



Capp Electric Co. is the electrical contractor at a Class A office building project on Post Oak Blvd. The GC is **Skanska USA**. -ab



STILLC is the concrete contractor at the 3788 Richmond project near the Galleria area. **Morgan Group** is the GC. -ab



Gamma Construction is the GC at the 2630 Gulf Freeway project in League City, TX. -ab



Hardin Construction is the GC at the Tanger Factory Outlet Center project in Texas City, TX. -ab



The MD Anderson Cancer Center Houston Main Building charges are set off

In 17 seconds, MD Anderson Cancer Center's 21-story Houston Main Building (HMD) was recently demolished. The 500,000sf skyscraper was built in 1952.

Vaughn Construction was the overall firm responsible for the project. **Sabre Demolition** was the wrecking demolition subcontractor and **Controlled Demolition** was the implosion subcontractor.

Walter P. Moore and **Haynes Whaley** were involved to analyze seismic and structural reactions. **Broaddus & Associates** was responsible for coordinating the process with adjacent property owners and regulatory agencies.

"This 17-second event was successful because of the high degree of professionalism and cooperation by all the team members and participants in the Texas Medical Center," said **Lana Coble**, Broaddus & Associates, senior executive.

Coble says the coordination effort took four months to complete and occurred concurrently with building preparation, which included stripping the interior and removing windows.

"The short-term plan for the site is to build a park for patients and employees with the long-term goal of constructing a new clinical building," he said. -ab



The implosion

Submitted to Construction News Gather 'round



Folks from the metal building company **NCI Building Systems** attended the NCI National Erectors Advisory Council inaugural meeting in Houston Jan 25-26. The council is comprised of erectors from across the U.S. and Canada. -ab

Plenty of traffic

The construction industry was out in force Feb. 1-2 to view products and services offered at **BuildExpo** Houston 2012. Held at Houston Reliant Center, the show also included 25 building and con-

struction seminars as well as information and displays for Houston Construction Industry Car Show and Operation Finally Home. The two charitable operations support our veterans. -bd





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