



Kingsville, Texas

South Texas

CONSTRUCTIONTM

NEWS

The Industry's Newspaper

www.constructionnews.net ★ (210) 308-5800 ★ Volume 3 ★ Number 6 ★ JUNE 2015

Zarsky-Kodiak join forces



Members of the Zarsky team in McAllen are excited about the new partnership, including, L-R: Jorge Cordova, Estaban Soto, Horacio Ramos, Freddy Ramirez, Leemar Bratley and Gilbert Handy.

Founded in 1928 in Woodsboro, a city in Refugio County, **Zarsky Lumber Company** locations have been a fixture all over the South Texas landscape for many years.

And even though **Kodiak Building Partners** will acquire the company, that's not going to change – and neither is the name, says Kodiak spokesman **Eric Miller**.

"Kodiak is looking for good companies with good management," Miller says. "Our core belief is that construction is almost entirely local in its nature. Names carry a lot of value in their local markets. We wouldn't presume to change that."

For much of Zarsky's history, the company has been under the leadership

of the Coleman family: three generations to be exact.

For 20+ years, **Cally Coleman Fromme**, CEO of Zarsky, has been working for the company that not only employed her father, but her grandfather, as well.

"Zarsky Lumber Company has provided building materials to South Texas for nearly 90 years," Fromme says. "The partnership with Kodiak offers many new opportunities for our customers and our employees. We anticipate a very bright future for all parties involved."

Kodiak CEO **Steve Swinney** mentioned Zarsky's strong customer support base.

continued on Page 14

Delta in the Valley



The DTS crew is ready to provide professional and honest service to its clients in South Texas.

Honesty and professionalism are key standards at **Delta Temp Services LLC** in Harlingen, according to operations manager **Daniel F. Andrade** and office manager **Erika Morales**.

"It's like a family atmosphere," says Morales. "We are professional and, at the same time, we help each other out."

Started in 2011 by Andrade and partners, the heating and cooling systems business does industrial and commercial work, with more than 90 percent in hospitals and clinics.

"We maintain and install equipment," he says. "We do new construction. We also do environment for hospitals – making sure the air volume is right according to hospital guidelines."

Hospital clients demand rigorous criteria, Andrade says.

"Hospitals are picky," he says. "There are many rules, especially with schedules. We are always on call with our hospital clients. If they call, we cannot say no."

"We do the best job we can for the customer. We are professional, clean, bright and honest. That's the main thing – honesty. I'm proud of my guys."

Employee count is seasonal, with about 6-8 in the winter and up to 12 in the summer. That includes field supervisor **Anastacio Salmeron**, assistant office manager **Claudia Maturey** and marketing representative **Adonna Maturey**.

continued on Page 14

Pharr cools it off

The Pharr Aquatic Center is one of the largest city-owned water parks in the state.

But there were several challenges to overcome in building the 5-acre, \$10 million park, says architect **Richard C. Scott** of Austin.

"When I got there, I was shocked to learn the budget was \$300,000," Scott, who specializes in aquatic builds, says. "I told him (Frank Marin, director of parks and recreation) we could build half a bathhouse or a small pool."

That budget was soon beefed up to \$10 million with a partnership between the city of Pharr and the Pharr-San Juan-Alamo school district, which chipped in nearly half the total funding to pay for the natatorium structure, extra competition lanes and other features, Superintendent Daniel King said. The district will use the pool for swim team training.

The general contractor was **Texas Descon LLP**, based in McAllen.



twgarch.com

The city of Pharr now offers a great place for adults and kids alike to cool off during those hot summer months.

According to Scott, during the design phase, a major game changer happened when the parties decided to move the location of the park to a site sandwiched between a project underway for a new Boys & Girls Club, as well as Liberty Middle School and Pharr Elementary.

"We ended up flipping the project to the north side," he says. "I didn't know how to price it – you'd like to think everything would just mirror itself, but it doesn't. There was tons of work that had to be done with the site and the floor plan. It had to be done right."

After the project was in bidding, the city ended its contract with Scott, due to his location in Austin, and engaged a new firm to finish the project, **Warren Architects** in McAllen.

Scott had high praise for his work with city representatives.

continued on Page 14

Clean team



Texas General Land Office's Adopt-a-Beach/Beach Cleanup day at Cole Park along Corpus Christi Bay. The Beautify Corpus Christi organization facilitated the event on Apr. 18.

The **Lockwood, Andrews & Newnam, Inc. (LAN)** Corpus Christi office celebrated Earth Day by volunteering in April.

Employees assisted local community organizations in painting wooden fences, picking up trash and recyclables, planting trees and flowers, removing weeds near fence lines and mulching trees.

Everyone wore an Earth Day T-shirt designed in-house as part of a company-wide design contest. Following a morning of cleanup activities, volunteers were treated to a picnic lunch. —ab

Shining bright



Diamond Eight crews prepare a site for new construction.

Alissa Perez, president of **Diamond Eight Industries** in Santa Rosa, TX, has big plans for the future.

"We are trying to get into the bigger bonding business," she says. "We have a greater line of credit now and we are looking at bigger jobs."

The company, started in June 2010, is a civic contractor specializing in earth moving, concrete, asphalt paving and underground utilities. Among its jobs have been subdivisions and Dollar General stores.

Other key employees include **Michael Perez**, general manager, **Pete Garcia**, estimator/project manager, and **Monica Ramon**, administrative assistant. Currently, there are eight employees. Perez says honesty is key when seeking a job with the company.

"They need to be truthful and honest," she says. "They need to be honest about their experience."

Perez and her company are also big

on community involvement.

"We've supported our local FFA through team roping events," she says. "We contribute to our local business development through our area chamber of commerce."

The company also coordinates Business Development Luncheons for the Lower Valley Hispanic Chamber of Commerce by providing seminars for business information.

Customer service also ranks high on Perez's list of must haves.

"Customers are number one," she says. "We take care of them and we keep them happy. Repeat business and referrals are key."

Perez is also a licensed Realtor and says the two businesses complement each other.

"I enjoy both," she says. "I enjoy meeting a lot of different people with Diamond Eight, as well as through being a Realtor." —cw

Construction News ON LOCATION

Unlimited energy



Sai Kyaw Tun and Sawong Sangkum, with **Kamo Energy Inc.**, head back to work after lunch for a job at Texas A&M Corpus Christi. —cw

Construction News JOB SIGHT

Put that in your pipe



Bay Ltd., a **Berry Company**, is busy running pipeline to a refinery on IH 37 in Corpus Christi. —cw

SINCE 1953
AHERN
RENTALS

RENTALS • SALES **PARTS • SERVICE**




Quality Equipment & Tools • Daily, Weekly & Monthly Rental Rates • Competitively Priced
Everything You Need!

Air Compressors & Tools	Compaction Equipment	Contractor Supplies	Fork Lifts	Skid Steer Loaders	Trenchers
Backhoes & Excavators	Concrete Equipment	Water Trucks	Generators & Welders	Truck Loaders	Water Pumps
Boom & Scissor Lifts	Masonry Equipment	Electric Power Tools	Plumbing Equipment	Truck Drivers	Wheel Loaders

Corpus Christi 361.288.8190 San Antonio 210.767.0320

800.400.1610 • www.Ahern.com

Helping hands



Zarsky Lumber Co. in Harlingen was presented with a Certificate of Appreciation from Habitat for Humanity RGV for its assistance in making the dream of home ownership possible. —cw

Jumping from roof to rod



1st Heavy Trout: Mingo Lee

The Roofing Contractors Association of Texas (RCAT) held its 12th annual Fishing Tournament May 2 at Woody's Sports Center in Port Aransas. Hosting a record number of entrants, this was RCAT's largest tournament to date with 44 guided boats and seven individual boats. -mh

Winners:

Guided Division

Heaviest Total Stringer

1st: Restoration Services (Houston) – Don Wisnoski, Gary Hayes, John Randall (34.54 lbs.)

2nd: Armored Roofing and RK Hydro-Vac (Wichita Falls) – Richard Koetter, Albert Martinez, Skyler Martinez (30.94 lbs.)

3rd: ABC Supply (Stafford) and Joe Ochoa Roofs & Even More – Shannon Galloway, David Hernandez, Robert Garza, Larry Showalter (30.62 lbs.)

Heaviest Trout

1st: Mingo Lee, Mule-Hide (Houston) (7.86 lbs.)

2nd: Richard Koetter, Armored Roofing (4.02 lbs.)

3rd: Marshall Powell, Mule-Hide (3.54 lbs.)



Darlene Le Oman, CCA, CAT, CCRCC with Gill Roofing and Irene Haeber, Haeber Roofing

Heaviest Redfish

1st: Don Wisnoski, Restoration Services (7.66 lbs.)

2nd: Ted Durrett, Final Touch Roofing (Rosenberg) (7.22 lbs.)

3rd: Richard Koetter, Armored Roofing (6.86 lbs.)

Spot Pot: Shannon Galloway, ABC Stafford (8 spots)

Individual Division

Heaviest Total Stringer

1st: Rain King (Victoria) – Alan Cain, Clint Cain, Jerrod Cain, Brian Boyd (14.88 lbs.)

Heaviest Trout

1st: Donald Belcher, Roofing Supply Group (San Antonio) (4.66 lbs.)

Heaviest Redfish

1st: Alan Cain, Rain King (3.48 lbs.)

In Memoriam

Robert L. "Bob" Wallace, 85, of Brownsville, passed away peacefully at Valley Baptist Medical Center on Tuesday, May 5, 2015, with his family at his side.

He was born in Paris, Ill. to Frank and Flossie Wallace. He married the love of his life, Barbara Sprague on Dec. 31, 1952.

Bob spent 30 years in the family construction company in Paris. Bob and Barbara moved to Brownsville in 1981, where Bob started his construction career with **Adams Bros. Construction** and then had more than 20 years with **W. Murray Thompson Construction** of San Benito.

He was the first recipient of the "AGC Superintendent of the Year Award".

He was preceded in death by his wife of 60 years, Barbara Sprague Wallace.

Bob is survived by his sons, Dirk (Patricia), Lee (Mary), and Joe Wallace; his grandchildren: Hope (Terry) Fueyo, Jessica Wallace, Christopher (Ashley) Wallace, Patricia Wallace, A.J. Wallace and Katie Wallace; four great-grandchildren; a sister, Waunita (Donald "Buck") Hiatt, and numerous nieces, nephews, and other extended family members.

The family requests that in lieu of flowers, memorial donations may be made in Bob's name to the First Presbyterian Church, 450 Palm Blvd, Brownsville, TX 78520 and or the Elks National Foundation, 2750 N. Lakeview Ave., Chicago, IL 60614, 1-773-755-4700 and www.elks.org/enf.



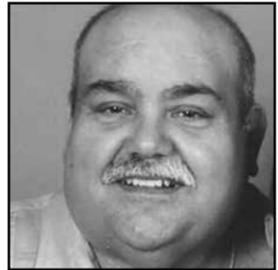
Ricardo L. "Gonzo" Gonzalez, 59, passed away Sunday, May 03, 2015 at VBMC Harlingen after a lengthy illness. He was a longtime employee of **Central Ready Mix Concrete**.

Rick was a lifelong resident of Primera, TX. From the moment he learned how to barbecue, he would use his culinary skills on behalf of dozens of people, local charities and churches in need. The briskets and fajitas Rick barbecued over the years never failed to draw an eager crowd, including at the annual AGC-RGV Captain's Night and Summer Membership mixer.

In his final years, he found great joy in taking his son Vidal to the annual Central Ready Mix Father Son Hunting Trip. Rick also enjoyed fishing with friends and family.

Rick is preceded in death by his parents, Santos and Maria Gonzalez, and brothers, Santos Jr. and Roberto "Bobby" Gonzalez.

He is survived by his loving wife, Angela; their son, Vidal; and his children, Ricardo Jr. (J.R.) and Regina Renee. He leaves behind three grandchildren and siblings, Margie Gonzalez from Laredo, Oneida and Sallie Gonzalez both from Primera and Linda (Richard) Vega from Kingsville.



South Texas CONSTRUCTION NEWS

South Texas Editor: Cyndi Wright
STeditor@ConstructionNews.net
210-308-5800

Construction News Ltd. Home Office
P.O. Box 791290 • San Antonio, Tx 78279
210-308-5800 Fax 210-308-5960
www.constructionnews.net

Publisher..... Buddy Doebbler
Editorial/Production..... Reesa Doebbler
Managing Editor Cyndi Wright
Production Manager..... Sue Johnson
Sales Representative..... Kent Gerstner

If you are a construction-related company in Aransas, Atascosa, Bee, Calhoun, Cameron, DeWitt, Dimmit, Frio, Goliad, Hidalgo, Karnes, Kenedy, Kleberg, LaSalle, Live Oak, Maverick, McMullen, Nueces, San Patricio, Starr, Victoria, Webb, Willacy or Zavala county and are not receiving a free copy of the *South Texas Construction News*, call for a Requester Form or visit our website.

The *South Texas Construction News* (ISSN #2327-4670) is published monthly by Construction News Ltd., dba *South Texas Construction News*, and distributed by mail to construction related companies in the South Texas area.

All submissions should be mailed to our editorial offices. We reserve the right to edit any materials submitted. No fees for materials, copy or photographs submitted will be due unless agreed upon in advance in writing. Submissions will be published at our discretion on a space-available basis.

Construction News, Ltd., dba *South Texas Construction News*, will not be liable for errors in copy or in advertisements beyond the actual cost of space occupied by the error. Publisher reserves the right to reject any advertisement at any time.

© 2015 Construction News, Ltd.

Father's Day

Sunday, June 21

SINCE 1968

providing continuous services for construction in Texas.

- Materials Testing
- Geotechnical
- Roofing/Waterproofing
- Environmental
- Infrastructure
- Materials Recycling

OFFICES STATEWIDE
800-316-4912 | rkci.com

MORRISON SUPPLY COMPANY

IN HOT WATER

1-844-N-HOT-H2O

Ask how we can get you out of hot water by getting you **IN HOT WATER**

WE DELIVER **24/7**

- Commercial water heater delivery
- We have what you need in stock

www.morsco.com

ACCOUNTING



Section 179 and tangible property regs

Milton G. Barrett, CPA - Shareholder
Ridout, Barrett & Co., PC
San Antonio, TX

Section 179

As we all are aware, as of Jan. 1, 2015, the Section 179 limits were reduced back to \$25,000. In addition, the 50% bonus depreciation expired on Dec. 31, 2014. But, as in 2014, there is hope that the limits will be restored. The 2014 tax relief was signed by the president in late December which gave very little time for small businesses to plan and make purchases.

In Feb. 2015, the House of Representatives voted on a bill that would permanently increase the Section 179 limit to \$500,000 with a phase out threshold of \$2,000,000 and index for inflation starting in 2016. The 50% bonus depreciation, Section 168(k), is also attached to the bill. The Senate will now consider the bill and make changes or rewrite it completely.

By making the higher limits permanent, the House hopes to encourage small business growth in investments by reducing the tax burden. The estimated tax savings over the next 10 years would be approximately \$77 billion. The president has threatened to veto the bill as is unless there is an offset to increase tax revenue through some other means by \$77 billion.

Property that will qualify for Section 179

- Machinery and equipment
- Business vehicles with GVWR over 6,000 lbs (with exceptions)
- Computers, office equipment, furniture and off the shelf software
- Property attached to buildings that are not structural
- Single purpose agricultural and horticultural structures
- Storage facilities (except buildings) used in distribution and production of petroleum products
- Livestock
- Qualified leasehold improvements

Tangible property regs

These new regulations will affect every taxpayer that uses tangible property in their business. For years the Internal Revenue Service has fought with taxpayers on what constitutes repairs and what constitutes capital improvements. The IRS has issued final regs in this regards that will be effective for 2014 and later tax returns.

Under the old rules, deductible repairs and maintenance are those that are incurred for the purpose of keeping property in operating condition. Capital

improvements are expenditures that prolong the life of an asset or increase its value. An example would be a taxpayer rebuilds an engine for a piece of equipment. The cost to rebuild the engine would need be capitalized and depreciated. IRS argues that the rebuilt engine increases the value of the equipment as well as prolonging the life.

The new rules starts with the assumption that all tangible property must be capitalized and depreciated unless there is an exception. One such exception would be for materials and supplies. Material and supplies of \$200 or less and that will be consumed in one year or less can be currently deducted.

There are three safe harbor rules that can be used by taxpayers.

De Minimis Safe Harbor – a taxpayer that has a written policy and makes an annual election to deduct up to \$500 per invoice item. If the taxpayer prepares an audited financial statement, then the limit can increase to \$5,000.

Routine Maintenance Safe Harbor – a taxpayer can deduct the cost of routine maintenance if it is expected to occur more than once during the life of the asset.

Safe Harbor for Small Taxpayers – this safe harbor is primarily used by landlords. Annual expenses that can be deducted must be the lessor of \$10,000 or 2% of the building's basis. To qualify for the safe harbor, the property must have a basis of \$1 million or less and the taxpayers annual gross receipts must be \$10 million or less. \$1 million limit appears low and limits the number of taxpayers eligible for the safe harbor, however, the building must be separated into "units of property". Plumbing, electrical, elevators, alarm systems, HVAC, etc will be a separate UOP to depreciate.

Ridout, Barrett & Co., PC has been serving the San Antonio area since 1986. The firm develops long-term relationships with its clients and becomes an integral part of their team. The firm services the needs of its clients by providing professional services of the highest quality in a proactive and timely manner.

INSURANCE



Life insurance provides security

Terrell O. Taylor Jr., CLU, Partner
Christ Taylor Insurance
Houston, TX

Financial security is the comfort of knowing your family's standard of living is secure even when a life-changing event occurs. The first step in strengthening your family's financial future is to face some worst-case scenarios.

Everyone needs ready financial resources to fall back on. If hard times have reduced your ready cash and emergency funds, the insurance component of your safety net becomes all the more important.

If you were to die today, life insurance would provide cash to your dependents that can help pay for your funeral and other final expenses, meet everyday living expenses, pay down the mortgage, finance longer term goals like education and retirement, and generally maintain your family's quality of life.

If you are the breadwinner, life insurance will replace some or all of your income if you die. Even if you don't work outside the home, you still provide services that are expensive to replace, like childcare and household chores. If you are a business owner, a properly structured life insurance program can safeguard the finances of both your business and family.

However, life insurance is something that no one likes to think about. The good news is that 86% of Americans believe that life insurance is something that most people need. The bad news is that most Americans don't have enough and more than a third don't have any at all.

How much life insurance do I need?

Since the amount of insurance you need depends on your specific financial goals and circumstances, there is no simple formula to help determine the amount that's right for you. That said, when you consider all the things that life insurance proceeds need to fund and how long the money will be needed, you begin to realize that your true need for coverage is often 10 or 15 times your gross income, often more.

Should I buy term or permanent life insurance?

Generally speaking, term offers the greatest coverage for the lowest initial premium and is a great solution for people with temporary needs or a limited budget. Permanent insurance may make more sense if you anticipate a need for lifelong protection and like the option of accumulating tax-deferred cash values. Also, it doesn't have to be one or the other.

er. Oftentimes, a combination of term and permanent insurance is the right answer.

Life insurance should serve as the foundation of your family's financial security, helping to ensure that your loved ones will be all right financially even if something were to happen to you.

Here are 7 fundamental ways that life insurance creates a strong base for your financial security:

- Buys Time – allows loved ones to focus on their grief by helping to pay for the funeral and other final expenses.
- Provides a Fresh Start – Lets loved ones start with a clean slate by helping to pay off credit card bills, outstanding loans and even the mortgage.
- Generates Income – Helps replace lost income for years to come so that surviving family members can continue to pay for life's necessities.
- Offers Flexibility – Gives a surviving spouse the chance to take time off from work or to switch to a job that offers a more flexible work schedule.
- Creates Opportunities – Can provide funding to start a business, or pay for schooling so surviving family members can train for a new career.
- Funds the Future – Offers a way to fund longer-range goals like a college education for the kids or a secure retirement for a surviving spouse.
- Leaves A Legacy – Gives parents the chance to leave future generations with the legacy of long-term financial security.

But this can only happen if you've done the proper planning. Don't wait another minute and schedule time to meet with an insurance professional in your community or your benefits manager at work to make sure you have the right amount and type of life insurance to protect the ones you love.

Christ Taylor Insurance is an employee benefits and insurance brokerage firm doing business for over 50 years in southeast Texas, and long-time ABC member. Contact the Christ Taylor team at 713-850-7747 or www.christtaylor.com.

Specializing in Industrial Scrap Metal & Container Service



We buy Aluminum, Brass, Copper, Iron, Stainless Steel, Steel, Brass & Radiators

2300 Frio City Rd. **210-927-2727** www.monterreyiron.com

Submitted to Construction News

Beats work!



The 2015 Associated General Contractors, Rio Grande Valley Chapter (AGC) spring fundraising golf tournament was May 8 at Tierra Santa in Weslaco. Despite a windy day, everyone agreed a day of the golfing beat a day at work anytime! Pictured, first place winners: Hughston Insurance (Joel Tabares, Robert Ramirez, Lamar Cantu). -cw

LEGAL

When am I really done?

Sewell "Spike" Cutler Jr.
Cutler-Smith PC
 Dallas, TX



Routinely, a contractor's work is warranted against defects in materials and workmanship for a stated period — usually one year from substantial completion. Contractors have the reasonable belief that after the end of the warranty period, their responsibility for the product and the work is effectively ended. But, when does it end, really?

As lawyers, we usually have to tell our clients that their exposure really doesn't end until the statute of limitations, the legal bar against further suits, has taken effect. In Texas, that usually means either a four year statute of limitations (for breach of contract), or a two year statute of limitations (for negligence, such as negligent design and the like). But it is never quite that simple.

Discovery rule

The "discovery rule" doctrine means a statute of limitations doesn't start running until the condition could reasonably have been detected. Thus, if you performed deficient work, but deficiencies were concealed, limitations don't begin to run until the defect could reasonably have been discovered, which could be a very long time, indeed.

For this reason, contractors historically found themselves facing claims for work performed in the distant past. The Texas Legislature passed the "Statute of Repose" relating to construction work, providing that suit alleging defective construction work must be brought within ten years after substantial completion, cutting off the "tail" of discovery rule exposure. But every good act has unintended consequences.

"Consultants" approach project owners as the project's tenth anniversary approaches, offering comprehensive review of the project for "failures" which might support legal action against the construction/design team. These inspections may involve tests and standards never envisioned when the project was built. One example: water is force-fed into the cavities between a brick veneer and exterior-grade sheathing, looking for evidence of leakage from the wall into the building. After testing, contractors must respond, possibly dismantle, inspect and "repair" to new standards. Even where nothing is wrong, construction teams must expend resources to selectively disassemble, inspect, possibly correct, and reconstruct the affected areas. It adds up!

Document!

Contractors can reduce exposure to these claims. First and foremost, effective documentation of work performed yields surprising benefits in these circumstances. Walking the job, preserving progress photographs, and saving this information reduces losses in a couple of ways.

The process helps identify questionable work to be addressed right away. Of greater consequence, maintaining records of how work was done, before it's covered, helps defend against years-after-completion claims. The ability to show, with photographs, what's behind a wall or other structure can allow you to demonstrate proper construction, thus heading-off costly disassembly, inspection and repair.

Negotiate!

Many contracts require removal and replacement of completed work on demand, often providing that removal and replacement will be at your expense unless you "prove" that the work in place was all performed flawlessly. The expense of removal and replacement should be yours only if the work is proven to have been performed defectively.

Retain records

Maintain project files for the entire Statute of Repose period. You should have complete records for each project you build to a period of at least ten years past the substantial completion of the entire project - conservatively, until 12 years after completion. Digital storage eases this burden. Failing to maintain such records creates problems; first, if you don't document what happened, you're stuck with someone else's "story" of the project - the general contractor, the project owner, or the project architect - rather than how things actually happened. Photographs, as-built drawings, field directives, RFI's and e-mails all help when problems arise after project completion. Such records also help establish which insurance carrier must defend against claims lodged down the road. Avoid the trap of multiple carriers denying responsibility for your claim, because you can't prove what was done, and when.

Ironically, the Statute of Repose, intended to reduce claims after completion of projects, has inspired consultants and their often-conjured claims. Attempted reform of the Statute of Repose in this year's legislative session appears to have stalled.

Aggressively negotiating contract terms, and maintaining project records for a long time, are burdensome measures, but their dividends can be significant. Again, the ounce of prevention can deliver a pound of cure.

Pulling for a good cause



First Place Team L-R: Caleb McCarty, Jorge Hinojosa Jr., Harry Williams, Jorge Hinojosa Sr., Mario Cantu, Colton Haun

The Precast Concrete Manufacturers Association (PCMA) of Texas hosted the fifth annual Pull for Pompei Apr. 18 at the National Shooting Complex. Proceeds from the event benefit research into Pompe Disease, also known as acid maltase deficiency and glycogen storage disease type II, a rare neuromuscular disease that affects approximately 1 in 40,000 people in the world.

Approximately 400 construction industry professionals from across the state brought in an early estimate of \$100,000 for the 2015 fundraiser. PCMA of Texas has raised more than \$600,000 for the Acid Maltase Deficiency Association (AMDA) since the event's inception in 2011. -mh

Winners:

Team

- 1st: Summit Engineering – Jorge Hinojosa Jr., Caleb McCarty, Mario Cantu, Harry Williams, Colton Haun
- 2nd: E-Z Bel – Ish Garcia, Ryan Garcia, Travis Benke, Bruce Benke, Mike Oliver
- 3rd: Frost Bank – Raul Barberena, Mark Maloney, Stephen Ethridge, Brandon Carpenter, Chris Wray

Lady

- 1st: Tricia Kocurek, WMC #2
- 2nd: Kelsey Robinson, Nucor Steel #2
- 3rd: Brance Anderson, A.H. Beck Foundation

Junior

- 1st: Kolby Vacek, WMC #1
- 2nd: Orlando Garcia, Bexar Concrete #3
- 3rd: Brance Anderson, A.H. Beck Foundation

Lewis

Class A

- 1st: Colton Haun, Summit Engineering
- 2nd: Stephen Ethridge, Frost Bank
- 3rd: Mike Oliver, E-Z Bel

Class B

- 1st: Scott Billingsley, AMDA
- 2nd: Roland Garcia, San Antonio Rough Rider
- 3rd: Willie Guerra, Manco

Class C

- 1st: Steven Rodriguez, San Antonio Rough Riders
- 2nd: Jason Ochoa, Austin Bridge & Road
- 3rd: James Bailey, Vulcan Materials #1

Course HOA

- Red: Ernest Taylor, Bexar Concrete #2
- Green: Harry Williams, Summit Engineering
- Yellow: Brad Frerich, Bexar Concrete #1

Relax and repair

The International Concrete Repair Institute (ICRI) South Central Texas, North Texas and Houston chapters gathered May 15-16 at the Hampton Inn & Suites in Bastrop for the second annual ICRI Texas State Conference.

On Friday, guests waited out an afternoon thunderstorm that briefly interrupted play at the golf outing to Pine Forest Golf Club and enjoyed a barbecue feast. On Saturday, three educational sessions were held in the morning, followed

by a buffet lunch and a board meeting for all chapter leaders. -mh

Golf Winners

- 1st Team: Dan Wicht, Ed Carter, Mark Rawlings and Mackey Welch
- 2nd Team: Gabriel Carrera, James Robbs, Mike Pocock, Keith Knobloch, Clay Broyles
- Closest to the Pin #7: Chris McDaniel
- Closest to the Pin #10: Mark Rawlings
- Most Honest Team: Bill Light, Scott DiStefano and Mark LeMay



A Texas barbecue feast, including ribs, brisket and sausage, followed the golf tournament.

Submitted to Construction News

Keeping it safe



Civil Mechanical Inc., a mechanical contractor in Port Lavaca, had employees attend a qualified rigger/signal person class held by **Certified Training & Safety Inc.** and sponsored by the Texas Mid-Coast Safety Council. -cw



BEST
Construction Tool?

ADVERTISING in
Construction News

210-308-5800

www.ConstructionNews.net



Jack Turner
Founder/Principal,
Philip Ramirez
President/Principal,
Turner Ramirez
Architects & Planners,
 Corpus Christi, Tx

winter and summer breaks. He turned that opportunity into a career, having graduated from the University of Texas and returned to the firm where he is now partner – one of the youngest partners in the world of architectural firms.

Tell me about your partnership

Jack: I formed Turner Architects in 1958 and have had offices in Laredo, McAllen and Corpus Christi.

I closed the office in Laredo in 1995 and the office in McAllen in 1990. The trip was taking too much time from my family. I feel like working in South Texas has been a privilege.

Philip: I started working with Jack in 1997 when I was a junior in high school. I literally went through the phone book calling every architect in town until I found Jack. He hired me as general help around the office – it's not exactly what I was looking for (laughs).

Jack: I've trained a lot of architects over the years and Philip is the best I've ever found. I'm eventually going to turn the firm over to him.

Jack, you've had quite a storied life. Tell me about it.

Jack: I received my architectural degree from UT in 1953. I also joined the Navy while I was still in high school (with his mother's permission). I spent three years in Korea as an ensign on a destroyer. I spent 40 years in the military and was an instructor at the naval station. I left as a lieutenant commander.

I started my firm in the front room of a house in Corpus Christi with two kids in diapers. Most of my projects were in Falfurrias.

I also studied under Frank Lloyd Wright in Mexico. It was while I was a student at UT and it played a part in many subsequent designs.



L-R: Philip Ramirez and Jack Turner have enjoyed a long, successful partnership together.

The story of Jack Rice Turner and Philip Ramirez is a true Texas tale of grit, determination and the ability to work hard to achieve one's dreams.

It's fitting that Turner's wife, Betty, wrote a book about the life of this man who overcame "his modest upbringing" to become, not only an amazingly talented architect, but who also is called "a wonderful man and American patriot" by a peer in the U.S. Navy – where he retired as a Lt. Commander.

Ramirez knew he wanted to work in architecture and was hired by Turner while still in his teens as an errand boy – a job he continued through college on



LCDR Jack Turner had a 40-year career in the U.S. Navy

Philip, Jack encouraged you in the direction your career has taken, right?

Philip: Both of my parents retired from CCAD (Corpus Christi Army Depot). I wanted to be an aerospace engineer, but a teacher at Gregory-Portland High School had a high focus on architectural drafting. He really pushed me towards architecture. He knew I could be very prolific there. I graduated in 2003. Jack has been a great mentor and partner.

Jack: I threw him to the wolves. He did everything I hoped he would and more.

Tell me about Turner Ramirez Architects.

Philip: We do everything under the sun – military, banks, churches, jails, county and city, parks and pools.

Jack: We aren't a big firm but we do big jobs.

Philip: Our work is all over the map. It's very diverse. Even in California.

Jack: It's a lot of fun for me. Philip takes on the major responsibility.

Philip: We are both advocates of technology. We are about as state-of-the-art as you can get.

Jack, you have quite a story about your military experience that your wife wrote about in her book.

Jack: I spent 1953-1955 on the USS Buck, DD761, defending the Chinese Nationalist Country's Chiang Kai-shek. The Chinese Nationalist Army was defending itself against an invasion of the mainland

on Formosa.

I was stationed in Kaohsiung, Formosa working to defend the area against the Communist Chinese Army. My group was awarded the Chinese National Defense Medal of Honor for defending Formosa, a rare honor that I still proudly display.

While serving on a destroyer in the middle of the Chinese Sea in August 1954, I learned that my wife Betty, whom I married July 12, 1953 in New York, had given birth to our first child, a son.

Philip, both you and Jack believe in giving back to the community.

Philip: Jack and I are very active civically. I am chairman of the city planning commission and I am a board member with the Corpus Christi Hispanic Chamber of Commerce.

Jack, your wife Betty has given quite a bit of community service, right?

Jack: She was the first female mayor of Corpus Christi, from 1987-2001.

As mayor, she was actively involved in creating the Monterrey-Laredo-Corpus Christi corridor.

Are you thinking about slowing down any?

Jack: This has been a wonderful thing, a wonderful way to start from the ground up, turning a barrel with concrete in Falfurrias.

I love what I do, why should I quit? –cw



Jack Turner (second from left) with Frank Lloyd Wright in Mexico City, circa 1952

TRIPLE-S STEEL SUPPLY CO.

Structural Steel Products
 Pipe, Tubing, Plate & Sheets
 Metal Building Materials
 Ornamental Iron & Accessories
 Cast Iron Spears
 Fittings
 Decorative Castings & Designs
 Welders
 Welding Supplies & Accessories
 Power Tools
 Abrasives
 Shop & Safety Supplies
 Paint & Machinery
 Trailer Products
 Access Control Products
 Gate & Door Hardware
 Gate Operators–Farm/Ranch
 Residential/Commercial

INTSEL

STEEL DISTRIBUTORS

210.431.0088

Toll Free 800.725.4776

Fax 210.431.0701

www.sss-steel.com

2042 W. Thompson @ Port San Antonio
 San Antonio, TX 78226

Pipe Bollards
Precut – Painted
6-5/8" OD X .188 wall X 7 Ft



THE GREAT OUTDOORS



Tournaments for the future

by Capt. Steve Schultz

Sponsored by:

Premier Yamaha Boating Center, Majek Boats, E-Z Bel Construction, Power Pole Shallow Water Anchor, Aggregate Haulers, ForEverlast Hunting and Fishing Products and Columbia Sportswear

Fishing tournaments are becoming more popular than ever. Whether it's freshwater or saltwater it seems like there is a tournament to fit every angler's level of competitiveness. While some tournaments are for fun, most benefit a charity organization or perhaps some of our soldiers returning from war, or maybe a family in need. Redfish, trout, bass, offshore or inshore – there is a tournament for you. With all the conservation concerns and limits on trophy fish being implemented, tournaments are taking a different approach. Weigh-ins consisting of limits of trout, reds, and flounder are part of the past and being replaced with three to four trout, a redfish or two and maybe a flounder. There are a few tournaments going even farther than that incorporating a live fish weigh-in to their venue. All the professional redfish tourneys are live weigh-in, and the trout tournaments in late winter and spring also have gone to this format.

One tournament that has grown in popularity and conservation efforts and has proven that everyone can benefit from our bays and estuaries is the Mr. & Mrs. Big Trout Tournament run by Doug and Cindy Niznik of San Antonio. The tournament started in 1996 as a bass tournament but after two years it was moved to



Ken Major, San Antonio, caught this 30-inch trout fishing live croaker near the mouth of Baffin Bay. Fishing was weighed, measured then released by Capt. Steve Schultz.



Keith Tull, Athens, TX, caught a redfish of a lifetime. Fish measured 47 inches and was an estimated at 35lbs. Keith was fishing in Baffin Bay with Capt. Steve Schultz. Fish was released after measurements for a replica mount.

the Laguna Madre and converted to a saltwater venue. I started fishing the tournament in 1998 with a handful of friends (eight-10 boats) and by 2004 there were approximately 35 teams fishing. During that time the tournament implemented a live weigh-in procedure in efforts to start conserving fish following the format of Tom Nix's Baffin Bay Bash.

By 2005, the tournament outgrew the cabin near Bird Island and Doug moved the tournament inland. This was a great move making the tournament even more popular and easier to accommodate more anglers. By 2007, the tournament took bigger conservation efforts and only allowed three fish per team to be brought to the dock. The stringer would consist of one red, one trout and one flounder, all to be weighed-in alive to receive a half-pound bonus per fish if accomplished. The tournament grew larger every year and by 2008 the tournament began to give back even more. A \$6000.00 scholarship fund to be rewarded to a Texas A&M (Corpus Christi) student majoring in Marine Biology was announced. People were starting to take notice of this little fishing tournament making BIG efforts in conservation and generosity back to the community. By 2014 the women anglers were starting to make noises that they wanted a part of the action so a woman's tournament was started that year the day before the men's tournament. That year the tournament awarded two \$6000.00 scholarships to a male and female at Texas A&M.

This year was no surprise as the Mr. & Mrs. Big Tournament has grown in popularity. The ladies tournament had 12 (four-person) teams participating while the men's tournament had 51 (four-person) teams. In all, they only killed 16 fish, 13 being trout, and one red, and two flounder. Seventy four fish were released, 32 trout, 26 reds, and 16 flounders. These are pretty good numbers in my opinion considering most of the other tournaments that still have fish kill weigh-ins. Again, two \$6000.00 scholarships to a male and female at Texas A&M. This brings a total of \$60,000 in scholarship money donated to kids for the future. My hats of to Doug and Cindy and all the many sponsors and anglers who participate in this awesome tournament. I only wish that some of the other tournaments would take the effort to join the conservation efforts so we can enjoy our precious resources for a long time.

To schedule your next bay fishing trip give Capt. Steve Schultz a call at 361-813-3716 or 361-334-3105 or e-mail him at SteveSchultzOutdoors@gmail.com. Good luck and Good Fishing.

STEVE SCHULTZ OUTDOORS, LLC



BAFFIN BAY
LAGUNA MADRE
LAND CUT

SPECKLED TROUT
REDFISH
FLOUNDER

FISHING AND HUNTING TRIPS

(361) 949-7359
www.baffinbaycharters.com
steveschultzoutdoors@gmail.com

U.S. Coast Guard & Texas Parks and Wildlife Licensed

RIO-TECH

HYDRO EXCAVATION



POT HOLING/DAYLIGHTING
VACUUM SERVICE
EXPOSING UTILITIES
PIPE CLEANING/JETTING

RENTAL UNITS AVAILABLE

Lori Tijerina
O: 956.287.0800
C: 956.212.5954
www.riotechtexas.com



Ken Milam's Fishing Line

Since 1981, Ken Milam has been guiding fishing trips for striped bass on Lake Buchanan in the Texas Hill Country. You can hear Ken on radio on Saturday and Sunday mornings, 6-8 AM on AM 1300, The Zone – Austin, or <http://www.am1300thezone.com>



RAIN!

Well it didn't forget how to rain after all! Over the last several weeks we have been blessed with the first good rains in an awfully long time. For those of you who are getting too much rain, I hope you come through it all right. For the rest of us though, I think it has been a long sigh of relief.

I know of several Texas lakes and rivers that have really benefitted from the recent rains and began to recover from the damage of the drought. Others like Lakes Buchanan and Travis still have a long way to go. Buchanan is still awaiting its turn at a good storm over the watershed to get the Colorado River rolling again, but at least the upper Hill Country is getting wetter by degrees so we can start to see significant runoff from future storms. For now we wait...and FISH!

You ever notice how you see lots of earthworms and bugs on the top of the ground after a good rain? A fisherman sees that and knows it's a good day to call in sick and go fishing! When the fish bait is trying to crawl in the truck with you, how can you resist? You just know all those worms and grubs and bugs are being washed into the creeks, rivers and lakes and the fish are waiting for them with



Daviscourt, from Horizon Construction, Inc., Roofing Specialists in Austin

open mouths!

If your favorite lake has caught a lot of water, enjoy the rush of the new water while you can. After a few days you might see a lull in the fishing as the water gets a little sour while newly flooded vegetation decays. Don't worry though, once that's done there will be lots of good nutrients in the water that will cause an algae bloom which begins the process of

recharging your lake from the bait fish on up to the game fish. Great fishing ahead! If your lake is a little slow on the uptake, keep praying your turn for rain will come and enjoy the fresh, cool water you do get, because I promise you, the fish will enjoy it, especially with summer starting to heat up.

By the way hunters, can you imagine how much this rain is helping the game popu-

lation? The timing is perfect to benefit the new fawns and bucks growing antlers. We all share in the bounty of the rain.

Try not to curse the rain, even if it ruins your day. Take a moment to feel the rain on your face and just say "Thanks". It's just been so long coming.



Half or Full Day Fishing Trips

All Bait, Tackle & Equipment Furnished

Your catch Filleted and Bagged for You

Furnish your TPWD Fishing License & Refreshments, and WE DO THE REST!

**Ken Milam Guide Service
(325) 379-2051
www.striperfever.com**

Submitted to Construction News

Magic catfish



The **Terracon** team participated in a Catfish Cook-off May 2 in Brownsville and placed third in the Professional division. This event was first organized by the late **David Mendez** of **Gomez Mendez Saenz Architects** in Brownsville to raise funds for the non-profit Hooked for Life. -cw

Submitted to Construction News

One for the record book



Cooper Gates, son of **John Gates**, **Boultinghouse Simpson Gates Architects** in McAllen, landed this 22-inch rainbow trout during a trip to Alcovia, WY, on the Grey Reef section of the South Platte River. John says Cooper is quite the fisherman and already holds some of the family fish records. -cw

www.constructionnews.net

publishing the industry's news



Texas Style

- ★ San Antonio
- ★ Austin
- ★ South Texas
- ★ Houston
- ★ South Texas



THE GREAT OUTDOORS
welcomes your stories
and photos. Call us.

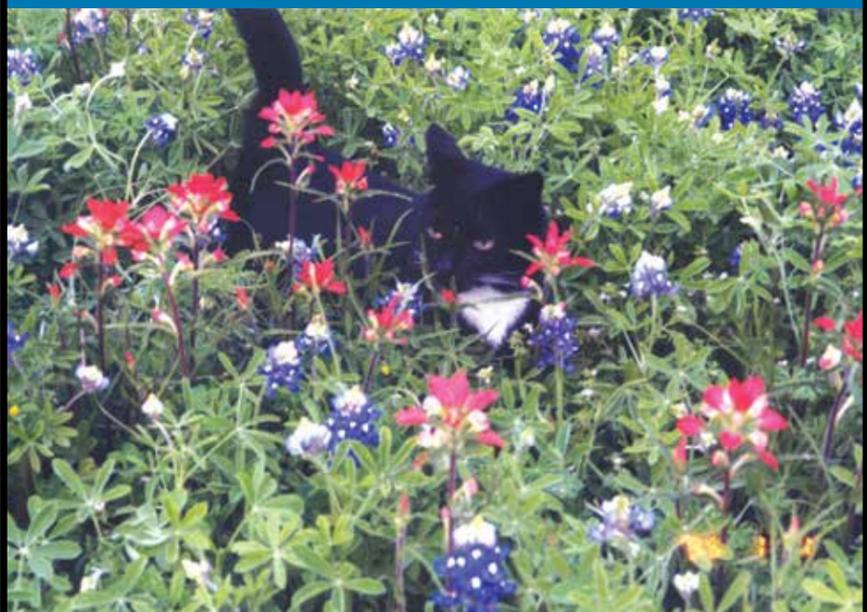


Submitted to Construction News
On the run



Kevin and Angela Schaefer and their two children, **Bryan and Andrea**, recently ran in the 5th annual Chik-Fil-A/Younglife 5k & 10k in Victoria. Some friends of theirs started and organize the annual race, so the family is part of the volunteer group on setup day. Kevin Schaefer is a project manager at **Testengeer**. -cw

Submitted to Construction News
Whiskey flower



Did you get some good pictures of family, friends and fur-balls in this year's beautiful wildflower displays? Send them to me for publication at cyndi@constructionnews.net. Above, my cat Whiskey showing off her beautiful self. -cw

Submitted to Construction News
You think?



At least this trucker seems to have a good sense of humor. Spotted driving along a highway between New Braunfels and Seguin. -cw

Coasting in Costa Rica

After **Joe Solis, ABC Painting & Drywall**, said he would get married when "hell freezes over," he fulfilled his promise by proposing to his wife, Debbie Hoffman-Solis on Christmas Eve in December 2004 – when it snowed in Corpus Christi for the first time in 100 years.

They married on April 15, 2005, tax day – a date Joe says he picked so he would never be in the doghouse for forgetting his anniversary.

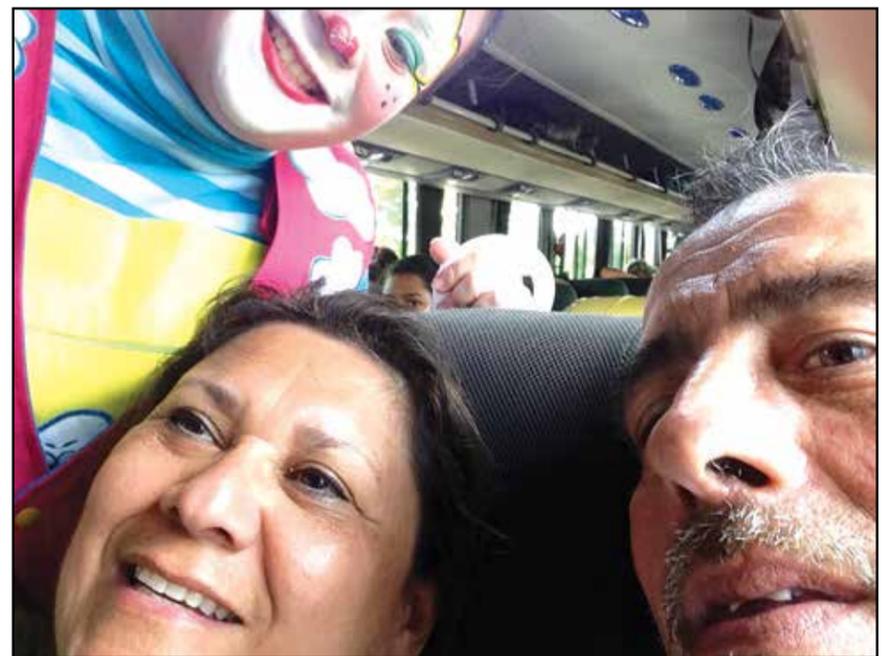
Fast forward 10 years and Joe and Debbie renewed their vows and took a honeymoon to Costa Rica that Joe's busy work schedule prevented them from taking when they first married.

"We chose Costa Rica for the fact that all the signs were there and beautifully lined up," Solis says. "The Capital of Costa

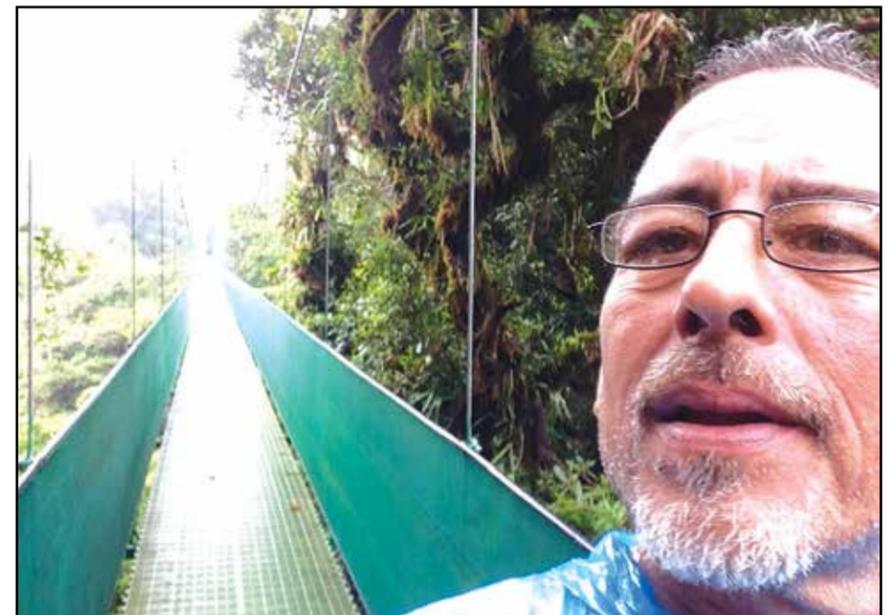
Rica is **San Jose** - Jose is my father's and my name. The President of Costa Rica is Luis Guillermo **Solis**, spelled just like my name. A friend on Facebook resides in Jaco Costa Rica and extended an invitation, so we thought let's go there. My nephew had recently visited that country and recommended the rain forest zip lines, hiking and hanging bridges."

The couple visited all the cultural centers: Jade, Children's, Gold and Art museums. From rooftops, they observed the city life and Poas, Irazu and Turriabla Volcanos. They shopped at Mercado's and souvenir shops and visited churches and cathedrals.

"The best time was visiting all the paint stores and talking to locals working on various painting projects," Solis said. -cw



Joe and Debbie Solis met up with a clown on their travels.



Joe and Debbie Solis found this hanging bridge.



Joe Solis posing with a "local."

A new star in Pharr



Look for the sign on Nolana in Pharr.

Despite a decent South Texas rain, there was no dampening of good times at **H&E Equipment Services** grand opening of its new Pharr location on Mar. 26.

Specializing in industrial aerial work platforms, telehandlers and boom lifts of up to 120', the 15,250-sf facility sits on five acres at 705 East Nolana Loop. Earthmoving equipment, as well as a robust parts and service department are additional features.

"We service customer-owned equipment and we have a parts department, too," says **Roger Wood**, branch manager. "We have a lot of customers from the U.S. and Mexico."

Wood joined the company in May 2014 and was hired specifically to open the new location in November. Wood was born in Japan and has worked in

equipment rental as a branch or corporation manager for 12 years.

Since ramping up for the new location, Wood says he has hired nine employees and expects that number to grow by at least three by fall.

"The main point is that we are an equipment company run by equipment people," he said.

Many local contractors attended the festivities and checked out the wares of 10 major equipment vendors. Also in attendance were **Brad Barber**, president and COO, **Ray Hardison**, senior vice president of parts and service, **Marty Emigh**, vice president of operations and expansion, and **Paul Stephen**, vice president of marketing.

The company, now with 70 locations nationwide, was started in 1961 by CEO **John Engquist's** father, **Tom Engquist**.



Plenty of folks turned out for the grand opening.

Family fun



A large crew of SpawGlass families joined in for the fun.

The South Texas Division of **SpawGlass** held a "Family Fun Day" at the Main Event Center in Pharr recently. It was a time to get everyone together, relax and enjoy their SpawGlass Family! -cw



L-R: Christine Blouch, Alyssa Hernandez, Lucy Salinas



Daniel Cisneros and son



Clayton, Monica, Eva and Clara Frady



Javier Barrientos and family

Father's Day
Sunday, June 21

COKINOS, BOSIEN & YOUNG

Game Plan

Know the market.

Protect acquisitions and investments.

Play to win.

That's the Cokinos, Bosien & Young approach.

Whether it's complex litigation, transactions, business formation or dispute resolution, our attorneys understand that your business is more than a game.



10999 WEST IH10 • Suite 800 • SAN ANTONIO, TX 78230 • Tel: 210-293-8700
www.cbylaw.com

HOUSTON • DALLAS/FT. WORTH • SAN ANTONIO • AUSTIN

In memoriam

Bob Nichols, 88, passed away May 8 in Arlington. Nichols was a longtime executive at **Freese & Nichols**, a Texas-based consulting firm offering engineering, architecture, environmental science, construction and planning services.

During his 67-year career at Freese & Nichols, he served in several roles, most recently as President Emeritus, a position he held through this year. He primarily focused on environmental engineering, coordinating large-scale, multi-discipline and multi-consultant projects. He also served as Fort Worth chapter president, Texas society president and national president for the National Society of Professional Engineers. Nichols was an alumnus of Texas A&M University, where he earned Bachelor's and Master's degrees in Civil Engineering.

Nichols is survived by his wife of 67 years, Frances, three children, six grandchildren, two great grandchildren, and his brother Jim (Billie). In lieu of flowers, donations are requested for the Bobby Nichols Jr. Scholarship fund, P.O. Box 1, Webb City, MO 64870.

F O C U S

This
Month

HVAC and Plumbing



Important issues include population growth, skilled labor

**Kenny, Tracy and Lee Faires, Owners
Faires Plumbing Co.**
Edinburg, TX

What is your opinion about the current state of the construction industry in South Texas?

We are a family owned business and it has been our experience over the years that construction is cyclical.

Our company is mostly engaged in commercial/industrial plumbing in the Rio Grande Valley and we are optimistic about the next few years.

What factors are driving this opinion?

The Rio Grande Valley is growing in population. That results in more construction.

What are the "hot button" issues in your industry?

The shortage of skilled labor is an ongoing issue. As people retire, it seems there are no qualified people to take their spots.

Another issue is ongoing litigation.

Insurance, immigration, the economy and competition are other

topics we deal with.

What is on the horizon for your industry? Changes in technology, equipment, materials?

The most notable change is in water heating efficiency. Laws coming through our legislature are requiring additional energy efficiency in material and equipment. This will be an additional cost to the consumer

Have there been any significant code changes in the last year?

No, but the plumbing code is updated every three years and the 2015 code has not been adopted by Valley cities yet

With the recent emphasis on green building, what is the most environmentally friendly change relating to your industry?

Lead free and asbestos free products, recycled materials and water conservation, along with energy efficient laws are working to make our finished product greener.

Do the new water restricting fixtures impact plumbing installation?

Not really, provided the drain lines are installed properly. When the water saving fixture (toilets) were introduced using 1.6 gallons per flush, some manufacturers' products didn't work as well as others. But it seems that most have acceptable water saving fixtures now.

Is HVAC/Plumbing education available for those wishing to enter the industry?

Yes, although there is more

education available for HVAC than plumbing.

What are the cost increases relating to your industry?

Fuel, vehicles, machinery, insurance and wages are the major costs and they are always going up, it seems.

What are the rewards of the industry?

Providing a safe working environment for our employees and an excellent service for our customers. Experienced and dedicated employees, repeat customers and new referrals are our greatest rewards.

What are keys to being successful?

It's crucial to have a good team and be financially strong. We believe every person is important. This includes project and office management, direct job supervision, qualified and experienced plumbers, apprentices and laborers.

Faires Plumbing Co. was established in 1927 and is family owned and operated. Since its inception, the company has evolved from a one-man operation to a competitor in the commercial plumbing business.



Technology, regulations, hot topics in HVACR Industry

**Paul Stalknecht, President
Air Conditioning Contractors of America**
Arlington, VA

The technology in the HVACR industry is constantly evolving and becoming more efficient. This is driven by standards from the federal government, along with homeowners and building owners/operators looking to shrink their carbon footprint and save money on utilities.

The systems are also becoming more customer centric. Customers want to be able to have instant access to their systems and to be able to control them remotely. So, more and more manufacturers are developing apps for smartphones that integrate into the heating and cooling systems to meet this want from the customers.

ACCA is spearheading an initiative to create universal diagnostic protocols for troubleshooting HVACR systems. The idea is to have a system similar to what the automotive industry has. That way, technicians have a device/tool that they can plug into any air conditioning or furnace, regardless of the brand, and it will return error codes that will easily allow them to diagnose the problem.

This will lead to the technicians diagnosing the problem quicker, which should lead to quicker resolution of the problem, creating happier customers, less system down time, and the ability for contractors to serve more customers.

This initiative began earlier this year and there is a lot of interest in it from not only contractors, but also the leading manufacturers in the industry.

How has the R-22 refrigerant phase out affected the industry?

The last few years of the HCFC phase out are progressing without much drama. It's the next steps for refrigerants in general that should be watched closely.

The EPA is reviewing proposals to alter the Section 608 technician certification program. This may bring some important and necessary reforms to the program, like technician recertification

and updated exam questions. The other big question is what will become the next effective and cheap refrigerant as the government begins to phase out HFC refrigerants.

Have there been any significant code changes in the last year?

There are three code bodies that govern our industry: International Code Council (ICC), the International Association of Plumbing and Mechanical Officials (IAPMO), and the National Fire Protection Association (NFPA). All three of them put out documents detailing the major changes from cycle to cycle.

ACCA has a Codes Committee that stays on top of each of these changes to ensure that contractors in the industry have their voices heard during the creation and implementation of them.

What is the most significant challenge your industry faces? Labor shortages? Other?

Our industry faces two major challenges.

The first is regulatory challenges from the federal government. The HVACR industry faces a lot of "known unknowns" from the federal government in the short term. The Department Of Energy is poised to finalize 17 new regulations on manufactures, distributors, and contractors over the next two years. The EPA will be looking at expanding the list of approved refrigerants and may finally update the outdated Section 608 technician certification program. OSHA just announced a new Confined Space in Construction rule that goes into effect later

this year.

The second is an aging workforce and the need to recruit more young workers into the industry. This challenge has been around for decades, so it's nothing new to our industry. However, if we do not do something about it, it won't get better.

ACCA has renewed its efforts to help bring in two very important groups of people into our industry: high school students and military veterans. Earlier this year, we produced two short recruitment videos that are geared towards each of these groups. We are encouraging contractors to use these videos in their recruitment efforts. They are on the front lines recruiting new employees at job fairs and in vocational schools; so these resources can help show potential employees that the HVACR and indoor environment industry has great opportunities for a long, rewarding career. And, this summer we will be launching a new website to help with this as well, www.ie-3jobs.com.

What are keys to being successful?

It's said a lot in our industry, but it's true. The best thing contractors can do to ensure their business is successful is to focus on the things they can control. That means focusing on strong business practices, providing education and training opportunities to their teams, and getting involved.

ACCA is here to help contractors achieve those goals on all of those levels. We have increased the number of training opportunities available to contractors.

This fall, we are heading to Indianapolis, IA., in October for two events that are aimed at contracting business managers.

First, we are introducing a brand new event: the Office and Operations Managers Forum. This event will focus on helping your office team - the ones who keep things running smoothly in the office - improve their skills and increase productivity for your entire team. And, of course, we are bringing back the Service Managers Forum. It is one of our most popular events and has seen double digit atten-

dance increases over the past three years.

It will again be two days of learning and networking with top service managers from across the country and some industry experts that will help move your service operations to the next level of success. Mark your calendars now for Oct. 20-21 for the Office and Operations Managers Forum and Oct. 22-23 for the Service Managers Forum.

And for those who just can't leave their businesses for a few days, we offer plenty of online training resources.

In 2012, we launched our Residential Design For Quality Installation online certificate program.

This online program mirrors the in-person class we hold at ACCA headquarters four times a year, but you can do it from your office or home, at your pace. And in 2015, we will be launching our Commercial Design For Quality Installation online certificate program. Just like the residential program, it will give you the opportunity to get a full grounding of proper commercial design in compliance with the HVAC Quality Installation Specification.

March 10-13, 2016, we will be heading to Charlotte, NC, for our Annual Conference and Expo: ACCA 2016 - the business solutions conference for indoor environment contractors will be a diverse learning lab program that covers almost every area of a contractors business. From commercial, residential, building performance, and hydronics topics to marketing, quality assurance, leadership, and business operations; there will be information that will help any contractor improve their operations and bottom line.

Mixed in with our learning labs are our MainStages, which will blow away anyone attending. Our MainStages feature some of the best big picture thinkers in the country. In 2015, we featured Economist and Futurist Lowell Catlett and Business Guru Michael Gerber. We are working on setting the lineup for 2016, and as always, it will feature some of the most in-demand speakers in the country.

The MainsStages also include the CEO/Contractor Forum, where contractors will get to directly ask the CEOs of

continued Page 12

continued from Page 11 — FOCUS

major manufacturing companies the tough questions. And "What's Your Problem?" which will give contractors in the audience a chance to ask a panel of their contracting peers for advice on their biggest obstacles at their business.

The IE3: Indoor Environment & Energy Expo is also taking place during this time. The expo will feature 200 manufacturers, suppliers, and industry partners that are ready and willing to help contractors solve their biggest problems.

Outside of training, ACCA has many ways that contractors can get involved. We have committees, taskforces, councils, the ACCA-PAC, and more. Volunteer leaders help make the industry stronger and when we work together for the common good, we all win.

So, I would encourage everyone to get involved in 2015, because things aren't going to slow down and we are going to see even more regulations come from government agencies. —cw

Association Calendar

Content submitted by Associations to Construction News

ABC - Mid Coast

Associated Builders & Contractors

Jun. 13: 23rd annual Fishing Tournament. Pre-party Friday, Jun. 12, 6-8pm, at Port O'Connor Community Center. Weigh-In 2-4pm on Saturday. Entries received by Jun. 5 entered into special drawing. Contact Kristi Stevenson at 361-572-0299.

AIA - LRGV

American Institute of Architects

Jun. 11: Ribbon cutting and open house at the new location, 302 S. Texas Ave. in Mercedes. Call (956) 903-4255 for more information.

NAWIC - Corpus Christi

Nat'l Assn. of Women in Construction

Jun. 4: National Association of Women in Construction Membership Mixer, public welcome. Vino Mio Social Club 4102 S Staples St, Corpus Christi, TX 78411, 6-8pm. Door prizes. Contact Vanessa Garcia at 361-945-7877 for more information.

Jun. 16: Dinner and business meeting, public welcome, at the BBQ Man Restaurant; 5:30pm networking, 6pm meeting. Program: Annika Gunning with the City of Corpus Christi Development Services on Plan CC Comprehensive Plan 2035, \$20. Contact Vickie Thompson 361-299-6278 or 361-438-0593, to get more information or check out nawic.org or nawic-corpuschristi.org.

SCTMC

Safety Council of the Texas Mid Coast

Jun. 29-Jul. 2: OSHA #2045 Machinery and Machine Guarding Standards. Courses are registered directly through UTA at www.uta.edu/ded/osha/course. Click on Safety, Health and Environmental Courses, View Course List. Click on the course in Port Lavaca and proceed with registration. For more information contact Betty Birdwell, SCTMC Business Outreach and Instructor Leader at 361-552-7823 x 1207 or via email at bbirdwell@cscportlavaca.org.

Round-Up

DeWayne Krawl was promoted to vice president of business development at the **MLAW Engineers** Austin office. He joined the firm in 2005 in its warranty department. Bringing years of real estate and business experience to the table, he created and managed the additions and remodeling department from 2006 to 2010. From 2011 to 2015 he served as district manager and continued to expand MLAW's presence statewide. Based in Austin, he will travel and work in all MLAW markets in Dallas, San Antonio, Houston and the Texas Coast.



Round-Up Submissions

This is a monthly section for brief company announcements of new or recently promoted personnel, free of charge, as space allows. Email (w/digital photo, if available) by the 15th of any month, for the next month's issue (published 1st of each month). **Email info to appropriate city issue, with "Round-Up" in the subject line:** STeditor@constructionnews.net

NEXT MONTH

July 2015

F O C U S

Support Your Industry's Feature Issue

Electrical Industry

Call for Ad Space Reservations

- San Antonio
- Austin • Houston
- Dallas/Fort Worth
- South Texas

(210) 308-5800

2015 Schedule

Jan: Construction Forecast
Feb: Construction Safety
Mar: Construction Education

Apr: Women in Construction
May: Concrete Industry
Jun: HVAC & Plumbing

July: Electrical Industry
Aug: Service Providers
Sep: Green Building Trends

Oct: Specialty Contractors
Nov: Architecture & Engineering
Dec: Construction Equipment

Trusted Partner

RENTAL • Sales • Service • Parts • Solutions



HoltCrane.com



HoltAg.com



HoltCat.com



HoltTruckCenters.com



SitechTejas.com

Dear old dad

The construction industry is full of men and women who were inspired by their fathers and who are raising children of their own. Teams that span generations drive a significant number of companies in the local construction community. Whether your father was a laborer or an engineer, a bricklayer or a CEO, many of you feel you owe who you are today to your father, and to all of you, we wish you and your dads a happy Father's Day! –cw



VCS Companies and Rocket Oilfield Services: Jim Hartman, Jennifer Hartman, Kelly Henke and J.R. Hartman Jr., Victoria



Dykema Architects: Biby Dykema and Jim Bright, who practiced together for 15 years, Corpus Christi



Peacock General Contractors: Bill and Tre Peacock, Harlingen



JB and Johnny Carey, Carey Sheet Metal, Harlingen

Creative minds



The staff takes great pride in their recent eight Pinnacle of Design Awards bestowed on the Interior Design team recently in San Antonio. L-R: seated Elizabeth Locke Welsh, ASID, Katy Starnes, Tina Bryan Anastos, ASID; standing, Chuck Anastos, AIA, Edward Picha and Kevin McCord. Not pictured: Guillermo Olmos.

Chuck Anastos Associates LLC was established in 1985 in Corpus Christi. The firm is comprised of architectural / interior design principals and staff with experience in commercial, institutional and residential design.

"We provide personal attention to each client's specific needs while committing continuous involvement throughout the project's entirety," says **Tina B. Anastos**, ASID, interior design principal. "We excel in working with clients aiming for specialized, custom end results. Whether it is a commercial project with many end users or a residence for a family, our goal is to design a distinctive space that is as functional as it is aesthetically pleasing."

Anastos says the design process can be an arduous one for clients not familiar with the construction world.

"Often, we find our job description includes a fair amount of hand holding to

guide clients through unknown territory," she says. "One of the main focuses is remembering to keep a sense of humor and help clients enjoy the creative process."

Hanging in the Anastos office conference room is a cartoon depicting a client next to their architect at a drafting table that reads "It's exactly what I asked for, it's just not quite what I had in mind."

"So goes the saying, 'back to the drawing board,'" Anastos laughs. "Thankfully now there are innovative CAD and similar drafting programs that allow our design and production technicians to more readily make changes to plans and layouts."

She says the firm is comprised of a small, close-knit staff. Their projects consist of large scale commercial and institutional to complex, custom residences and repeat, long-term clients are normal.

"We are blessed to have clients that come to us again and again," she says.

Construction News JOB SIGHT

New digs



The **Metro Electric** crew is busy on the University of Texas at Brownsville Police Station in Brownsville. –cw

Construction News JOB SIGHT

Easy does it



L&G Corporation's concrete company employees work on a canal project in San Benito, TX. –cw

LYNWOOD

BUILDING MATERIALS, INC.

COMPLETE INVENTORY OF
LATHING • PLASTERING • DRYWALL
ACOUSTICAL MATERIAL

Concrete Chemicals & Accessories • Kemlite FRP • Thermax
Access Doors • Steel Products • Contractor Tools & Supplies

Toll Free **1-800-580-9052**

DOWNTOWN SAN ANTONIO
1146 W. LAUREL
210-477-3000
210-477-3090 FAX

NORTHSIDE SAN ANTONIO
15262 CAPITAL PORT
210-408-9052
210-493-1999 FAX

www.lynwoodsa.com

Region 7's farewell forum



The Region 7 Forum was the last time these women of NAWIC will gather as Region 7 before the merge with Region 5. Photos by Mary C. Haskin Photography

The National Association of Women in Construction (NAWIC) held its Region 7 Forum Apr. 17-18 at the Hilton Hill Country Hotel & Spa in San Antonio. This is the final Region 7 Forum before Region 7 merges with Region 5 to form the South Central Region, which will include Texas, Oklahoma, Louisiana, Arkansas and Mississippi.

Region 7's last hurrah coincided with San Antonio's Fiesta celebration, and Friday evening allowed guests to join the festivities with a hospitality suite and party bus to the Fiesta Oyster Bake and Riverwalk. On Saturday, San Antonio Mayor Ivy Taylor gave the opening remarks at the breakfast reception where the keynote speaker was Heloise.

That evening, Region 7 closed its final forum with the awards banquet featuring DJ Ray and fun with lipstick/palm reading, caricatures, psychometry and Uriel the Magician.

Many Region 7 members took home awards that make this forum even more special to them. **ESC Safety Consultants** won first place for Safety Excellence in the Regional Safety category. Regional Safety

Awards also went to Austin's **Hensel Phelps** and **Vanguard Fire Systems**. The DFW ladies cleaned up at the Women In Construction (WIC) Week Awards with Fort Worth taking the WOW Award, and the Dallas Chapter taking the Spread the Word Award. The Dallas and Fort Worth Chapters also took the PR & Marketing Regional Awards. Houston took the PR & Marketing Most Improved Award and the WIC Week Award for Most New Members. The Corpus Christi Chapter won the Membership Consistency Award. The San Antonio Chapter took home the Professional Development & Education Award. **Dana Calonge, Vision Construction**, received a 25-Year Longevity Pin.

The forum also hosted several workshops with guest speakers, including "What to Do If OSHA Shows Up/Top OSHA Citations" by **Ted Dunnam**, ESC Safety Consultants; "2015 Human Resources Update" by **Cynthia Mergele, Padgett Stratemann**; "Work It Out! Demystifying the Male Female Workplace Dynamic" by Marny Lifshen; and "The Dos and Don'ts of Social Media" by Summer Salazar. —mh



The last leaders of Region 7 L-R: (standing) Sandy Field, national president; Judy DeWeese, past national president; (seated) Riki Lovejoy, national president-elect; Jennifer Swinney, regional director



Keynote speaker Heloise with Mike Grendell, Midco Slings



Membership Consistency Award – Corpus Christi Chapter (pictured: Vicki Thompson, chapter president, Wanda Bledsaw and Rhonda Nebgen)

continued from Page 1 — Pharr cools it off



A partnership with the Pharr-San Juan-Alamo school district included a state-of-the-art natatorium.

"Frank (Marin) was great to work with," he said. "I ended up getting paid for the initial study to determine what they should build and how much it should cost. I worked the entire project up to start of construction. That worked out pretty well."

The Pharr Aquatic Center consists of a fan-shaped, 6,800-sf leisure pool, which enters from a zero depth beach area that wades into 3.5 inches. On the shallow end stands a water play structure that features three children's slides, geysers, water sprayers, misters, spray fans, two giant splash buckets and ornamental palm tree sprayers. The pool has a 150-ft. body slide next to a 150-ft. tube slide that splashes into the deep end of the pool. Available to the public is a lazy river that consists of a 200-ft. raft slide that spills into a 360-linear foot, 8-in. wide meandering river. Children and adults slide down in water tubes that float along the river, or line up to slide down again.

Other park amenities include a children's pool that is 30-ft. in diameter, and it features geysers and a baby slide. For the children's safety, this pool is covered with a shade structure to provide cover from the sun's rays. Also, the center features a natatorium that encloses a 25-

yard X 25-meter, 10 lane competition pool.

"We designed the natatorium to function as an outdoor pool," Scott says. "It has the capability in winter to close it up if it is cold and for meets. In the summer, it can operate as an outdoor pool. The HVAC has the capability of closing everything up."

The aquatic center has been under way since 2009, designed to replace a 50-year-old pool that had to be torn down at Victor Garcia Municipal Park. The project hit delays through 2011 and early 2012 as the city waited on a loan from the Department of Housing and Urban Development and shifted plans to meet federal disability requirements.

Once under way, construction moved smoothly. The cost jumped by some \$341,000 for additions including popcorn and raspa machines, a pool climbing wall and an inflatable movie screen.

The park will eventually be equipped to have wireless Internet, leaders said. As well, Public Utilities Director and Assistant City Manager David Garza noted that park water is recycled through an on-site system that treats it so it can be used again. —cw

continued from Page 1 — Zarsky-Kodiak join forces

"We look forward to working with the excellent Zarsky team, supporting their business and continuing to grow with them in Texas," he said. "We feel we can leverage the Zarsky name and reputation and do more to serve their strong customer base in South Texas. Most importantly, the Zarsky key management team, including Cally, **Phillip Steffy**, **Steve Weaver** and **Travis Fromme** will continue with the company under the new ownership structure."

Steffy is manager of the McAllen location of Zarsky.

"In all honesty, we are very excited to be partnering up with Kodiak. They are a great organization and I think we are a

perfect fit. The future looks great," he said.

Zarsky Lumber Company operates 10 locations in South Texas from Wharton, Victoria, Port Aransas, Corpus Christi and Kingsville down into The Valley in McAllen, Harlingen, Los Fresnos, Rio Grande City and Laredo.

Kodiak Building Partners serves general contractors, homebuilders, sub-contractors, remodelers and consumers through its 21 locations in Texas, Colorado, Michigan and New England.

The parties indicated that the deal is subject to normal closing conditions and should be consummated by the end of the second quarter. —cw

continued from Page 1 — Delta in the Valley

In-service training is handled by Andrade, with outside instructors coming in monthly for safety briefings. Employees get together now and then to hang out, cook up a little barbecue and relax.

The name Delta Temp comes from a formula used to gauge the temperature difference between the supply air and the return air, says Andrade, who moved to the United States from Mexico 20 years ago. He graduated from San Luis Potosi University in Mexico with a degree in digital systems. He has 30 years of experience in the field.

And, he's about to become a grand-

father for the first time – something he is clearly delighted about.

Morales has been with the company for one year and says it is a good company and a good boss.

"It's a very good environment to work in and we welcome anybody to come and see," she said. "I find Danny to be the most honest person, he will not lie to you. Everyone here is nice and friendly. I honestly can say it is like my second family."

Delta Temp Services is planning an expansion into plumbing and electrical within the next year. —cw

Like us on

facebook

www.facebook.com/ConstructionNewsLtd

Novidesa expanding

Novidesa got its start in Mexico in 2006 and followed by opening a location two years later in Pharr in 2008, says general manager **Luis Higareda**.

The company, which produces high-density Expanded Polystyrene (EPS) panels, is a joint venture between Grupo Idesa, a leading Mexican petrochemical producer, and NOVA Chemicals out of Canada.

"Basically, we don't say we sell construction materials," Higareda says. "We offer sustainable solutions for walls and roofs."

The company has three employees: Higareda, **Ashley Pena**, drafter; and **Luis Rodriguez**, sales manager.

The company provides a free service

that makes use of Pena's skills.

"Send us your plans and we do all the layout for our product with no compromise," Higareda says.

The company has already worked on many projects in the Rio Grande Valley, including at the University of Texas at Brownsville, U.S. Renal Care, Holy Rosary Catholic Church in Brownsville and Rodezio Grill in McAllen.

"Most of the projects we have done in the Valley have cost the same or less than conventional construction," Higareda said.

Novidesa opened a second location in San Antonio in May, and Higareda and his wife, Esther, look forward to moving to the Alamo City from McAllen this summer with their son. -cw



The Novidesa walls and roof on this construction site will help keep the heat and cold out.



A grand opening was held in May to celebrate the new location in San Antonio.

Fastened in place



Travis Neslony and Danny Reyes are ready to help their customers find the perfect fastener.

Manager **Danny Reyes** and **Travis Neslony**, along with help from salesman **George Thompson**, hold down the fort at **Southern Fastening Systems** in Corpus Christi.

Reyes has been with the company for 17 years, while Neslony has been there a little more than a year. The business has been located at its Ayers Street location for more than 35 years, Reyes says.

"We are the only location in Corpus Christi," Reyes said. "All of the lumberyards buy wholesale from us."

The company supplies wood-to-wood fasteners and automated fastening systems, as well as stocking brand name tools and fasteners.

Reyes says he was in the grocery business for 20 years when he was approached by a friend to come to work for Southern.

"It's a good company, with room to grow and lots of opportunities," he says.

Neslony grew up in Corpus Christi

and went to the University of Texas Pan Am on a baseball scholarship. He played the position of pitcher and also attained his degree in business management.

"After college, I was looking for a job and construction seemed like a field worth getting into," he says. "I'm just enjoying this."

Reyes says the location handles about 30 percent residential and 70 percent commercial.

He also stressed that customer service is very important.

"Customers are always first," he said. "We like to help them as best we can."

Neslony pointed out a Customers Bill of Rights prominently displayed on the counter.

In other recent news, Southern Fastening and **Carlson Systems** are combining into one company, although both will retain their own names. Carlson Systems is a leading distributor of construction and packaging machines, tools and supplies. -cw

Submitted to Construction News

Dropping by for a visit

Carmen Perez Garcia, executive director for American Institute of Architects, Lower Rio Grande Valley Chapter (AIA), says these Chachalaca birds stopped by her deck for an early morning visit recently. -cw



Submitted to Construction News

A decade in the Valley

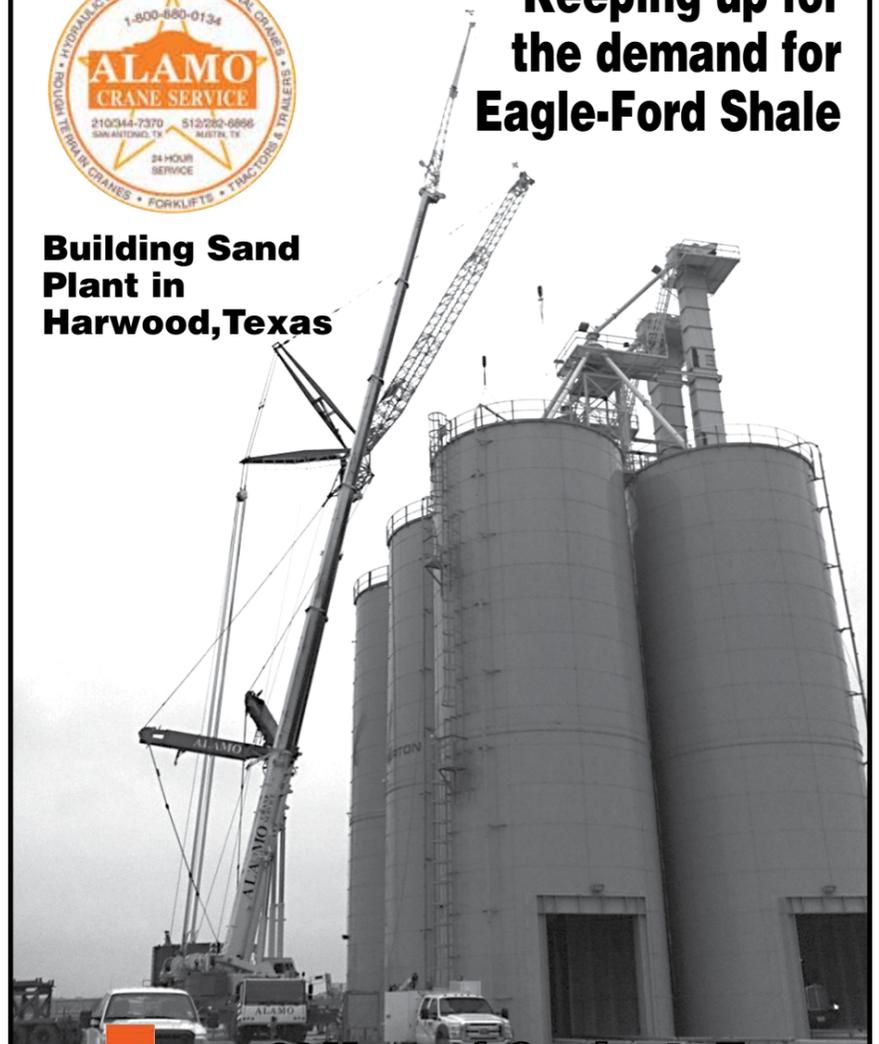


DBR Engineering's McAllen office hosted an Open House for its clients Apr. 16. Attendees included local architects and representatives from area colleges and school districts. DBR provides mechanical, electrical and plumbing engineering services and has operated in the Rio Grande Valley for nearly 10 years. -cw



Keeping up for the demand for Eagle-Ford Shale

Building Sand Plant in Harwood, Texas



From El Paso to Beaumont, Amarillo to Brownsville

36 Years of Service to Texas

www.alamocrane.com



San Antonio (210) 344-7370
Austin (512) 282-6866
Toll Free (800) 880-0134

Submitted to Construction News
Party like you're 50



Attendees had fun at the Pharr **Terracon** location's 50th anniversary open house in April. -cw

ON THE SPOT

What would you donate \$1M to?

If I could give \$1 million to a charity, I would give it to Rotary International, and dedicate it to their Polio Plus program. Rotary International is responsible for nearly eradicating the world of Polio. There are only three countries left with recorded cases. It will be amazing when polio is no longer a threat to humans.

Tre' Peacock, Peacock General Contractors, Harlingen

Habitat for Humanity. Home ownership results in higher educational attainment for kids and parents.

Joni Brown, Safety Council of the Texas Mid-Coast

Hospice ... they help so many and I have seen their work, their caring and com-

passion with loved ones. The organization needs to remain strong.

Lynda Parma, VCS Companies Victoria

I would donate the \$1 million to my hometown school district in Platteville, WI., where many youngsters K-12 deserve and could use the funding for a variety of supplies and activities. Many wonderful people in my hometown graciously provided me with values, knowledge and experiences that made my life very interesting that I would want to give back to the community through education.

David Ralph, City of Harlingen

I would split my donation giving half to my faith, my parish, my Catholic Church. The other half would be given to my friends at the Optimist Club of Downtown Corpus Christi. It's a charitable service organization that is "friends of youth" and that does a lot for the community without demanding any recognition or credit.

Joe Solis, ABC Painting & Drywall, Corpus Christi

It would be multiple animal rescue centers. As to the why, it's because animals are helpless. They don't know right from wrong and only want our love. I think animal abuse or abandonment is one of the lowest things you can do as a person, so the money would go towards helping any animal in need. The saying goes "you can tell a lot about a person by how they treat their pets" is so true.

Connor Friedrichs, REFCO, McAllen

If I could give a million dollars to a charity, it would be to a children's cancer hospital, St. Judes hospital...because children are a blessing and every perfect gift from above; a heritage from the Lord.

My admiration and prayers go out to all those who contribute to this cause.

Liz Cantu, Briggs Equipment Corpus Christi

I would send \$1 million to Heifer International because they empower families to turn hunger and poverty into hope and prosperity. It's more than just a donation!! They link communities and help bring sustainable agriculture to those in poverty. The animals provide food and reliable, sustainable income, as agricultural products such as milk, eggs and honey can be traded or sold at market.

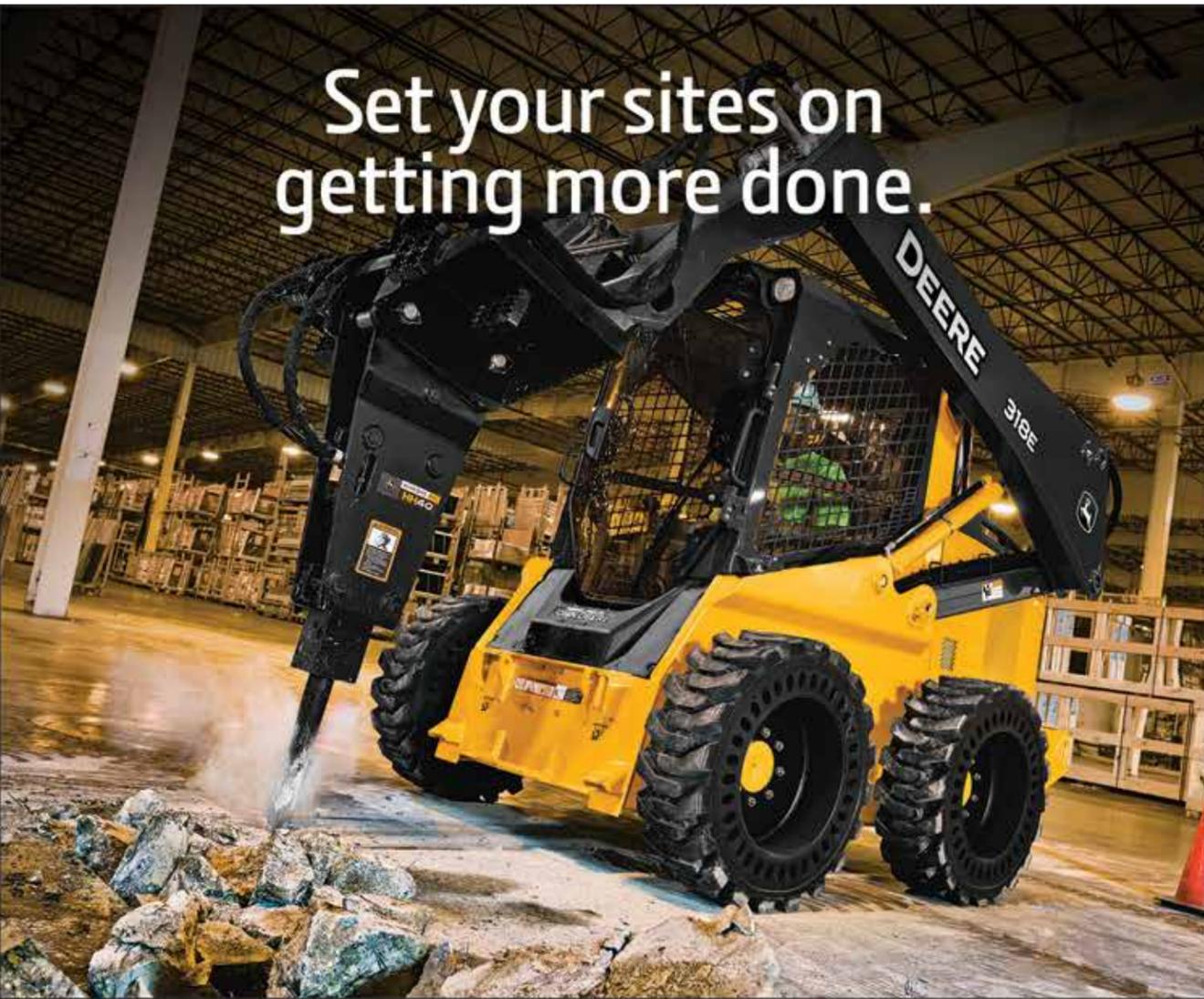
Kristi Stevenson, ABC Texas Mid Coast Chapter

Jack Turner - Would give it to his Church, the Community Presbyterian Church (Port Aransas) to provide for building and ADA improvements.

Philip Ramirez - Would give it to the ARK Assessment Center and Children's Shelter, because I think that all children deserve a stable and loving environment.

Jack Turner and Phillip Ramirez, Turner, Ramirez & Associates Architects, Corpus Christi

Set your sites on getting more done.



SAVE on the skid steers with features inspired by customers like you.

- Wide-open entryways and flat floors
- Quieter, more spacious operator stations
- Improved fuel efficiency
- Best-in-class visibility

0% for 48 APR months*

Tractor City

Sequin..... 830-379-5477
 Pleasanton .. 830-569-3833
 Floresville 830-393-3436

Uvalde..... 830-278-5628
 Castroville.... 830-538-5451
 San Antonio.... 210-648-1765

Pearsall..... 830-334-3634
 Kenedy..... 830-583-2017

TractorCity.com

*Offer ends 6/30/15. Fixed Rate of 0% for 48 months. Subject to approved installment credit with John Deere Financial. Some restrictions apply; other special rates and terms may be available, so see your dealer for details and other financing options. Valid only at participating dealers. CWP-ST17X120601CHSA-4C

