Design team to evaluate the constructability, maximize the available budget and improve upon the originally anticipated project duration,” said Rick Scott, project manager.

Scott says during the pre-construction phase, Durotech conducted extensive investigations of the existing conditions to assist the project consultants with the preparation of the contract documents and BIM modeling.

“The project scope included new front entrances, administration additions, renovations to the existing science rooms, renovations to all restrooms to meet ADA requirements, replacement of all HVAC equipment, ductwork, piping and controls, replacement of all electrical equipment and low voltage systems, replacement of existing galvanized water piping and the addition of fire sprinkler systems throughout,” he said.

“The project also included all new HVAC systems throughout,” he said. “We have reached our 40th anniversary,” Ramirez said. “I have worked at the company for 37 years. My father, Lupe, is the original owner. My brothers, Jimmy and Chris, and I bought the company about eight years ago.

“I remember pushing a broom around the shop when I was younger and worked my way up. It took about two summers before I got that broom out of my hands. “Next, I started working out in the field with the installers. My dad taught my brothers and I to always do our best work. He never pushed us to get into this business, we just joined the company and found out we really liked it and stayed with it.

“The glass business hasn’t changed that much since I started out. It still takes a tape measure and glass cutters. The hard part used to be installing glass and now that is the easy part.” Today, Ramirez says he works mostly at the original shop on Bissonnet. The company also has locations in Spring Branch and El Campo, TX.

Ramirez says Lone Star Glass has been lucky by maintaining during the economic downturn, and found out we really liked it and stayed with it.

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Chris Payne and Kavin Ford handle inside sales and Jason Sample is the manager at Consolidated Electrical Distributors Inc. in Conroe, TX. “Chris, Kavin and I do a little bit of everything here at the company,” Sample said. “We do what we have to do to get things done. Sometimes we stock inventory or handle outside sales, it just depends on the day.”

According to Sample, business has started to pick up in 2013 compared to previous years. “This year, we held our first annual event for our customers,” he said. “We did a giveaway with prizes such as a television and a $500 gift card. We did a raffle based off of sales. The party took place at the Knights of Columbus Hall in Conroe in late January. “We served barbecue to our electrical contractor customers. We wanted to try out the event this year and since it worked out, we want to do it again in the future.”

Sample says the company has held counter days at the store in the past as well. “When we aren’t at work, we all like to play golf on the weekends,” he said. “My favorite golf course is at The Houstonian. Chris likes to play golf at Woodforest Golf Club.” “In addition, we are big football fans. Our teams are the Houston Texans, University of Texas Longhorns and the Texas A & M University Aggies. I went to one football game at Kyle Field in College Station in the fall season. It was a great game.”

“In the future, our plans are to build on what we already have here at Consolidated Electrical Distributors and eventually expand.”

Consolidated Electrical Distributors is an electrical distributor serving contractor, industrial and commercial customers.
**Flooring the way**

Michael Glass founded Falcon Flooring seven years ago. He works with his wife Paige and their three daughters, Lauren, Jessica and Melody and two sons Joshua and Caleb.

“We are a family run business,” Glass said. “My wife, Paige, helps me when I am on the road or visiting with customers. All of our kids have worked at the company at one time or another. I have a worked in the construction industry for 20 years. I started in the industry as a teenager.

All subserviced floors and learned the business from the ground up. I fell in love with it, managed other corporations and franchises and just had enough of it. I figured I could do it by myself.

“Flooring is a very overwhelming experience. I think education is key. I think we have stayed in business for seven years by serving customers. We are here for the long haul.”

“Some of my favorite part of my job today is working with customers and seeing the personality of a home or business change. It is fun to see the transformation.”

When he is not running the company, Glass teaches martial arts at the Conroe Recreation Facility four nights a week. He teaches 30 kids. “My family is involved in martial arts too,” he said. “It is our lifetime hobby. I am interested in Japanese style martial arts because it is big on self defense and practical smarts of walking down the street and being aware what is going on. It has been a 10-year venture for me. Three of my kids have a passion for martial arts.”

Commercial jobs the company has completed include Burger Fresh, The Aquatic Center and the City of Conroe Recreation Facility. Conroe, TX-based Falcon Flooring specializes in wood floors, tile, carpet, granite countertops.

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**Earning national honors**

Associated Builders and Contractors (ABC) congratulated the winners of its annual Excellence in Construction Awards celebration on Feb. 20 at the Harbor Beach Marriott Resort in Ft. Lauderdale, Fla.

“ABC is pleased to present these industry-leading construction projects and firms with our Excellence in Construction, National Safety Excellence and National Diversity Excellence awards,” said ABC President and CEO Michael D. Bel-laman. “This year’s winners are exceptional examples of the outstanding craftsmanship, professionalism and commitment to safety that embody merit shop construction.”

The Excellence in Construction award honors all construction team members, including the contractor, owner, architect and engineer.

The 2012 National Safety Excellence Award winners were selected from ABC member firms that achieved Diamond and Platinum status in ABC’s Safety Train- ing and Evaluation Process (STEP). The National Diversity Excellence Awards winners were selected for diversity leadership in their workforce, supply chain and community with best-in-class recruitment policies, retention practices, and training and mentoring programs.

Safety Awards

SpawGlass

The Mundy Companies

PCL Industrial Construction Company

W.T. Byler Co.

Polk Mechanical Company

Starcon International

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**Southwestern Paint**

Going southwestern

L-R: Steve Mordente, Michael Medina and Jim Rowley help painting contractors find supplies at Southwestern Paint.
Did spending time in the machine shop spark your interest to do what you do these days? Yes, working in the machine shop helped me in my career nowadays. I worked for a manufacturer that made reflowing machines after I got out of school.

In the beginning, I worked as a welder and then I eventually worked my way into working in machinery assembly. Then, I became a service manager and a sales representative. I gained valuable experience in service and sales at the time.

What were the early days like at the company? I started the company at my home, which is a few miles from our current Milwee Street location. Then, I began looking at several buildings in the area and decided to lease the one we are at today.

I eventually added a second unit for more storage space. This location has worked out well for us.

In your opinion, what does it take to stay in business for 13 years? You have to be able to adjust to the environment. You basically have to be able to change your business model, when need be. We have been able to survive through the down economy by doing this.

There are a lot of things we do today that we didn’t do in the early days. Besides sales and service, we provide training, accessories and technical support for all of our customer’s steel framing, roofing and gutter needs.

Always listen to what the customers ask for. You also have to know when to spend money and know when not to spend money.

Do you have any family who works with you at the company? My sister works with me in the shop. She does the accounting and all the paperwork at the office. Most of the time, she comes into the office a few days a week.

She helps me a great deal at the company and has been with me since the very beginning.

Our daughter is the office manager and receptionist. She has worked at the company since about 2004. Our son-in-law works with me in the shop. He does the service and sales work on a daily basis.

What is your favorite part of your job? I have had the chance to travel all over the world working in this industry. I have been to all 50 states in the United States. I went to Poland a few years ago to set up equipment.

This business is very interesting to me, and I have had the opportunity to meet a lot of wonderful people along the way.

I also like the fact I am not tied to the office and I am able to get outside often.

Have you traveled anywhere lately? I haven’t been overseas lately. I did go to Calgary and Alberta, Canada for work.

I went to Canada when it was cold and wet, so I didn’t get out much to see the sights.

I enjoy myself while I was on the trip though. I stayed a week and set up some equipment.

What is the most rewarding aspect of working at KBS? We help other people make money in the construction industry by selling them the equipment to be successful.

“If I think you work hard, good things will happen.”

If a young person wanted to do what you do for a living, what advice would you give him or her? I’d say spend a lot of hours on the job, ask questions, do your best work, pay attention and listen more than you talk.

I don’t know if it is like it was years ago, but it doesn’t hurt to get your foot in the door in an entry-level position at a manufacturer. I think if you work hard, good things will happen.

In addition, I think it is important to educate customers in order for them to feel confident and comfortable with the products they purchase.

What changes have you seen in your industry over the years? There haven’t been a lot of changes in the industry but I think there have been improvements made on the roof panels.

We are always thinking of new ideas and ways to help the customers, the end users and construction laborers. It is our goal to make their jobs easier.

What are a few positive happenings lately at the company? We have seen an uptick this year with the local residential and construction construction. So far, 2013 has been a good year.

In your free time, what kind of hobbies do you have? For fun, I like to go fishing, hunting and golfing. I usually go fishing at Galveston Bay and at a private lake on some property of ours.

I mainly go fishing and down the Gulf Coast. I typically go deer and elk hunting in Colorado but I haven’t been in a while.
ACCOUNTING

Why do the auditors ask me that?
Ginny Horrell, Auditor
Armstrong, Vaughan and Associates P.C.
San Antonio, Texas

At the beginning of an audit there are typically requests for information, supporting documentation, and interviews with management and staff. Interviews with management assist the auditor in identifying the company’s areas of risk, and in planning the tasks to be performed during the audit. Interviews of staff determine if the processes are understood and are being followed by employees. The interviews provide vital information for an auditor, but can often leave the person being interviewed with more questions.

The most common questions auditors are asked during audit discussions are: ‘Your audit looks at everything, right? What do you mean by internal control? What is a related party transaction? Why do you need to know about things that happened after year end? Why do I need to sign the Representation Letter to complete the audit?’

A common misconception is that auditors review and test every transaction. However, due to time constraints extensive review of all items is not feasible. Because of this limitation, auditors determine the riskiest areas to focus their efforts on. To assess the riskiest areas, auditors typically interview management to determine the internal controls implemented by management to prevent and detect fraud.

Discussions on internal controls often lead to the request for the determination of internal control. Internal controls are the procedures implemented by management to prevent and detect errors and/or misstatements. Staff interviews allow the auditor to assess the effectiveness of existing internal controls through a staff’s understanding of those controls. This further clarity allows an auditor to determine areas with the greatest risk, which in turn assists in the planning of the audit.

One of the most frequently asked questions during auditor interviews requires the definition of a related party transaction. Related party transactions are defined as a business arrangement between two parties joined by a special relationship. Special relationships are most often between two family members such as a husband and wife. For companies, a special relationship is most often between a parent company and a subsidiary entity. In identifying a related party transaction, there is typically a purchase, sale, or other accounting transaction between two related parties. This type of transaction is important to auditors as there is a risk that the transaction may be fraudulent or not in the best interest of the company.

Another common question asked of auditors is to explain the need for details of transactions that occur after the year being audited. Auditing standards generally accepted in the United States require an auditor to include information in the audit report about significant items that occur subsequent to year end. The disclosure, usually in the form of a “subsequent event” note, includes details about litigation, contracts signed after year end, significant losses, or any other transaction considered important to the financial statement readers.

While the majority of questions asked of auditors are at beginning of the audit, the most common questions asked at the conclusion of the audit are about the Representation Letter. Auditors request, in writing, confirmation of management statements provided during the audit. The Representation Letter allows management to take responsibility for the financial statements in all additional specified situations. Management signature on the Representation Letter is required by generally accepted auditing standards in the United States prior to auditor release of the finalized audit report.

Although the information requested by auditors often seems irrelevant to the audit report, the understanding of all these transactions are necessary to provide an opinion on the financial statements, which the interviews and documentation requests allow the auditor to provide. With the help of management and staff, the goal will be achieved.

Ginny Horrell is an auditor for Armstrong, Vaughan, and Associates P.C. and focuses on providing auditing services for Construction Companies, Local Governments, and not-for-Profit entities. She has been with the firm for four years, having spent seven years before as an accounting manager for a national construction company. She can be reached at (210) 658-6229.

INSURANCE

The changing market place and loss runs
Jeff Norwood, Executive Vice President
The Insurance Network of Texas
Houston, TX

This recovery, by any standard, is unlike ones of the past. The reasons and factors for this are numerous. (low consumer demand, problems in the EU, high energy cost, uncertainty over taxes, artificially low interest rates) You can turn on any news station, and some talking head will give a list of reasons to be disheartened. But, these are factors that you and your business cannot control. Instead of focusing on issues that are out of your hands, you should be focusing on what is within your power to help your business come out of this stronger than it was before.

One item on business financials that has had reduced scrutiny over the past few years is the cost of an insurance program. Why has it become less important? An insurance program can be a business’ largest non-revenue producing expense. Despite this large impact on a business’, it has virtually fallen off the radar.

For almost a decade, rates have fallen dramatically. Couple this with a very weak economy since 2008 and consequently premium dollars don’t impact the bottom line the way they once did. With that being said, the tides are turning and it is now very prudent to be aware that increased scrutiny and diligence is necessary going forward in this market.

Unlike many in the industry, I do not see a return of the hard market that we have historically seen. We’re not headed toward massive rate increases or a place where carriers are not willing to write even profitable business. What we are seeing instead are renewals that are, at best, flat or up somewhat. This trend is probably here for the long haul, and the days of the 20% below expiring premiums have come to an end.

With this in mind, it is time to do some house cleaning in order to secure the best terms and conditions (and consequently a higher profit margin). If you have taken your eye off your losses for the past few years, it is almost certain you will find it more difficult to obtain coverage at the best pricing. To create savings, it is important to work now in reviewing and scrubbing past claims from loss activity. Two areas to focus on are Subrogated Claims and Reverses on Open Claims.

Subrogated Claims – These are claims against your insurance that should have been paid by another insurance carrier paying your claim. The most common areas that these occur are in auto and workers’ compensation policies. For example, someone hits one of your vehicles injuring an employee. You have workers’ compensation, so the employee is treated and released. The total cost of the claim to your workers’ comp policy is $3,000. You would assume that the comp carrier would automatically subrogate against the driver of the other vehicle. In a perfect world this is true, but that is not the world we live in. Further, your carrier paid to fix your vehicle, got reimbursed by the other party, but never updated the information in the system and the claim is still showing as a charge against your auto policy.

Reserves on Open Claims: To better manage this factor to your insurance policy, you need to keep in contact with your insurance team. First, when underwriters are looking at loss runs, they put the entire reserve dollar amount into their equation as “paid out”. It doesn’t matter what the scenario is. If there is a reserve, they treat it as a paid amount. Secondly, adjusters typically set the reserve at what they believe to be the maximum amount that could be paid out. After being set, they don’t go back each month to adjust the amount based on new facts. Because of this, some open claims may have reserves on them even though the facts point to no claim at all. Without staying in contact with the claims adjuster, open claims with reserves can stay on loss runs for years.

While we do know that the market is changing, it’s impossible to be certain how much and when. As I stated earlier, I don’t foresee the massive rate increases of the past. But, the downward pressure on premiums has ended. It is time for businesses, their agents and risk advisors to sit down and start planning for the future. Cleaning up loss runs is a great place to start.

L-R: Vince Ryan, Mark Lowry, Ben Pride, April Brooks, Mariann Sears, Judith Jackson, Stan Staszey, Sara Nouri, Lynette Williams and Stewart W. Gagnon help cut the ribbon to open the renovated Harris County Law Library Mar. 5. LMC Corp. was the general contractor for the project. –ab

L-R: Kathy Kilby and Emily Kamp, Toyota Lift of Houston, part of the Doggett Equipment Services Group, have directed the company’s expansion into allied and aerial equipment, rental sales and service since Apr. 2012. –ab

Submitted to Construction News
Making the cut

Submitted to Construction News
Industry veterans
With three of OSHA’s top 10 most frequently cited violations specifically tied to the construction industry—fall protection being one of the most important—it is inescapable that 2013 will be another year in which occupators, safety and health looms large for construction employers. A new (and larger) budget, combined with an increased number of enforcement personnel, make OSHA as fortified as ever to deal with employers who do not pay appropriate attention to workplace safety. It is anticipated that new regulations, many of which have been in the works for years, will apply to the construction industry this year or next year. Heightened enforcement, more citations, and increased penalties are a certainty for OSHA as it goes after employers who are not working safely or who ignore safety standards. From new regulations on crystalline silica to stricter reporting guidelines for injuries and illness, here are a few of the things to watch for from OSHA this year.

Crystalline silica

Regulation of crystalline silica, a substance that is all too common on construction jobites and can be potentially harmful to those who inhale it, is one of the most important rulemaking initiatives by OSHA in recent times. OSHA has proposed lowering the permissible exposure limit (PEL) for crystalline silica, enforce stricter housekeeping requirements associated with exposure to it, and implement medical surveillance obligations. Although this rule has been under review for quite some time, close attention is a must. The Notice of Proposed Rulemaking is currently scheduled for May 2013.

Tighter and more comprehensive reporting and recordkeeping obligations for injury and illness

OSHA is taking a cue from state laws that have provided for injury and illness reporting obligations that will require employers to report workplace amputations within 24 hours of incidence, and in-patient hospitalizations within eight hours. This is a change from current rules that require employers to report in-patient hospitalizations of three or more employees within 24 hours and all other injuries and illnesses resulting in incapacity for work or loss of consciousness. The new rule also includes new obligations for employers to report occupational disease cases and it also applies to newly hired employees. The new rule is expected to be implemented later this year.

Hazard communications

The first round of compliance changes for employers since the revised hazard communication standard was implemented in 2012 is expected to end this year. The updated standard aligns employers with the Globally Harmonized System of Classification and Labeling of Chemicals (GHS). This rule mandates that companies using harmful chemicals must train employees on new hazard classifications, labels, and safety data sheets as encompassed within the revised standard. Employers must complete training employees on the new label elements and the GHS format by December 1, 2013. Further requirements regarding policies and procedures must be implemented in 2016.

Expansion of confined space protection

In addition to new regulations, OSHA began focusing in 2012 on a new area of concern—heat-related injury and illness in the workplace. This initiative may have a significant impact on construction employers, especially those working in warmer climates. To increase awareness in this area, OSHA created a new internet site, www.osha.gov/SLTC/heatillness, which is intended to educate workers about the risk of working in high-temperature environments. While OSHA has not yet issued specific regulations on this topic, of concern here is that it may consider using the OSHA Act’s General Duty Clause as the basis for citing employers who expose workers to heat-related stress without taking reasonable steps to prevent it. The OSHA site also provides guidance on the actions employers can take to protect their employees. In July 2012, OSHA issued a final rule to require employers to develop an effective heat stress plan that includes elements such as monitoring work areas, training employees and employers, and providing personal protective equipment and emergency response planning.

Expansion of confined space protection

In order to conform the construction industry to standards that apply to general industry environments, OSHA is evaluating the need for formal confined space protection at construction workplaces. This rule to be finalized soon.

With the presidential race behind us and President Obama solidly at our government’s helm for another term, new and stricter workplace safety initiatives and regulations—many of which have been on hold—are now back in play. Make no mistake about it, employers can expect the Occupational Safety and Health Administration (OSHA) to continue pushing implementation of various regulatory initiatives that will significantly impact how employers do business.
Fishing action improves for Spring
by Capt. Steve Schultz

Sponsored by:
Premier Yamaha Boating Center,
Majek Boats, E-Z Bel Construction,
Power Pole Shallow Water Anchor, Interstate Batteries,
Pure Fishing, Mirr-O-Lure and Columbia Sportswear

Well, after a brief vacation during spring break I’m ready to get back to the grind. I typically don’t vacation during spring break but I couldn’t pass up the opportunity to spend a few days in Las Vegas with my wife and friends. Although there are lots of sights to see and plenty of things to do in Vegas, I’m glad to be home and really looking forward to getting back behind the helm of my Majek Xtreme.

The month of April is here and it’s one of my most favorite months to be on the water. Hopefully, the strong winds that we are accustomed to in March will give us a few windows in early April on getting some trophy trout.

While winter fishing generally yields heavier fish, spring is the time where you can catch more numbers of those same fish. The fishing is usually a lot faster pace also. Typically, during winter months fishing is done with a slow retrieve using a soft plastic or a sub-surface, slow sinking lure to give lethargic fish plenty of time to attack the prey. However, when spring rolls around, fish become quite a bit more active. This gives anglers a wider variety of lure choices to use as these fish are much more aggressive.

With spring conditions upon us and the coldest of weather and water temperatures on the decline, we can look forward to some great fishing along the shorelines of the Laguna Madre. Shrimp have already started to show up at the local marinas from the northern bay systems. By the time you read this article they will be well on the way south of the JFK Causeway along the King Ranch shoreline. Using these little guys under an Alameda Rattling cork can produce some constant action when drifting over grass beds with scattered potholes. If you’re opposed to using live bait, a soft plastic tied 18” behind a mauler can be just as effective. Gambler lures makes a 4-inch flapp-n-shad that has become one of my favorite choices when choosing this method. Colors can vary depending on water clarity, but pumpkin seed/chartreuse and plum/chartreuse can always be relied upon.

Spring is also a sign of the annual drum run through the coastal bend. Black drum make their way from the south through the landcut and from the north through Corpus Christi Bay and the ICW on the way to Baffin. These cousins of the redfish family are not the most photogenic species of fish in our bay system, but certainly one of the best eating this writer can recommend. With live shrimp on a bottom rig or a pound or so of fresh dead shrimp, one can sometimes make short work of a limit. These black drum can sometimes save the day for non-experienced anglers like women and kids just wanting a tug on the end of their line.

Capt. Steve Schultz caught this 29-inch Speck while fishing south of Baffin Bay. Fish was caught on a plum/chartreuse saltwater assassin and was released after photo. Photo by Steve Schultz Outdoors.

For the remainder of April, I will be keying on Trophy Trout fishing in Baffin Bay. Water temperatures already reaching the upper 60s and getting close to that magical 70-degree mark will make fishing explode in the coming weeks. Don’t miss the boat… Call now to get that fishing get-a-way you’ve been waiting for.

Now booking 2013 season. I can be reached by phone at (361) 813-3716 or by e-mail at SteveSchultzOutdoors@gmail.com. Good luck and good fishing.
Ken Milam’s Fishing Line
Sponsored by Tropical Marine and Honda Marine

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.

Wow! That was some Spring Break!

We all know how Mother Nature seems to have something against Spring Break. How many times have we just really needed to get the family out and about for a few days, only to have it turn cold and windy, or stormy and just downright nasty? Not this year!

For the first time in years, we had good stable weather in place all week long and the fishing action stayed pretty consistent. It seemed like even the fish were ready to get out and stir things up, so we saw lots of good stringers and happy fishermen coming back to the dock.

The reports I’m getting from all around the state are pretty much the same. In addition to our stripers and hybrids here on Lake Buchanan, our crappie and catfish are already biting good also. According to all the Texas Parks and Wildlife press releases, the ShareLunker program for largemouth bass is in full swing. A bass has to be at least 13 pounds to be a ShareLunker, and at this writing there have already been nine of them, from lakes all over the state.

It is a fact that a lot of our lakes and rivers are still awfully low due to the drought. I just always see that as an advantage for the fishermen. The fish have less water to hide in! You might have to learn some new fishing holes and techniques, but that’s good too. The biggest mistake I see fishermen make is to get set in their ways. Just because something worked for you one day and you caught a bunch of fish doesn’t mean it will keep working from now on. Fish are always swimming, moving and reacting to water conditions – always in motion. A good fisherman understands this and follows suit.

If you are just getting your boat and motor ready to head out, you need to pay close attention to your fuel system. If you ended up with some fuel still in your system when you put it up for the winter and hadn’t been using a fuel stabilizer, you will likely be having trouble. The ethanol in today’s fuel has a nasty habit of turning to a jelly-like sludge that will gum up carburetors and fuel lines. Just do yourself a favor and take it to your marine mechanic and get it cleaned out and start using a good fuel stabilizer at each fill up. That way you don’t lose any fishing days messing with a motor that just won’t go!

Of course, if you just don’t want the hassle, you can always book a trip with a local guide. It’s just like charter fishing at the coast, except that it will cost you a lot less and only takes a few hours. You get on the water to fish without the headache of messing with the boat.

If you haven’t already hit the water this year, you better get to it! Dust off your rod and reel, wind up some new line and come on. You don’t want to miss this!

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Submit to Construction News
Par for the course

Close to 200 golfers met at the Kingwood Country Club for the Associated Builders & Contractors Houston Chapter (ABC) Spring Golf Tournament Mar. 11. -ab
Dry conditions could affect turkey hunts

The weather has continued to be unpredictable, and drought continues to be a problem in many parts of Texas, wreaking havoc on lawns and gardens. But who cares about the grass? What does that mean for this month’s turkey hunts?

Texas Parks and Wildlife Department officials say it’s likely going to mean a dearth of young birds for outdoorsmen. Turkey hunters can focus their attention on coaxing old boss toms during the upcoming spring season, with relatively few gullible two-year-old birds available, but will also have to contend with curious jakes, TPWD biologists say.

“We had phenomenal production in 2010, which means there should be good hunting opportunities this spring for big old gobblers,” said Jason Hardin, turkey program coordinator for TPWD. “Going into last year many of these hens put forth tremendous nesting effort following a mild winter and late winter-early spring rains,” he added. “This led to average to above average production so there will also be a large number of jakes on the landscape this spring.

“The drought of 2011 wreaked havoc on wild turkey production,” Hardin continued. “There was almost zero nesting effort and the handful of hens attempting a nest were almost all unsuccessful. This will be obvious this spring with almost no two-year-old gobblers across Texas’ Rio Grande turkey range.”

Rio Grande spring turkey hunting season in the 54-county South Zone runs March 16-April 28. In the 101 counties comprising the North Zone, the season opened March 30 and runs through May 12. A special one-gobbler limit season opens April 1 and continues through April 30 in Bastrop, Caldwell, Colorado, Fayette, Jackson, Lavaca, Lee and Milam counties.

Eastern spring turkey hunting in the 28 counties having an open season runs April 15-May 14. According to Hardin, the Eastern turkey population remains stable, but is not expanding to the degree that biologists have hoped.

“Easterns across most of Texas have not shown much growth outside of a few areas stocked in 2007-2008,” he said. “Those stocked sites were part of a research project examining a new stocking strategy known as super stocking.”

This method calls for flooding the best available habitat with 80 turkeys (60 females and 20 males). The old stocking method only placed 15-20 birds per site. Following the positive results of this “super stocking” research, TPWD is now looking for large, high quality sites to be evaluated as potential future releases sites. These sites can be single ownership or a cooperative on private or public lands.

Hunters are reminded all harvested Eastern turkeys must be taken to a check station within 24 hours. To find the check station nearest you, contact a TPWD field office or call 800-792-1112. –ms

Burdts Construction Inc. and Burts Ranch recently welcomed seven wounded warriors from Walter Reed National Military Medical Center Bethesda, MD and Brooke Army Medical Center San Antonio, TX. This was the fourth year for the Patriots and Heroes Outdoors deer hunt.

“With several tough years of drought, the management team at the ranch put together a program that would be fun, exciting and beneficial to the warriors and ranch,” Kyle Burts, Burts Construction and Burts Ranch owner.

“Axon arrival each hunter was given a Savage .270 caliber rifle with a 3x9 Nikon scope, 10x42 Monarch binoculars, Plano gun guard case, plenty of ammo for several hunts plus a host of other gifts.

“Deer movement was good even with temperatures above average. A lot good young deer and promising bucks were videoed and then after dinner each night the team at Burts Ranch explained the deer in the videos and about their management program. All the hunters harvested deer and a couple of the warriors hunted javelinas.

“There was lots of camaraderie, wonderful meals and talk with the warriors about their time they served. As usual it was an emotional time saying goodbye to some of our nation’s finest. Plans for the 5th annual event are already in progress!” –ab

Into the great wide open
What did you want to be when you grew up?

I wanted to be a carpenter when I was younger. I started working with a friend of mine in the carpentry business in Houston and found out right away I liked it. It was easy at first because all I had to learn was how to hold the saw. I was a carpenter’s helper in the very beginning. Next, I began working in the siding business.

Jesse Valdez, Victor’s Exteriors and Remodeling

I had the opportunity to grow up in the electrical contracting business and learn the trade at an early age. I wanted to be an electrician. I remember helping out at the shop and also going to the job sites with my dad as a kid. I took the business over more than five years ago.

William Ellis, Ellis Electric

I wanted to be a painter when I was still in high school.

Daniel Everett, Everett Painting & Drywall Repair

I loved music when I was a kid. I still get nostalgic for playing the guitar when I hear Iron Maiden or any ‘80s heavy metal band playing on the radio. I decided to become an electrician instead. My grandfather was an electrician in Michigan. I thought I would follow in his footsteps.

Alan Grill, Parmley Services

I wanted to do construction work at an early age. It always interested me as a kid. I narrowed it down and ultimately chose to become an electrician.

Luis Suchil, Luis Electric

Owning a company is something I knew I wanted to do early on. I started thinking about it when I was 18 or 19.

Kyle Sunday, Sun Surveying LLC

As a kid, I wanted a job where I could be outside all day. I became an air conditioning and heating technician. I regularly get out to the commercial jobs in the Houston area.

James Green, G & H Air Conditioning & Heating

I wanted to be a fisherman when I was a kid. I caught my first 100 lb. tuna when I was 6. My dad always took me fishing when I was a little guy. I still have a picture of me as a toddler sitting on the bow of his boat. Nowadays, I like to go offshore fishing at the Texas coast. I love it!

Steven Meyer, Elle & Service Co.

I wanted to be a coalition contractor as a kid.

Juan Hernandez, C & E Stone Supply

I knew I’d be a plumber when I was growing up. My grandfather was a plumbing superintendent for the Astrodome project back in the ’60s. My grandfather, dad and uncle were in the industry too.

Jeffery Fain, Cougar Co.

At first I wanted to be a musician. I picked up the guitar for the first time when I was 13. I have been in love with music ever since. I grew up on old school rock and roll. I eventually decided I wanted to be involved in making roofs more energy efficient.

Billy Sexton, Heat Shield Solutions
With economy on rise, workers of both genders needed

DeDe Hughes, Executive Vice President  
National Association of Women in Construction  
Fort Worth, TX

If you ask DeDe Hughes, the construction industry is on its way back following a few tough years that have occurred as a result of the recession. The organization she oversees has blazed trails for women involved in construction. Since joining in 1996, she’s blazed trails for women involved in construction management. Her work has been instrumental in the growth of women in the industry—especially on the job sites. Now, companies have directives about treatment of others, especially women, on the job sites. If you get caught making catcalls, you will be fined. It’s still a problem in some places but nothing like it used to be.

Contract management, engineering and architecture include more women in the south than other construction fields. I think colleges have more women involved in their programs. The young men are just used to the women being there now. It’s just not an issue for them.

But we need to train more women out at the job site because there is super good money to be made.

Are there any problems or challenges that you see, as executive director of NAWIC, that affect women today? The biggest problem affects our entire industry, not just women. We need to get more women aware that construction is a good industry to work in, and get them properly trained. The market is turning around, jobs are starting to be available, and a lot of people who were previously in the construction industry and lost their jobs have gone on to work in other fields.

Wow, Why did this happen? There wasn’t any work in the construction industry, so a lot of them just had to go somewhere else and do something else.

What sort of measures is NAWIC taking to reach out to construction professionals and those who may be considering the field? I think we’re taking an active role. We do a lot of career days and trade shows to try to educate people about the industry. You might see a woman in a construction company’s booth at an event, and you might go talk to them about what kind of construction do you and find out what they’re about. Our chapters do a lot of outreach.

How about Women in Construction Week? That seems to be a major event. It is! All of the chapters in Texas participated. I think they did something each day during the week. It’s big as an outreach week because all of our chapters are doing something within their communities to support women in construction and NAWIC as a whole.

Tell me a little bit about how NAWIC has developed over the years. In the 1950s, the women who were involved in the construction industries ran the offices. So in 1953, they formed Women in Construction in Fort Worth. It was a Fort Worth entity at the time. They wanted to get to know each other. Different cities in Texas started forming their own chapters, and in 1955 they started the national organization. It was mainly a group for socializing back then. We started having dinner meetings. Do we socialize? Sure! It’s fun, and everyone’s a volunteer, and why wouldn’t you have fun? But that is not our core purpose anymore. Our purpose is to enhance the success of women in the construction industry.

Now, you have women of all ages working in all facets of construction.

So, your final thoughts as we wrap this up? NAWIC and the construction industry are coming back, and as it continues to come back, you’ll see more women in the industry. We’re talking to colleges and finding out there are more and more people participating in our construction management programs, so that’s a really good thing.

Project managing motherhood

Erin Stansell, Project Manager  
Clark Construction  
San Antonio, TX

On Jan. 6, 2012, Erin Stansell gave birth to her daughter, Shelby, only 10 weeks later, she went back to work full-time at Clark Construction.

“It’s a lot of work, and it is a little bit of a struggle to balance it all,” Stansell says of being a new mom in the construction industry.

At the time, Stansell, a project manager, was trying to wrap up a project they were doing at the San Antonio Military Medical Center (SAMMC). She feels fortunate that the timing worked out so that her project was in a transition period when she was put on bed rest.

Though she took 10 weeks of maternity leave after her daughter was born, she allowed herself to ease the shift back into work mode.

“They were allowing me to work. They allowed me to take care of my baby.”

She adds, “The bonding time was good. I would have loved to have taken the full 12 weeks, but I kind of needed to get back to get some stuff done.”

While on bed rest before and during leave after Shelby was born, Stansell made provisions to manage some things from home, including checking her email and helping to resolve issues with which she was familiar.

“I think that was the biggest struggle with being gone—on the job, each of us has a history of dealing with certain problems or certain decisions that are made, and when you’re not there, people don’t have anything to go by,” she notes.

Once she returned to work, it took a couple weeks for her to get back into the swing of things, because she had to learn the history of what had happened in her absence. Physically, she felt fine by time she went back to work, but mentally adjusting the balance of everything was a challenge.

“A little over a year later, Stansell says that in the transition process, new mothers should expect their days to change: ‘Right after I had Shelby, I went to a PM conference in Nashville. Clark has a lot of women in project management roles, and so they have a dinner for them to talk about stuff, and my question to some of the moms was ‘How do you do it?’ ”

“I think the biggest thing I heard over and over again was ‘learning to structure your day so there’s no wasted time.’ I can eat at the water cooler and talk about the sports game last night and I can’t go to lunch for an hour, because I need that time to work to get stuff done, so that I can go home at a decent hour and take care of my baby.”

Rearranging her schedule includes taking her computer home at night when necessary, spending time with her daughter, and after putting Shelby to sleep, sending out the occasional email.

A little over a year later, Stansell says the balance between work and home is great, and it took about three months to hit a good groove and figure out child-care, managing her schedule with her husband. Finding that rhythm quickly was particularly important for a career woman on the rise.

“When I came back, my responsibilities also increased, because I’m working my way up to senior project manager, and so I’m gaining more responsibility, and it’s going good now,” she explains. “I think the biggest thing that I have is a lot of respect from my boss and co-workers to give me the time to bond with Shelby, and my question to some of the moms was ‘How do you do it?’ ”

“I think the biggest thing I heard over and over again was ‘learning to structure your day so there’s no wasted time.’ I can eat at the water cooler and talk about the sports game last night and I can’t go to lunch for an hour, because I need that time to work to get stuff done, so that I can go home at a decent hour and take care of my baby.”

Having 14 months of experience, Stansell can now offer advice to new or soon-to-be mothers in construction and the workforce.

“You can have a plan, but you have to be ready—and I think that anybody who has kids can say this too—for your plans to be totally changed on you,” she advises. “Because I thought I’d have this perfect pregnancy, and I ended up having to go to the doctor more often, and so, you have to have the support of your company and your work. And then, coming back, how is my kid going to be taken care of? When I went to register for day care, I didn’t realize that there was going to be this long waitlist for little ones.

“So, just ask questions and try to plan, but understand that things aren’t necessarily going to go the way you think. Some things do, but be flexible.”

NEXT MONTH

May 2013

Concrete Industry

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The 2013 Annual Associated General Contractors (AGC) Houston Fair and Barbecue Cook-off drew local contractors to the Sam Houston Race Park West Lot Mar. 23. Folks enjoyed meeting with friends and tasting Texas barbecue. In addition, kids played in the Kid’s Zone, participating in activities such as a bungee run, face painting, jumping on moonwalks and taking a ride on the kiddie train. –ab

Manager Jimmy Whitley oversees operations at the PPG Industries Inc. Spring, TX location. The company is a paint supplier. –ab

The recent Block Kids Building Program held at Schultz Elementary in Tomball, TX was a success. The National Association of Women in Construction Houston Chapter (NAWIC) held the event. Becky Manzel, (R) Energy Waterproofing & Roofing Systems – ab

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Making the grade

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Construction News ON LOCATION
Splash of paint

Construction News ON LOCATION
Fast on the job

L-R: Brad Jones, Shelley Dwyer, Lindsey Roig and Will Emerson rent, sell and repair tools at Mainland Tool in Texas City, TX. – ab
ShW Group has announced expanded leadership roles and new titles for four members of its leadership team.

Mark Lam, PhD, LEED AP, has been named director of research and implementation. Lam has been with SHW Group for 26 years, and most recently served as K2 practice director. Lam will lead 15 teams in the research and implementation of proven strategies across the practice, bringing more effective and tailored solutions to each project.

Tom Obrier, AIA, LEED AP, has been named K2 practice director for the southern region. In his new role, he will provide strategic leadership and direction for the firm’s K2 practice in the southern region.

Bob Rayes, AIA, NCARB, will serve alongside George Houharsian as co-director of operations. Rayes, who has been with SHW Group for 6 years, takes on the new position in addition to his role as chief information officer. He will be responsible for product delivery, ensuring that firm-wide performance goals are met, and coordinating staff resources across the region and the firm.

Kyle Bacon, AIA, has been named chief administrative officer. Obrier has joined SHW Group in 1986 as an architect apprentice and quickly advanced in the firm. In addition to his role as chairman of the board, Obrier will lead the areas of risk management and firm-wide administration, including all partner matters, policy oversight and adherence.

Ronald Brunner, AIA, has joined the JE Dunn Construction Houston office. He is the new quality manager for the South Central region. Brunner has worked in the construction industry over 25 years. He comes to Houston from Little Rock, AR. As a registered architect, Brunner has worked with a large general contracting firm and architectural firms based in Little Rock.

Robert A. Bedrich is named vice president of construction management at Ca- dence McShane Construction Co. Houston office. Bedrich is a 24-year industry veteran with experience in managing projects including higher education, healthcare, office, multi-family, retail and mixed-use sectors. Previously, he served as an operations manager for Skanska USA Building. His new responsibilities include the comprehensive management and improvement of construction, design/build and construction management operations throughout the Houston area. Bedrich earned a B.S. in Building Construction from Texas A&M University.

Christopher Talley, CGCM, is regional vice president for Struc- ture Tone Southwest. Houston office. Talley has full tech- nical, administrative, financial, and leadership responsibilities in the region encompassing the southeast Gulf area of Texas. He has more than 25 years of experience. His major project experience includes both renovation and new construction projects including corporate office, energy, healthcare, higher education, mission critical and federal government facilities. Talley comes to Structure Tone from Jacobs where he served as regional manager. He received his B.S. in Building Construction from Texas A&M.

McCarthy Building Co. has promoted Ben Joh- nanneman to vice president of opera- tions for its Houston office. Joh- nanneman has worked with Mc-Carthy for nearly 13 years. He was an operations project director in seven years and was one of the youngest project directors in the company. He specializes in healthcare construction and has worked on several high-profile projects in Houston.

Fred Buser

Kazmann says the best part about what he does today is working with the people in the construction industry. “There is a lot of good people in the industry, whether it’s contractors or en- gineers,” he said. “I think there are a lot of hard working people in the industry who enjoy being outside building projects.

SHW Group has a crane at the Lockes Solutions facility.

“Looking ahead, we are focused on building our reputation in the Houston area. In the next five years, I’ll love to have another facility or two in North Tex- as or Louisiana.”

Locke Solutions manufactures precast concrete utility structures including electric- telecommunication pull boxes, hand- holes, and manholes, industrial sumps, valve pits, foundations, slabs. –ab

Continued from Page 1 — Top of the glass

down economy.

“We are in a fortunate place in the country,” he said. “It looks like 2013 is go- ing to be a good year. I think we are in business for four decades you have to like what you are doing. If you don’t like what you are doing, you’d better find something else to do.”

Ramirez says his daughter, Rachel, works at the front counter at the original shop.

“I didn’t ask Rachel to work at the company. She was the only one I knew wanted to stay in business for four decades. We found out that is what she wanted to do. She loves it! She has really put new energy into the company. She has been known to some of me to know—me, when I was younger with more energy.”

“Every year now and then, Rachel will go out and do special jobs with me or one of the installers. She mainly handles customer service though.”

Lone Star Glass has parties a few times a year—usually around Thanksgiv- ing, Christmas, or on the spring.

“We will have a crawfish boil or a fish fry,” he said. “When I have free time, I like to go fishing at Matagorda Bay.”

“I am also a runner, so occasionally I will participate in a fun run event or a half marathon. I am running in a fun run event this spring in Danevang, TX, which is outside of El Campo, TX.”

“My future plans are to work hard for the next 10 years and then retire. I look forward to spending more time with my family.”

Lone Star Glass provides commercial, residential and auto glass services. –ab

Continued from Page 1 — Learning curve

Founded in 1981 by David Rowe and Steve Percival, Durotech is based out of Houston and has ninety employees. The company has experience with new construction and renovation/additions on active campuses where adjacent fa- cilities are occupied.

“We focus on educational work with approximately 90 percent of our work being CM at Risk in the educational sec- tor,” Scott said. “In addition, we have worked on religious, medical, retail, office and warehouse facilities.” –ab

Project Team: Owner: Katy ISD Architect: SHW Group

Round-Up

FM 529 and Barker Cypress Road in early or mid July.

“The expansion is very exciting, es- pecially for us to go into our own offices,” he said. “With our new 20,000 sf facility, we will have the capabilities to maintain the necessary inventory for ma- chining, shearing, cutting, bonding, and welding metal.

Our delivery service (sister company) J&R Deliveries LLC will also be at the location. The manager is Alfredo Perez.”

King says when the folks at JK Weld-

“It is in the process of get-

ting built out right now.”

Kazmann says the best part about what he does today is working with the people in the construction industry. “There is a lot of good people in the industry, whether it’s contractors or en- gineers,” he said. “I think there are a lot of hard working people in the industry who enjoy being outside building projects.

Continued from Page 1 — Expansion mode

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Locke Solutions manufactures precast concrete utility structures including electric- telecommunication pull boxes, hand-

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Continued from Page 1 — Top of the glass

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Project Team: Owner: Katy ISD Architect: SHW Group

Round-Up

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: South Texas: Spteditor@constructionnews.net San Antonio: saeditor@constructionnews.net Houston: houstoneditor@constructionnews.net Austin: austeditor@constructionnews.net Dallas/Ft. Worth: dfweditor@constructionnews.net
Taking care of business

Mycol Wisenbaker is an athletic director for the Galveston Riptides on the side.

Texas City, TX-based Mycol’s Carpet & Flooring used to have two locations. The location in Galveston was destroyed during Hurricane Ike in 2008. “We consolidated everything over to our Texas City location,” said Mycol Wisenbaker, owner.

According to Wisenbaker, the company has operated for 26 years. He says it takes lots of perseverance and hard work to stay in business for more than two decades. “Over the years, it has been mostly cacies. To stay in business for more than two decades, it takes lots of perseverance and hard work.”

The company has operated for 26 years. He says it takes lots of perseverance and hard work to stay in business for more than two decades. “Over the years, it has been mostly cacies. To stay in business for more than two decades, it takes lots of perseverance and hard work.”

The last time I went to a game, it was the last year Texas Stadium was still standing. “In the future, I plan to start to look ing for another building in the area. We will need more warehouse space soon. “We are going to keep working hard and try to survive in this economy we are in right now.”

Mycol’s Carpet & Flooring provides commercial and residential flooring. –ab

ABC

Associated Painters & Contractors
Apr. 3: Newest LinkedIn Developments to Help You Build Your Business
Apr. 5: Win-Win Negotiations
Apr. 6: Corr. Community event
Apr. 17: Lien and Bond Claim Basics
Apr. 18: Spring Clay Shoot Tournament
Apr. 19: Membership Breakfast with Tex an’s Jamey Rootes
Apr. 25: Geotechnical Considerations Seminar
For more information call 713-523-6222

AGC

Associated General Contractors
Apr. 1-10: Introduction to Construction Plans & Documents
Apr. 2-5: OSHA 510 OSHA Guide to In dustrial Hygiene
Apr. 4: 1st Thursday Mixer
Apr. 8: OSHA 501 Update for the Con struction Industry Outreach Trainers
Apr. 9: BIM Unit 4: Process, Adoption and Integration
Apr. 11: SH 920 Process Safety Manage ment introduction
Apr. 10-12: OSHA 502 Update for Gen eral Industry Outreach Trainers
Apr. 16-18: ETI 201 Fundamentals of the Clean Air Act
Apr. 17: Project Manager Development Program Module 1: Estimating and Job Costing
Apr. 19: Texas Sales and Use Taxes for Contractors
Apr. 23-26: OSHA 501 Trainer Course for General Industry
Apr. 23: Lean Unit 3: Workstructuring
Apr. 24: Certificate of Management – BIM Credentialing Exam
Apr. 29: AGC/AIA Golf Tournament
For more information call 713-463-3700

AIA

American Institute of Architects
Apr. 4: Harry Seidler: Architecture, Art & Collaborative Design
Apr. 5: Special Curatorial Presentation
Apr. 6: RDM Home Tour and Rice Universi ty Walking Tour
Apr. 10: Historic Resources Committee meeting
Apr. 11: Full Day CE Opportunity
Apr. 13: Museum District Walking Tour & AIA Gala
Apr. 17: Texas Accessibility Standards
Apr. 20: Buffalo Bayou Walking Tour
Apr. 24: Lobby Urbanism
Apr. 26: How Architecture Works
Apr. 27: Tower & Trees Downtown Walk ing Tour
Apr. 29: 18th Annual AGC/AIA Golf Tour nament
For more information call 713-520-0155

ASA

American Subcontractors Association
Apr. 3: Membership Committee meeting, 9am; Schmooze & Mingle, 4pm
Apr. 10: Board of Directors meeting, 9am, Marek Brothers Systems; Government Advocacy Committee meeting, 10:30am, Marek Brothers Systems
Apr. 18: BPI Session, 11am
Apr. 18: General Lunch meeting, 11:30am
Apr. 23: Safety Committee meeting, 10am, T.A.S. Commercial Concrete, 19319 Oil Center Blvd.; Marketing to GC’s Com mittee meeting, 1pm, Marek Brothers Systems
Apr. 30: Lien & Bond Claim Seminar, 9am, Andrews Myers PC
For more information call 281-679-1877

FPA

Foundation Performance Assns.
Apr. 18: Presentation, 9pm, Forensic Evaluation of Condition Assessment of Geostructures using Non-Destructive Testing; Speaker: Dr. Sahadat Hossain, The University of Texas at Arlington For info: www.foundationperformance.org

HAGA

Houston Area Glass Assn.
Apr. 4: Golf Tournament, noon Check In, 1:30pm Shotgun Start, Houston National Golf Course
Apr. 11: Quarterly Dinner meeting, 6:15pm Check In/Networking with Cash Bar, 7pm Dinner; Speaker: Tremco, Crowne Plaza Houston Northwest For more information call 281-290-0190

IEC

Independent Electrical Contractors
Apr. 6: Electrical License Renewal Class, 9am
Apr. 8: Electrical License Renewal Class, 6pm-10pm
Apr. 10: Electrical License Renewal Class, 9am-2pm
Apr. 24: Electrical License Renewal Class, 6pm-10pm
For more information call 713-869-1876

MCA

Mechanical Contractors Association
Apr. 10: Membership meeting, 11:45am; The HESS Club, 5430 Westheimer
Apr. 12: Shotgun Invitational, Greater Houston Gun Club
Apr. 14-16: Southwest Pipe Trades Labor Management meeting, Sandra Resort, Albuquerque, NM For more information call 281-440-4380

NECA

National Electrical Contractor Assn.
Apr. 2: Electric Medical Trust meeting, 10am
Apr. 4: CoSab Division meeting, 11:30am, Pappadeaux Seafood
Apr. 9: Houston JATC meeting
Apr. 14-17: NECA Now! Executive Con vention, Phoenix, AZ
Apr. 22: Houston NECA Affiliate Golf Tournament, 10:30am Registration, noon Shotgun Start, Heartshorn Country Club
Apr. 23: Houston Division meeting, 11:30am, Denis’ Seafood House
Apr. 24-25: SWHBF meeting, Dallas, TX For more information call 713-977-2923

NAWIC

National Assn. of Women in Construction
Apr. 9: Monthly meeting, 5:30pm, The HESS Club, 5430 Westheimer, Cost $35, Reservations required, guests welcome, please RSVP For more info: www.NAWIC-Houston.org

PHCC

Plumbing-Heating-Cooling Contractors
Apr. 10: Member Lunch, 11:30am-1pm, Saltgrass Steakhouse (1-10 and Sheep herd) For more info: www.gulfcoastphcc.org

WCA

Women Contractors Association
Apr. 4: Monthly Luncheon, 11:30am, The Briar Club For info: www.womencontractors.org
The Marriott Las Colinas in Irving was the place to be on Friday, Mar. 1, when Morrison Supply Company and Comfortmaker Air Conditioning & Heating hosted its annual dealer meeting and casino night.

The event included an expo with tables set up by various vendors, a presentation by ICP Comfortmaker, a presentation by LG, and of course, following the serious stuff, casino games and prizes. About 500 people attended the event.

This year’s event also included armadillo races, which seemed to be a huge hit with the crowd, which included Morrison employees and customers from all over Texas and Oklahoma. –ms

Gentlemen, start your armadillos.

L-R: Morrison employees and customers from around the state gathered for a photo, including Jason Baganz, Scott Mangum, CJ Hooper, and Jason Greagrey.

On the right: Jay Martinez of Conroe visits with a customer.

One fine day

Employees Jeremy Losack, Dee Thompson, Al Deshotel and Dong (Derek) Truong have a great day at NCI Building Systems, a metal building manufacturer. –ab

Built to last

The TDIndustries staff gathers at the Houston location. The company is a mechanical construction and facility service company. –ab
Growing and growing

Just like the hardworking professionals who keep the construction industry moving forward, Construction News has continued to pick up steam in 2013. The latest news here? We’ve added eight counties to our distribution list in South Texas, bringing the total number of counties in that coverage area to 24. Think about that…24 counties. There are states in our country that are smaller than that! The counties added include many in the booming Eagle Ford Shale oil play. Added for April were Atascosa, Bee, DeWitt, Frio, Karnes, La Salle, Live Oak and McMullen counties. The milestone is one of three reached by Construction News in 2013. In January, South Texas Construction News made its debut with a 12-page issue. In February, the South Texas edition expanded to 16 pages. And now, eight more counties. Construction News’ coverage areas include Dallas/Fort Worth, Houston, Austin, San Antonio and South Texas. The paper began in 1998, when the first edition of San Antonio Construction News was printed. –ms

Discover, learn, explore

More than 400 students from around the Greater Houston area learned more about the construction industry at the Construction Expo at the Pasadena Convention Center. The Associated Builders and Contractors of Greater Houston Chapter (ABC) and the Construction and Maintenance Education Foundation (CMEF) hosted the event. –ab

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