Winston Wheeler believes his great-grandfather was tired of traveling and started his own roofing company. When the war ended, he returned to Corpus Christi.

"My grandfather left school in the 6th grade, and by time he was 14 or 15, great-grandpa put him on a train to go do a plumbing job on a bank down in McAllen or somewhere down in the Valley," he recounts. "Just put him on the train and said, 'Go run the job.' Then, he sold out to my grandfather in 1930.

"Grandfather" Geoffrey also became the city plumbing inspector at the same time. When the war ended, he returned to Corpus Christi.

"We've been doing a lot of residential lately with the hail storms," says Lee-Omana. "It's been keeping us really busy. We have more work for this time of year than we have in a long time. Roofs that we had been doing maintenance on now, we're re-roofing the Firestone on Everhart, and we are in the process of re-roofing all of the Christy Estates.

"We have more work for this time of year than we have in a long time. Roofs that we had been doing maintenance on need re-roofing, and they just kind of hit us all at once."
Only you can prevent jobsite fires! Not to mention all other fires. That's why A-1 Fire & Safety does fire extinguisher training, safety equipment, hydrostatic testing, and other fire safety sales and services.

"We do a lot of fire extinguisher training," says Jerry Williams, owner and founder. "We have a mobile trailer that goes around. Onsite, we'll have a little fire in there, and we teach people how to use fire extinguishers hands on. They actually get to put out a fire with the fire extinguishers.

Williams points out that it's an OSHA requirement, and contractors use A-1's mobile trailer with staged fire to fulfill that requirement on jobsites. "Everything's ready to go, and we don't leave a big mess behind," he says, noting that construction companies are big customers at A-1.

"We do all our own servicing," he adds. "We do everything onsite. None of our stuff gets sent to Houston, Dallas, Colorado or wherever to be serviced." A-1 does paint spray booths as well as special hazard systems, including industrial and restaurant fire suppression systems. Restaurants are another big customer.

Though Williams attended Texas A&M University, he never finished college. One summer, he needed a job and came back to work for a man in the fire extinguisher business. When the summer was over, the business folded, leaving Williams with no money to return to school.

"At that time, the licensing wasn’t as strict, so I just went out and started selling fire extinguishers," he recalls.

Today, he has about 20 employees, and three generations of Williams’ family work at A-1, including his father and son, and he guesses that one day they’ll bring his grandson into the business, too. In addition to sharing in the fire safety work, Williams’ family shares a love of hunting and ranching. –mp

The A-1 Fire & Safety team to the rescue!

Burning down the house

Construction News stopped in to see the folks at Nueces Power Equipment’s main facility in Corpus Christi. Les Roads, left, and service manager Rex Reynolds were kind enough to pose. –bd

Construction News ON LOCATION
Take a break

Construction News ON LOCATION
Tooling around

Sheinberg Tool Company in Corpus Christi let us take a quick shot of some of the staff and owner on a very busy day at their location.

L-R: Mac, David, Andrew Sheinberg and Mike. –bd

Tooling around

Happy Thanksgiving one and all

We want your blood!

Not really!

But we do want your pumpkin and Halloween costume photos for our annual Halloween issue!

Share your photos with our readers. Send them to us by Nov. 15:
STeditor@constructionnews.net or call our home office:
210-308-5800

We want your blood!

Not really!

But we do want your pumpkin and Halloween costume photos for our annual Halloween issue!

Share your photos with our readers. Send them to us by Nov. 15:
STeditor@constructionnews.net or call our home office:
210-308-5800

We want your blood!
The Roofing Contractors Association of Texas (RCAT) held its 38th Annual Conference & Trade Show Sep. 25-27 at the JW Marriott Hill Country Resort in San Antonio.

The three-day itinerary included a golf tournament, bowling tournament, an awards luncheon and annual business meeting, and several educational programs.

Of course, the hub of the convention was the trade show with exhibits representing roofing contractors, suppliers, and manufacturers from all over the state. –mp

RCAT on a hot tin roof

Foundation of Excellence Award Winners

Carol Hood, Spec Roofing Supply
Jerry Allen, Johnson Roofing
Sherri accepted for Burl Hill, Johnson Roofing
Felix Quezada, employed by Sechrist Hall Company for 63 years

SPEC Roofing Materials and Garlock
Siplast
Polyglass

ESC Consultants
Equipment Depot
ABC Supply Co.

An honor for one of their own

On Sep. 25, 2013, the Rio Grande Valley Chapter - Associated General Contractors of America (AGC) recognized long-time member, Terry Ray, Terry Ray Construction Company, of Brownsville, during a dinner event at the Harlingen Country Club.

A group of AGC general contractors who served with Terry Ray at the local level gathered to pay tribute to Ray and to participate in the presentation of an AGC Life Director plaque.

Having joined the Rio Grande Valley Chapter in 1984, Ray first served as president of the RGV Chapter in 1994, followed again by serving as president in 2010. During the interim, Terry served as the RGV Chapter’s State Director on the board of the AGC Texas Building Branch, which then led to his service as AGC-TBB State President in 1999.

In 2001 Terry was selected to serve as one of AGC of America’s Elected National Directors for the State of Texas and served at this position for four terms ending in 2012. –bd

South Texas Construction News

The South Texas Construction News (ISSN 0327-4670) 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.

©2013 Construction News, Ltd.
When Construction News caught up with Richard to do this interview, his neck was swelling and he was itching to go white-winged dove shooting that afternoon. Right there you can tell he is a true South Texas boy who grew up in the great outdoors enjoying all our State has to offer.

We talked about childhood goals, family and how he was raised to be a man of his word.

How did your family happen to settle in the Rio Grande Valley?

Just by chance. The family was originally from Nebraska and moved here in 1926.

My granddad was in construction and the Valley was just taking off. He came down here and got established and the Valley was just taking off. He started a construction company. In 1949 he started the family business.

Where did you grow up and what were your early goals - like sports?

I was born in McAllen and raised in Pharr. I played baseball and football as a kid but it was my dream to become a professional motorcross racer. That was my passion. My cousin and best friend Steve Wise, who was very, very successful, is in the Motocross Hall of Fame.

How early did you start your racing and how did the career go for you?

I started racing motorcycles when I was nine years old and then traveled and I started racing motorcycles when I was a kid. Summers I would sweep and work in the shop as a mechanics helper.

When I started full-time he put me in the dispatch office and I became a dispatcher.

Lots of kids don’t want to start that way today. They want to start at the top.

That’s the sad part of today’s generation. A lot of kids now days have an entitlement type attitude which, that ain’t gonna work.

And your hobbies these days?

I love quail, white-wing shooting and Nilgai hunting. I don’t shoot deer very often and I mainly go to the deer camp for camaraderie, campfire and fellowship. That’s my big thing.

You have been very active in the Rio Grande Valley Chapter of Associated General Contractors, and the American Concrete Institute. I also hear you love to barbecue.

I have been active with both associations for years. I helped start the local Concrete Institute chapter back in 1999. We wanted to bring forth education to the concrete industry down here.

Yes, I do like to barbecue. Generally I will barbecue for one of the big events they have at AGC every year. I enjoy doing that.

You are generation three in the family business. Will the 4th generation be coming in soon?

Possibly my son. He is working for another employer right now, which was my rules. He worked summers with me but I wanted him to experience life outside of the family business. It’s a big world out there and I want him to work a year or two with someone else besides me. I think it’s good for him.

A family business that survives 62 years is doing a lot of things right. Sometimes it’s luck and sometimes it’s the foundation on which the company was built. In your case what was it?

First and foremost it’s God’s remarkable blessings. We live on a handshake. We don’t need Notary Public’s or lawyers. My dad told me years ago, even if it costs you money, you honor your word. If you don’t have your word, you don’t have anything.

I am 51 and that is the way my dad raised me. I’m not in my 70s or 80s where men were men, in my opinion, the World War II guys. Back in the day when there were no freebees, no handouts, PERIOD. If you didn’t work you didn’t EAT.

It is frustrating to see how they call dishonesty these days. They refer to it in a business. It’s just business. No, that’s not business.

In closing. Do you have a good motto you live by?

I do have a motto and one thing I go by. “You can pray for potatoes all you want, but when you walk out your back door you better grab your hoe.” I read that years and years ago and I said, you know what, I’m going to adopt that. Meaning nothing is going to be given to you and success only comes before work in the dictionary. – bd

For more information contact Richard Linn at 927-2727.
The ability of a contractor to sue an architect or engineer, with whom it has no contract, for damages flowing from errors in the design documents is currently being decided by the Texas Supreme Court. The decision by the highest court in Texas in Martin K. Eby Const. Co. v. L&N/STV may have a profound effect on a design professional’s defenses and ultimate liability for a project that has gone wrong as the result of design errors or omissions.

In October of 2000, the Dallas Area Rapid Transit System (DART) entered into a contract with an architect requiring it to prepare plans, drawings, and specifications for the construction of a portion of DART’s light rail system in Dallas. The architect’s plans, drawings, and specifications were incorporated into bid documents that general contractors used in submitting bids to DART. Eby submitted a bid and was awarded the contract as the lowest bidder. After construction commenced, Eby suffered numerous delays and increased costs, which Eby attributed to errors in the bid documents. The evidence at trial showed that some of the alleged errors in the design documents included design changes initiated by DART, as well as inconsistencies in the original design, such as the location of utilities and subsurface materials. As a result of these alleged inaccuracies, Eby claimed that it sustained damages in the amount of $4,700,000. After the settlement was finalized, Eby sued the architect in the trial court for negligence and negligent misrepresentations. The jury found that the architect made negligent misrepresentations and awarded damages to Eby in the amount of $5,000,000. The jury also found that Eby was 15% negligent, DART was 40% negligent, and that the architect was 45% negligent. As a result, the trial court awarded Eby 45% of the $5,000,000, or $2,250,000 total.

Although the Eby case presents several interesting construction law issues, of particular practical importance to the construction industry are the following:

1. The Court’s decision is likely to profoundly broaden (or narrow) the availability of claims by contractors against design professionals on Texas construction projects.
2. The decision may affect the ability of parties to shift risk through their contracts.
3. The fees charged by design professionals and contractors may be influenced by any resulting shift in the allocation of risk.
4. The decision may clarify whether a design professional has an independent duty to provide accurate design documents to parties with whom it has no contract.
5. The decision may influence what types of damages (e.g., lost profits vs. out-of-pocket expenses) are recoverable in a negligent misrepresentation claim by a contractor against a design professional.

No matter what the Eby Court decides, the case will undoubtedly affect the manner in which the construction industry participants allocate risk on construction projects.

The foregoing is provided for informational purposes only and is not intended to provide legal advice or to serve as an alternative to seeking legal counsel. Sara Whittington “Whitney” May is an associate with Allensworth & Porter LLP. She represents construction industry participants and can be reached at swm@aaplaw.com.
Health care - Informed on reform: Individual mandate and the marketplace

Annabel M. Williams, MBA
TexCap- Concord Insurance Services, LP
Dallas, TX

To be eligible for a subsidy, the taxpayer cannot also be eligible for minimum essential coverage (such as coverage under an employer-sponsored plan or an eligible employer-sponsored plan). Applying for Subsidies. Individuals who are applying for these subsidies will be required to provide specific information about their current income. If the applicant’s current income is not steady or if it’s expected to change, the applicant will have to project his or her income for 2014. At the end of the year, the subsidy amount will be recalculated using the taxpayer’s actual income as report- ed on his or her tax return, and any difference in the amounts will be reconciled. If the taxpayer’s income has increased from the amount that he or she reported to the Marketplace, and as a result received a larger subsidy than he or she was entitled to, that individual may have to repay part of their subsidy. This could result in a smaller tax refund or a tax payment due for that individual.

Marketplace Reporting. In order to administer the federal subsidies, the Marketplaces will be required to report certain information to both the IRS and the taxpayer. This information is generally related to the taxpayer’s enrollment in a health plan through a Marketplace, and will help the Marketplace determine whether the taxpayer will need to repay any portion of the subsidy.

The information that the Marketplace will have to report includes:

- The level of coverage (that is, bronze, silver, gold or platinum).
- Information provided to the Marketplace necessary to determine eligibility for the primary insured and each enrollee (such as Social Security Number or birthdate).
- Periodic reporting on the cost-sharing and advance credit payments for coverage.
- Information provided to the Marketplace necessary to determine eligibility for and amount of subsidies; and
- Information necessary to determine whether the taxpayer received the appropriate subsidies.

The Marketplace will make a monthly report of this information to the IRS for each month of coverage. In addition, the Marketplace will have to make a cumulative annual report for each taxpayer to the IRS before Jan. 31 of the following year.

Ms. Williams can be reached at 972-720-5340 or 866-715-0484 toll free, or email AWilliams@texcap-concord.com.

H

ACCOUNTING

Four construction bidding best practices

Michael Kuchar, CPA, Shareholder
Doeren Mayhew
Houston, TX

Y

our success as a general contractor or subcontractor relies largely on your ability to master the bidding process. Doing so will allow you secure more work, maintain backlog and enhance profits. Read below for four best practices to incorporate into your process.

Best practices related to contract terms include:

- Adding provisions to cover financial risks such as bonds, warranties, insur-
- ance, damages, safety issues, etc.
- Including methods of payment, payment schedules, etc. Ensure payment dates align with project deliverables.
- Covering performance standards and a process for dispute resolution if standards aren’t met.

Subcontractors might consider adding a clause that they must be paid a certain number of days after the general con-
tractor pays. Another best practice is a ‘stop-work’ clause freeing you to leave the project if you aren’t paid within a des-
ignated timeframe. For longer-term jobs, consider clauses to offset potential in-
creases in material prices.

Ensure proper job cost accounting

Since control of job costs drives gross profit, it is critical that you understand them. Effective job cost accounting helps you to control costs and allocate your overhead and your burden within bids. Bur-
den includes costs such as workers’ compensations, overhead, depreciation, fringe and equipment costs. You can calcu-
late burden based on a percentage of labor costs or other methods. By failing to accurately reflect these costs in your bid, you can actually lose money on a job that appears to be profitable. Your accounting system should allow for effective breakdown of this data. If not, be sure to check with your accountant on how you can improve job costing.

Michael Kuchar is a Shareholder and leader of Doeren Mayhew’s dedicated Construc-
tion Group in Houston. A top 100 U.S. firm, Doeren Mayhew’s Construction industry adv-
isors serve more than 500 suppliers and others. For more information, visit www.doeren.com.

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
1145 W. LAUREL
210-477-3000
www.lynwoodsa.com
210-477-3090 FAX
NORTHSIDE SAN ANTONIO
15262 CAPITAL PORT
210-438-9092
TRAVIS INDUSTRIES
SANDBLASTING & PAINTING
7902 S.E. LOOP 410
SAN ANTONIO, TEXAS 78223
210-648-1900
210-648-1972 FAX
www.travis-industries.com
Since 1886

Howell Crane & Rigging, Inc.

Aude Howell
Phone (210) 661-8285
Fax (210) 661-7683
Mobile (210) 249-3901
(512) 436-9814
Office (210) 649-3726
Email: howellcrane@cox.net
24-Hour Service
1145 W. Laurel
San Antonio, TX 78212
P.O. Box 200576
San Antonio, Texas 78220

#1 in SAFETY!
Well now that winter is approaching and the boating season is winding down in many parts of the state, it’s time to start thinking about protecting your valuable recreational asset. Boats, motors, and trailers are getting more expensive every year and most folks are not aware what the harsh salt environment and sun can do to these rigs. The time and effort you spend now will have a definite effect on your boat’s performance, or lack of it, and certainly save you time, effort and money come spring. You should remember that your warranty and insurance policy might not cover damage done by lack of maintenance or neglect.

The best place for your boat to be during the winter is out of the water, under cover, and in a boat storage area. This, however, can be expensive. If you don’t have this option, perhaps you should consider covering your boat with a custom cover or tarp that can be bungeed down to protect it from the harsh weather conditions.

Your first step in winterizing should be to make a checklist of all items that need to be accomplished. Check the owner’s manual of your boat and motor(s) for manufacturer’s recommendations on winterization. If you are a new boat owner, perhaps you should employ the assistance of a friend with experience in winterizing or hire a professional to do the job. The following is a generic outline of areas, which should be of concern to you; however, there are many resources on the Internet with more detailed and specific information.

Outboard Engines: Flush engine with fresh water using flush muffs or similar device attached to the raw water pickup. Let all water drain from the engine. Wash engine down with soap and water and rinse thoroughly. If you have a carbureted engine, disconnect fuel hose and run engine until it stops. It is important to follow a step-by-step process to make sure that all fuel is drained from the carburetor to prevent build-up of deposits from evaporated fuel. Use fogging oil in the cylinders to lubricate the cylinder walls and pistons. Change the gear oil in the lower unit. Lightly lubricate the exterior of the engine or polish with a good wax. Your fishing gear should also be prepared for the winter. There is nothing worse than grabbing your gear in early spring for your first outing of the year and realize your favorite reel is grinding and stiff. Reels should be rinsed with fresh water and allowed to dry. Gears and bearings should be greased and oiled. The drags on your reels should be loosened all the way to relieve pressure on the drag washer. Rods should be rinsed and wiped down. I use furniture polish applied to a rag to finish out rod maintenance. Fishing tackle should be rinsed with fresh water and placed out to dry. Hooks on top waters and other plugs can be sprayed with WD-40 or any other corrosion lubricant to protect hooks from rusting.

With a little preparation this winter you can save a lot of money come next spring when you start thinking of fishing again. To schedule your next bay fishing trip give Capt. Steve Schultz a call at 361-949-7359 or 361-813-3716, or e-mail him at SteveSchultzOutdoors@gmail.com. Already booking for the 2014 fishing season. Good luck and Good Fishing.

Preventive maintenance tips
by Capt. Steve Schultz
Sponsored by:

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

Texas Tables
PicNic Tables ★ Benches ★ Chairs ★ Party Tables
Sport Tables ★ Cafe Tables
Robert Bowen
210-273-4133
sbcbh1@gmail.com
www.TexasTables.net
Made to order with the Taste & Style of Texas
Choose your Size ★ Options ★ Stain Colors

Texas Built - Texas Tough

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

JCB of South Texas's new location is now
OPEN FOR BUSINESS

Come by and demo the world’s safest compact track and skid steer loader and the world’s best selling backhoe loader!
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!

Last night. We haven’t had that sort of rain around here in an awfully long time. Sure, we had several quick little splash and dash summer thundershowers, but nothing that really had any soaking in time before the hot sun took it away.

The ground is soaked and water is standing here and there. I swear you can almost hear the trees breathing a sigh of relief, standing tall with boughs outstretched. Now they can let go their leaves and begin their winter rest fully fortified by the rain. They can still be here next year – the drought hasn’t ended them yet.

On my morning walk I see several nice sets of deer tracks in the wet muddy ground. Does and babies mostly, but a couple different sets of tracks that are bigger and heavier are in the bunch. There are even a few places where the ground is torn up from the bucks sparring with each other. I’d sure like to meet those guys during deer season.

The flow of the Colorado coming in to our little basin on its way down to the rest of the lake is up this morning. There is a good bit more shallow water over the mud flat and the newly arriving ducks are taking advantage of it. There are even a few geese checking it out, but I don’t know if they will stop over for long. The Harris hawks that have taken the place of the ospreys since the lake fell out from under us, are already airborne looking for a nice breakfast in the chilly north wind.

If I had time today, you can bet I’d be down at the water’s edge catfishing where the little creeks run into the river, or further down into the lake. When we get little floods, the water picks up all kinds of bugs, grubs, worms and frogs and drops them when the water slows down coming into a larger body of water. That is the equivalent of a fishy fast food joint. Catfish, bass, perch and crappie love to pick off an easy meal there. That’s where a fisherman should be today.

The rain has been good to us. Now there will be water in the stock tanks and wet weather creeks up in the hills again. When it gets too dry up there, we start getting unwelcome visitors passing through on their way to the muddy river bank for water. This little wet spell will keep the feral hogs and coyotes away from us for a while.

With the cooler mornings and all the acorns falling and the deer tracks, I can hardly wait for deer season to start. I have seen quite a few bucks with nice sets of horns the last couple of months. The does that live around here seemed to raise just about all their babies this year, due to nicely spaced summer showers keeping them nourished. It looks like Hill Country deer season this year will be a good one.

If you get the chance, get on up here. Stripers and hybrids have been on top lately and are busy feeding to get ready for the spring spawn. Hunting and fishing are good now, so don’t miss out!
“Who should go to Machu Picchu? Everyone who enjoys travel,” declares Gary Weaver, president of TimberTech.

Weaver took the Machu Picchu Inca Trail Hike with Soler’s Adventure Tours Group.

“The trip is run by former Olympic runner and San Antonio sports store owner, Roger Soler, and his trusted sidekick Donny Horadam,” Weaver explains.

Weaver had already been to Machu Picchu once, but his friend Chuck Frawley had expressed an interest in hiking one of the Inca trails to the site.

“I stupidly committed by promising ‘I’ll do it if you do it,’” he recounts. “And that’s how respectively 68- and 69-year-old men joined 70-year-old Bob Ratliff on a physically demanding hike with twelve other hikers, all younger and faster. But the three old farts hung in there and made the finish line.”

Weaver notes that they did 10-mile group training hikes, mostly at Government Canyon, along with some personal training for two to three months beforehand to prepare for their Peruvian hiking adventure.

The tour spent one day in the sea level capital, Lima, before flying to the 11,200ft-high Cusco, the capital of the Incan Empire, where they drank Coca Tea to ward off altitude headaches. The next day, the group explored the Inca ruins in the Sacred Valley below Cusco.

They spent three days acclimatizing, and then began with a bumpy van ride ascending to “Camp 1,” where the temperature dropped below freezing. Weaver recalls that, as the “slowest hiker,” the next day’s journey took him more than 12 hours to complete.

“The midway point was crossing beautiful Abra Salcantay Pass,” he says. “At 15,253ft, this pass is about 1,000ft higher than any of the highest mountains in Colorado.”

The last day brought them to Aguas Calientes, a town just below the ridge where Machu Picchu sits. There, the group enjoyed a pleasant restaurant dinner and a warm bed.

“I feel like being in a small corner of heaven” was whispered, without much forethought, to a nearby buddy as we got our first up-close glimpse of this ancient Inca city, Machu Picchu, he remembers. “Unable to control misty eyes, one could only stare straight ahead at one of the most incredible sights on the planet. It is no wonder the site has been named one of The Seven Wonders of the world as well as a UNESCO World Heritage Site. The Inca-inspired ‘architectural beauty’ defies description.

“After a great day of touring the Machu Picchu site, a train follows the Urubamba River most of the way back to Cusco. The trip home has begun.” –mp

Gary Weaver and Roger Soler stop for a breath and a photo at the 15,253ft Pass of Abra Salcantay on the Inca Trail.

Weaver stands at the top of the ancient Incan mountaintop city of Machu Picchu.
Recycling oil and gas production drill cuttings

By Paul Lampe

Manufacturers have known for years the economic, social and environmental benefits of recycling their waste products. In addition, recycling of construction demolition materials like concrete, asphalt, roofing shingles, and glass has also been on the rise over the last decade. It’s no surprise, then, that the oil and gas industry also understands the benefits of recycling their waste products that include environmentally affected soil and cuttings. The increasingly large quantities of this waste material that have been showing up across the U.S. in recent years as a result of the fracking process have hastened the market’s need for an environmentally responsible process to recycle these materials.

Recycling oil drilling waste helps to keep an energy driller from having to haul environmentally impacted material to a local landfill facility, beneficial or other disposal facility, and can sometimes result in cost savings. In addition to the disposal cost, anytime truck trips can be reduced or shortened, it is “win” for the environment through fuel consumption reduction, reduced pollutants into the atmosphere, and less traffic on our roadways. The Texas Railroad Commission specified a new facility in Karnes County, as announced in a release dated Feb. 13, 2013. The company is specifically targeting materials from the Eagle Ford Shale play. This recycling capability is specialized and is a relatively new, environmentally friendly solution.

One of the first steps to the recycling process is to understand the physical properties of the material. To do this, a recycling facility will need to invest in a series of laboratory tests to determine the engineering properties. Every drilling project can have a slightly different output of materials, so there is no one-mix design that will work with all materials. Once these tests result in a mix that has been established and the properties have been determined, a mix design formulation will be developed that will allow the resultant material to be made into a beneficiated re-use material. The mix designs sometimes require the cuttings to be mixed with local aggregates, calcite, asphalt emulsion or Portland cement to develop a usable material. Once the material is recycled into a beneficiated re-use material, the recycling company will sell it to their customers to successfully build their projects. This gives the oil and gas industry a green alternative to haul their waste to a landfill.

There are materials specifications that have been developed to guide the mix design process. The Texas Department of Transportation (TxDOT), the Texas Commission on Environmental Quality (TCEQ), and the Texas Railroad Commission (TRC) have established specifications, guidelines and policies on the use of these types of materials. The re-use materials can be used as a paving base material to construct county roads, parking lots, lease roads, pads for drilling equipment, and tank containment berms.

I n the construction industry, you may think losing a limb means losing your livelihood. Jose Estrada, who is a unilateral above-the-knee amputee, believes the only thing that could stop you from doing anything is losing your arm or leg. “I got a second chance, and no matter what, I wake up wanting to go to work,” Estrada says. “I feel lucky that I have a job that pays me well.” I’m opening an office, trying to take the next step to owne my own company, to those are definitely positive.”

For eight years, Estrada was a self-employed subcontractor with his own business, Eagle Concrete. But, in 2008, he was in a rollover accident with his truck. “My Bobcat was behind me, and I was in a rollover accident with his truck. My truck landed on me, and when I looked up, I found I had lost my right leg.”

Estrada spent a month and a half in a coma, and then another nine months in the hospital and another year trying to recover. He credits Margie Garcia, his Department of Assistive and Rehabilitative Services (DARS) counselor with helping him get on route, back into the workforce.

With a degree from San Antonio College in occupational safety, Estrada became a safety consultant. DARS paid for his courses and books, so he could gain more trade skills. Currently, he works for Fishbone Safety in the Eagle Ford Shale, developing blueprints to set up the new facility.

Even though his above-the-knee amputee means he can’t pour concrete anymore, he says, “I have hands that can do any type of remodel.” As he gets situated, Estrada plans to remodel houses and pursue commercial projects. “Right now, I’m in the mindset of ‘Let’s get to work!’”

Though Estrada can’t physically do some of the work he used to, he says it doesn’t stop him from trying. “I have no intention of working on any heavy equipment or carrying heavy loads, and I have no intention of working on a vine or any outside activity. I have to slow down and think ahead more. Before the accident, he would jump in to take over a problem area or a new hire didn’t work out. But since he can no longer do that, he needs to have a plan in case such troubles arise.

“You have to be a little more prepared on what’s going to be your next step now,” he says, laughing. “Estrada intended to start his own contracting company before losing his leg, and now, four years later, his dream is coming true. His experience and expertise in the industry paved the way for him to manage the business, which already has three employees.

On the long road to this point, Hanger, Inc. Prosthetics and Orthotics, literally helped Estrada get back on his feet. “They overestimate what I can do, and that’s exactly what someone needs when they’re in that situation,” says Estrada. “The members of the Hanger Clinic on Brooklyn Avenue are the most positive influence.”

Delbert Lipe, certified prosthetist/orthotist (CPO), is one of Estrada’s prosthetists. He says Estrada is just one of the many who have lost arms or legs and still work in construction, and even more amputees indulge in leisurely construction-related work at home thanks to a wide range of devices and adaptations.

Lipe specifies that the prosthetist need to know what you need to be able to do so they can tailor the prosthetic limb to suit your purpose or job. For example, prosthetic arms can have a terminal that allows you to plug in a device to carry out a specific task, from hammering to golfing and beyond. “I have done lots of different tools that you can adapt into upper extremity prosthetics,” Lipe describes. “There’s a whole company called Texas Assistive Devices that makes all kinds of tools, actually – kitchen utensils and cutlery and all kinds of things that plug straight into prosthetics. We use those a lot, but typically most [people] just use them for home repair – guys that are working around their house, amateur carpentry… “I think the biggest thing we do is try to make something that’s just durable, and that isn’t going to break down,” explains Lipe, adding that will take into account if a person will be carrying heavy loads since a lot of componentry is based on body weight.

Also, Lipe mentions that simple adaptations like beefing up the laminating and adding a solid pad on a lower extremity prosthetic would help a plumber to be more comfortable working on his knees all day.

“Certainly the more complicated you get, the more difficult it is,” Lipe says of working with a prosthetic limb. “But you know, I’m a big believer it’s more the individual than the disability.”

Since 1968
providing continuous services for construction in Texas.

Materials Engineering
Geotechnical Facilities
Infrastructure
Materials Recycling

RABA KISTNER CONSULTANTS

President of Raba Kistner Consultants, an engineering firm who has been developing mix design formulations to recycle drill cuttings left over from the oil and gas industry from all over the country since 2002. More recently, they have been creating these mix designs from areas in Texas, including the Eagle Ford area.

Photo courtesy of TRS, Inc.

Paul Lampe is Executive Vice President of Raba Kistner Consultants, an engineering firm who has been developing mix design formulations to recycle drill cuttings left over from the oil and gas industry.

Jose Estrada, former and once again construction business owner, is determined to stay in his industry despite losing a leg in 2008.

L-R: Kelly McClung, Asphalt & Aggregate Supervisor, and Asphalt Laboratory Production Specialist, Gary Rendon, both with Raba Kistner Consultants, compact samples from drill cuttings utilizing engineered mix designs.

Delbert Lipe, certified prosthetist/orthotist (CPO), is one of Estrada’s prosthetists. He says Estrada is just one of the many who have lost arms or legs and still work in construction, and even more amputees indulge in leisurely construction-related work at home thanks to a wide range of devices and adaptations.
Passion for architecture

Don Meeks, CEO
Meeks + Partners
Houston, TX

How would you describe the state of the construction industry in general terms?

That catastrophic event, which killed 13 people and injured 145 others, not only lives on for those directly harmed by the collapse, but also for the owner, the State of Minnesota, and the bridge’s designers recently reached a precedent-setting conclusion. More than 40 years after the steel and concrete structure was built, the original designers have been held liable for fundamental errors in design and construction. The legal dispute, which was not resolved until May 2012 when the U.S. Supreme Court refused to hear the appeal of the Minnesota high court’s ruling, is cause for alarm for construction firms, and their insurers, nationwide. That’s because of an extraordinary decision by the Minnesota legislature to nullify its existing statute of repose in the case of the I-35W bridge failure.

Most of us recall the horrific footage from the Interstate 35W bridge collapse that occurred just over five years ago in Minneapolis. The images of vehicles dangling precariously over the Mississippi River as rescuers frantically raced to the aid of the victims will be forever etched into our memories. This catastrophic event, which killed 13 people and injured 145 others, not only lives on for those directly harmed by the collapse, but also for the owner, the State of Minnesota, and the bridge’s designers recently reached a precedent-setting conclusion. More than 40 years after the steel and concrete structure was built, the original designers have been held liable for fundamental errors in design and construction. The legal dispute, which was not resolved until May 2012 when the U.S. Supreme Court refused to hear the appeal of the Minnesota high court’s ruling, is cause for alarm for construction firms, and their insurers, nationwide. That’s because of an extraordinary decision by the Minnesota legislature to nullify its existing statute of repose in the case of the I-35W bridge failure.

Design engineers’ liability may not extend indefinitely

Robynn P. Wysocki, Attorney and Counselor
Wysocki Legal Group, P.C.
Dallas, TX

In the end, roughly 11,000 feet of high-density polyethylene (HDPE) pipe of questionable structural integrity were replaced with two miles of reinforced concrete pipe and polyvinyl chloride pipe. HDR/FishPro, the fish hatchery design firm that managed the project, and its insurers were compelled to pay nearly 100 percent of the $3.3 million repair bill. And that doesn’t even count the extra costs.

On further inspection, in each of these projects products that either were not durable enough to support the heavy load or were not installed with sufficient backfill materials or proper compaction in the hands of local decision-makers. Several recent incidents highlight the unintended consequences that can occur when federal mandates tie the hands of local decision-makers. In September, a large sinkhole opened up on a Highway 174 off-ramp in Ottawa. A single-passenger automobile virtually disappeared after the roadway gave out due to the collapse of a steel pipe buried beneath the street, severely injuring the driver.

In Clark County, Wisconsin, three motorists were killed in June when a flash flood caused a 50-foot wide section of road to collapse and wash away. The culvert in that fatal event was a large diameter corrugated metal pipe that failed under the roadway. A Milwaukee couple and a woman from Thorp, Wl, died when their trucks fell more than a dozen feet into the ravine and became partially submerged.

And in Jasper, Texas, a state-of-the-art fish hatchery was delayed by more than a year, thanks to the collapse of a plastic drainage system. The $27 million project commissioned by the Texas Parks & Wildlife Commission was disrupted due to improper pipeline design and inadequate installation, followed by months of legal jockeying and, finally, the complicated repair process.

What is the most significant challenge your industry faces?

Without a doubt, labor.

What is on the horizon for your industry?

I believe we are about to see a need for affordable housing as well as increased senior housing, independent senior housing, mid- and high-rise buildings and urban land planning.

What advice would you give a young person who wants to be an architect?

You don’t have to be a visionary genius to be an architect. A vision-- love what you do! Prepare yourself to be persistent and steadfast to weather the occasional roller coaster ride that is being an architect.

Formed in 1974, Meeks + Partners architects specialize in multifamily, luxury and mixed-use projects as well as student housing, independent senior housing, mid- and high-rise buildings and urban land planning.
American Institute of Architects (AIA) Corpus Christi chapter host- ed its 6th annual Fore the Birdies golf tournament. Members and guests enjoyed a day on the course at the Gabe Lozano Golf Center Oct. 14. Proceeds benefitted the chapter’s scholarship fund. –bd

Tournament winners:
1st Place: M & D Flooring
2nd Place: Naismith Engineering
3rd Place: Martini Brick Sales

Longest Drive Men: Total Package Brice
Longest Drive Women: Theresa Martini
Closest to the Pin: Danny Duff

The Associated Builders and Contractors, Inc. (ABC) Texas Mid Coast Chapter, held its 4th Annual Dove Hunt Oct. 3. The event was a huge success at a private ranch in Victoria. The hunt was limited to 50 hunters. About 100 total people attended for the ribeye dinner. There were also raffle prizes. The birds were flying high and the hunters all took home their limits. –bd/rd
A big crowd made it to the AL Amin Pavilion on Friday, Oct. 4 for the Bring on the Heat 2013 BBQ Cook-off & Auction put on by Associated General Contractors, South Texas Chapter. The kids enjoyed the petting zoo. The music provided by the Ben McPeak Band was outstanding and tons of great food was available for the hungry. The silent auction gave guests many opportunities to bid on those special items and the selection of the cook off winners brought attention to the best of the best. –bd

1st place Brisket - Malek, Inc.
1st place Dessert - Becky Freeman, RSS
1st place People's Choice - Pro-Tech Mechanical

Attendees enjoyed good food.

Association Calendar

AGC - Rio Grande
Associated General Contractors
Nov. 20: Advanced Lien & Payment Issues seminar, 9-11:30am, Pharr AGC office, Free to members
Nov. 20, 21: OSHA 10-Hour class, 1-6pm, Harlingen AGC office, presented by ESC Audits

AIA - Corpus Christi
American Institute of Architects
Nov. 19: Chapter meeting, 5:30pm Social, 6pm Program, Water Street Seafood Company, 309 N. Water Street, Dinner will be served, FREE for members, $20 Guest, $5 Student and Intern Guests, presentation by Sika, “Resinous Floor and Wall Systems”
More info: 361-887-2124

NAWIC - Corpus Christi
Nat’l Assn. of Women in Construction
Nov. 19: Dinner Business meeting, public welcome, CALL FOR MEETING LOCATION, 5:30pm networking, 6pm meeting, Margie Silguero, CCAS from Del Mar College, PTAC, $50, contact Vickie Thompson 361-299-6278

Submit your calendar items:
STeditor@constructionnews.net

Round-Up

Tom Hennig has been promoted to branch manager of the H & E Equipment Services facility in Corpus Christi. Henning spent the previous four years in the San Antonio branch office. He is originally from San Antonio but spent his junior and high school days in Rivera, Texas.

Submissions

This is a section for brief company announcements of new or recently promoted personnel, free of charge as space allows.
Email with “Round-Up” in the subject line (w/digital photo, if available) by the 15th of any month, for the next month’s issue to:
STeditor@constructionnews.net

MAREK BROTHERS SYSTEMS, INC.
AUSTIN / DALLAS / FORT WORTH / HARLINGEN / HOUSTON / SAN ANTONIO

EQUIPMENT RENTALS
TRENCHERS • ROCKSAWS • BACKHOES • LOADERS • & MORE

Your #1 Local Rental Company For All Large Equipment Rentals
• No Job Too Large or Too Small
• Delivery Available Everywhere
• With or Without Operators

651-5611 15305 N IH 35 Selma, Texas 78154
Visit us at www.rockyhillequipmentrentals.com

MAREK UNIVERSITY
EDUCATING OUR INDUSTRY’S FUTURE
Land, now showing in 3D

Movies aren’t the only things that are going three-dimensional these days. Surveying equipment has taken on a 3D edge of its own, and G4 Spatial Technologies hosted a demonstration of the Leica Nova MS50, a new 3D multistation, Sep. 26 at the Fairfield Inn & Suites Marriott in New Braunfels.

Along with Leica Geosystems, G4 launched what’s being called a “revolutionary” surveying instrument with a presentation and demonstration, followed by lunch. With G4 locations in San Antonio and Austin, surveyors and contractors came from all over the state to see the total station with 3D Laser scanning, imaging, and GNSS positioning.

"G4 introduced the Leica Nova MultiStation that combines every significant measuring technology in one device for the first time to make it easy to collect and manage complex 3D data," said G4 owner Donnie Steele. "Customers attending this event were excited to see that one instrument could handle an infinite range of applications." –mp

continued from Page 1 — Wheeler keeps on turning

"Then, my dad took it over, and he’s W.G. I bet you have trouble figuring out what the W.G. is; it’s William Geoffrey," he adds with a laugh.

Wheeler points out that the company has not been in continuous operation, because his father took a position as city plumbing inspector. At this time, this constituted a conflict of interest, and his father closed the shop.

When Winston got into the trade, he worked a different shop in the early ‘70s until he was laid off. Then, he re-opened G.W. Wheeler in 1989.

Today, the company does 90 percent commercial work, particularly maintenance and school work, including Victoria ISD, Victoria College, and the University of Houston at Victoria.

And now, Winston’s sons, with his wife of 38 years, Dee, are the fifth generation in the family business. Having started working for their dad in high school, Geoff Wheeler and William Winston Wheeler Jr. already have their master plumber licenses.

Both Winston’s sons played baseball in college and only retired from the sport about a year ago.

"Baseball has been a big part of our lives," says Wheeler. "I was president of Friends of Victoria Baseball that restored the old Riverside stadium here, worked 10 years at that as a volunteer."

When Winston’s volunteer work ended, he took the opportunity to work on restoring his grandfather’s ‘50 Chevelle pickup truck that he had bought brand new for the job.

"I found the sale slip still in the glove compartment of that truck, and he paid $1,487 for a brand new pickup," Winston Wheeler marvels. "I paid over $1,000 for a new set of tires!" –mp

continued from Page 1 — Steady as she goes

While they’ve been busier than usual and run about 15 employees, Lee-Omana says she wants to stay small to ensure that it might be a while before we can get to them, but it will be worth waiting for us. That’s the way we’ve run it, and it’s just a very comfortable way to run a business for me.

"I always get compliments on how clean they keep everything," she notes. "I would rather just stay small, steadily all the time. We never run out of work since I keep it small, but I do lot people know that it might be a while before we can get to them, but it will be worth waiting for us. That’s the way we run it, and it’s just a very comfortable way to run a business for me."

Lee-Omana has seven children and four grandchildren, and when she and her husband get the urge to get away from work, they love to go to Las Vegas, especially Harrah’s.

"We really don’t strive for growth," she explains. "I tried it once back in the ‘80s and kind of lost control of the crew. Crews even got some callbacks, and I hate callbacks.

"Pop tried to warn me. He had gotten large once, and you kind of lose control when you can’t check on the crew a lot, when you’ve got too many going, and so, when we started getting callbacks, I realized that he was right, and I’ve always just kept it small. We only run three crews, but when it rains, I don’t have to worry about callbacks."

She adds that keeping crews to the size they are now, with her husband checking up on them, has paid off in the response from customers.

continued from Page 1 — Opportunity awaits

In this tough economy we want to highlight our Texas-based general contractors who are in the game and competing with the out-of-state contractors who have come to our great state.

Do you have a recently completed project you would be proud to see on our cover? Give me a call or send me an email and lets get you covered.

Buddy Doebbler, Publisher
 publishers@constructionnews.net
 210-308-5800

www.constructionnews.net

Copyright © 2013 Highway Publishing, Inc. All rights reserved. No part of this publication may be reprinted or reproduced in any form without written permission from Highway Publishing, Inc. Printed in the United States of America.
Learn to fly in South Texas.  Start a new career or fly for fun.

U.S. aviation is expecting severe pilot shortage for next several years.

We offer and conduct pipeline patrols with qualified pilots at reasonable rates.

Alpha Tango Flying Services, Inc.
San Antonio, Texas  210-828-4480
email: alpha.tango@sbcglobal.net

Don’t shoot the cooks!

American Institute of Architects (AIA) Laredo members and guests headed to the South Texas Shooting Complex Oct. 19 to enjoy a day of shooting, three varieties of tacos and micheladas at the Shoot n’ Cook.

The event was called a huge success by all those attending. –bd

Winners were:
Sporting Clay
Men:  Russell Jordan - Score 91
Women:  Claudia Pina - Score 45
Youth:  1st: Joe Villarreal III - Score 81
      2nd: Victor Flores - Score 70
Teams:  1st: 3G - Score 381
      2nd: Star - Score 365
      3rd: Chingaderos - Score 317
Michelada contest:  MDG
Taco Contest:  2M Lighting

DID YOU KNOW . . . .

CONSTRUCTION
Largest circulation newspaper in Texas

A large crowd of over 300 came out to celebrate the grand opening of the new RDO Equipment Co. facility in Laredo.

The event took place Thursday, Oct. 24. With the help of Laredo Mayor Raul G. Salinas, and CEO Christi Offutt, the ribbon was cut to make everything official.

Mayor Salinas, State Representative Tracy O. King, branch manager Shane Brownlow, and Vice President of Texas Daryl Shelton, gave their remarks on RDO’s long time and continuing involvement with the community.

Afterward, barbecue lunch was provided for all guests and many door prizes were awarded. –bd

Lunch is served

L-R: Carlos Valdez, Joe Villarreal, Joe Villarreal III, Marky Villarreal

L-R: Ricardo Solis, Telissa Molano, Manny Ramos, Guillermo J. Cavazos Jr., Monica Guajardo

Alamo Crane is equipped to handle any petroleum related work in the Eagle Ford Shale.

Working in South Texas

From El Paso to Beaumont, Amarillo to Brownsville

34 Years of Service to Texas

www.alamocrane.com

San Antonio  (210) 344-7370  Woman-Owned Business
Austin  (512) 282-6866  City–94–020011/WBE
Toll Free  (800) 880-0134  State–13580/WOB

American Institute of Architects (AIA) Laredo members and guests headed to the South Texas Shooting Complex Oct. 19 to enjoy a day of shooting, three varieties of tacos and micheladas at the Shoot n’ Cook.

The event was called a huge success by all those attending. –bd

Winners were:
Sporting Clay
Men:  Russell Jordan - Score 91
Women:  Claudia Pina - Score 45
Youth:  1st: Joe Villarreal III - Score 81
      2nd: Victor Flores - Score 70
Teams:  1st: 3G - Score 381
      2nd: Star - Score 365
      3rd: Chingaderos - Score 317
Michelada contest:  MDG
Taco Contest:  2M Lighting

DID YOU KNOW . . . .

CONSTRUCTION
Largest circulation newspaper in Texas

A large crowd of over 300 came out to celebrate the grand opening of the new RDO Equipment Co. facility in Laredo.

The event took place Thursday, Oct. 24. With the help of Laredo Mayor Raul G. Salinas, and CEO Christi Offutt, the ribbon was cut to make everything official.

Mayor Salinas, State Representative Tracy O. King, branch manager Shane Brownlow, and Vice President of Texas Daryl Shelton, gave their remarks on RDO’s long time and continuing involvement with the community.

Afterward, barbecue lunch was provided for all guests and many door prizes were awarded. –bd

Lunch is served

L-R: Carlos Valdez, Joe Villarreal, Joe Villarreal III, Marky Villarreal

L-R: Ricardo Solis, Telissa Molano, Manny Ramos, Guillermo J. Cavazos Jr., Monica Guajardo

Alamo Crane is equipped to handle any petroleum related work in the Eagle Ford Shale.

Working in South Texas

From El Paso to Beaumont, Amarillo to Brownsville

34 Years of Service to Texas

www.alamocrane.com

San Antonio  (210) 344-7370  Woman-Owned Business
Austin  (512) 282-6866  City–94–020011/WBE
Toll Free  (800) 880-0134  State–13580/WOB
Establecido en 1900 como Builders Exchange of Texas, VBX es la más antigua y la más respetada servicio de noticias de construcción en Texas.

Creemos que la experiencia es lo que cuenta y el servicio al cliente nunca pasa de moda. Es por eso, que cada año, más del 90 por ciento de nuestros miembros automáticamente renueva sus servicios.

Si usted necesita una fuente confiable de información precisa, con un servicio tradicional al cliente, lo invitamos a experimentar la diferencia VBX por sí mismo.

Virtual Builders Exchange | (877) 221-6418 | askme@virtualbx.com

Bringing your message to your target market for 15 years

1998 San Antonio Construction News
2001 Austin Construction News
2003 Houston Construction News
2003 Dallas/Fort Worth Construction News

2013 South Texas Construction News

Advertising @ ConstructionNews.net
210-308-5800