David Dennis, owner of Dennis Steel in Leander, admits he has a soft spot for Open My World Therapeutic Riding Center (OMW), also in Leander.

But he didn’t know anything about the non-profit center until he answered a call for help.

OMW offers therapeutic horse riding for individuals, primarily children, who have disabilities. Founder/director Donna Roland says Dennis was a knight in shining armor.

“During the past two years, OMW has been holding fundraisers and saving their funds to pay for a project to cover their arena,” Roland said. “The project has been done in phases and in November 2015 the final phase of construction was scheduled. The date was set. The day came and went. The contractor did not respond.”

Roland says the center attempted to contact the contractor numerous times before looking for someone else to finish the project.

“David took 20 minutes to come and see what our project looked like and without hesitation took on the challenge,” she says. “He not only took on the task but agreed to supply a missing beam and roofing material for the additional length, for the same relatively small amount of the balance due on the original bid!”

The Dennis Steel crew gets to work righting a wrong for a Leander non-profit.

Houston has what is being called the largest skate park in North America — a situation that must be remedied and soon, says Austin’s Paul Marriott, owner of Resfloor Concrete Solutions, an industrial flooring firm.

Houston’s skate park, Spring Skatepark, has 78,000-sf of skate surface. Marriott is planning to be involved in the construction of a skatepark near Austin that includes some 300,000-sf of skate surface.

“I love Austin and I just cannot let Houston have the honor of having the largest skatepark in Texas — never mind in North America.” Marriott, an avid skateboarder, says. His company will take care of the slip resistant concrete flooring on the course.

Private donations from Austin-area “shredders” have already reached the $12 million mark Marriott estimates the project will cost.

Marriott is keeping the location of the skate park a secret for now, but says the project will be built on 600 acres that include woods, lakes and a river.

“What’s really amazing about this location is that we are going to be able to incorporate things into this skatepark that have never been seen in skate parks before,” Marriott said.

Along with the usual fare of bowls, hips and quarterpipes, the tentatively

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holtcat.com
For one week in March, women in the construction industry celebrate their many and varied contributions to the construction industry. Women in Construction (WIC) Week is one of the National Association of Women in Construction’s (NAWIC) most anticipated events, and the Austin chapter planned plenty of events to highlight their time to shine.

On Feb. 27, NAWIC Austin Chapter #7 kicked things off with the highly-anticipated Introduce a Girl to Engineering event. The goal was for each girl or group to build a tower stable enough to support a golf ball – highest tower wins! The only materials the girls were able use were 10 sheets of newspaper and 3’ of tape!

On Mar. 4, Hensel Phelps provided a tour of an active jobsite for Crockett High School Construction Technology Students, with the help of the HP Staff at the University of Texas Engineering Education and Research Center (EERC).

On Mar. 8, everybody gathered for a relaxing Yoga Happy Hour, hosted by Associated General Contractors (AGC) and sponsored by Edge Electric.

To finish the week off, the women spent some time on a community event, packing meals at the Capital Area Food Bank on Mar. 10. –cw

On Mar. 4, everybody donned their hard hats and checked out a job site. The whole top row is the Crockett High School Construction Technology students; bottom row, L-R: Toni Osberry, Nikki Guinn, Kelli Mitchell, Emily Coffman, Pilar Avalos and Taryn Ritchie.

Introduce a Girl to Engineering, L-R: Jamie Leonard, Abbie Leonard, Kelli Mitchell, Melissa Marwitz, Gala Burns, GeKai Halton and Avilez Chaiah.

The women got their yoga on courtesy of AGC and Edge Electric.

Community service to celebrate WIC Week finished everything off as the chapter packed meals at the Capital Area Food Bank. Front row, L-R: Toni Osberry, Wren Fair and Kelli Mitchell; middle, L-R: Gala Burns, Summer Dougherty and Misti Schaffer; back, L-R: Jamie Denton, Cindy Riches, Amy Maresca, Sandra Johnson, Molly Drazic, Jamie Leonard, Kimberly McDaniel and GeKai Halton.

On Mar. 4, everybody donned their hard hats and checked out a job site. The whole top row is the Crockett High School Construction Technology students; bottom row, L-R: Toni Osberry, Nikki Guinn, Kelli Mitchell, Emily Coffman, Pilar Avalos and Taryn Ritchie.

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ACCOUNTING

What you need to know about compilations, reviews, and audits to obtain a loan or line of credit

PKF Texas
Houston, TX

Chris Hatzen, CPA
Sam Razmandi, CPA

Many business owners looking for their first loan or line of credit face daunting tasks when dealing with the financial institution and subsequent credit agreement that best suits their current and future needs. Unfortunately, this can be a challenge for many owners who do not have experience in finance or accounting.

Signing a loan that is not properly negotiated can cost a business tens of thousands of dollars per year, while choosing the incorrect loan can be an expensive mistake that cuts into your bottom line for years. Most loans or lines of credit come with different covenants, and many require the borrower to provide yearly financial statements. These range from internally prepared financial statements to compilations, reviews or audits. Many first-time borrowers don’t understand the differences or the costs of producing these reports.

Financial statements prepared by a CPA firm assist with the assurance banks look for when they issue a loan. Typically, the larger the loan, the more assurance the bank will require. Some loans only require a compilation, which technically provides no assurance, while loans which appear riskier to the bank may require a financial audit. A compilation is a financial report put together by a CPA firm that follows AICPA guidelines to assure the financial statements are in accordance with Generally Accepted Accounting Principles (GAAP) or other standards recommended by the AICPA. A compilation does not provide a relatively inexpensive report, compared a review or audit, but it also provides no assurance.

Review

A review is the next step up and provides limited assurance. This report must be done by a qualified CPA firm, but unlike a compilation, the financial statements are independent; meaning, the firm has no financial interests in the business, relations with owners or elected members of management, or with the area of the business it reviews. A review is typically two or three times more expensive than a compilation, with an increased level of work for the review process, and the increased risk the accounting firm assesses in preparing the reports. Reviews are like compilations, in that they are the representation of management and not the CPA firm, and follows standards set by the AICPA. Audits

This is typically a much more involved process and provides reasonable assurance the financials are presented fairly, in all material respects, and are in accordance with the stated financial framework, such as U.S. GAAP or International Financial Reporting Standards (IFRS). Audit procedures include an examination, substantive analytics, confirmations, and for some companies, the testing of internal controls. Audits can be two or three times the cost of a review and can even get into the six figures, depending on the company, its size and the complexity of the transaction involved.

There can be a major price difference between the procedures banks may require, so it is important to note, like other aspects of your loan, these requirements can be negotiated. As with interest rates, collateral and other important factors of a loan, the financial reporting requirements are just as substantial. At times, a bank may be asking for an audit when a review might meet the requirements and be a better fit for your business needs.

Yet, after obtaining a loan or line of credit, owners can be faced with the lesson of the costs associated with preparing these required financial statements and the subsequent charges incurred by the CPA firm. It takes proper planning to ensure you have a compilation, review or audit, which adds to the costs incurred if the company is not ready for the process. In most businesses, the cost is not a surprise. Always read the fine print and make sure you understand all of the covenants and reporting requirements that come with a debt obligation. Discuss these terms with your banker and CPA to ensure you understand and can meet them.

Inspiration: The number one thing I can’t stress enough is the importance of having a strong safety culture. A strong safety culture is paramount for your success.

6. Help control the cost of claims.

Early identifying the cost of claims, and beyond yesterday claim reporting. Develop a process for injured employees to follow, and work with your insurance carrier to communicate with injured employees. Routine claims can be handled in-house, but keep your insurance carrier up to date on claims before they spiral out of control. Claims costs are directly related to how your e-mod is calculated, and the lower your claims costs are, the better your e-mod.

7. Communicate with your insurance carrier.

Develop relationships with the claims managers and adjusters at your insurance carrier. Most carriers have a limited number of claims people, so it is common to work with the same people over many years on multiple claims. Let them know you take your safety culture very seriously, and communicate with them about resources at your disposal, users of your E-Mod, and training. Use your E-Mod.

8. Hire the right people.

Construction is hard work. Ensuring that capable, skilled workers are being hired is one of the easiest ways to prevent fraudulent claims and control overall claim costs. To ensure your workers are utilizing pre-employment screenings and physicals in order to avoid potentially damaged claims. In addition, ensure they are properly matched to their position.

9. Create safety goals.

Having employees buy into your safety culture is critical. Setting and tracking goals that are realistic and achievable is a great way to engage employees and give them ownership in the safety process.


Adding to number nine, it is important to celebrate team safety successes. Many companies choose to do monthly catered lunches for loss-free months, which recognize employees efforts in making sure things go to work without accidents. Other companies will recognize a specific employee for a job well done.

11. Celebrate successes.

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Assignment issues in construction contracts

Ben Wheatley, Title
Munsch Hardt Kopf & Harr
Austin, TX

As construction, design and real estate professionals (and their lawyers) know, the following clause is found in most standard AIA contracts: Neither Owner nor Architect [or Contractor] shall assign this Agreement as a whole without the written consent of the other, except that Owner may assign this Agreement to an institutional lender providing financing for the Project.

Because the only explicit exception to the consent prerequisite in the AIA Contract is for institutional lenders, courts have questioned whether this provision actually prevents the assignment of contract performance or related causes of action. For example, design and construction professionals may want the right to choose who they work for. On the other hand, a developer may have a difficult time selling a newly completed project if the design and construction teams cannot be held accountable for defects that are discovered after completion.

In addressing this question, courts generally interpret this provision to prohibit the assignment of contract performance, but not the assignment of a post-performance cause of action relating to that performance. The primary purpose of clauses prohibiting the assignment of contract rights without permission is to allow the party to select the persons with whom he or she deals. When a contract is performed prior to the assignment of a breach of contract arising from a post-performance cause of action, the assignee, from assignment of the claim does not require consent because a general anti-assignment clause, one aimed at prohibiting the assignment of a contract performance, does not necessarily prohibit the assignment of a breach of contract action.

The legal distinction between the “right to assign performance under a contract and the right to receive performance” is the right for its breach is the right to assign performance of the executory contract. There are two reasons for this distinction:

First, is the general rule that causes of action are freely assignable. Second, references not only the distinction between executory and non-executory contracts, but between contracts pre- and post-breach. Even though an executory contract may be non-assignable because of its personal nature, after an event that gives rise to a liability on a contract, the reason for the rule disappears and the cause of action arising under the contract is assignable. Thus, claims for money due under a contract, which is not assignable because of its personal nature, may be assigned to a third person and enforced by the assignee.

Courts have traditionally made this distinction between an assignment of a right or thing before a loss or breach has occurred, and assignment of a right or thing after a loss or breach has occurred. This is because pre-breach assignments increase the potential creation of new contractual relationships, which could materially increase the risk of the non-consenting party, whereas the post-breach assignment is supported by the law concerning the free alienability of causes of action that do not materially increase the risk of the non-consenting party because, in theory, that risk has been fixed by the breach or loss. Last, when the anti-assignment clause prohibits its assignment “as a whole,” assignment of the right to sue only constitutes a partial assignment.

The AIA language above will not prevent the assignment of a contract, even while executory. Rather, a party seeking to enforce the anti-assignment provision will simply have a breach of contract claim for damages arising from the breach. If a party wants to prevent assignment while a contract is executory, it should include language in the clause noting that no assignment without consent is void and unenforceable.

Finally, when reviewing a design or construction contract, which contains an anti-assignment provision, carefully consider the long-term implications of such a clause, in the context of your project role as a designer, builder or owner. Each project constituent will have a different view on what it actually wants as a result of such a provision, and ensure that the language plainly states your ultimate goal.

Ben Wheatley has more than 23 years of experience litigating complex construction and environmental matters, negotiating and drafting construction and design contracts, serving as in-house counsel for an international A/E/FM, and working on issues concerning the practice of architecture, engineering, and project construction in all 50 states, Mexico and South America. In addition to construction law matters, Ben handles administrative matters related to the construction and design industry, as well as environmental and commercial litigation._bwheatley@munsch.com www.munsch.com

Stewards of a legacy

Representing the fifth generation of the HOLT CAT family tree, Corinna Holt Richter and Peter John Holt have taken the next step in the succession plan towards their ownership of the heavy equipment dealer.

In her new role as executive vice president/chief administrative officer, Holt Richter will be responsible for the administrative divisions, including Hill, safety, IT, organizational development, facilities management, continuous improvement, environmental, legal, marketing and strategy, and transportation.

In his new role as executive vice president/general manager, Holt will be responsible for all enterprise operating divisions, including HOLT CAT, HOLT Agri-Business, Texas First Rentals, HOLT Crane & Equipment and Steich Tejas.

Both of them joined the HOLT CAT team in 2011 and note that in those five years, they have learned a lot from their experience and ascension through the ranks. They also emphasize the significance of starting on the product support side of the business, which Holt Richter says, “is really what we see as the heart of what a dealer does.”

Holt, who bears the name of their father, Peter M. Holt, owner and CEO of HOLT CAT, says, “This is truly a formal step for my sister and I to move into being owners of the business and head operators of the business in our partnership. So, this is a really important time in HOLT’s past, present and future in the fact that we’re moving into roles that we will stay in for our entire careers. So, it’s vitally important for us to build and grow our teams, and then use a balanced approach to continue on our operations excellence journey, but also to find areas for growth and diversification.”

Holt Richter adds, “It’s really humbling to be a part of this legacy that my family’s built. We’ve outlined what our sibling partnership mission statement is, and it’s essentially to be a steward of that legacy and to grow the business. We’re really excited about the future.”

Brother and sister team Peter, John Holt and Corinna Holt Richter have stepped into new executive leadership roles at HOLT CAT, taking up the next phase of the succession plan in their family’s company.

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Sign to see in index.
I have one older sister and when my mom is Michelle Poe. She has been superintendent in construction.

I was born and raised in Pasadena. I lived there until I left for college in Davenport, IA.

Since I was 14, I got a stepbrother.

I had a great mentor in Houston – Jarrod Coulter. He basically grabbed my hand and taught me almost as much as I could learn in the matter of the three years I was in Houston. After that, I wanted to do something more creative and challenging so Strucutra transferred me to Austin in 2011.

I had a great mentor in Houston – Jarrod Coulter. He basically grabbed my hand and taught me almost as much as I could learn in the matter of the three years I was in Houston. After that, I wanted to do something more creative and challenging so Strucutra transferred me to Austin in 2011.

And I got a job as an assistant to the assistant superintendent at Structura in 2011.

My bosses in Austin, Kevin Jones and Rusty Morgan, were great and helped me get to where I am today.

You said Keith Williams was a father figure to you. What did you learn from him?

He always pushed sports, because in misery and drama that is outside of work.

I always push sports, because in playing sports you learn how to face adversity, you learn how to win and lose and you learn how to work as a team. It's helped me so much in construction, because I work with so many subcontractors, all with different personalities. But we all have the same goal – trying to finish a project safely, on time and on budget.

Keith is still in my life today.

What did your mom teach you?

She was always supportive of anything I wanted to do. She hardly ever told me no when I was shooting for my life's goals and dreams. She let me make my own mistakes, but she was always there to catch me when I was falling. She helped me get through college, as well.

When did you start DKC Construction?

I started in October 2013. The folks at Structura were very supportive. I still talk to Kevin (Jones). It's actually fun when we bid against each other. He always wishes he had bid against me.
Choosing The Best Fishing Times

There really is nothing complicated about this at all; it’s just a matter of knowing ahead of time exactly when the sun and moon will rise and set. Fish are the most active during 90-minute windows surrounding each of these four daily events; that’s 45 minutes before and after these four daily points.

Fishing during these four periods will help increase your fishing catch, but if you plan wisely so as to ensure you’re at the water’s edge on the days of new or full moon, you can use these ‘windows’ to reel in a catch like you’ve never done before. If you have to choose between sunrise/set and moonrise/set, always go with the moon as the moon is the stronger influence. Hunters have always known that fish and game are most active at dawn and dusk - sunrise and sunset - but their activity surrounding moonrise and moonset is less noticeable because these events are less noticeable because these events are

Good luck and Good Fishing.

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Guns have been a debated topic for as long as I can remember. It seems you are either for them or against them and not much is in between. The fastest growing group of handgun shooters appears to be females between 30 and 60 years old. We wanted to find the reason for this dramatic increase so we headed up to Ballistic Therapy LLC just outside of Boerne for some answers.

Sandy and Wes Barnett opened the facility in August 2015, but are not newcomers to the industry. The facility includes an indoor range, gun shop and a classroom for License to Carry and other training.

“We first went through the process to receive our FFL (Federal Firearms License) and started selling firearms. Ladies would buy a firearm and didn’t know anything about it and that led to training,” said Sandy. “About four to five years ago we started thinking about our own shop. I really enjoy training women. This range became vacant so we met up with a partner and took it over.”

“Here’s how it started. I was asked to hand gun training. Her big smile and quick response was that daddy had no boys so he turned his three girls into tomboys. She is the oldest and started shooting at 9. I turned the focus of my questions to Sandy and her three girls into tomboys. She is the oldest and started shooting at 9. I turned the focus of my questions to Sandy and her three girls into tomboys. She is the oldest and started shooting at 9. I turned the focus of my questions to

Receiving formal training before picking up this new drill is a good idea. Pictured, L-R: Dana Calonge, and Sandy and Wes Barnett, owners of Ballistic Therapy LLC.

Other Considerations

When planning your fishing by moon phase, there are certain other factors that should also be considered. Weather: Severe weather changes have an impact on the way fish feed. When a storm’s brewing, or just after one has passed, is a good time. If this happens while you’re in place, you’ll be in for a treat! However, if there’s a cold front approaching, the fish are likely to move deeper into the water and become inactive.

Season: Most fish are more likely to bite willingly during seasonal transitions with the transition from winter to spring and summer to fall being the two best fishing times.

Now that you know that moon phase fishing really works, there’s no reason why you shouldn’t utilize this knowledge to increase your own fishing catch by being at the ready with your rod during the best fishing times available. It’s easy and it works.

My summer schedule is filling quick. Don’t wait till all the good dates are gone! To schedule your next bay fishing trip give Capt. Steve Schultz a call at 361-813-3716 or 361-334-3105 or e-mail him at steveschultzoutdoors@gmail.com. Good luck and Good Fishing.

Protect yourself but be safe

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Ken Milam’s Fishing Line

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

Liquid Resurrection!

I just saw a sweet sight. Three generations of my neighbors just slipped down to the boat dock to wet a hook and see if they could catch a mess of crappie. Now you might think that would be a routine thing if you weren’t from around here. The amazing thing is that the kids of the group are just getting acquainted with the lake because it has been dry for most if not all their lives. It’s like that old West Texas joke about drought that says a three year old kid would think the sky was falling if it rained because it never had in his life time. After being over 34 feet low at its worst the level of Lake Buchanan has risen to just a little over 4 feet low! It has taken several rises on the Colorado River since July of last year to get the water back, but it is finally here!

Years of drought left thousands of acres of lake bottom dry and exposed to the sun. The rich silt grew all kinds of heavy brush and trees. Now all of that structure is mostly hidden beneath the waves again and the fish have already moved in, just in time to spawn and raise their young. Buchanan is poised to become a destination fishing lake once again! All around the lake the lights are coming on as people come back to enjoy their lake houses and rediscover their favorite resorts and fishing camps. We are hearing not only from fishermen that had been displaced by this drought, but from long lost friends and customers from up to 30 years ago. Everyone seems to just want to check in on the return of the water and recapture the good times they’ve had here and we are happy to welcome them. We can’t seem to stop looking at the lake either!

I can’t explain how good it is to hear soft conversation on the cabin porches over coffee, and smell bacon sizzling as the sun comes up, children playing on the beach with splashing dogs and fishing boats idling in and out of the docks in the cool morning air or the scent of fish and taters frying as the sun goes down. It is so nice to have everyone around again. It was too quiet for a long time around here.

Already we have plenty of bait fish that have moved back in. For the first time in several years the white bass have been able to make it all the way up to the head of the lake at Colorado Bend State Park for their spawning run. Stripers and hybrids are back to their old spring migration patterns like nothing ever happened. Largemouth bass are starting to find themselves good spots to nest and the crappie are loving all the brush to hide in. Everything seems to be settling back into place.

I know this same scenario is being played out all over the state with the other lakes that are returning. We are in for a fine fishing season this year. Don’t miss out on going back to the waterfront; after all we have learned just how precious our water is and how quick it can be gone.

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Wes explained that formal training appeals to people, as well. “Husbands are also bringing their spouses in to have them trained as opposed to training them themselves,” he said. “Also, after the wives learn to shoot they can come in together. Shooting as a sport has drawn countless number of women.”

Women who walk in the range may be uncertain, Sandy says. “Probably one half the ladies that walk in this door are somewhat afraid of a gun,” she said. “It’s the unknown. They don’t know what to expect or if they will even want to shoot. They also worry about if they will shoot well.” It is better for a lady to be trained by a male or female was my next question and how does she get a new shooter over with and no matter what we are talking about again we talk about safety,” stated over and over we go back to safety. Over and over we talk about guns and safety.

“She comes in and says I want to learn to learning about guns and safety. They come in and say I want to learn from a female because I feel more comfortable. I work with them one on one using a nice easy approach. Safety is first hands down. It’s the first thing I start with and no matter what we are talking about, we go back to safety. Over and over again we talk about safety,” stated Sandy. “They come in and are usually a little nervous. After we go through the steps and some training sessions they are more comfortable and their confidence is building. Confidence plays a big part.”

According to Wes, women have different strengths than men. “Women seem to multitask a little better than men do,” says Wes. “They seem to follow the process better when they step into the lane. They do the same thing in sequence all the time. They are very deliberate in what they are doing. Guys don’t necessarily do that.”

Sandy says she has a specific plan in place for training women shooters. “There is a strategy in the training,” said Sandy. “When I get them in here we take it step by step by step. Women will spend more time in the class than the males hands down. They ask more questions. They want to know and make sure they get it right. Also we go through the process even before we go into the range so I am comfortable they know how to dry fire, stance, hand placement and all of that.”

I brought Dana Calonge in the classroom before hitting the range. According to Wes, women have different strengths than men. “Women seem to multitask a little better than men do,” says Wes. “They seem to follow the process better when they step into the lane. They do the same thing in sequence all the time. They are very deliberate in what they are doing. Guys don’t necessarily do that.”

Sandy began going through the basics with Dana and I could tell very quickly that safety is the number one topic in this classroom, along with lots and lots of basics. After this phase was complete we handed to the range and, here again, the first thing out of Sandy’s mouth was safety rules.

It was interesting to watch Dana and her initial apprehension about what she was about to do. She was carefully guided step by step. Load one round of 22 long rifle into the pistol. Assume the proper stance, proper grip, aim and gently squeeze the trigger.

Sandy Barnett spends time with Dana Calonge in the classroom before hitting the range.

After that first shot she said, “I wasn’t aiming there.” Her first shot was in the B. Now load up three more rounds and go again. This time each of the shots hit close to the X circle. Beginners luck, I said to myself. “Buying a gun is a personal fit like buying a pair of shoes or a purse. It has to be what you are comfortable with and that’s why we have try before you buy. And safety is always first.”

Buddy Doebbler
Publisher

No matter where you shop, No matter what you’ve been offered, WE’LL BEAT IT!!!

We deliver on our haul truck at no charge to our customers anywhere in the U.S.
Terracon recently announced it has acquired Building Exterior Solutions LLC (BES) of Texas.

Terracon is a provider of environmental, facilities, geotechnical, and materials engineering services with many locations throughout Texas. Terracon will retain BES’ 20-plus employees and offices in Houston, Dallas, Austin and San Antonio areas. Founded in 2008, with the experience of professionals from architectural, engineering, and construction industries, BES provides investigation, evaluation, and construction solutions for exterior building systems. BES’ experience resolving existing building enclosure problems and developing new integrated building enclosure designs reinforces Terracon’s facilities capabilities and strengthens the firm’s ability to service clients across the country.

“BES adds significant bench strength to our building enclosure practice and we are excited to have them join Terracon’s Facilities Division,” said David Gaboury, PE, president and CEO of Terracon. “The depth of their expertise allows us to further demonstrate our commitment to bringing even greater value to our clients.”

The BES staff includes licensed engineers and certified roof and waterproofing consultants who provide design for new facilities or rehabilitation of existing building enclosures that exhibit distress, deterioration, and air and/or water infiltration. BES clients include owners, developers, architects, contractors, and organizations such as Kirksey, Memorial Hermann, Lincoln Properties, and Gensler.

BES operates as Building Exterior Solutions, a Terracon Company, as of the Jan. 31 closing.

“Terracon is well-known in the marketplace and gives BES clients the benefit of an expanded network of resources and capabilities,” said Jerry Abendroth, BES president. “The facilities services capabilities of our firms align perfectly, enhancing our ability to serve clients across the country.”

The acquisition strengthens Terracon’s Texas presence as BES joins a network of more than a dozen offices in the state. Engineering News-Record ranks Terracon as the third largest General Building design firm in Texas and Louisiana, and 11th on the Top Texas Design Firms list.

Terracon is an employee-owned engineering consulting firm with more than 3,500 employees providing environmental, facilities, geotechnical, and materials services from more than 150 offices in 42 states. Terracon currently ranks 35th on Engineering News-Record’s list of Top 500 Design Firms. –cw

The Reynolds Company believes in grooming its employees to move up within the company. The company believes in promoting from within and has an internal training program, as well as an intern program. Brand says the company takes part in several charity endeavors, including the American Heart Association Heart Walk, the Juvenile Diabetes Fund and various trade associations.

“We understand we have a responsibility to the community and we take that very seriously,” he added. “We realize we have a responsibility to the community and we take that very seriously.”

The Austin location opened in 1998 and employs a staff of 25. –cw

On its way

Ryan Companies US Inc., Austin, broke ground on Feb. 19 for Urban Oaks, an affordable multi-family development situated on 8 acres in Austin. Pictured, L-R: Ron Kowal, HACA member; District 2 Council Member, Delia Garza; Sr. Pastor George Ward, David Knoll, vice president of Housing Development/Asset Management; Carl Richie, HACA board member; District 2 Council Member; Delia Garza, Sr. Pastor George Ward, David Knoll, director of development, Ryan’s SouthCentral Region; Hunter Barrier, president of Ryan’s SouthCentral Region; Suzanne Schwertner, AAHC Homeownership coordinator; and Michael Gerber, HACA president and CEO. –cw

Submitted to Construction News

Opening act

The ACT Pipe & Supply Pflugerville location hosted an open house Feb. 5. Attendees checked out products, had lunch and networked with fellow friends in the construction industry. –ab

Submitted to Construction News

Electric energy

The Reynolds Company, an electrical wholesaler distributor, was founded in 1984 in Ft. Worth. Walt Reynolds and Donald Reynolds Jr. are now the president/CEO and COO, respectively. The company, still headquartered in Ft. Worth, has 18 locations in Texas and Louisiana, with the newest location in Selma, serving the San Antonio area.

Massey Brand, regional manager for Central Texas, says customer service is a top priority.

“Our idea is to truly value the overall customer experience,” he says. “We want our customers to enjoy doing business with us. We are a customer focused company.”

Brand says the company’s goal is to be the premier distributor in Texas and Louisiana, and that begins with top-notch staff.

“We believe in hiring experts in our field,” he says. “We have an outstanding culture. We want our employees to come to work and enjoy their jobs – and to make progress. We understand our most important asset is our people.”

The company believes in promoting from within and has an internal training program, as well as an intern program.

Brand says the company takes part in several charity endeavors, including the American Heart Association Heart Walk, the Juvenile Diabetes Fund and various trade associations.

“We understand we have a responsibility to the community and we take that very seriously,” he added.

Brand says when he started in 1995, the company was only in the DFW market, but over the last 20 years he has watched the company grow into a major regional distributor.

“It speaks volumes to the type of owners we have,” he says. “It’s family owned with family values.”

The Austin location opened in 1998 and employs a staff of 25. –cw

Traveling for tanks

Tony Rizo and Rachel Calima of Water Storage Tanks Inc. traveled from Dripping Springs to Dallas to exhibit at the Dallas Build Expo Mar. 9-10. –nm

Submitted to Construction News


terracon acquires BES
What did you choose a career in the construction industry? Construction chose me! I was supposed to be a real estate agent, actually I still am, I just haven't sold anything in six years! I got my license to sell real estate the same year my husband and I incorporated Edge. I didn't think the company would grow as quickly as it did but it began to require my presence and attention more and more often. I honestly believe there was a time frame in which I worked every waking second, A/P and A/R from 7am to 4pm and showing houses in the evening and weekends - leaving no time for my family or myself. I had a tough decision to make - Real Estate or Construction?? Obvously, I chose the latter and I'm glad I did because it has been an amazing experience building a successful business with my husband by my side.

Do you have a mentor? Please explain.

Common sense tells me that if you strive to be successful your best bet is to learn from those who are already successful. And if you find someone who is willing to share their knowledge for success you should listen! But the key is to actually use the advice they give. Your business advisor doesn't always tell me what I want to hear - even so, I follow his instructions. For example, a couple years ago we were offered a $2 million project in Louisiana - literally just needed to sign the dotted little line, after some good reasoning, suggested we turn it down. And abiding by the law of common sense and letting words of the wise re-ductantly declined the contract.

What are the benefits of women pursuing a construction career?

Women are emotional creatures by nature - so the fact that you are able to be a part of something bigger, like building a city, is pretty fulfilling. I was born and raised in Austin so being involved with the growth and expanding of the city makes me so proud! Almost every corner you turn downtown, I could point out a building we've worked where.

What do you enjoy most?

I've worked in offices where the tension was so thick you could cut it with a knife - I woke up every morning dreading the day ahead of me. As we opened the doors to our company it was very important to me that we create a peaceful and inviting environment for our clients and us. In turn, I walk into an amazing atmosphere every morning. I love my job and the work I get to do with the people I work with.

What specific challenges have you faced?

There's really nothing easy about running a business. I knew I had a promotion coming - Real Estate or Construction??? I have to say that one of my biggest challenges has involve growth. Unless you had a rich uncle kid the buck and leave you a small fortune you should be prepared for the long haul. Rapid growth requires substantial capital, if you don't have the capital you can simply grow your business slow and organically.

How did you overcome those challenges?

We didn't have the "rich uncle capital" that I grew it slowly, making every penny of profit for several years. We set annual goals considering the strain of cash flow and our labor force - taking on only as much work as necessary to meet our goals while remaining profitable. Typically we grow 20-30% per year.

In your experience, are more opportunities opening up for women?

Definitely!

What areas do you see the most increase in jobs for women in the future?

There truly NOTHING a women can't do in our industry! We see women at all ages with a wide range of skill sets within the construction industry. Business owners, upper management positions, Feng with trade certifications, etc.

What advice can you offer women who want to pursue a career in construction?

This isn't my quote but I like it, "You can't force someone to respect you, but you can refuse to be disrespected." - unknown.

I used to think that just because I signed someone's paycheck they should naturally respect me but I've learned that respect must be earned (that applies to men, too). But as a woman in a predominately male industry we have to maintain confidence and consistence in our work to earn the respect of our colleagues and customers.

What is more important for a construction career - education, or experience?

I believe experience is more important - I know lots of successful women in our industry with no more than a high school education.

From a woman's perspective, has the construction industry changed over the years?

I have to say I feel like dramatic change in the last 10 years - women aren't just running the office anymore - they own the office, they run the field and supervise tradespeople, although there is an attitude' and then just staying cautious with making any of the troublesome workers (none on my crew - these would be from the other subs on the project). I haven't had to deal with any of the trou-

What specific challenges have you faced in your career?

Early on in my career, being taken se-

But because of the very nature of construction, attorneys, CPA's, bookkeeper, insurance/bonding agents - all must have knowledge specific to construction. With this in mind, women can find them- selves in any aspect of construction to be able to support themselves and their families very well.

What specific challenges have you faced in your career?

I've had to work twice as hard to prove that I could do the work as well as the guys and there were some uncomfortable moments with being approached by guys with perhaps another agenda for my being in the field. And I think the worst challenge is the port-a-

What advice can you offer women?

To talk to women that are currently in the field of choice. If a woman thinks she wants to pursue the trades, talk to trades-

What are your goals for the future in the construction industry?

A perpetual goal of mine is to main-
The Greater Austin Contractors & Engineers Association (ACEA) held its 2016 Frostbite Golf Tournament on Feb. 22 at Twin Creeks Country Club. Statewide Materials Transport won first place in Flight 1. –cw

The Construction Leadership Council (CLC) in Austin, an arm of Associated General Contractors Austin Chapter (AGC), met up at the Container Bar for its annual CLC Spring Celebration. More than 50 young construction professionals got together to mingle and let their hair down. –cw

The National Association of the Remodeling Industry (NARI) announced the 158 Regional CotY (Contractor of the Year) winners in the 2016 competition, of which 13 are members of the Austin NARI. Regional CotY Winners now advance as finalists at the national level.

Contractors from seven regions around the country vie for CotY Awards on an annual basis. Regional winners will be honored and National winners will be announced at NARI’s Evening of Excellence reception on Friday, April 8 at the Sheraton Austin Hotel at the Capitol in Austin.

Competing projects were completed between Dec. 1, 2013, and Nov. 30, 2015. The entries of this year’s competition totaled over $100.2 million worth of remodeling projects. –cw

Austinite NARI winners included:

Residential Bath Under $25,000
Reality Restoration LLC with team member Twelve Stones Designs, Austin

Residential Bath $50,001 to $75,000
Reality Restoration LLC with team member Twelve Stones Designs Universal Design Project Recognition, Austin

Residential Bath $75,001 to $100,000
Realty Restoration LLC with team member Twelve Stones Designs, Austin

Residential Interior $75,000 to $150,000
Clark Richardson Architects, Austin

Residential Addition $100,000 to $250,000
CG & S Design-Build, Austin

Residential Addition Over $250,000
CG & S Design-Build, Austin

Residential Exterior $100,000 to $200,000
Risher/Martin Fine Homes, Austin

Entire House $250,000 to $500,000
CG & S Design-Build, Austin

Entire House $750,001 to $1,000,000
Risher/Martin Fine Homes, Austin

Entire House Over $1,000,000
Realty Restoration LLC with team member Twelve Stones Designs, Austin

Plumbing retirement

ICON Mechanical Contractors in Austin bade a fond farewell to one of its own at a retirement party on Mar. 24. Wayne Lawrence has been with ICON for 10-plus years and has been a licensed plumber in the Austin area for over 30 years.

“Wayne has not only been a great worker, but a great friend and teacher to many apprentices,” said Chuck Paxton, president. “The day has come that we have dreaded, he is retiring from the profession. Wayne is one of the most knowledgeable plumbers in Austin and he will be missed. We wish him good luck and lots of fun in his retirement.” Lawrence has been involved in many of the buildings built in Austin over the past 10 years. The projects include hospitals, high rise buildings, down town tenant remodels, new construction and service work. –cw

Plan to attend

The National Association of Women in Construction’s 61st Annual Meeting and Education Conference AUGUST 17-20, 2016 SAN ANTONIO, TEXAS

61st Annual Meeting and Education Conference • Industry Speakers • Professional Seminars/Workshops • Networking • Trade Show • NAWIC Awards Gala

Registration

Early Bird (March 1 - April 30, 2016):
Members $615
Non-members $715

Regular (May 1-June 30, 2016):
Members $665
Non-members $765

Late (After June 30, 2016 and on-site):
Members $745
Non-members $845

Register and book your room today!

www.nawiconvention.org

Grand Hyatt San Antonio https://research.passkey.com/go/2016NAWIC

*Conference rates are guaranteed if booked by July 27, 2016.

Moving on up

The Greater Austin Contractors & Engineers Association (ACEA) held its 2016 Frostbite Golf Tournament on Feb. 22 at Twin Creeks Country Club. Statewide Materials Transport won first place in Flight 1. –cw

Not so frosty

Submitted to Construction News

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Tales from the Crypt, I love scary shows. Russell Johnson, Edge Electric
Friends, because it was hilarious (and I had a crush on Joey!)
Sandra Johnson, Edge Electric

My favorite was the Mission Impossible series. It was so well done for the time period. The intrigue of the assignment always had your interest. Plus, watching them execute their ‘plan’ to take out the bad guys always drew me into the story. Despite the limited technology of the day, they could make some pretty simple equipment appear so high-tech. Barney was the master at this. I still watch the old shows occasionally on Roku.

My favorite show growing up was Dallas. As a kid, it was addictive to watch and JR Ewing was who I wanted to be “when I grew up.” The show had it all...fancy cars, beautiful women and the rugged yet sophisticated feel of being a powerful oilman. In many ways, that show still epitomizes Texas image on a global scale.

James Gill, Austin Fence

2016 Engineer of the Year Award: Ali Khataw, PE, right, president and CEO of Encotech Engineering Consultants Inc.

2016 ASEB Engineer of the Year: Julia Harrold, PE, PMP®E, right, president and CEO of MMW DesignGroup.

STG Design has announced: Christopher Gonzalez, AIA, LEED GA joins as an architect. He holds a Bachelor of Science and a Master of Architecture degree from the University of Texas at Austin. Gonzalez has over seven years of experience in the architecture and design field both in the Austin and San Antonio markets. He has worked on projects of varying scope and scale in residential, commercial, educational and institutional. Gonzalez is a LEED® Green Associate™ and is actively pursuing his LEED® design expertise.

Maegan Holloway joins the interiors department as a designer. She holds a Bachelor of Arts in Interior Design from Michigan State University. Holloway’s design career began with a foray into residential design before transitioning to commercial design with an office furniture dealer. She is excited to pursue her registration in interior design and further her LEED® design expertise.

Brittani Long, LEED GA joins the interiors department as a designer. She holds a Bachelor of Arts in Psychology from Bowling Green State University and a Master of Science in Interior Design from Pratt Institute. Long has four years of experience in the design field. She has worked on projects of varying budgets, scope and scale in corporate, justice and healthcare. Long is a LEED® Green Associate™ and is actively pursuing her registration in interior design.

Flintco LLC has named Kevin Moses as president of the South Central region, overseeing the company’s Austin office and its operations throughout Texas. Kevin has been with Flintco for 29 years. He was integral in growing the Memphis division into one of the company’s most successful offices.

BIG RED DOG Engineering | Consulting announced that Dan Hennessey, PE, and James Schwerdtfeger will head up its latest service expansion in Texas, a new Traffic Engineering practice.

Hennessey will lead the new Traffic Engineering service line as a vice president and the director of Traffic Engineering Services. Hennessey was most recently a team leader and senior Transportation Engineer for west-coast based Fehr and Peers. Prior to that, he held noteworthy positions for the South Carolina Department of Transportation and Greenville, SC-based Sprague and Sprague Consultants.

Schwerdtfeger will also be a vice president in the Traffic Engineering practice. He has successfully led Austin-based R-K Traffic Engineering, LLC for the past three years as owner and president. During his time at R-K Traffic, he successfully led the traffic engineering analysis and recommendations for dozens of projects on behalf of development clients in the Austin metro area.

What was your favorite TV show growing up?

TV show growing up? Russell Johnson, Edge Electric

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A n Austin company that was founded 10 years ago with a crew of six has had a great decade and now boasts 80 employees. 

Austin Underground was founded by Rick Vavro in 2004 and began operations in 2005. New partner Tony Franco, general superintendent and vice president, has joined Vavro, president, to continue the firm’s stellar growth. Out of our six original employees, four are still with the company.

“I attribute that to their growth with the company,” Vavro says. “Two of them are now superintendents and one is a skilled equipment operator, while the other is a leadman.”

The office and equipment yard the company built in Jonestown has a literal open-door policy for employees. “Other than the restroom, there are no doors on any of the offices,” Vavro says. “I try to run it like a family operation.”

For the last three years, employees can look forward to an annual Christmas party where someone will win a car; Vavro says. Other company events include most events at Rodeo Austin and the occasional fish fry.

The business is not afraid of challenges. “Our saying is your construction challenge is our specialty,” Vavro says. “We do a lot of unique projects. We take on projects that other people avoid.”

That includes digging deep in what are sometimes less than ideal situations to lay the groundwork for utilities. Both Franco and Vavro are OSHA certified trainers, and are proud of the company’s safety record.

“We don’t stop work when it’s raining,” Vavro says. “Rain days are training days.”

Vavro says repeat business and great employees are the key to the company’s success.

A celebration is planned in May to recognize the 10th birthday. –cw

continued from Page 1 — Needed: White horse

...with a welding machine in the back of his pickup truck.

“When the University of Texas started the expansion of its dormitories, we were doing the handrails and bungalow bars,” he says, “We did that for many years before we started doing structural steel. I find it very satisfying.”

The company now boasts 71 employees and finds most of its work through referrals and satisfied customers.

“I would have to say I know every job we have come from a customer,” Dennis says. “My job is to make our customers happy. If we ever lose sight of that, we’ll go the way of all flesh.”

The company mainly focuses on residential and commercial work. –cw

continued from Page 1 — Contractor as client

space a higher-end feel. For example, the building’s exterior features two panels of country field-colored stone that was selected in New Bremen. For the interior’s front lobby, Thomas requested a unique concrete tilt wall behind the receptionist’s desk.

“I told Ernesto that I wanted that wall there and he made it happen,” she says. “It was insured on the floor and the slug and tilted in place just like a regular tilt-wall. Then he finished it with a labor-intensive sanding process to make it very smooth; you can run your hand over it and it almost feels like velvet. It’s just a massive concrete wall that is standing in place. He had to do some creative work in pouring it; it’s not structurally holding anything up even though it is supported from above. The weight involved in having something that is standing up in our lobby – he jumped through some hoops and really pulled off a very unique product.”

Thomas says touches like these really make the space, but the cost of each one had to be carefully considered, given that the budget was hers.

“It does present challenges because you’re looking at it from both viewpoints,” she says. “You’re looking at it as a contractor and at the cost implications. But because it’s something for yourself, you’re also looking at it as the owner who wants it to look nice. On a project we do for somebody else, that is on the plans and on the drawings.”

Fortunately, Thomas trusted her choices, which cut down on middle-of-the-process, she says. “We knew our budget well enough to know the most we could get for it. There were changes along the way because of city requirements – those change fairly often. But for ourselves, we went in knowing exactly what we wanted to put up and went after it.

Unfortunately, bad weather is what caused delays, which pushed a six-month project to the seven-month mark. Even though the slab was poured in a hard rain and the panel walls were tilted in place, a flood in San Marcos last spring affected the schedule, and the drought that followed impacted ground cover installation, delaying the certificate of occupancy. Being a seasoned contractor, Thomas took the delays in stride.

“That’s typical for a general contractor,” she says, laughing. “We’re always fighting Mother Nature.”

With the project complete and her staff moved in, Thomas is more than pleased with the result, both as the contractor and the client.

“My extremely happy. The new space is much more comfortable than our last,” she says.

Established in 1982, K-W Construction Inc. is a commercial general contractor with projects ranging from churches, schools, universities, retail centers, office buildings, tenant finish-outs and warehouses. –mjn

continued from Page 1 — Rebel Weirness Skatepark

named Rebel Weirness Skatepark, will have a 50-ft vertical ramp, a 50-ft deep bowl – shaped like a guitar – and a full pipe.

But what makes it really weird and different from the others? Marriott laughs.

“Skaters will be able to take advantage of a feature never seen before in a skate park,” he says. “A conveyor belt will allow skaters to leave their boards traveling underneath them as they traverse an iron-man like course that will take brute strength, as well as brains, to complete! If the board comes out at the end before

continued from Page 1 — Obituary

K ethen Wayne Painter, 80, died March 17 in Seguin. He was born June 27, 1935, in Kiot, OK, to George and Izntha Painter. He moved to Corpus Christi in 1948, and considered Corpus Christi his home town, though he lived in Oklahoma with his work for AGC. He was the Associated General Con- tractor (AGC) Austin Chapter’s executive director from 1993-2000.

He is survived by his wife, Jeanette and children, Karen Painter Greathouse (Cody), Wayne Painter, Kirk (Heidi) Painter, Traci Garlington and Scott Garlington; grandchildren, Kelby Greathouse (Lindsey) and Loni Greathouse King (Darrell); Serena, Sarah, Shyla, Kellan and Mckennon Painter, Kelsey, Zachary and Harrison Painter; and six great-grandchildren with many nieces and nephews that he loved deeply as well.

A memorial service was held Mar. 24 in the Chapel at First United Methodist Church in Corpus Christi. –cw

Obituary

Dennis said he had already made up his mind to help after only a few minutes of observing the children and the horses. “I’m setting the bar for good deeds over there,” he says. “All I had to do was go over there one day and see the children. It was amazing. They do that every day. My hat’s off to them.”

Dennis said the original contractor had put up the steel columns and made the roof rafters for the enclosed arena, but everything needed to be put together and it was found that more sheets were needed for the roof. He said it took about two weeks to finish the project.

Roland just thinks Dennis is one of the good guys.

“If we had a white horse, we would have him ride it!” she says.

Dennis started Dennis Steel in 1980 with 10 years ago with a crew of six has had a great decade and now boasts 80 employees. –cw

Austin Underground employees donated money to the Pin Stop Barbecue tent, which the company sponsored at the recent Rodeo Austin barbecue Cook-off. The company raised $22,000 from the tip jar during the weekend for children’s scholarships.

continued from Page 1 — Austin Construction News • Apr 2016

K eith Shively, 65, died March 16 in Seguin. He was born May 5, 1949, in Haskell, TX, to John and Blanche (Jones) Shively. He moved to Corpus Christi in 1967, where he lived and worked. He graduated from the University of Texas at Austin in 1971 and received a J.D. from South Texas College of Law in 1974.

He is survived by his wife, Margaret, and children, Bradley and Christopher. –cw

continued from Page 1 — Austin Construction News • Apr 2016

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A memorial service was held Mar. 24 in the Chapel at First United Methodist Church in Corpus Christi. –cw

continued from Page 1 — Obituary

Dennis said he had already made up his mind to help after only a few minutes of observing the children and the horses. “I’m setting the bar for good deeds over there,” he says. “All I had to do was go over there one day and see the children. It was amazing. They do that every day. My hat’s off to them.”

Dennis said the original contractor had put up the steel columns and made the roof rafters for the enclosed arena, but everything needed to be put together and it was found that more sheets were needed for the roof. He said it took about two weeks to finish the project.

Roland just thinks Dennis is one of the good guys.

“If we had a white horse, we would have him ride it!” she says.

Dennis started Dennis Steel in 1980 with 10 years ago with a crew of six has had a great decade and now boasts 80 employees. –cw

Austin Underground employees donated money to the Pin Stop Barbecue tent, which the company sponsored at the recent Rodeo Austin barbecue Cook-off. The company raised $22,000 from the tip jar during the weekend for children’s scholarships.

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K eith Shively, 65, died March 16 in Seguin. He was born May 5, 1949, in Haskell, TX, to John and Blanche (Jones) Shively. He moved to Corpus Christi in 1967, where he lived and worked. He graduated from the University of Texas at Austin in 1971 and received a J.D. from South Texas College of Law in 1974.

He is survived by his wife, Margaret, and children, Bradley and Christopher. –cw

continued from Page 1 — Obituary

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Rodeo up!

More than 90 teams signed up to cook barbecue and help fund scholarships for children at the first—and newest—event at Rodeo Austin on Mar. 4-5.

The new event, BBQ Austin, brought thousands of people to the Texas State Fairgrounds to sample plenty of barbecue and other items.

Barbecue teams started working on Thursday and continued into the wee hours of Friday as they prepared their delectable treats. All proceeds raised by the teams fund Texas scholarships. –cw

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