

Austin

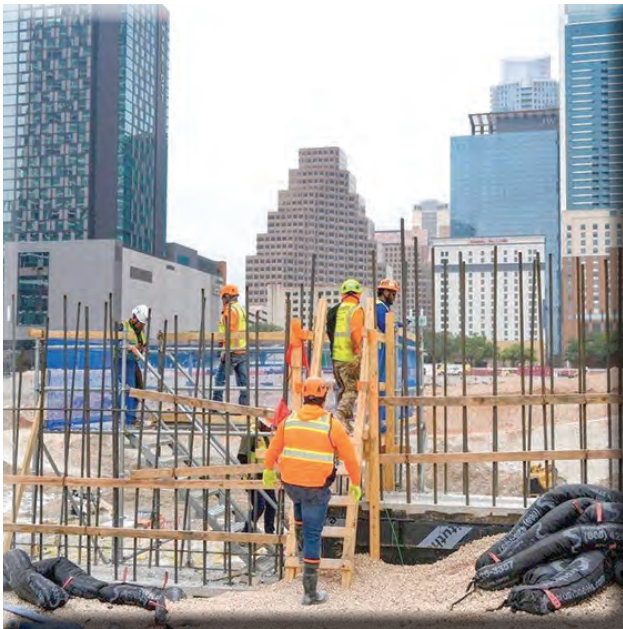
CONSTRUCTION NEWS

The Industry's Newspaper



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Austin Convention Center Takes Shape Downtown



Construction crews continue work on the Austin Convention Center redevelopment in downtown Austin. JE Dunn-Turner is leading construction of the massive project, with numerous subcontractors, suppliers and skilled trades contributing to the facility scheduled to reopen in 2029.

One of downtown Austin's largest construction projects is taking shape as crews continue work on the redevelopment and expansion of the Austin Convention Center.

The **JE Dunn-Turner** joint venture is serving as Construction Manager-at-Risk for the project, leading preconstruction and construction for the City of Austin. The redevelopment is scheduled to be completed ahead of the convention center's planned 2029 reopening.

Work has progressed from demolition and site preparation into major structural construction. Crews have performed deep excavation, foundation work and construction of the reinforced-concrete diaphragm wall that supports the excavation and below-grade

portions of the new facility. Structural steel is also arriving on site as the building begins its transition toward vertical construction.

A large team of specialty contractors, subcontractors and skilled trades is involved in bringing the project together. Publicly advertised construction packages include work involving structural and miscellaneous steel, concrete, reinforcing steel, millwork, tile and specialty flooring, along with other building trades.

The project also requires a broad range of excavation, earthwork, foundations, formwork, ironwork, carpentry, mechanical, electrical, plumbing, glazing, finishes and other specialty construction trades as the new convention center rises. JE Dunn-Turner is coordinating the many contractors and suppliers required for the

massive downtown job.

Designed by the **LMN Architects/Page** joint venture, the new convention center will provide a larger and more efficient facility on a smaller footprint while reconnecting portions of the downtown street grid.

Sustainability is another major part of the construction effort. Plans incorporate low-carbon concrete and steel, mass timber and materials salvaged from the former convention center as the project pursues zero-carbon certification.

With cranes overhead and structural work advancing, the redevelopment is becoming one of the most visible examples of Austin's continuing transformation — and a major undertaking for the contractors and skilled trades helping build the city's next convention center.

Texas School for the Deaf Breaks Ground

Texas School for the Deaf has broken ground on a new residence hall and classroom expansion for its ACCESS program, launching a major campus project designed to help young adults prepare for greater independence after high school.

Flintco is serving as construction contractor for the project, working with the Texas Facilities Commission, Texas School for the Deaf and McKinney York Architects. The ACCESS program — Adult Curriculum for Community, Employment, and Social Skills — serves Deaf students ages 18 to 22 as they develop employment, daily-living and independent-living skills.

The project includes a three-story, approximately 40,000-square-foot apartment-style student residence hall, along with an expansion and renovation of the existing Kleberg Building. New



A rendering shows the planned ACCESS residence hall at Texas School for the Deaf in Austin. Flintco is leading construction of the new student housing and classroom expansion, designed to create a connected living and learning environment for young adults preparing for independent life after high school.

instructional areas will include classrooms, a wood shop, teaching kitchens and other skill-based spaces. Upgrades to campus entry points are also part of the broader work.

The design incorporates Deaf Space principles, with attention to sightlines, lighting, circulation and gathering areas that support visual communication. Students, educators, staff and Deaf Space consultants helped shape the project during the design process.

The Texas Department of Licensing and Regulation lists the overall student housing, classroom and security project at 53,150 square feet with an estimated construction cost of \$43.5 million. Construction is expected to continue for about two years, with move-in targeted for the 2028–29 school year.

Keeping Austin Cool



Team Services recently showcased another Austin-area mechanical project featuring significant HVAC and chilled-water system improvements. The project included an air-handler replacement, installation of a shell-and-tube heat exchanger and replacement of chilled-water piping. The work demonstrates the coordination and technical expertise required to upgrade major mechanical systems serving commercial facilities.

Bastrop Bridge Revival

Jay-Reese Contractors is rehabilitating Bastrop’s Old Iron Bridge, a landmark Colorado River crossing that has been closed to the public since 2018 because of structural concerns. The city aims to reopen it for pedestrians and cyclists.

The project calls for repairs and strengthening of the bridge’s steel trusses and supporting structure, a new concrete deck, railings and decorative lighting. Austin-based Huitt-Zollars designed the rehabilitation. Jay-Reese, based in Dripping Springs, is carrying out the construction work.

Built in 1923 and opened in 1924, the bridge once carried vehicles between downtown Bastrop and the opposite bank of the Colorado River. It later became a pedestrian crossing and a familiar part of the city’s riverfront. The structure is listed on the National Register of Historic Places.

Restoring the bridge presents a different challenge from building a new crossing. The city’s rehabilitation plan calls for replacing deteriorated components while retaining the historic Parker truss design. It also identifies repairs to the bridge supports and removal of old lead-based paint before the steel is recoated.

Once reopened, the bridge is intended to reconnect downtown with the June Hill Pape Riverwalk Trail and provide a place to stop and enjoy views of the river. For Bastrop, the work will return a century-old landmark to public use while preserving the steelwork that has defined its skyline for generations.



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Built for what’s next



Not every great project starts with a blank site. **Flynn Construction, Inc.** was proud to showcase the completion of the Tru by Hilton in downtown Austin, an Adaptive Reuse project that transformed an existing student housing building into a modern hospitality destination while extending the life and value of the structure. Across the city, adaptive reuse is increasingly being recognized as an important strategy for preserving resources, revitalizing existing properties, and meeting the needs of Austin’s continued growth. Projects like this require thoughtful planning, close collaboration, and a construction team that can navigate the unique challenges of building within an existing space. The Flynn team embraced those challenges from day one, delivering a finished product that balances efficiency, quality, and long-term value. “Thank you to our client and project partners for trusting Flynn Construction to bring this vision to life.”

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Restoration of History



Restoration is underway at the Paramount Theatre on Congress Avenue, with **JE Dunn Construction** Austin serving as general contractor for the historic venue's renovation. **EverGreene Architectural Arts** is handling specialized restoration and preservation work.

The theater closed to the public in June 2026 as crews began the most extensive restoration of the building in decades. The Paramount portion of the project has a projected completion date of July 2027.

Opened in 1915 as the Majestic Theatre, the Paramount has been a fixture of downtown Austin for more than a century. The current work aims to preserve its historic character while addressing the needs of a modern performance venue.

Crews are restoring decorative paint, plaster molding, chandeliers and other architectural details. Planned improvements also include replacement seating, upgraded lighting and sound, improved accessibility, expanded restroom and concession facilities, and

updated building systems. The project will create a third-floor lounge envisioned in the theater's original 1915 plans.

The preservation work has required careful study of the building's earlier finishes. EverGreene examined historic paint and decorative treatments to guide the restoration, while work on the theater's century-old balcony doors includes wood repairs, replacement glass and recreated hardware. DLR Group is part of the design team, and Architexas is serving as preservation consultant.

The Paramount renovation is the first phase of the Austin Theatre Alliance's Shine On campaign, which also calls for an extensive renovation of the neighboring State Theatre. Work on the State is planned to follow the Paramount, though a construction start date for that phase has not been announced.

For now, the project places a prominent stretch of Congress Avenue in the hands of construction crews and preservation specialists. Their work will determine how the Paramount's original details are carried into its next century of performances.



Industry FOLKS

Michael Moore
Partner, Audit | Construction
Aprio LLP | Aprio Advisory Group LLC
San Antonio, TX



Michael Moore, Partner, Audit | Construction, Aprio LLP | Aprio Advisory Group LLC, San Antonio, TX

Michael Moore was born and raised in Houston, TX. He graduated from St. Thomas High School on the edge of downtown and says, "It was a great experience and brought kids together from all parts of Houston."

After graduation, Michael did his undergrad studies at Schreiner University in Kerrville. There he played soccer for the university which kept him busy in addition to his classes. He earned a BBA in Accounting and Information Systems from Schreiner University before going on to get his master's degree in accounting from the University of Houston.

Michael met his wife, Roxie, while in college in Kerrville, where she too played soccer. "Schreiner is a small school and everyone pretty much knew everyone. I pursued dating Roxie for quite a while before she agreed to go out on a date, just to prove to me that it wouldn't work. Here we are 21 years later!"

Together they have three children, one son and two daughters. Their son, Zachry, is 15 and a freshman in high school. Their daughters, 12-year-old Katen and 11-year-old Logan are in seventh and sixth grades. Zachry loves football and also runs track. The girls love dance and dance competitively year round.

They also currently have two Persian cats, leading the way to Michael losing the debate about getting a dog.

Right out of school, Michael worked for an accounting firm in Houston that I had a very heavy concentration of clients in the construction field. "Clients in the construction field are all the same, good down to earth, hardworking entrepreneurs. I truly enjoy working within this industry."

"When we moved from Houston

in the summer of 2015 to San Antonio, I decided to join Ridout, Barret & Co. due to their culture and how engrained they were in the San Antonio construction industry. Then in January of 2024, Ridout, Barrett & Co. merged with Aprio."

Michael is an Audit/Assurance Partner on Aprio's construction team and enjoys being able to be a resource for their clients and his team, and helping them solve problems.

With no true mentor, Michael looked at his parents and learned a lot about how to excel in business and his professional life. "Both our parents worked full time and had demanding jobs. I'm the youngest of three boys and we were always in sports. From year-round club soccer to school athletics on top of that. No matter how busy our parents were there was never a doubt that they would be at our events to support us. I use my parents as my model to how to always be there for our kids no matter how busy I get at work."

To relax, Michaels enjoys working out, hunting, and spending time with his family together when they don't have dance recital or sporting event to attend. He also does Jiu Jitsu which helps him relax and release stress. "I've been doing Jiu Jitsu for ten-plus years and received my black belt a while back. I once had a client ask me how I stay so calm... and I told her that I get to choke my friends in the evenings. You can image the look I got! I then told her that if I can stay calm while someone is trying to choke me unconscious then an accounting problem is nothing!" -cwr



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Industry FOLKS

Mike Bynum
Preconstruction Manager
SpawGlass
San Antonio, TX

Michael (Mike) Bynum was born and raised in the Houston suburb of Katy, TX where he had a close-knit group of friends he grew up with from grade school through high school. They went to the same church, played on the same sports teams, and traveled on many family vacations together. “Looking back, those friendships and that sense of community had a significant impact on who I am today,” Mike said. That strong sense of connection followed him into his college years.

Mike graduated from Cinco Ranch High School in Katy before attending Texas A&M University, where he earned a degree in Construction Science in 2015. “Whoop! I loved college. A lot of my friends from high school also went to A&M, so I had a good core group of buddies there. We probably did college a little differently than most. We enjoyed hunting, fishing, and hanging out on someone’s patio rather than hitting the town.”

Like many students, Mike’s career path evolved as he discovered what interested him most. Originally, Mike thought he would be a mechanical engineer because his father worked in the oil and gas industry. He always had a desire to understand how things worked, along with the sequencing and

coordination of production. But he quickly realized he wanted something more tangible and closer to the action. That realization ultimately led him to the construction industry and, eventually, SpawGlass.

As part of his degree program, Mike completed a summer internship with SpawGlass in Houston. “That summer affirmed that I had made the right choice pursuing a Construction Science degree because I enjoyed the fast-paced nature of the job site and the coordination of the trades,” he said. “I still have fond memories every time I drive past that first project on I-10.” Following graduation, Mike accepted a full-time position with the company and has now been with SpawGlass for 11 years.

Currently, Mike serves as a Preconstruction Manager for SpawGlass’ San Antonio office. “When I came on full time, I started in the field as a superintendent and, a few years later, moved over to be a Project Manager, where I spent most of my career,” he said. “I quickly found excitement in management and a passion for leading multiple projects and teams across the region.”

While Mike has built a successful career, family has remained at the center of his life. Before relocating to San Antonio last year with their growing family, Mike and his wife, Emily, had spent most of their lives in the Houston area. “Emily was 25 weeks pregnant with our third child when we decided to move, which was probably not my best idea,” he joked.

Mike and Emily have been married for eight years. The couple met while working at T Bar M Camps during the

summer. Coincidentally, Emily had just transferred to Texas A&M from TCU that same year.” Once we got back to school, the rest was history,” Mike said. “Somehow, my beautiful wife manages two full-time jobs, her career at HPE and being an amazing mom to our three kids.”

Today, life at home is filled with plenty of activity. Their oldest, Blair, is 5 years old. Beau, their second child, is 3, and their youngest, Brooks, is 10 months old. “It’s safe to say life is in full chaos mode, but we are loving every second of it!” Mike said.

The family also includes an English Springer Spaniel named Ford. According to Mike, Ford is their “original child.” “I have a huge passion for training hunting dogs, and Ford was my latest duck dog,” he said. “Pre-kids, Ford traveled just about anywhere I went and was always my right hand. He’s still always close by, but he’s more focused on picking up kid scraps under the table instead of ducks these days.”

Over the years, Mike has held several roles at SpawGlass, but he says the company’s culture is one of the reasons he has stayed for more than a decade. He describes it as rewarding to work for a company that invests heavily in building people and provides opportunities to develop both professionally and personally. “I am a diehard SpawGlass fan,” Mike said. “I am proud to be a part-owner of a 100% employee-owned company. The mindset is different when everyone around you is personally invested in the success of the company. There is a strong sense of accountability and teamwork that drives us to serve our clients and leave behind a quality product.”



Mike Bynum, Preconstruction Manager, SpawGlass, San Antonio, TX

Those relationships have also shaped his career. “I feel incredibly fortunate to work alongside great people every day,” he said. “The relationships I’ve built through SpawGlass have had a lasting impact on me both personally and professionally, and I’m excited about what lies ahead for our San Antonio team.”

Mike credits several mentors throughout his career with helping guide him along the way. “The thing they all did well was focus more on me personally than professionally,” he said. “Advising me as a person heavily influenced how I treated my career and professional success.”

Away from work, Mike enjoys spending as much time outdoors as possible. Whether mountain biking, working dogs, duck hunting or simply enjoying a cold beverage on the patio, that’s where he’s happiest. He relaxes best with no electronics and some Stevie Ray Vaughan playing in the background. He also prioritizes spending time with family, and vacations remain an important way to focus on what matters most.-cwr

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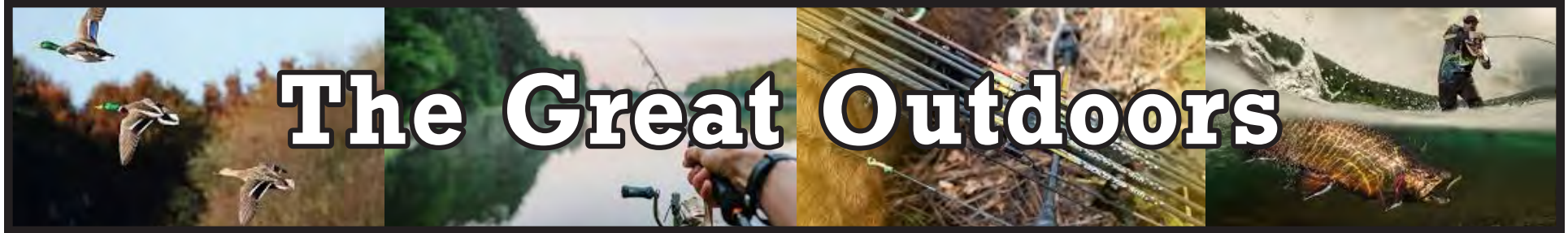
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Fall Flip: Stripers Fire Up While Catfish Stay Steady on Lake Buchanan

October has brought the kind of shift Lake Buchanan anglers have been waiting on all year. After months of scattered schools and unpredictable patterns, the stripers have finally started behaving exactly like they're supposed to for this time of year. With fall settling in and bait pushing shallow, the lake has erupted into true topwater chaos — the kind of explosive, highenergy action that makes October one of the most exciting months to fish Buchanan.

Stripers are pushing shad to the surface, stacking up on points and humps, and feeding with the intensity that defines a classic fall pattern. The topwater bite has been loud and aggressive, with surface eruptions that can be seen from across the lake. Rods are bending fast, drags are screaming, and groups are getting the kind of action that turns an ordinary morning into a highlight reel. After a strange spring and a moody summer, the lake has finally flipped into the pattern everyone hoped would arrive, and it's delivering in a big way.

Even with stripers reclaiming the spotlight, catfish continue to hold their ground as the most dependable species of 2026. Blue cats and channel cats have carried the lake all year, and fall hasn't slowed them down. Cooler nights have pushed them into a comfortable feeding rhythm, and they're still producing steady action on ledges,

timber, and flats. For construction crews wanting guaranteed meat in the cooler, catfish remain a top choice. Their strong size structure and higher meat yield make them ideal for fall fish fries, company cookouts, and stocking the freezer before winter.

Catfish also continue to offer the kind of simplicity that makes them perfect for mixed groups. There's no chasing fastmoving schools or timing narrow bite windows. It's relaxed, hands on fishing that keeps everyone engaged, from seasoned anglers to firsttimers. And with Texas's higher catfish bag limits, groups walk away with more meals per trip than they would targeting other species.

Stripers, though, are finally giving anglers the show Buchanan is known for. The topwater bite is beginnerfriendly, highenergy, and perfect for crews wanting excitement without complexity. Construction teams finishing long weeks in the field are finding this fall to be one of the most rewarding seasons of the year, with both stripers and catfish offering strong, dependable action.

As October 2026 rolls on, Lake Buchanan is offering the best of both worlds: stripers feeding aggressively on top and catfish delivering steady, reliable meat runs. Whether your crew wants surface explosions or full coolers, fall has finally come alive on the lake.

Slinging Slabs



The wind was light, the skies were blue, and there were hardly any other fishermen in sight. It was the kind of morning that makes a crappie trip enjoyable before the first fish ever hits the boat.

Haley Mathews, Owner, *Construction News*, was with Captain Clendon Taylor, outdoor writer and the owner of *C&C Guide Service*. "Clendon fishes lakes across Central and South Texas, and on this trip, he put us on crappie holding in 12 to 14 feet of water."

They used live minnows for bait and LiveScope to target the fish. At each brush pile, they eased into position, dropped minnows and caught a few before moving to the next spot. The steady action added up quickly. Before they knew it, they had a two-man limit.

Some trips come down to one productive spot. This one was all about moving from brush pile to brush pile and making the most of each stop. With calm water, blue skies and a limit of slabs in the boat, it was a fine morning on the lake.



Work Hard, Hunt Hard



Dawson TX Construction brought its team together for a company dove hunt, mixing an outdoor Texas tradition with some off-the-clock camaraderie.





New State Park Near Lampasas Opens for Day Trips



Post Oak Ridge State Park opened to self-guided day visitors on Sept. 24, giving Central Texans a new place to explore along the Colorado River. The park spans more than 3,000 acres in Lampasas and Burnet counties, near Colorado Bend State Park.

Texas Parks and Wildlife Department began purchasing land for the park in 2025. Its landscape includes post oak woodlands, spring-fed creeks, canyons and overlooks of the Colorado River. Visitors

can hike, watch for wildlife and picnic beneath the trees.

The initial opening provides rugged Hill Country trails and an accessible picnic area. Park superintendent Kacey Sloan said the shorter hike covers a little over three miles of challenging terrain, while a trip to an overlook and back is about five miles. Trail maps are available online and at the trailhead.

Visitors must reserve a day pass online before

entering; passes are not sold at the gate. The entrance is reached through Naruna, four miles down County Road 105. The reservation confirmation includes a gate code. Admission is \$2 for visitors ages 13 and older and free for children 12 and younger.

Park hours are 8am to 4pm Monday through Thursday and 8am to 8pm Friday through Sunday. Hikers should carry plenty of drinking water because none is available on site. Cell service is limited, and development work continues at the park.

Oktoberfest



It is that time of year once again! We have made it through the transition, the heat, the high fishing pressure, the high barometric pressure. If this was an elevator, we would be hearing the ding for the penthouse on the top floor. You name it, it's yours; big bull reds at the jetties, slots back in numbers on the flats, black drum and reds on the reefs, trout slicks everywhere. We should start with a bull tide that drags fish up. If Mother Nature wants to play ball some light northerns to cool the water off, maybe an early strong north wind to get us just as wild.

Fortunately, all the woes of bait shops not having enough piggies or croakers some weekends will be a thing of the past. We can go back to cut mullet and live shrimp under a popping cork or a light weight. Don't be in a rush, work the top of the reef or the closest to shore sand pockets at the top of the tide and as it starts moving out so do you. Bump along, make sure your trolling motor is

ready since that will be your new hammer. I thoroughly enjoy pulling up to a reef and just moving over until we get into a good group. You don't have to witness a sign that says they're here. For those interested in bull reds, swing by your favorite tackle shop and get some buck tail jigs, 2oz, 3oz will do the trick.

For some added love, take shrimp with you so you can add some scent to your drops. If the tide's ripping out usually the north jetty on the inside before the waves get big will hold the fish. If it's incoming and not heavy the outside of the north or south will hold them usually tight to the rocks before it drops off. For those wading, I'm mixed, you have access into back lakes you may not have had that are now holding plenty of reds and trout. But you can always target hard bottoms or scattered shell on hard bottoms for the trout making one last spawn.

Whatever you decide, just know you picked the best month to do it in! Good luck out there, stay safe and tight lines!

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Quality would like to cast out a massive thank you to their incredible sponsors who made this year's event the best one yet and it wouldn't be a success without your support!

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Archery Deer Season Opens October 3 Across Central Texas

Texas's archery-only white-tailed deer season opens Oct. 3, and runs through Nov. 6. For Central Texas bowhunters, the final days before the opener are a chance to check where deer are feeding, find dependable water and review rules that can change across a county line—or even across Interstate 35.

The Hill Country has long offered abundant deer, but conditions on an individual property matter more than a regional outlook. Rainfall has been uneven, and a food source that drew deer a few weeks ago may no longer be their first stop. Hunters should look for fresh tracks, droppings and well-used trails between bedding cover, food and water. Observing fields and openings from a distance can help identify a travel route without repeatedly disturbing it.

Early October can still feel like summer in Central Texas. Scouting during the morning and evening hours may give hunters a better picture of deer movement than a midday walk. Wind direction also matters when choosing a stand: a promising trail offers little advantage if a hunter's scent blows toward approaching deer.



Before taking a shot, hunters should know the rules for the exact location of their stand. In Comal and Hays counties, Interstate 35 divides different deer regulations. West of the highway, the county bag limit is five deer, no more than two bucks. East of it, the limit is four deer, no more than two bucks and two antlerless. The eastern portions also have buck

antler restrictions. Guadalupe County has a four-deer limit, including no more than two bucks and two antlerless, and its buck antler restrictions apply countywide.

Those differences matter especially to hunters moving between properties around New Braunfels, San Marcos and Seguin. In the areas with antler restrictions, only one of the two legal bucks taken in a county may have an inside antler spread of 13 inches or greater. Hunters should confirm the full definition of a legal buck before heading to the stand.

An antlerless deer taken in the eastern portions of Comal or Hays counties, or in Guadalupe County, must be reported to Texas Parks and Wildlife Department within 24 hours when harvested under a hunting license tag. Rules can differ on properties enrolled in the Managed Lands Deer Program.

Archery hunters need a valid hunting license and archery endorsement. The general deer season opens November 7. Before opening morning, check the current Texas Outdoor Annual for the county, property and tagging rules that apply to your hunt.

Not just another pigment

During a period of economic uncertainty in Mexico, Biochemical Engineer **Franklin Jiménez** was by the responsibility of providing for his family and by a desire to build something of his own. As a result, Jiménez turned his passion for research and development into a business, and in March of 1999, Jiménez founded **Construcolor** in Mexico.

Through extensive testing and formulation, he developed a liquid gel integral pigment that is used by concrete contractors throughout Mexico and the United States.

Since 2003, Construcolor has served customers and has been establishing its brand in the United States with its first location in Laredo, TX. While Construcolor’s Laredo location operated as a warehouse and distribution center from which they delivered their products directly to their customers, the company opened its first retail location right here in San Antonio, TX.

“San Antonio is our first physical retail location, where customers can visit us in person, purchase products in the store, place orders online, and arrange



Construcolor Store Manager Felipe Mujica at Construcolor’s San Antonio retail location at 10874 Leslie Rd. in Helotes, TX

pickup or local delivery,” says Store Manager **Felipe Mujica**.

Currently servicing all of San Antonio and its metropolitan area, the San Antonio location also offers deliveries to Austin as well with plans to expand their reach throughout Texas and beyond.

“Research and development are at the heart of Construcolor,” continues

Mujica. “Our products are never treated as finished simply because they are already successful. We continually evaluate and improve our formulations so we can deliver better performance and value to our customers. Customer service is equally important to us. We believe in providing personalized attention, understanding each

customer’s specific needs, and willing to help them find the right solution.”
For over 27 years, Construcolor has developed pigments, additives, and protective systems that combine innovation, durability, and design. Their work is built on collaboration, partnering with architects, contractors, precast concrete manufacturers and concrete producers to bring ideas to life and performance to every surface. Additionally, they offer a superior color matching service.
“As we expand in the United States, we want to bring that same combination of innovation, product quality, and personal service to every market we enter,” concludes Mujica.

From color consistency to surface refinement and long-lasting protection, Construcolor’s solutions are formulated to elevate concrete and masonry projects at every stage. Their system-based approach is designed to improve durability, enhance aesthetics, and deliver reliable performance in residential, commercial, industrial, government, and public sector environments. -cwr

New Headquarters Takes Shape in Austin Area

Structure Tone Southwest is highlighting construction progress on a new headquarters facility in the Austin area, a ground-up project spanning a 9.5-acre site.

The contractor says the project features a concrete tilt-wall core and

shell with structural steel, an interior mezzanine and a high-performance façade. Work also includes onsite utility infrastructure and dedicated water systems designed to support long-term operations.

In its project update, Structure Tone

Southwest credited collaboration among its construction team, trade partners, design professionals and the owner as work continues to take shape.

A Structure Tone Southwest project leader identifies a 36,000-square-foot headquarters

project in Round Rock with the same 9.5-acre greenfield scope, including underground utilities, site paving, landscaping, tilt-wall and structural-steel construction, high-security server rooms and mission-critical systems.



Construction continues on a new Austin-area headquarters facility being built by Structure Tone Southwest. The 9.5-acre ground-up project features concrete tilt-wall construction, structural steel, an interior mezzanine, a high-performance façade and extensive site infrastructure.



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Topping Out Austin’s Newest Hospitality Destination



Eight stories up, and right on time. **Kent Concrete** has officially topped out the eight-story Cedar park Marriott Hotel and Convention Center in Austin, marking a major milestone for one of the region’s most anticipated hospitality developments.

In partnership with **Cadence McShane Construction**, their team accelerated the schedule to keep the project on track for its targeted opening. The achievement highlights what’s possible when trusted partners share a commitment to safety and execution on every pour.

“This project showcases what happens when everyone pulls in the same direction,” said Division Manager **Tim Beavers**. “Our partnership with Cadence McShane has been outstanding, and Superintendent **Durley Velazquez** has led from the front every step of the way. His dedication to this job and its schedule earned well-deserved recognition during the topping out celebration.”

Durley’s leadership has been instrumental in maintaining safety, quality, and pace from the first foundation pour though topping out.



College Students Head Back to Campus

As college students across Texas head back to campus, one **SpawGlass** employee’s daughter is beginning her college journey with \$40,000 in financial support.

SpawGlass has awarded its 2026 T. Frank Glass Memorial Scholarship to **Emily Buenrostro**, whose father, **Lazaro Buenrostro**, has worked as a form builder setter in the company’s San Antonio Region since April 2020.

Established in 2003 and named in honor of SpawGlass co-founder T. Frank Glass, the scholarship reflects the company’s longstanding commitment to investing in employee families through higher education. The scholarship provides up to \$40,000 to eligible dependent children of SpawGlass employees pursuing undergraduate degrees. Recipients receive \$10,000 each academic year, with \$5,000 awarded per semester, and may renew the scholarship for up to three additional years by meeting academic and program requirements.

Emily, a graduate of Moe and Gene Johnson High School in Buda, Texas, will attend Texas A&M University this fall to study biomedical sciences before pursuing a physician assistant degree. Her interest in health care grew through HOSA-Future Health Professionals, a global student-led organization that develops future health care leaders through education, leadership development and

hands-on experience, as well as through her high school’s biomedical sciences program. Those opportunities strengthened her commitment to a career that blends scientific expertise with compassionate patient care.

“Emily’s commitment to academic excellence, leadership and service reflects the values at the heart of the T. Frank Glass Memorial Scholarship,” said **Weston Voss**, CEO of SpawGlass. “She has demonstrated perseverance, compassion and a genuine desire to serve others. We are proud to support her educational journey and look forward to the impact she will make in the health care profession.”

Emily distinguished herself through academic achievement, leadership and community service. She earned a 4.44 weighted grade-point average while maintaining a 4.0 grade-point average in dual-credit coursework at Austin Community College. She also served as vice president of HOSA, was head spirit coordinator for her class, organized community blood drives and volunteered throughout her community.

In her scholarship essay, Emily reflected on the importance of resilience and servant leadership, writing that “small, consistent actions often have the greatest impact.” That philosophy has guided her academic success, volunteer service and leadership.

An independent panel of community volunteers and business and industry leaders interviewed finalists, and reviewed applicants’ scholarship essays.

Named in honor of T. Frank Glass, whose leadership and vision helped shape SpawGlass, the scholarship continues his legacy by investing in the educational aspirations of the families behind the company.



Emily Buenrostro, recipient of the 2026 T. Frank Glass Memorial Scholarship, will attend Texas A&M University this fall to study biomedical sciences before pursuing physician assistant school. Emily is the daughter of Lazaro Buenrostro, a form builder setter with the SpawGlass San Antonio Region.

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Catamount Welcomes Josh Presits as Vice President, BTR to Its Build-to-Rent Team

Build-to-Rent operations leader joins Catamount to drive the next chapter of growth for ArchType®, its Build-to-Rent solution

Catamount announced that Josh Presits has joined the company as Vice President, BTR leading ArchType®, its Build-to-Rent solution.

Presits joins Catamount from Onyx+East, an award-winning homebuilder and one of the Midwest’s most active Build-to-Rent developers and contractors, where he spent seven years delivering single-family rental communities across multiple markets. Before that, he worked at PulteGroup, one of the nation’s largest homebuilders, and began his career as a carpenter and estimator at Martin Brothers Contracting, a high-end custom homebuilder. His career has been built at the operational core of residential construction, from estimating and field management to leading the delivery of entire single-family rental communities.

Presits will lead ArchType®, Catamount’s ready-to-build solution for the Build-to-Rent market. ArchType® gives developers a kit of proven, pre-designed plans that streamlines design and construction, reduces risk, and provides cost certainty on single-family rental communities. He steps into the role as Bernida Chapman, who was instrumental in developing and launching ArchType®, moves into a new role leading Catamount’s senior living work. Presits will guide the solution’s



continued growth as a core part of the company’s Build-to-Rent offering.

He holds a Bachelor of Science in Organizational Leadership and Supervision from Purdue University and is a U.S. Army veteran.

“Josh has spent his career delivering high-quality single-family rental communities, and he knows what it takes to build them efficiently and at scale,” said Jared Ford, President of Build-to-Rent and Multifamily at Catamount. “Bernida led ArchType® into one of the most compelling offerings in Build-to-Rent and left it on a strong foundation. Josh’s deep experience and operational leadership means he’s the right person to carry it forward. We’re excited to have him join the team.”

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- 3 – Mike McGinnis / Uvalco Supply and Powersports & Equipment
- 4 – Clint Wurzbach / Comfort-Air Engineering/Primo Plumbing
- 5 – Fabian Villarreal / Middleman Construction
- 8 – Bell Crisp / Absolute Resourcing
- 9 - Alejandro Gonzalez / Satterfield & Pontikes Construction
- 10 – Jonathan Rogero / Omega General Contractors
- 10 – Rick Taylor / Core Electrical Group
- 11 – Carlo Best / PeopleReady
- 13 – Ray Sigman / Middleman Construction
- 13 – Tom Walthall / Sanderford & Carroll
- 14 – Tyrae Patterson / Core Electrical Group
- 14 – Jefferey Rokstad / Core Electrical Group
- 15 – Steve Daughterty / Alamo 1
- 15 – Jennifer Swinney / ASA San Antonio Chapter
- 15 – Allura Williams / Core Electrical Group
- 16 – Haley Mathews / Construction News
- 17 – Tanner Mathews / KCS
- 17 – Ben Matous / Middleman Construction
- 17 – Mike Perez / Alamo 1
- 18 – Jeff Galvan / Alamo 1
- 21 – Hanna Dawson / Frost Bank
- 21 – Jeffrey DuBose / Lone Star Civil
- 24 – Greg Wiatrek / Alpha Insulation Roofing & Waterproofing
- 25 – Christen Benavidez / Core Electrical Group
- 25 – David Call / Core Electrical Group
- 25 – Andrew Hutto / White Rock Construction
- 25 – David Leza / Core Electrical Group
- 29 – Lane Hoelting / Core Electrical Group

Know someone celebrating a birthday next month? Let us know!
Email Andi Mathews, andi@constructionnews.net

INSURANCE



A 20% Increase Is Not Weather

Allison De Paoli
Founder & Principal
Altique Consulting
San Antonio, TX

A sub hands you a lump-sum bid that comes in 20% over budget. No schedule of values. No unit prices. Just a number and a place to sign.

You don't sign it. You don't even get mad. You level it. You make him show the math, and the number that survives leveling is never the number he walked in with.

Then the health plan renewal shows up 20% over last year, and firms that level everything treat it like weather. Something that happens to you. Complain, budget it, pay.

The renewal is a bid. It has assumptions, allowances, and padding, same as anything else that crosses your desk with a price on it. The carrier just skips the breakdown unless you ask.

What's in the number

Three things drive a fully insured renewal. Only one of them is about you.

Trend. The carrier's assumption about medical inflation next year, baked in before anyone opens your claims file. It works like an allowance line, and nobody sets an allowance low. Ask what trend factor they used and how it compares to what your claims did.

Your experience, diluted. Carriers blend your group's claims with their whole book of business. The smaller the group, the more your renewal reflects what the carrier needs across thousands of employers, presented as if your people caused it. Ask how much of the increase your own claims drive. For smaller groups, the answer can be less than half, delivered quietly.

Large claims. One premature baby or one major surgery can swing a mid-size group's whole year. But some of those claims are over. The surgery happened. The treatment ended. If the carrier prices next year like it happens again on schedule, that's padding. Ask which large claims sit in the number and whether they're ongoing or done.

Then ask the question that levels

the whole bid: what did we pay in, and what got paid out? If the plan collected \$2 million in premium and paid \$1.4 million in claims, "why 20%?" deserves a better answer than "trend." Without one, that number is an opening position, not an invoice.

The first number is never the last number

Carriers price the way a sub prices when he knows he's the only bidder. Not dishonest. Comfortable. The renewal letter assumes you won't ask questions, because most firms don't, and the ones that do usually ask too late to matter (that timing problem was last month's column).

So run the arithmetic on your own plan. A 20% increase on a \$2.5 million premium is \$500,000. Not once. Every year, and next year's increase compounds on top of it. Firms that will fight a \$50,000 change order for a month sign that letter inside a week.

One construction employer got a 24% renewal and did something different with it. They changed the plan's structure, fully insured to self-insured, even though the guaranteed maximum cost on paper was the same as the renewal they walked away from. At year end they came in about 20% under budget. The cost reduction came from well managed claims (no patient impact) and eliminating the padding.

Firms that see their own data catch this stuff. That's the difference between groups that negotiate and groups that absorb. Not size. Not luck. Whether anyone read the bid.

When your letter arrives this fall, send back four questions. What trend did you assume? How much of this is our claims versus your book? Which large claims are in the number, and are they done? What was our loss ratio?

You'd never accept "that's just the price" from a sub. Your carrier is hoping you'll accept it from them.

LEGAL



When was the last time you checked on your company's Forms I-9?

Kristen Maloney
Attorney
Cokinós | Young
Austin, TX

For many employers, the Form I-9 is completed during onboarding, filed away, and rarely considered again. The problem is that when ICE delivers a Notice of Inspection, an employer generally has as few as three business days to produce the requested I-9s to the government for review.

As a starting point, employers are responsible for ensuring that Forms I-9 are completed properly and on time. Employees generally must complete Section 1 no later than their first day of employment, while employers generally must complete Section 2 within three business days after the employee's first day of employment. The rules governing how these forms are filled out are surprisingly specific, and if you have systematic errors on these forms, you could be looking at significant fines.

For example, an employer should not simply erase an error, use correction fluid, or backdate a correction. Corrections should be transparent: generally, the incorrect information should be crossed out, the correct information entered, and the correction initialed and dated. For major errors, USCIS guidance permits completion of a new Form I-9 or a new section, as appropriate, but the corrected form should be attached to the original rather than used to conceal or replace the original record. Moreover, who may correct an error depends on where the error appears on the form. Only employees may make corrections to Section 1, and only the employer may make corrections to Section 2.

These details have become even more important in 2026. ICE recently changed its inspection guidance regarding how certain I-9 errors are classified, meaning that mistakes previously treated as "technical" or "procedural" may now be considered substantive violations. The distinction carries significant financial weight, as substantive violations can result in civil penalties ranging from \$288 to \$2,861 per form. This might not seem incredibly damaging if you only have a handful of incorrect forms. Consider, however, a company in which the person responsible for onboarding, whether that be an HR representative, payroll employee, or front desk assistant, misunderstands one requirement on the form and, quite reasonably believing the process is correct, completes the same field incorrectly for every new employee, for years. A mistake affecting one employee may present a limited problem. If the same mistake has been repeated across

50, 100, or 500 employee I-9s, the company's potential exposure multiplies accordingly. At the current maximum penalty of \$2,861 per I-9, 200 substantive paperwork violations could represent more than \$570,000 in potential exposure.

What is remarkable about these penalties is that an employer can have an entirely authorized workforce and still face hefty fines because of a simple administrative paperwork error. In fact, the errors themselves are often unremarkable in isolation. An employee forgets to date Section 1. Admin records the A-Number from the front of a current Permanent Resident Card in Section 2 rather than the 13-character document number on the back. Someone enters "DMV" as the issuing authority for a driver's license instead of the actual state government entity or uses "U.S. Passport" rather than "U.S. Department of State." A temporary employment authorization expires without anyone remembering that reverification is required. In significant cases, an internal review reveals that an I-9 was never completed at all.

This risk deserves particular attention in the construction industry, where companies may have large workforces, frequent hiring, significant employee turnover, multiple jobsites, or decentralized onboarding practices. Whoever is responsible for the process needs to sincerely understand the current requirements and have a system in place for filing the I-9s, conducting internal audits, and maintaining a calendaring system to keep reverifications completed on time. A paperwork error made in good faith but repeated as part of the company's routine onboarding process can create substantial exposure across an entire workforce.

To reiterate, an ICE inspection is not the ideal time to discover that your I-9s contain problems. Employers should consider periodically auditing their I-9 practices before the government does. The review can begin by confirming that the company can account for its current workforce and locate the corresponding Forms I-9 for each employee. From there, the company should determine whether the forms were completed on time and whether Sections 1 and 2 are complete. Employers should also review whether acceptable documents were properly recorded, whether any employment authorizations require reverification, and whether I-9s are being retained for the appropriate period.

See LEGAL, page 14

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ACCOUNTING



Tariffs, Fixed-Price Contracts, and the Margin Protection Playbook

Jay Cho
Managing Director of Customs and Tariffs at Aprio
Aprio

Much of the industry’s conversation about tariffs has centered on procurement, sourcing strategies, vendor negotiations, and supply chain management. Those things most certainly matter, but they address only part of the challenge. The larger issue is financial, and it is one that many contractors are not yet managing with the same discipline.

The hidden financial risk in fixed-price contracts

Today, most contractors commit to a fixed price for materials they may not purchase for another six, 12, or even 18 months. When costs move in the meantime, the contractor is often the party left to absorb the difference. That is not primarily a purchasing problem. It is a question of how well the business has priced and planned for the risk.

Yet, every contractor expects prices to fluctuate. The harder challenge is committing to a project price without knowing what steel, copper, or aluminum will cost a year from now.

Why today’s cost volatility changes the equation

According to Cushman & Wakefield, current tariff rates are estimated to increase construction material costs by approximately 6% compared to a 2024 baseline, while total project costs have risen roughly 3%. At the same time, copper prices climbed approximately 32% year over year, and construction material price indexes reached record highs during 2026.

That gap between costs and pricing is where the margin quietly erodes. In effect, tariffs have turned many fixed-price contracts into risk-sharing agreements, with one party carrying most of the exposure. When those risks are not accounted for at the bid stage, margin erosion becomes almost inevitable.

The better question, then, is not “How much will materials cost today?” It is “How much margin can this project absorb if costs change tomorrow?”

Move from cost estimating to margin-at-risk modeling

Traditional estimating focuses on the expected cost of a project. In today’s market, it is worth also evaluating the range of possible outcomes.

Before a contract is signed, it helps to stress-test the proposal against several scenarios:

- Steel prices rise another 10%
- Copper climbs another 15%
- Lead times extend by several months
- Tariff policy shifts midway through procurement

Any single scenario may seem unlikely on its own, but recent conditions have shown that significant price movements

can happen quickly, and sometimes all at once. Working through that range gives a clearer view of the downsides and supports more informed pricing, contracting, and procurement decisions.

This is where an experienced financial partner earns a place at the table. An accountant or advisor who follows market shifts and has worked through prior cost cycles can help pressure-test assumptions, frame realistic scenarios, and bring a perspective that is difficult to build from inside a single project. That outside view often makes the difference between a bid that accounts for risk and one that simply hopes the market holds.

Escalation clauses document risk, but they don’t always transfer it

Escalation clauses have become more common, and for good reason. They offer a mechanism for recovering unexpected cost increases. Even so, many provide less coverage than contractors assume.

The value of any clause depends on how it is written:

- The event or threshold that triggers the clause
- The cost indexes it relies on
- The method used to calculate increases
- Whether certain materials are excluded

A poorly structured clause can create the appearance of coverage while leaving substantial risk with the contractor. It is worth reviewing escalation language to confirm that it actually transfers risk rather than simply documenting it.

Building a tariff risk strategy

Contractors best positioned in this market are not necessarily those with the lowest material costs. They are the ones with the clearest understanding of their tariff exposure and the discipline to manage it over the life of a project.

A practical tariff risk strategy includes:

- **Scenario-based forecasting:** Forecast against several pricing scenarios rather than a single set of assumptions.
- **Proactive risk transfer:** Structure contracts, supplier agreements, and procurement timing to transfer risk where possible, not merely recording it.
- **Financial performance monitoring:** Monitor margin trends, cash flow, and bonding ratios as closely as the build schedule itself.

Margin protection no longer begins at the loading dock. It begins at the bid with forecasting, contract strategy, and financial planning that treat tariffs as what they have become: a recurring business variable rather than a passing cost. That is the new margin protection playbook.

OSHA



Stay Ahead of Electrical Hazards

Michael Middleton
Compliance Safety & Health Officer
OSHA
Harker Heights, TX

Electrical hazards on construction sites aren’t always obvious—and that’s exactly what can make them dangerous. One of the most common concerns is failing to recognize when flexible cords, power tools and extension cords are no longer safe to use. A damaged strain relief, torn outer sheathing, missing ground prong or connector exposed to wet conditions might seem like a minor defect, but continuing to use damaged equipment can expose workers to serious electrical shock or electrocution hazards.

Recognizing warning signs and immediately removing damaged equipment from service is an important step in avoiding electrical injuries at work.

A damaged cord is more than wear and tear

Extension cords and flexible cords are common on construction sites, powering tools and equipment where permanent wiring may not be available. But tough jobsite conditions can take a toll. Cords can be pinched, pulled around sharp corners, run across rough surfaces or damaged by equipment.

This wear can damage insulation and expose electrical conductors, increasing the risk of shock, burns or fire. OSHA requires flexible cords and cables to be protected from damage. Extension cords used with portable electric tools and appliances on construction sites must also be three-wire type and designed for hard or extra-hard use.

A quick visual check can help prevent injuries. Before plugging in a tool or extension cord, inspect the cord, plug and connection for cuts, worn insulation, exposed wires, loose connections, damaged strain relief or missing ground prongs. If you find damage, take the cord or tool out of service until it is repaired.

Water and electricity don’t mix

Construction sites may also expose electrical equipment to rain, standing water and other wet conditions. A wet cord connector can allow current to leak and potentially reach a worker who touches it. Using equipment and connectors designed for the conditions and limiting their exposure to excessive moisture can help reduce the risk.

Ground-fault circuit interrupters, or GFCIs, provide another important layer of protection. A GFCI is designed to quickly shut off power when it detects a ground fault. OSHA requires employers on construction sites to use GFCIs or an assured equipment grounding conductor program to protect workers under specified conditions.

Make checking cords part of the job

Electrical safety starts with prevention before someone gets hurt. Employers should make cord inspections part of everyday work and train workers to recognize electrical hazards. Workers should never assume a damaged cord is safe to use because it still works. See a damaged cord? Don’t plug it in. Take it out of service. Small checks can help save a life.



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St. John Redevelopment Takes Shape



The St. John project broke ground in July. It will transform the former Home Depot and Chrysler dealership sites at the northeast corner of I-35 and St. John Avenue. Greystar is overseeing construction through a partnership with the Housing Authority of the City of Austin and the city. Final delivery is planned for 2028.

The development calls for 526 rental apartments split between St. John South and St. John North. The south portion will contain 201 income-restricted homes in two buildings. The north portion is planned for 325 apartments in three buildings, with a mix of income-restricted and market-rate homes. The city’s agreement provides for a 60-year affordability period and includes units for households at several income levels.

Construction filings with the Texas Department of Licensing and Regulation estimate \$22.13 million for the south residential buildings and \$36.15 million for the north residential buildings and clubhouse space. Those figures cover the specified building work in the filings; they are not a total development budget. The filings list projected completion dates of March 2028 for the south portion and July 2028 for the north portion. Construction schedules may change.

The plan also includes 15,000 square feet of community-focused commercial space. Of that, 5,000 square feet is reserved at below-market rental rates to support local businesses and services. Alongside the buildings, St. John Pocket Park is set to grow from roughly one acre to nearly four acres, adding walking trails, a pavilion, splash pad and public art recognizing the neighborhood’s history.

A new financing commitment has given the affordable housing portion added momentum. On September 14, Airbnb announced a \$6.4 million investment to support construction of the 201 homes at St. John South. The investment is the first under the company’s housing accelerator program.

The property has deep ties to Austin’s historic St. John neighborhood. After years of planning with residents, the city finalized the site’s sale to a public facility corporation overseen by the housing authority on June 30. The city says proceeds will retire outstanding bond debt and support reinvestment in the neighborhood. As work proceeds, the project will combine residential construction with new commercial space, park improvements, pedestrian connections and flood mitigation measures.

LEGAL con’t

If an internal review uncovers an error, employers should resist the temptation to simply make the paperwork look correct. If ICE discovers that an employer backdated or concealed corrections, it can undermine the employer’s credibility and weigh heavily against any argument that the employer acted in good faith. Likewise, if an employer discovers that no I-9 exists for an employee who should have one, the employer should address the deficiency promptly and honestly. A new form should be completed using the current date rather than backdated to create the appearance of timely compliance, with a separate dated memo explaining the situation.

Form I-9 may be one of the shortest compliance forms your company handles, but its simplicity can be deceptive. Ask

the people responsible for your company’s onboarding process whether the required I-9s are actually on file, whether they are being completed correctly and on time, whether the company has conducted an internal audit recently, and whether those responsible for the process understand what changed in 2026. If the answer to any of those questions is “I’m not sure,” now is a much better time to find out than after receiving a Notice of Inspection.

The good news is that the Form I-9, at its core, is a simple form, and there are excellent resources available to help train whoever is responsible for completing them. USCIS publishes detailed guidance, and investing the time to ensure that your onboarding personnel are properly trained on the current requirements is one of the most straightforward steps a company can take to reduce its exposure.

Association Calendar

Content submitted by Associations to Construction News

ABC CTX

Associated Builders & Contractors
Central Texas Chapter
Oct. 7: Instructor Day Happy Hour, 2:30-4:30pm, Austin Beerworks sponsored by Structure Tone Southwest, 3001 Industrial Terrace, Austin
Oct. 14: Fall Mega Mixer, 4-7pm, The Sign Bar, 9909 FM 969, Building 3, Austin
Oct. 19: Y2K on the Fairway: A Millennium Golf Scramble, 9am-5pm, Twin Creeks Golf, 3201 Twin Creeks Drive
Oct. 21: Coffee and Contractors Sponsored by MMR, 8-9:30am
Oct. 28: Annual Membership and Safety Celebration Luncheon, 11am-1pm, United Heritage Center – Dell Diamond, 3400 E. Palm Valley Blvd., Round Rock

AGC

Associated General Contractors Austin
Oct. 17: BBQ Cook Off Competition & Family Fall Festival, 7am, Pinballz Kingdom, 15201 S IH 35, Buda

ASA

American Subcontractors Association
Austin
Oct. 27: Pickleball Tournament, 1-4pm, The Picklr - Austin West, 8201 N FM 620, Suite 130, Austin

HBA

Home Builders Association
Greater Austin
Oct. 16: Golf Classic Tournament, 8:30am-4pm, Teravista Golf Club, 4333 Teravista Club Dr., Round Rock

TSBCTC

Texas State Building & Construction
Trades Council
Oct. 1: Texas AFL-CIO Annual Golf Tournament, 7:30am-5pm, Crystal Falls Golf Corse, 3400 Crystal Falls Parkway, Leander

UCATX

Utility Contractors Association of Texas
Oct. 23: Live Trench Training, 7am, Rodeo Austin, 9100 Decker Lake Road, Austin

50 Down, 50 to Go



Team Services is making steady progress on a large Austin-area HVAC replacement project, upgrading aging air handlers and condensers serving a commercial property. Team crews replacing 10-year-old equipment and had already completed 50 air-handler and condenser replacements

— with another 50 still to go. The sizable undertaking highlights the phased mechanical work required to modernize commercial facilities while keeping building operations moving. Team Services provides commercial HVAC repair, replacement, construction and installation services throughout the Austin area.



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Historic Fiesta Gardens



The City of Austin is advancing plans to rehabilitate Fiesta Gardens, the historic event complex on the north shore of Lady Bird Lake. Design documents are being updated, with bidding anticipated in spring 2027 and construction projected to begin in winter 2027.

The work will focus on preserving the features that give Fiesta Gardens its distinctive character while bringing the complex up to current building standards. Austin Parks and Recreation identifies restoration of the dining hall, patio, bandstand and lagoon-facing grandstand as priorities for the first phase. Plans also call for mechanical system upgrades, improvements to access and drainage, and repairs to the exterior walls of the Mercado Building.

Fiesta Gardens opened in 1966 as a waterfront destination for entertainment, shopping and events. Its architecture blends modern design with Spanish Colonial and Pueblo Revival influences. The complex is listed on the National Register of

Historic Places, so its rehabilitation must follow federal preservation standards.

The project has taken several years to reach this point. Austin completed early design work but placed the rehabilitation on hold in 2021 because construction funding was lacking. The city resumed work on design and construction documents in fall 2025 to account for current code requirements. Hotel occupancy tax revenue is supporting the project.

A second phase could bring more extensive work to the Mercado Building and surrounding grounds, including additional event space and waterfront improvements. The city lists that phase as unfunded.

Fiesta Gardens remains a venue for festivals and private events. Under the current plan, it would continue serving that purpose after restoration, with improved facilities and preserved historic structures. The city cautions that its bidding and construction dates may change as the project moves closer to construction.

A Cool Break on the Job



The Texas heat called for a cool jobsite break as **American Constructors** treated employees to Amy's Ice Cream during the contractor's summer Ice Cream Day.

Teams from the Austin-area general contractor paused work at both the company office and project sites to enjoy the local frozen favorite. American Constructors said the event was a simple way to recognize employees and thank them for the work they put in every day.



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Restoring the Palm House



Pravo Construction is restoring the Palm House, a 19th-century home tied to the family that gave Palm Valley its name. The project is bringing the building back to its historic appearance at a site near where it originally stood.

The work includes repairs to deteriorated framing, a rebuilt front porch with replicated columns, new cedar siding and a wood shake roof. Crews are refurbishing original windows, shutters

and interior doors while adding an accessible ramp. New electrical, lighting and heating and air-conditioning systems will make the building usable again.

The Palm House dates to 1873, when a son of Swedish settlers Anders and Anna Palm built the wood-frame home. It was moved to downtown Round Rock in 1976 and later served as a museum and space for the Round Rock Chamber. In 2024, the house was relocated to the Old Settlers Association grounds near its

original Palm Valley setting.

The City of Round Rock selected Pravo Construction for the restoration in February 2026. Work began in March and is targeting completion early fall.

The Palm House is a Recorded Texas Historic Landmark, and the restoration work was reviewed by the Texas Historical Commission. By repairing original features and replacing worn-out systems, the project preserves a piece of Round Rock's early settlement history for future use.

Powering up Connections

On Aug. 26 **Allied Electric Services, Inc.** had a great day at the AAFAME EXPO Vendor Fair at the Palmer Events Center. **Jimmy** and **Grant** had a great time representing AES, connecting with industry professionals, meeting new people, and catching up with familiar faces. Allied is always grateful for opportunities to build relationships and strengthen connections within the facilities and maintenance community.





ONLINE / NO RESERVE

AUCTIONS

CONSTRUCTION EQUIPMENT

THURSDAY, OCTOBER 22

EW4262

2005 John Deere 850J dozer

SPEARMAN



BID NOW!

- | | | | | | |
|--|---|---|---|---|---|
| <div>EW8776</div>  <div>2009 Wolfe Man 7000 bucket wheel trencher</div> | <div>EW8787</div>  <div>2019 Fecon FTX150T4-20SST forestry mulcher</div> | <div>EW8790</div>  <div>2009 Caterpillar D6T XL dozer</div> | <div>EW8773</div>  <div>2008 Caterpillar 613C II elevating scraper</div> | <div>FC4178</div>  <div>2024 Bobcat T770 tracked skid steer</div> | <div>ZA0846 10 SELLING</div>  <div>2025 Kenworth T880 dump truck</div> |
| <div>YA4577</div>  <div>2019 Caterpillar 335FL CR excavator</div> | <div>FK4153</div>  <div>2007 Caterpillar RM500 reclaimer</div> | <div>FK4143</div>  <div>2009 Wirtgen W2100 milling machine</div> | <div>YA5005</div>  <div>2019 John Deere 748L-II skidder</div> | <div>FK4166</div>  <div>2008 International 7400 SFA 6x4 sewer jetter truck</div> | <div>FK4139</div>  <div>Morbark PT737 trommel screen</div> |

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