

Austin

CONSTRUCTION NEWS

The Industry's Newspaper

BACK TO SCHOOL

www.constructionnews.net ★ (830) 500-0071 ★ Volume 26 ★ Number 9 ★ SEPTEMBER 2026

Connecting with Nature



The **SpawGlass** Civil team joined City of Buda, TX - City Government and **Ten Eyck Landscape Architects** to break ground on construction of the City's new **John D. and Byrd Mims Garison Memorial Park**.



Once complete, the 40-acre park along Onion Creek will offer a variety of outdoor recreation opportunities, including trails, pavilions, nature play areas and water access, while preserving the area's natural beauty.



A Lifetime of Service



The **Nitsche Group** team had a wonderful evening at this year's Giddings Chamber of Commerce Awards Banquet celebrating the lasting impact of local leaders in the community.

One of the evening's most meaningful moments was celebrating



R.J. Nitsche as he was presented the Lifetime Achievement in recognition of more than five decades of leadership, service, and commitment to the community he has always called home. "Some people simply make the community better by the way they show up for others, and R.J. is one of



them", shared **Michael Simmang** as he welcomed R.J. to the stage.

From mentoring employees and building lasting client relationships to coaching Little League, supporting local organizations, founding educational endowment funds, and investing in generations of students,

R.J.'s impact reaches beyond business. His legacy is reflected in the people, organizations, and community he has helped strengthen. Huge thanks to the Giddings Chamber for hosting another wonderful event, to all the evening's sponsors, and to everyone who came out to celebrate the community.



Inspiring the Next Generation

On Aug. 4 the **TCS Mechanical** high school summer interns had the incredible opportunity to tour the Texas State University-Hilltop project, gaining a firsthand look at the planning, coordination, and craftsmanship that go into a large-scale construction project.

A huge thank you to the **SpawGlass** team for welcoming the interns, sharing your knowledge, and giving them an inside look at the project. They also want to recognize their amazing TCS Mechanical safety team for helping make this experience safe, educational, and successful for everyone involved.



Marketing Momentum

Catamount Constructors is excited to announce the hiring of **Christina Zavislan** as Director of Marketing. Zavislan brings more than 25 years of marketing and communications experience across the commercial real estate and construction industries. Throughout her career, she has led strategic marketing initiatives, brand development, communications, business development partnerships, thought leadership, industry engagement, and high-performing marketing teams.

“As Catamount continues to grow, our marketing function is central to supporting our clients, our business development efforts, and our employee-owners,” said **Elaine Kanelos**, Vice President, National Business Development at Catamount Constructors. “Christina brings the experience, vision, and collaborative leadership style to elevate our brand, deepen support for our teams, and advance our business development strategy. We’re excited to welcome her to the team.”

“I’m thrilled to join Catamount at such an exciting time in the company’s growth,” said Zavislan. “What immediately stood out to me was the strength of the company’s culture and its commitment to employee ownership. I’m excited to bring my relationship-led leadership approach to Catamount and partner with its talented teams to help shape what’s next.”



TCS Mechanical (TCS) was honored to be recognized at the Bastrop ISD August Board Meeting and incredibly proud of the partnership built to connect classroom learning with real-world opportunities in the skilled trades.

Through the eight-week, full-time summer internship, students gain hands-on experience across several TCS departments while learning directly from industry professionals. They are especially proud that two former Bastrop ISD students are now employed by TCS Mechanical and continuing to build meaningful careers with their team.

At TCS, supporting the communities where we live and work means investing in the future of our students. The industry can’t complain about finding good employees if we aren’t willing to be part of the solution. Therefore, TCS encourages every local business to consider giving student internships a try.

Beyond the return on investment for your company, you are giving young people a valuable head start—exposing them to life after graduation, introducing them to opportunities they may be passionate about, and allowing them to explore a career path before making a lifelong decision.

Thank you Workforce Solutions Rural Capital Area for their assistance with funding, career-preparation services, and continued support throughout the internship. This program would not be possible without the dedication of the incredible educators, workforce partners, mentors, and team members who invest their time and knowledge in each student.

Thank you, Bastrop ISD, for this recognition and for trusting TCS Mechanical to play a role in preparing the next generation. When schools, workforce organizations, and local businesses work together, we create opportunities that can truly change lives.



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Taking Shape



One of the largest public construction projects underway in Central Texas is rapidly transforming several downtown Austin blocks as crews push forward on the \$1.6 billion redevelopment and expansion of the Austin Convention Center.

Known as **UnconventionalATX**, the project involves demolition of the former convention center and construction of a substantially larger facility designed to increase Austin’s convention capacity while reconnecting portions of the downtown street grid.

The City of Austin is developing the project with a joint venture of **JE Dunn Construction** and **Turner Construction** serving as construction manager. **LMN Architects** and **Page** are working as a joint venture on the design and architectural engineering. Construction began in 2025, and the new convention center is scheduled to reopen in 2029.

The redevelopment will dramatically increase the amount of usable convention space in downtown Austin. The former

facility provided approximately 365,000 square feet of rentable space. The new convention center is planned to offer approximately 620,000 square feet, including about 70,000 square feet of outdoor event space.

Plans include flexible exhibit halls, conference and meeting rooms, ballrooms and a large event concourse. One of the project’s distinctive architectural features will be mass-timber ceilings within the event concourse, bringing a major exposed-wood structural and architectural component into the new facility. The overall building program has previously been described at approximately 1.4 million square feet.

The project moved beyond demolition and into structural construction in 2025. In September, the Austin Convention Center Department announced that crews had begun construction of the project’s diaphragm wall, or D-wall, while demolition of the former facility continued.

The D-wall represents a critical

structural component of the redevelopment and marked the beginning of true structural construction on the new convention center.

The work is particularly complex because the project is being constructed in the middle of downtown Austin, surrounded by hotels, entertainment venues, businesses, utilities and heavily traveled streets. Construction must also coordinate with multiple City of Austin departments and infrastructure systems.

The construction program has grown beyond the convention center building itself. Austin City Council previously authorized JE Dunn-Turner to provide preconstruction and construction services using a construction-manager-at-risk delivery method. In October 2025, the city expanded the joint venture’s scope to include an Austin Energy district chilling plant, Capital Metro and Austin Water infrastructure modifications, improvements to adjacent rights-of-way and other associated construction. The amendment added as much as \$450

million in contract authority, bringing the total authorized JE Dunn-Turner contract amount to as much as \$1.65 billion when the convention center and related infrastructure work are considered together. The city emphasized that the added scope did not increase the convention center’s overall project budget because portions of the additional work are being funded by other city departments.

The convention center redevelopment is much more than a vertical building project. Supporting construction includes utility relocations and upgrades, energy infrastructure, transportation improvements and reconstruction of surrounding public spaces.

The redevelopment is also designed to reduce the physical barrier created by the former six-block convention center. Although the new building will contain considerably more usable convention space, its footprint is being configured to improve connectivity through this portion of downtown.

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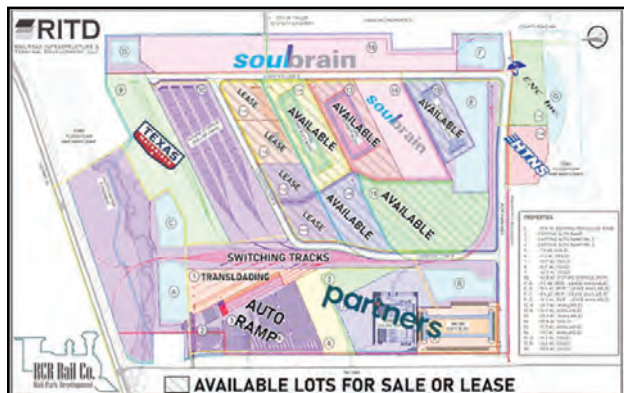
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Soulbrain's Taylor Push



The construction boom surrounding Samsung's massive semiconductor investment in Taylor continues to spread beyond the chipmaker's fabrication campus, with South Korean semiconductor supplier **Soulbrain** advancing plans for a major new manufacturing facility at 140 Logistics Loop East. The company intends to establish its first U.S. manufacturing operation and headquarters there, producing high-purity phosphoric acid used in semiconductor wafer cleaning and etching. The latest project filing identifies the development as the Soulbrain T-Project, a roughly 37,495-square-foot manufacturing facility with an estimated construction value of \$85.8 million. While construction has not yet begun, the project has progressed through site planning and is moving through the City of Taylor's building-permit process.

The specialized facility is designed to serve the semiconductor industry developing around Taylor, with

Soulbrain's initial operation expected to have capacity to produce approximately 28,800 metric tons annually of high-selectivity and high-purity phosphoric acid. Locating the plant near Samsung's semiconductor operations would provide a domestic source for materials that have traditionally been supplied from overseas. Soulbrain originally anticipated beginning construction on portions of its Taylor campus in March 2025, with completion targeted for October 2026, but that schedule did not materialize. As of August 2026, construction had not started; however, the site plan has been approved and the company has submitted an expedited building-permit application to the City of Taylor. The permitting activity indicates the project is advancing toward construction, although a new construction start date has not yet been publicly announced.

The current \$85.8 million project follows earlier filings outlining multiple buildings planned for Soulbrain's Taylor property, including an approximately

57,007-square-foot administration and warehouse building, a 35,492-square-foot production building and a 1,982-square-foot guardhouse. The broader development also included an exterior equipment yard, truck-unloading canopy, fire-pump house, sidewalks, landscaping and other supporting site improvements, pointing to a larger manufacturing campus than the latest building filing alone suggests. The State of Texas has described Soulbrain's overall Taylor investment as exceeding \$120 million. In June 2026, Gov. Greg Abbott announced an approximately \$11.6 million Texas Semiconductor Innovation Fund grant supporting Soulbrain's new U.S. manufacturing facility and headquarters in Taylor. The state expects the development to generate more than \$120 million in capital investment and create approximately 20 high-skilled jobs as part of Texas' broader effort to build a domestic semiconductor manufacturing and supply network.

around major projects such as Samsung's Taylor campus.

Soulbrain represents part of a second wave of construction associated with Samsung's presence in Williamson County. Samsung's investment is attracting companies involved in specialty chemicals, industrial gases, semiconductor materials, equipment, logistics and other supporting operations, creating construction opportunities beyond the fabrication campus itself. Specialty chemical manufacturing facilities can require process piping, chemical storage and handling systems, specialty mechanical equipment, electrical and instrumentation systems, fire protection, containment, underground utilities and specialized equipment installation. The expanding semiconductor supplier market therefore represents an important sector for Central Texas industrial contractors and specialty subcontractors, making Soulbrain a project to watch as it moves through final permitting.



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Leading with Purpose

Met **Dacota Lamonde**, a Director on The National Association of Women in Construction (NAWIC) Austin Chapter #7 Board and current Chair of Women in Construction Week.

Professionally, Dakota is the Director of Business Development at ***Jordan Michael Design***, an Austin-based commercial design-build firm. She is passionate about creating opportunities for women in construction through education, mentorship and meaningful industry connections.

Beyond NAWIC, Dakota is actively involved with Urban Land Institute (ULI) Austin, The Network of Executive Women in Hospitality (NEWH), Certified Commercial



Investment Member (CCIM) and serves with Entryway Central Texas and Make-A-Wish Central & South Texas.

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Travis, Hays, Bastrop, Burnet, Blanco,
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mikeroweWORKS Foundation: Building the Next Generation of Skilled Workers

As commercial construction continues to grow across Central Texas, contractors are facing a challenge that cannot be solved simply by adding more projects, equipment or technology: finding enough skilled people to perform the work.

Electricians, plumbers, welders, HVAC technicians, pipefitters, carpenters and other skilled craft professionals remain essential to virtually every commercial construction project. The mikeroweWORKS Foundation, founded by television host and skilled-trades advocate Mike Rowe, is working to encourage more Americans to pursue those careers.

Rowe established the nonprofit foundation in 2008 after years of traveling across the country and meeting the men and women who perform many of America's essential jobs. His experiences while hosting Dirty Jobs helped reinforce a message that would eventually become central to the foundation: a four-year college degree is not the only pathway to a successful career.

The foundation's mission is straightforward - help close America's skills gap by changing the way people think about skilled work and helping individuals obtain the training necessary to enter in-demand occupations.

\$10 Million Scholarship Push in 2026

The foundation's best-known initiative is its Work Ethic Scholarship Program, and in 2026 that effort has grown substantially.

The mikeroweWORKS Foundation says it is awarding \$10 million in Work Ethic Scholarships during 2026 to people willing to learn a skilled trade. The program is designed to help students pursue training for occupations where employers continue to need qualified workers.

Unlike traditional scholarships centered primarily on academic achievement, the Work Ethic Scholarship Program places considerable emphasis on an



applicant's attitude, personal responsibility, work ethic and willingness to learn an in-demand skill. That approach has obvious relevance to commercial construction. Electrical, plumbing, HVAC, welding and numerous other craft careers require specialized training but don't necessarily require the traditional four-year university route. For contractors struggling to build their future workforce, the foundation's \$10 million commitment represents a significant investment in getting more people trained and into skilled careers.

Changing the Perception of the Trades

Money alone, however, won't completely solve the workforce problem.

One of Mike Rowe's central arguments has long been that America needs to change the way it talks about work.

For decades, many students were encouraged to view a four-year university education as the preferred route to a successful career, while vocational and technical education sometimes received considerably less attention. The mikeroweWORKS Foundation is attempting to change that perception. Its message isn't that college is bad. Rather, the argument is that college isn't the only path to success. For some students, an apprenticeship, technical school or industry training program can lead

directly into an occupation that is in high demand and offers considerable long-term earning potential.

From Scholarships to a Workforce Pipeline

The developments of 2026 represent an important evolution of that effort. On one side is the \$10 million Work Ethic Scholarship commitment, helping individuals obtain training for skilled careers. On the other is Meta's \$115 million first-year investment in America's Workforce Academy, connecting training more directly with employers and jobs.

Together, the initiatives demonstrate what could become an increasingly important model for workforce development: industry, training organizations and skilled-trades advocates working together to recruit people, pay for their training and connect them directly with employers. For Central Texas contractors facing persistent workforce shortages, that model is worth watching closely.

Commercial buildings may begin with developers, architects, engineers and financing, but eventually somebody has to pour the concrete, install the electrical system, run the plumbing, fabricate the steel, install the HVAC equipment and operate the machinery. Technology may continue to change construction. But skilled people will still have to build it.







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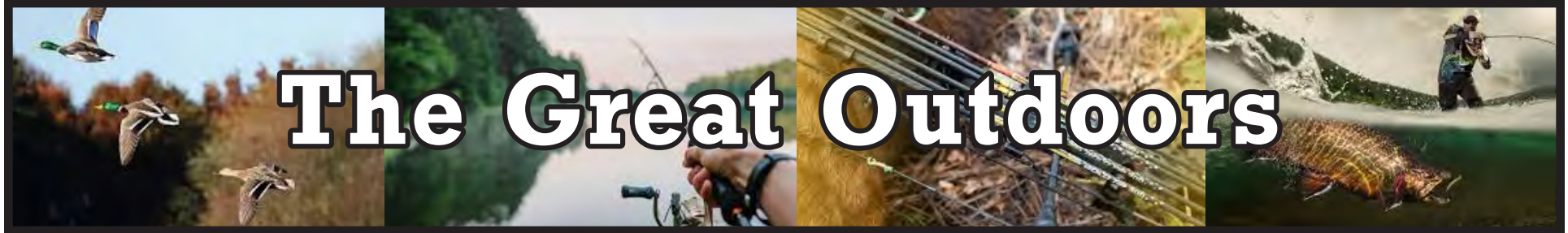
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Since 1981, Ken Milam has been guiding fishing trips for striped bass on Lake Buchanan in the Texas Hill Country.



Dog Days

Three buzzards are sitting on the walkway to the dock. They are fluffing and snapping at each other while staring intently at a dead fish lazily floating into shore. The fish is still 20ft out, giving the buzzards a few more minutes to squabble before dinner arrives. Finally, they just all fly away, leaving the fish to bob along his way without them.

I know just how they feel. I don't wanna do anything either. Nothing looks good to eat. It's too hot. Got lots of stuff I could be doing, but I just can't seem to make myself move!

Welcome to the Dog Days of Summer. It's when you just feel dog-tired, go around with a hang-dog expression on your face, feeling dogged out and wanting to join the dogs under the cool front porch. If summer were any longer, would we just keep on naming the days after slower and draggier creatures? How about the Slug Days of summer, when it's all you can do to just drag yourself across the hot sticky pavement. Enough of that!

The Dog Days have always been with us. It's that time of year when summer has officially worn out its welcome. Right between high summer when we are still enjoying being rid of winter and Indian summer, when we can begin to feel the first subtle changes of fall coming and we want to cherish every last warm afternoon, because we know are going to miss them when

winter comes. Humans are not the only ones who go through this. Neither are buzzards and dogs.

The thing I know best is fish, stripers in particular, and they can really have a tough go of it this time of year. Since stripers come from the Atlantic, the kind of long hot summers we treat them to in Texas are not well received. They don't tolerate the high water temperatures very well and they feel a strong tendency to want to be traveling downstream, heading back to salt-water for winter. In a lake they just end up like my pup that sleeps by the back door. They know they need out, but they can't get there. In just a few weeks it will cool off enough to trigger the stripers to start to feed hard in preparation for spawning in the spring.

This summer we have been able to keep the striper bite going using live bait and switching over to downriggers if they get finicky. They have been steady for this time of year with some hint of top-water feeding schools starting up. There is nothing like sneaking in to fish on a school of topwater stripers as they roll and splash while feeding!

If you find yourself in the Hill Country hunting doves or getting the deer lease ready, save a little time to get on the water. Some the best fishing and prettiest days on the lake are just around the corner. It's hard to beat a fish fry in the pasture under a starry sky!

Jacob's Well Springs Back



Art Larson, swims up from the deep end of the well at Hays County's Jacob's Well Natural Area in Wimberley, Texas, on April 30, 2014.

Water is spilling from Jacob's Well again after mid-July storms sent rain into the underground water supply feeding the Wimberley landmark, giving visitors a glimpse of the spring looking more like its old self after years of drought and increased local water usage.

The improvement was dramatic but brief. Jacob's Well had spent much of 2026 dry or barely moving before its flow surged Jul. 15. At its strongest, the spring was pushing out roughly 170 gallons of water every second — nearly six times its usual rate. By Monday morning, that had fallen to about 10 gallons a second, or roughly one-third of normal.

So water is moving through Jacob's Well again, but the spring has not recovered.

The water comes from the Trinity Aquifer, an underground system of water-filled limestone. Rain that falls over the aquifer's recharge area can seep through cracks and caves before eventually emerging from Jacob's Well.

Hays County officials said the latest surge was likely connected to rainfall near Johnson City. But one storm can create only a temporary flush of water. The spring needs sustained rainfall to refill the aquifer as homes and businesses continue drawing groundwater from it.

Similar rain-driven increases have quickly faded in recent years, and Jacob's Well continues to face the effects of prolonged drought and groundwater pumping.

Can you swim at Jacob's Well?

Swimming has been prohibited at Jacob's Well since June 2022 because low water levels created unsafe conditions. On July 22, Hays County said the closure would remain in effect until further notice.

The natural area is still open for hiking and viewing the well. Admission is free, and visitors do not need a reservation. The park is open daily from 8 a.m. to 6 p.m., with no entry after 5:30 p.m.



David Baker looks down at Jacob's Well on December 16, 2024 in Wimberley, Texas. Baker is the founder of the Watershed Association, a nonprofit that is trying to save water resources in the area. "It seems insane that we don't have rules to protect something like this," Baker said.





Texas Dove Season Looks Promising as Hunters Prepare for Sept. 1 Opener

For many Texas hunters, September 1 marks the unofficial beginning of fall. Shotguns replace fishing rods, camouflage comes out of the closet and hunters begin watching freshly cut fields and watering holes for the familiar sight of mourning and white-winged doves. With the 2026 dove opener approaching, hunters across Central Texas have plenty of reasons to start getting ready. The 2026–27 season will begin Tuesday, Sept. 1, across all three Texas dove zones. For Central Texas hunters, the first segment of the Central Zone season runs Sept. 1 through Oct. 25, followed by a second season from Dec. 11 through Jan. 14.

Perhaps the biggest change this year comes farther south. The South Zone will also open Sept. 1, bringing its opening date in line with the rest of Texas. Its first season runs through Oct. 25 before reopening Dec. 18 through Jan. 21.

Central Texas Should Offer Plenty of Opportunity

Around Central Texas, the final days of August can make a tremendous difference in where hunters find birds. Mourning doves and whitewings will move quickly as food and water conditions change. Sunflower fields, harvested grain fields, native seed-producing areas and dependable water sources can all concentrate birds. A field covered with doves a week before the season isn't necessarily guaranteed to hold them on opening morning.

That's why scouting remains one of the most important parts of a successful opening weekend.

Hunters should spend the final week before the opener watching fields during the early morning and late afternoon. Pay attention not only to the number of birds but also to their flight paths. A small tank, tree line or opening between fields can sometimes produce better shooting than sitting directly over the primary feeding area. White-winged doves have also become an increasingly important part of the Texas dove hunting experience. Once associated primarily with South Texas, whitewings are now familiar sights throughout many communities and agricultural areas across Central Texas.

Weather Could Be the Wild Card

September dove hunting in Texas is always heavily influenced by the weather. A strong late-August or early-September front can move mourning doves out of an area almost overnight. Rain can have the opposite effect by spreading birds across the countryside as additional water becomes available.

Hot, dry conditions generally make dependable water sources especially valuable. Under those conditions, hunters who locate a tank or pond being regularly used by birds can sometimes find excellent late-afternoon shooting. That unpredictability is also part of what makes dove hunting so popular. Conditions can change from one day to the next, and hunters who continue scouting throughout the season often have the advantage.

Know the Regulations

The statewide daily bag limit for the regular 2026–27 dove season is 15 birds in the aggregate, consisting of

mourning, white-winged and white-tipped doves, with no more than two white-tipped doves included in the daily limit. The possession limit is three times the daily bag limit. Legal shooting hours are from one-half hour before sunrise until sunset. Hunters should also remember that a Migratory Game Bird Endorsement and HIP certification are required. Hunters should check the current Texas Parks and Wildlife Department regulations for the county they plan to hunt before heading afield.

A Texas Tradition Returns

Dove hunting remains one of the state's great outdoor traditions because it doesn't require an elaborate setup. A shotgun, shells, a bucket or stool and a good field can be enough for an enjoyable morning or evening with family and friends. For many young hunters, a dove field is also where they experience their first hunt. And unlike some forms of hunting, the social side is almost as important as the number of birds brought home. Opening weekend dove hunts often end around a grill, with hunters swapping stories about the shots they made — and usually even more stories about the ones they missed. Across Central Texas, hunters will soon be watching power lines, sunflower fields and evening skies a little more closely.

September 1 is almost here. And with another Texas dove season about to begin, it's time to clean the shotgun, find a few boxes of shells and start scouting.

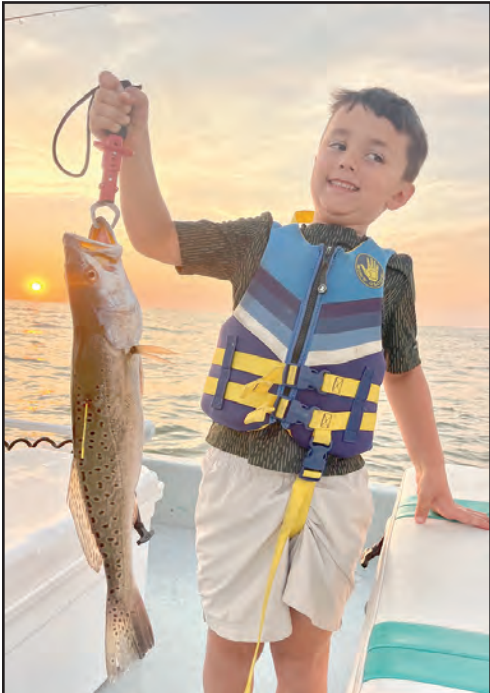
Source: Texas Parks and Wildlife Department, 2026–27 Dove Regulations

You gotta have guts, cuts, and some deep water



I was reminded of this just the other day. We have had more water move out on a wading trip where we would generally pick on the edge of the shoreline where the thick grass starts to break up into deeper patches, the water just wasn't high enough. One of those mornings where your whole plan just went in the trash can. You've already used every color lure you thought to bring and still nothing is interested. We spread the group out along the shoreline trying to work the solo reds in the real skinny grass only to watch them follow a lure but never attack. We can't even grind out some solo reds! The cooler stays empty, no new pics for the phone. We have already burned up the best two hours of the morning. Alright, back in the boat, we need deeper water closer to shore. Made a little run to where some deeper guts led back into the back lakes along the San Jose shoreline. Over the next 3 hours we ground out our fish. It's very easy to look at a shoreline and like it for many reasons. But one big reason may

not be there and it may not be as obvious. As we were wrapping up I walked through the middle of one of the guts that I knew I wouldn't disappear in (yes, after Harvey some of these guts are deep). The answer gave me goosebumps, the water in the guts was an obvious couple degrees cooler than the water around it. It was even cooler than the water off the shoreline that was past the waist. Why? I have no honest answer for that. Although, it explains why we get deeper in the late summer on the boat working reefs in the middle of the bay with deep water flowing over them, working the shaded deep water around the old oil rigs. Bonus, any shade in deeper water will begin to start holding tripletail soon. Not all of it but some of it will. If the original plan stops working or never starts... cooler heads will prevail, more so the fish heads. We don't get a break from the sun for another couple months. At some point this month we should see the water start coming in. If we are even luckier a front to take a couple degrees out of the water in general. It will start to be time to begin playing with live shrimp again. Keep an eye out at the bait stand for shrimp size. I call it magical but it's probably the bait shops knowing they can make more money off shrimp but the size will get better and that is my cue to start carrying it again. Good luck out there! Tight lines!



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Rockport Aquarium Set to Rise Again Nearly a Decade After Hurricane Harvey



Nearly nine years after Hurricane Harvey devastated the Texas Coastal Bend, one of Rockport’s beloved waterfront attractions is finally preparing to make a comeback. The Aquarium at Rockport Harbor, destroyed when Hurricane Harvey slammed into the Texas coast in August 2017, is moving toward construction of a new facility at Rockport Harbor. Current state filings list construction beginning Oct. 15, 2026, with completion scheduled for April 30, 2027.

For Rockport, the project represents more than the return of another tourist attraction. The aquarium was a place where visitors, schoolchildren, anglers and coastal residents could get an up-close look at the fish and marine life inhabiting the bays and waters surrounding the community. Its return will restore a piece of Rockport that has been missing since Harvey.

Harvey Changed Rockport Overnight

Hurricane Harvey made landfall near Rockport on Aug. 25, 2017, as a Category 4 hurricane, bringing catastrophic winds and widespread destruction to Aransas County. The Aquarium at Rockport Harbor was among the community facilities lost in the storm. Aransas County’s updated hazard mitigation plan identifies the aquarium, county courthouse and other public facilities among structures destroyed during Harvey. The destruction left Rockport without the small waterfront aquarium that had become known for showcasing marine species familiar to Coastal Bend fishermen and families. While much of Rockport rebuilt in the years following Harvey, the aquarium remained one of the notable pieces still missing from the harbor. That is finally changing.

New Aquarium Planned at the Harbor

According to an August 2026 filing with the Texas Department of Licensing and Regulation, the new 3,436-square-foot Aquarium at Rockport Harbor will be constructed at 706 Navigation Circle. Plans call for a pre-engineered metal building containing the aquarium along with a service area, office, restrooms and mechanical mezzanine. The project also includes a deck and accessible ramp. The TDLR filing lists an estimated construction cost of \$1.5 million, while reports on the broader project have placed the overall investment at approximately \$2.2 million to \$2.3 million. The project has been years in the making. Rockport city documents show that plans to replace the aquarium were already moving through the local approval process in 2024, when officials considered design approval for a replacement structure and decking at the harbor. Now the project has advanced from an idea and design effort toward actual construction.

Bringing Coastal Education Back to Rockport

The aquarium’s importance has always gone beyond simply displaying fish. Rockport sits in the middle of one of Texas’ most productive coastal ecosystems. Aransas Bay, Copano Bay, Redfish Bay and nearby Gulf waters support everything from redfish, speckled trout and flounder to crabs, shrimp and an enormous variety of other marine life. A local aquarium gives visitors an opportunity to understand the same ecosystem that supports Rockport’s recreational fishing industry and attracts anglers from across Texas. That connection between fishing, conservation and education should

once again be a major part of the aquarium’s role in the community. Before Harvey, the facility featured living exhibits emphasizing local species and helped educate visitors about coastal resources and marine conservation. For young visitors in particular, seeing the creatures living beneath the surface of the bays can create a connection to the coast that simply cannot be duplicated in a classroom.

Another Milestone in Rockport’s Recovery

Rockport has undergone a remarkable transformation since Harvey. Homes, businesses, bait stands, public facilities and tourism attractions have been rebuilt throughout the area. Rockport Beach recovered, the arts community expanded and the harbor again became a center of activity. The aquarium has remained one of the lingering reminders of what the storm took away. Rebuilding it nearly a decade later provides another milestone in Rockport’s long recovery.

If the current construction schedule holds, work will begin this fall and wrap up in spring 2027 — positioning the aquarium to return as visitors begin arriving for another busy Texas coastal summer. For longtime Rockport residents and visitors who remember the old aquarium, seeing a new building rise at the harbor will carry special meaning. And for a new generation of children visiting Rockport, the aquarium will offer something even more important — a chance to discover the fish, wildlife and remarkable coastal environment that make this part of Texas special. Nearly ten years after Harvey took it away, the Aquarium at Rockport Harbor is coming back.



Eric White of *Freedom Painters* enjoyed a fun day on the water



Team DSM (*Dunnam Safety Management*) was proud to sponsor and participate in the 11th Annual *SpawGlass* CJ Strnadel Fishing Tournament. Bonus, each angler hit their limit of redfish! Way to go, (L-R) **Jake McNamara**, **Ted Dunnam** and **Thomas E. Dunnam IV**.

Anything but Pedestrian

The City of Austin is moving forward with plans for a \$4.6 million pedestrian and bicycle bridge over Walnut Creek as part of the North Lamar Boulevard Corridor Project.

The new shared-use bridge is planned adjacent to the existing North Lamar Boulevard bridge and will provide a dedicated connection for pedestrians and cyclists. Construction is currently anticipated to begin in September 2027, with completion targeted for mid-April 2028, although the schedule could change as design and permitting progress. Austin-based Freese and Nichols Inc. is listed as the design firm.

The bridge is part of a larger project extending from U.S. Highway 183 north to Howard Lane and funded through Austin’s 2016 Mobility Bond. The corridor improvements are intended to improve mobility, pedestrian safety, bicycle connectivity and accessibility. Plans between Rundberg Lane and Parmer Lane also include upgraded sidewalks and bike lanes, traffic signal improvements, bus stop improvements, driveway reconstruction and ADA-compliant curb ramps.

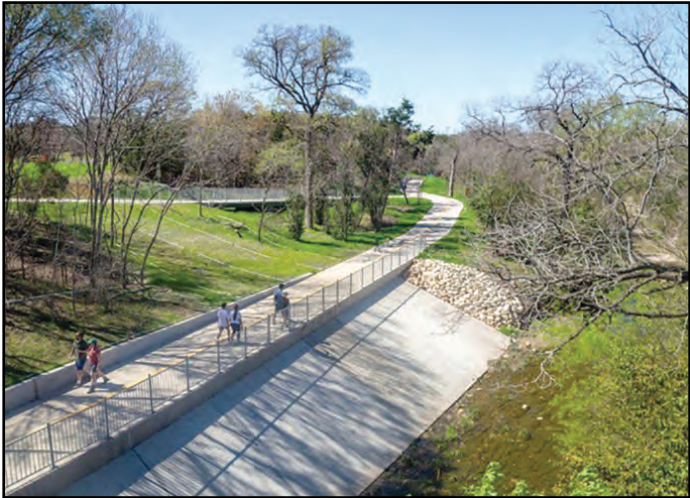
Currently in the design and permitting phase, the project reached approximately 60 percent design between Rundberg and Parmer, according to an April 2026 update from city officials. The project team had

also cleared several hurdles involving hydraulic modeling and review. Because the bridge crosses Walnut Creek, its design must account for floodplain and drainage conditions. Environmental documents note that portions of the broader corridor project fall within the 100-year and 500-year flood zones of Walnut Creek and Little Walnut Creek.

Austin is also securing property interests needed for construction, including additional sidewalk, trail and recreational easements near 12101 North Lamar Boulevard. City documents describe the route as crossing Walnut Creek between Walnut Park Crossing and Oakbrook Drive.

Construction will involve bridge foundations and structures, concrete, earthwork, retaining structures, shared-use paths, drainage, erosion control, utility coordination, paving, ADA improvements, traffic control, landscaping and environmental protection. Work beside an active North Lamar Boulevard corridor and within the Walnut Creek floodplain will require careful sequencing and traffic management.

The project will also connect with existing pedestrian and bicycle investments around Walnut Creek, including portions of the Northern Walnut Creek Trail that provide protected movement around North Lamar Boulevard.



Back to School, Backed by Community



On Jul. 26 the National Association of the Remodeling Industry (NARI) held their Annual Backpack Drive at Inspired Closets and collected over 800 backpacks and raised more than \$8,000 for Hays CISD Clothes Closets. NARI is proud to be community partners and volunteers who continue to give their time, resources, and hearts to make sure students have what they need to start the school year strong.

Safety never retires

After a 33-year career in construction safety, **Ted Dunnam** was told at age 71 that he was “too old” to continue working. Rather than retire, he turned that setback into an opportunity and founded **Dunnam Safety Management** in January 2024, providing safety consulting, training, audits, and OSHA compliance assistance to contractors and manufacturers throughout South Texas. Drawing on decades of experience in roles ranging from surveyor and superintendent to safety consultant, Ted is passionate about helping companies protect their workers while avoiding the hidden costs of workplace injuries. Beyond his business, Ted has made a lasting impact on the construction industry through his leadership with ASA San Antonio, including serving as Chapter President and creating the highly successful ASA Gun Raffle Calendar, which earned the 2025 ASA National Innovation Award. Following a rise in workplace fatalities in 2016, Ted partnered with OSHA and industry leaders

to establish the Texas Construction Safety Summit, an award-winning annual event focused on promoting a strong safety culture across the region. He also chairs ASA San Antonio’s SubFest BBQ Cook-Off, a community event attracting more than 1,500 attendees and recognized as the 2025 ASA National Event of the Year. Ted’s story is a testament to resilience, leadership, and the belief that experience never retires.



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Veterans Memorial Pool Expansion



The City of Cedar Park has been advancing plans to expand the aquatic facility at Veterans Memorial Park, located at 2525 W. New Hope Drive. The latest project information points to an approximately \$10.5 million construction project, with work currently anticipated to begin in late October 2026 and continue through approximately October 2027.

The project represents a substantial expansion of the city’s existing 8,300-square-foot outdoor aquatic facility, which currently includes a zero-depth beach entry, children’s water playscape, dive platform and drop slide.

Plans for the new construction include an approximately 8,000-square-foot wave pool, a 4,000-square-foot wave pool support building, an approximately 3,000-square-foot splash area and a 1,250-square-foot events building.

Earlier planning for the facility also identified a lazy river, additional waterslides, expanded pool deck areas, private shade areas and cabanas, additional lifeguard space, concession facilities and expanded parking as priorities for the Veterans Memorial Pool property. The city’s Capital Improvement Plan specifically identifies a lazy river, two waterslides, private shade areas, additional lifeguard space, a concession stand and parking expansion as components of the overall project.

The expansion is being funded in part through Cedar Park general obligation bond funding. The city’s Capital Improvement Plan previously identified approximately \$8.65 million in bond funding for the

Veterans Park Pool Expansion, including approximately \$7.63 million from 2024 GO bonds and another \$1.02 million from 2022 GO bonds.

Cedar Park selected **Kimley-Horn and Associates** to provide professional design services associated with the Veterans Memorial Pool expansion and a separate renovation of Elizabeth Milburn Pool. In April 2025, Cedar Park City Council authorized a professional services agreement with Kimley-Horn in an amount not to exceed \$1.05 million for the two aquatic projects.

The Veterans Memorial Pool construction package was subsequently advertised by the city as Bid No. 2026-0025-013, with bids scheduled to close Aug. 13, 2026.

With the bid period now complete, the project is entering an important stage for the Central Texas construction industry as Cedar Park reviews proposals and moves toward selection and award of the construction contract.

The work is expected to create opportunities across a broad range of construction specialties, including commercial general construction, aquatic construction, concrete, excavation and site work, underground utilities, plumbing, electrical, pool mechanical systems, structural work, paving, drainage, landscaping, shade structures and specialty water-feature installation.

The investment comes as Cedar Park and the surrounding Williamson County area continue to experience residential and commercial growth. Expansion of the Veterans Memorial Pool is intended

not only to add new recreational attractions but also to increase the capacity of one of the city’s busiest outdoor aquatic facilities.

The current pool has a maximum capacity of approximately 450 visitors. The combination of new aquatic attractions, support buildings, gathering areas and parking improvements will significantly increase the scale of the Veterans Memorial Park aquatic complex.

For contractors and suppliers serving the Austin-area construction market, the project is one to watch closely over the coming weeks. With bids recently received and construction targeted for fall 2026, the next major milestone will be Cedar Park’s identification of the successful bidder and formal award of the construction contract.



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Historic New Braunfels... Pearl-Style



Current condition

One of the most significant redevelopment projects on the horizon in New Braunfels is beginning to take shape along the Comal River, where the former Dittlinger and ADM flour mill is planned for transformation into a major mixed-use destination.

Oxbow Development Group, the San Antonio real estate developer associated with the redevelopment surrounding the Pearl, is leading plans to transform the historic industrial property into a walkable district incorporating residential, retail, restaurants, office space, public gathering areas and structured parking.

The project encompasses approximately 11 acres near East San Antonio Street and the Comal River, less than a quarter-mile from Main Plaza and directly across the river from Prince Solms Park.

The property operated as a flour mill for nearly 140 years before ADM Milling Co. closed the facility in March

2023. Rather than erase that industrial history, current plans call for portions of the former mill to become defining features of the redevelopment.

Oxbow intends to preserve and incorporate significant pieces of the former mill complex, including portions of its recognizable silos and tanks. The approach could give the New Braunfels development some similarities to the transformation of San Antonio’s former Pearl brewery property, where historic industrial structures became part of a larger mixed-use district. Oxbow has indicated that the history of the Dittlinger family and the mill will help shape the character of the project.

The Dittlinger Mill began operating in 1886, making the property an important piece of New Braunfels’ industrial history. The city’s own Downtown Implementation Plan identified the mill property years ago as a prime redevelopment opportunity because of its river frontage, historic structures and proximity to downtown.



Rendering



Rendering

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INSURANCE



Your Renewal Has a Critical Path. The Letter Shows Up Late.

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

Nobody on your team waits for drywall to order the switchgear. You know your long-lead items before you break ground. You build the schedule backward from turnover, flag the tasks that won’t compress, and ride them every week. A slipped critical path doesn’t cost you a little. It costs you the job.

Then your health plan renewal letter shows up and the whole discipline evaporates.

The 86-day problem

Your carrier sends the renewal about 86 days before your effective date, if you’re lucky. It often squeaks in right at the 60-day deadline. Sounds like a runway. It isn’t.

Subtract the time to review it internally, get your broker’s read, run open enrollment (crews need notice, HR needs time to pull it off), and load elections into payroll before day one. Now count what’s left for the only part that actually moves the number: negotiating.

A week. Maybe two.

Real leverage takes longer than that. If you want the carrier to sharpen its pencil, you need a credible alternative. Getting one means pulling your claims data (carriers take their time producing it, or limit what you see), letting other markets underwrite your group (weeks, not days - especially in 4th quarter), and leveling what comes back the way you’d level bids.

None of that fits inside 86 days. The carrier knows it. By the time you’re mad about the number, the realistic options are down to two: take it, maybe shave a point or two with higher deductibles, and swear you’ll start earlier next year. Or shop the regular market with limited information and play the carrier switch game.

Neither of those is a plan. You’d never run a job without one.

Run the backward pass

Treat the renewal like a project schedule and the fix gets obvious. Here’s the ideal schedule, the goal, not a pass-fail test, working backward from your effective date:

- **30 days out:** elections loaded, payroll tested, ID cards on the way.
- **60 days out:** decisions made, open enrollment planned and ready.
- **90 days out:** enough information for a real internal discussion. The carrier letter also shows up here,

where most firms begin.

- **120 to 150 days out:** alternative underwriting begins. Markets want nine months of claims data, so request your HB 2015 report (limited claims data every fully insured or level-funded Texas group can get; self-funded firms already have theirs). This is the leverage window. It’s the whole game.

- **180 days out:** claims reporting reviewed, questions asked, strategy set.

And anything structural, different funding, a different network, an actual plan redesign, needs the 180-day start. None of this is a change order you price in a week.

The critical path item is the credible alternative. Not because you have to move (most firms don’t, most years), but because carriers price one way for a captive audience and suddenly start negotiating for a buyer with options.

A Texas construction firm’s renewal came in at 26%. We had already marketed the case, alternatives at or below their current rate, and the carrier’s willingness to negotiate appeared on cue. From 26% to 4%. Same plan, same carrier. The calendar did that.

What to do this month

If your plan renews January 1, look at that schedule again. You’re inside the window right now, not ahead of it.

Send two requests today. First, ask for your claims experience, ideally the last 24 months (the HB 2015 report can be ordered twice a year and covers 12 months... it’s a start). Second, ask for a written renewal timeline with dates, owners, and deliverables from your broker. A schedule, in other words. You’d never mobilize a sub without one.

If the answer is “let’s wait and see what the renewal looks like,” that’s a sub telling you they’ll build the schedule after mobilization. You wouldn’t accept that on a \$1 million job. Your health plan probably costs more than that, every year.

Your renewal date is more predictable than any notice to proceed you’ll get this year. Firms get surprised anyway, every fall, because nobody ever put it on a schedule.

You already know how to run a critical path. Run this one.

LEGAL



Negotiate Out-of-State Choice of Law Provisions with Care

Texas HB 2960 rewrote the rules on where construction disputes get resolved. The industry should take note.

Laura K. Napoli-Janitens
Principal
Cokinos | Young
Houston, TX

What changed, and when it took effect

For years, the so called “home rule” statute—Section 272.001 of the Texas Business & Commerce Code—let participants in Texas-based construction projects attempt to void contract clauses that mandated the use of another state’s courts for disputes or imposed another state’s laws on Texas projects. Attempt is the key word here: an out-of-state forum selection clause could stand unless affirmatively opposed by a party to the contract.

House Bill 2960, passed unanimously (148-0, 31-0) during the 89th Legislature’s 2025 regular session, changed that. Effective September 1, 2025, any provision in a construction contract (or in an agreement collateral to or affecting a construction contract) that requires litigation in another state’s courts, arbitration in another state, or application of another state’s law is void as against public policy. The change applies to contracts entered into or renewed on or after the effective date.

Not just voidable, but void

A voidable clause is essentially valid and enforceable until someone challenges it, and a court agrees with the challenge. Under the old law, courts sometimes enforced out-of-state forum or venue clauses for Texas projects, reasoning that the party advocating for Texas home rule had bargained away such protections or failed to timely raise the issue. National contractors, keen on resolving disputes in their choice of state, could even use creative contract language to draft around the statute.

But a void clause is invalid from its inception. It cannot be ratified, waived, or cured by mutual consent before a dispute arises. Under the new HB 2960 version of the home rule statute, no amount of pre-dispute contract language—no matter how conspicuous or heavily negotiated—can relocate a Texas-based project construction dispute to another venue or impose another state’s laws.

Where cases will be heard

New subsection 272.001(c) supplies the default venue: “To the extent that a venue provision in a contract is void . . . unless the parties stipulate to another venue after the dispute arises, an action arising out of the contract shall be brought only in this state in the county in which the property that is the subject of the litigation is located.”

Thus, a Texas-based project’s physical location now drives not only where the case is heard, but also the jury pool, local counsel requirements, witness travel, insurance and defense costs. These

are all important pre-dispute considerations and can certainly affect settlement discussions.

An open question: federal arbitration act preemption

Before HB 2960, at least one Texas appellate court held that the Federal Arbitration Act preempted the earlier, voidable version of Section 272.001 as applied to arbitration clauses in interstate-commerce contracts. Whether the FAA similarly preempts the new “void” standard is untested. Parties should not treat an out-of-state arbitration clause as a safe harbor—prudent contract negotiators should assume the enhanced Texas home rule statute requirements apply to arbitration as well.

Practical Guidance for Contract Drafting and Negotiation

Adjust expectations. National contractors and out-of-state parties should stop assuming home-jurisdiction dispute clauses will stand on Texas-based work.

Audit form documents. Update subcontracts, purchase orders, design agreements, guaranties, warranties, flow-downs, joint-check agreements, and indemnity agreements. The statute reaches agreements “collateral to or affecting” construction contracts, so ancillary documents are swept in.

Watch renewals and extensions. A contract entered into before September 1, 2025 that is renewed or extended on or after that date is subject to the new statute. Legacy forms pulled forward without revision expose the parties to unenforceable clauses.

Treat venue as commercial leverage. The dispute-resolution clause is no longer boilerplate. Where the case will be heard affects claim valuation, defense cost, jury composition, and settlement dynamics. Price the risk accordingly during negotiation.

Preserve the post-dispute stipulation option. Although pre-dispute venue agreements are void, both parties may still stipulate to a different venue after a dispute arises. Knowing this gives negotiators a tool.

The Takeaway

HB 2960 is a clear legislative signal—passed without a single dissenting vote—that Texas construction disputes belong in Texas. For owners, developers, general contractors, subcontractors, suppliers, and design professionals working on Texas projects, the days of defaulting to a distant forum are over. Treat September 1, 2025 as a hard deadline to review every active form and every pending deal.

ACCOUNTING



Tax Moves for Unlocking Hidden Cash Flow

Steven Bankler, CPA, PFS, Cr.FA, CFF, CGMA
Senior Partner
Bankler Partners, LC
San Antonio, TX

Traditional tax strategies can fall short for construction businesses and contractors because the advice is often built around predictable revenue and cash flow—luxuries few contractors enjoy. For this reason, aligning taxable income more closely with the economics of your work is both an art and a science. Thankfully, mid-sized contractors have flexibilities that can result in big tax savings. Three areas deserve particular attention: accounting methods, capital equipment deductions, and the research and development (R&D) credit.

Start with the accounting method. The timing of revenue recognition can be one of the largest cash-flow levers available, which is why we’ve discussed it here before. Long-term construction contracts generally fall under percentage-of-completion (POC) accounting, which recognizes income as work progresses rather than when the customer pays. This can produce taxable income before the contractor has collected the related cash.

However, not every contract must be—or should be—treated this way. There can be exceptions in which the completed-contract method might be available. In fact, a contractor with a mix of short-duration commercial work, residential work, service work, and longer public projects may have several tax-accounting treatments operating at once.

The objective is not simply to defer income. It’s to select an accounting method that accurately reflects the business while supporting cash flow and tax efficiency. Ask your tax advisor what options are available within IRS requirements, and which approach makes sense on a contract-by-contract basis. The answer should consider tax savings, working-capital needs, estimated taxes, bonding capacity, and loan-covenant implications. Remember that you can use different methods for financial accounting and tax accounting.

Consider expensing versus depreciation when purchasing equipment. Equipment purchases are operational decisions first, but the tax consequences should not be ignored. Contractors often focus on the monthly payment for a truck, excavator, trailer, skid steer, or shop equipment. But what will this asset do for productive capacity, and what deduction may be available in the year it is placed in service?

Section 179 allows businesses to elect immediate expensing for qualifying property, rather than depreciating the full cost over several years. For tax years beginning in 2026, the maximum Section 179 deduction is \$2.56 million, subject to limitations and a phaseout when

qualifying property purchases exceed the applicable threshold. The deduction is generally limited by taxable income from active trades or businesses, so it’s most useful when the business has income to absorb it; unused amounts may generally carry forward.

For contractors planning to replace aging equipment or expand capacity, coordinating the purchase date and equipment delivery with the company’s tax forecast can make a substantial difference. Keep in mind that an asset generally must be placed in service—not merely ordered or financed—before year-end to support a current-year deduction.

Of course, the tax deduction should not drive an unnecessary purchase. But when an asset is needed to improve safety, reduce downtime, increase capacity or strengthen job profitability, thoughtful tax planning can reduce the after-tax cost of acquiring it.

Look for R&D opportunities. You don’t need a lab coat to qualify for federal research credit. Construction businesses may have qualifying activities when undertaking genuine technical experimentation to develop or improve a process, technique, product, or software.

Those in the construction industry often miss the R&D credit, but there’s a good chance you’re already conducting activities that could qualify. The activity must relate to developing or improving a business component; rely on principles of engineering, physical science, biological science or computer science; seek to eliminate technical uncertainty; and involve a process of experimentation.

There’s no exclusivity on what types of businesses must be conducting these activities. You don’t need to be a laboratory, software company, or manufacturer. And there doesn’t need to be a patent on the work to prove its worth. Consider the times in which you’ve needed to rethink the way you do things or build things, either for a specific client or to generally improve your products, processes, or services. Did you hire or contract with someone to accomplish it? Purchase materials or technology to help you experiment? Ask your tax advisor how these activities might be turned into valuable tax credits.

And then—most importantly—plan for these opportunities in the future. They don’t need to be last-minute surprises. Business owners who make these tricks a part of their tax planning can be more confident in their ability to maintain cash flow, even when roadblocks occur. Too often, the tax bill is a painful afterthought. But what if it was treated as a proactive opportunity for savings instead?

OSHA



Building a safer approach to trash boxes

Suzanna Perz
Compliance Safety & Health Officer
OSHA
Austin, TX

With construction continuing across Austin and surrounding counties, job-made wooden trash boxes remain a common sight at worksites. While these boxes may seem like a convenient way to move debris, it’s important for employers and workers to understand the safety requirements and potential hazards associated with their use.

OSHA does not specifically approve job-made trash boxes, and their use should comply with applicable OSHA requirements for powered industrial trucks (PITs).

Engineered boxes, baskets and platforms are available for powered industrial trucks (PITs), with different designs intended for specific tasks, such as moving materials or equipment or lifting workers. These attachments are designed and tested by manufacturers for their intended use.

Job-made trash boxes are different. Because they are not manufacturer-approved forklift attachments, they may not have been tested to make sure they can safely handle the load or remain stable during use. A makeshift box may not be strong or stable enough to protect workers from injury.

For example, workers can be exposed to fall hazards if they fall through the bottom of a box or over the side. Workers can also face crush hazards if a box shifts, slips or becomes unstable while attached to a powered

industrial truck. Workers should never ride on an unapproved, job-made trash box. Falls are the leading cause of deaths in construction, and using equipment in a way it was not designed for can put workers at serious risk.

Proper attachment is also critical. Job-made trash boxes may not be correctly secured to the mast of a powered industrial truck or may not sit properly on the truck’s tines. An improperly positioned or secured box can become unstable, creating additional hazards for workers nearby.

Elevated boxes and platforms may also be considered scaffolds and can be subject to OSHA’s scaffolding and/or powered industrial truck requirements. Employers should understand the requirements that apply to the equipment and tasks before putting it into use.

For employers and workers, the safest approach is to use equipment designed and approved for the job. Taking a few extra steps to select the right attachment can help prevent falls, struck-by and crush injuries, and help everyone return home safely at the end of the day.

To learn more about using powered industrial trucks safely, check out OSHA’s Safety and Health Information Bulletin (SHIB-06-03-2021) for additional guidance and safety information.

SEPTEMBER

HAPPY

Birthday

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11 — Mark Aguilar / Core Electrical Group

13 — Stephanie Alvarado / SpawGlass

13 — Kenneth Moore / KCM Cabinets

14 — Harmon Harmann / Insurica

15 — Sara Kubala / Middleman Construction

15 — Nick Metcalf / Proview

17 — Lindsay Ozolins / Absolute Resourcing

19 — Rhonda Chadwick / Aprio

20 — Summer Robertson / Americrane Rentals

20 — Robert Crow / Omega General Contractors

21 — Casey Bartek / Bartek Construction Co.

22 — Zac Patrick / Sciens San Antonio

24 — Stephanie Hawley / Dumas Hardware

26 — Penny McDonald / Fetzer Companies

30 — Honore Mendoza / Middleman Construction

30 — Dustin Michalak / ATKG

30 — Carlos Galvan / CG Steel Solutions

Know someone celebrating a birthday next month? Let us know!

Email Andi Mathews, andi@constructionnews.net

Hope Takes Shape



On Aug. 19 **Joeris General Contractors** celebrated the ribbon cutting of Texas State University Round Rock’s Esperanza Hall. “Esperanza” means hope, a fitting symbol of a space created to support students, faculty, and the Texas State community. Joeris was proud to celebrate this milestone and the powerful partnerships that brought it to life.



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Association Calendar

Content submitted by Associations to Construction News

ABC CTX Associated Builders & Contractors Central Texas Chapter Sept. 16: Coffee & Contractors, 8-9:30am, 901 Congress Ave., Austin Sept. 24: Fall Happy Hour, 4:30-6:30pm, The Sign Bar, 9909 FM 969 Building 3, Austin	ASA American Subcontractors Association Austin Sept. 10: Coffee Social, 8-10am, Snooze North Lamar, 3800 North Lamar Blvd., Ste. 120 Austin. A casual morning networking event where construction professionals can connect over breakfast and coffee. FREE for all attendees! Sept. 18: Bowling Tournament a1-4pm, Westgate Lanes, 2701 W. William Cannon Dr., Austin. An afternoon of bowling, friendly competition, and networking with members of Austin’s construction industry.
ACEA Greater Austin Contractors & Engineers Association Sept. 10: September Luncheon/Topic: Texas Water Development Board Updates, 11:30am-1pm, Norris Conference Center, 2525 W. Anderson Lane, Austin Sept 24: Fish Fry, 5-9pm, Williamson County Expo Center, 5350 Bill Pickett Trail, Taylor	CTSA Central Texas Subcontractors Association Sept. 24: Legal Seminar/ Wrap-Up Insurance Policies (OCIPS & CCIPS) and General Contractor Owned Equipment Rental Agreements. , 11:30am-3pm, Haywire in the Domain
AGC Associated General Contractors Austin Sept. 18: Construction Leadership Council (CLC) Annual Clay Shoot, 7am, Capital City Clays, 8707 Lindell Ln., Austin	HBA Home Builders Association Greater Austin Sept. 16: Professional Women in Building (PWB)Volunteer Day, 9-11am, Foster Village, 10545 Dessau Road, Austin Sept. 17: Name that Tune All Member Happy Hour, 4:30-6:30pm, The Bon Aire, 9070 Research Blvd., #101, Austin
AGC TBB Associated General Contractors – Texas Building Branch Sept. 17: Outstanding Construction Awards, 5:30pm, Embassy Suites by Hilton Round Rock Sept. 18: Board of Directors Meeting, 9am, Embassy Suites by Hilton Round Rock	TSBCTC Texas State Building & Construction Trades Council Sept. 4: Construction Leadership Council (CLC) Labor Day Fish Fry, 5-8pm, 601 Williams St., Austin
AIA American Institute of Architects Austin Sept. 26: Design Austin/WaterWork 2026, 8-9:30pm, Seaholm Waterfront, 707 W Cesar Chavez St, Austin	UCATX Utility Contractors Association of Texas Sept. 28: 4th Annual Golf Tournament, 8am-4pm, Grey Rock Golf and Tenns, 7401 Texas Highway 45, Austin



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In memoriam....

Known simply as Ryan, Ryan Lynn Hay passed away on Jul. 17 in Luling, TX, at the age of 57. He was born on Nov. 14, 1968, in Oklahoma City, OK. His life was marked by faith, devotion to family, loyal friendships, and a steady commitment to the people he served throughout his years.

Ryan was a Christian man who lived with a quiet strength and a generous spirit. He believed in the goodness of God and sought to reflect that belief in the way he treated others. Those who knew him will remember his kind heart, his dependable nature, and the warmth he brought into every room. He was a man who valued honesty, hard work, and the simple blessings of life, and he carried those values with him throughout his days.

For 16 years, Ryan served at **Tipton Company** as the Central Texas Territory

Manager. In that role, he built lasting relationships and earned the respect of coworkers, clients, and associates alike. He approached his work with dedication and professionalism, and he took pride in doing his job well. His years with the company reflected his strong work ethic and his ability to connect with people in a genuine and meaningful way.

Above all else, Ryan loved his family. He was a devoted husband to Melanie Hay and a proud father to his son, Austin Hay. He treasured his family deeply and found great joy in the time he spent with them. He also welcomed Megan Hay, his daughter-in-law, into the family with love and appreciation.

Ryan is survived by his sister, Stacy Hay, and his nieces, Caitlin Melton and Megan Hay, all of whom held a special place in his heart.

He was preceded in death by his

parents, Raymond and Jacquella Hay, whose memory remained a lasting part of his life.

Ryan enjoyed traveling, and he especially loved cruising. Those journeys gave him the opportunity to see new places and create lasting memories with the people he loved. Yet his favorite pastime was always spending time with family and friends. Whether gathered around a table, sharing stories, or simply enjoying one another's company, Ryan found happiness in relationships and in the moments that brought people together. His presence made those moments brighter, and his laughter and companionship will be deeply missed.

Ryan lived a life that was grounded in faith and enriched by love. He lived each day with a steady spirit and a grateful heart, and he leaves behind a legacy of devotion, kindness, and



faithfulness. Though his earthly journey has ended, those who love him take comfort in the promise of God's eternal care and in the hope of reunion through Christ. His memory will continue to live in the hearts of those who knew him, and his life will be remembered with gratitude, respect, and affection. We are comforted knowing Ryan is at home with his Lord and Savior. -cwr



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