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Austin

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## NEWS

The Industry's Newspaper

(512) 295-3900 ★ Home Of: P.O. Box 791290 San Antonio, TX 79279 (210) 308-5800 ★ NOV 2009 ★ Vol. 9 ★ No. 11

## Blazing trails across Texas

## Building a team



L-R: Co-owners David Polser and John T. Baker operate Sunrise Vistas on the same ranch that Bevo XIII was born and raised.



Robert Cottrell, second from left, and Rocky Mager, far right, started their company with \$5,000, years of experience and a love for the industry.

"I first met David in 1988 when he was attending the University of Texas," says **John T. Baker**.

**David Polser**, Ph.D., was a Bevo handler with UT's Silver Spurs organization, and played a role in selecting Bevo XIII, the longest-tenured mascot in UT history, who came from Baker's Sunrise Ranch.

"John and I have been friends for a number of years. He is my mentor and adviser," Polser says.

Polser turned to Baker for career guidance when he was offered a position with a large company.

"I explained the merits of this offer, and John said, 'Well, it sounds like a good deal, but let me give you something else to think about...'"

Polser says the two decided to create a company along the same lines of Baker's former business of preparing land for construction, only with the goal to be more efficient. The two started **Sunrise Vistas** earlier this year.

"With my previous business, which I ran for 15 years, we historically used skid steer loaders and other equipment to clear lots of large acreage tracks and right-of-ways of what I call 'environmental parasitic invaders,' such as cedar trees and other brush," Baker says.

After much brainstorming and researching about making the business more efficient, Baker finally came across

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"We scraped together a whole \$5,000, bought some tools and went to work! The rest," **Rocky Mager**, co-owner, **C&M Construction** says, "is history!"

Mager and his business partner, **Robert Cottrell**, co-owner, had both been involved in the industry for years, working for other companies. They decided to go out on their own after realizing that the opportunity was right in front of them. C&M, for Cottrell and Mager, was started in 2005.

Gradually the business partners built their crew with men they have worked with in the past, and younger guys who were eager to learn.

Office manager **Jennifer Hall** says,

"Rocky has always been one to help other people. If someone can't find a job, he might hire them. People have always helped him when he needed it, so he passes it forward."

Both Cottrell and Mager agree that Hall has been instrumental in guiding the company to success. Mager says, "Robert and I work in construction – we're not businessmen!"

Cottrell adds, "That's right. Until we brought Jennifer in, we just learned the business side as we went along."

"We both were superintendents for other companies, and we learned a lot out there. To make this happen, we just

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## Bringing beauty back to life

The Granite Shoals Municipal Building sits atop a granite rock and was once considered the diamond of Granite Shoals. Somewhere along the way of this striking building's existence, however, it became vacant.

When the city of Granite Shoals presented the opportunity to bid on the Granite Shoals Municipal Building Upgrade, the team at **S&G Contracting Inc.** pulled together to procure the job with what would be the winning bid.

"This project consists of bringing aspects of an already beautiful building up to date, from new roofing, electrical, plumbing mechanical, as well as adding elevator wheelchair lifts and paved driveways," says project manager **James Johnson**.

"It is a little bit of everything, from as simple as paint to as complex as adding a new elevator to the existing structure with a nice granite veneer."



L-R: S&G Contracting Inc.'s President Mike Stout and project manager James Johnson with the newly restored Granite Shoals Municipal Building

The S&G team, including project superintendent **Homer Garza**, came together to walk through the deserted building and found that their work was cut out for them.

"This building was built back in the '80s. It has been vacant for so long, and we were finding unforeseen objects and problems daily, like with any other remodel," Johnson says.

"However, we are accustomed to finding some renovation projects in this state, and we always stay very persistent and mindful of the outcome."

Johnson says S&G founders **Mike Stout**, president, and **Shane Gibson**, vice president, are excited to be a part of this project. The building houses key players in the city's organizational chain of command, which Johnson says was instrumental in bringing the project together.

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## Ccino needs a home



Ccino ready to work

For the past six months Ccino (as in Cappuccino) has waited patiently for my little white truck to come up the driveway at the end of each day. As I near the house I can hear his soulful cry, so glad I am finally home.

Not long ago Ccino stood wait in a similar way for a soldier, SSgt. Clay Bowen, his owner, to come home. Clay planned to visit Ccino in September and take him home with him in January, when his deployment ended. Ccino was his baby. But he is not coming home. Clay lost his life in Afghanistan in August.

Ccino needs a home. I have fostered the amazing dog and his stepsister, Coco, since April. I have loved every minute of it. Just months ago, Clay asked if I would keep Coco. I would love to keep both dogs, but I feel I can only do one dog justice. Coco suits my lifestyle and is content just being outside, chasing squirrels and looking for deer. She doesn't mind if I have to attend an event in the evening and come home late.

Ccino just wants to be loved. He really wants to be a lap dog or your shadow. He is an 18-month-old AKC registered pit bull and weighs about 65lbs., but he is not the aggressive, dog-fighting kind of pit bull. He might lick you to death, though, or accidentally hit you with his wagging tail.

He is crate-trained and neutered. He loves to fetch anything and play. The amazing thing about Ccino is his personality. He will carry on a conversation with you. I have the recordings to prove it! He is very smart, but he is also very funny. Sometimes I just sit in the den and watch him on the deck doing silly things, like putting pieces of carpet on Coco's head to entice her to play. If you throw a stick, the two dogs retrieve it in tandem.

Ccino would make a wonderful companion dog. He is the most affectionate and loyal dog I have ever known. Help me find him a new, loving owner who can appreciate him the way I do and the way Clay did.

—Kathie Fox, San Antonio Editor

## That's a wrap!



L-R: After moving to Austin earlier this year, Rob and Meg Arnold have become involved in many of the activities that are unique to the area.

"We've been to several concerts, I went to Austin City Limits, we've been out on the lakes, and we've had plenty of Tex-Mex!"

Yes, **Meg Arnold**, co-owner, **Fast Wrap Austin**, says she and her husband and business partner, **Rob Arnold**, co-owner, are very excited to be living in Austin. The couple started their business in July. Meg explains why they chose Austin as the base for their business, and for their home.

"We lived in Arizona, but here in Texas, there was still construction going on, as opposed to the rest of the country. Texas is just the best place to live if you still want to work and have a business or a job."

Rob says that since he and Meg opened the doors to their containment company, they have found many uses for their large-scale shrink-wrapping franchise. Though it wasn't a project the Ar-

nolds worked on, Meg shares her favorite Fast Wrap application.

"There was a casino under construction, and because it was unsightly in its condition, the casino next door paid to have it wrapped. There were also a lot of materials in there, so the wrap served as a good security measure as well."

Meg says her and Rob's main focus was to get their business involved in construction industry. However, she says they have wrapped many other things, such as boats, to make sure that they stay practicing, and to get things "up and running."

The Arnolds say they have embraced the Austin way of life. Meg says next on her list is getting burnt orange shrink-wrap produced and sent to Austin!

*Fast Wrap Austin is a woman-owned business that uses shrink-wrap to perform containment, asset protection and weatherization services for construction and residential entities.* —va

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