Only pay for the speed you need... Dynamic Routing!℠

At Lynden, we understand that plans change but deadlines don’t. That’s why we proudly offer our exclusive Dynamic Routing system. Designed to work around your unique requirements, Dynamic Routing allows you to choose the mode of transportation — air, sea or land — to control the speed of your deliveries so they arrive just as they are needed. With Lynden, you only pay for the speed you need!

DESTINATION: FAIRBANKS
ETA: 9:30 - 11:30 A.M.

ALASKA

LYNDEN
Innovative Transportation Solutions
www.lynden.com 1-888-596-3361
Unrivaled Rental Support

- Brodest Rental Product Line
- Industry-Leading Customer Service
- Highly Experienced Local Staff

NC MACHINERY
Anchorage 907-786-7500
Fairbanks 907-452-7251
Prudhoe Bay 907-659-9600
Dutch Harbor 907-581-1367
Juneau 907-789-0181
Wasilla 907-352-3400
There’s cold. And there’s Alaska cold.

They don’t call it The Great Land for nothing. Everything is greater here: the temperature drops, the storms, the winds, the ice, the tidal changes. That’s why our Orca class vessels are specially built to withstand the worst that nature can throw at us between Tacoma and Anchorage.

Meeting the unique demands of Alaska is only part of our business. Meeting yours is everything else.

WHAT WE DO

Cornerstone offers a comprehensive range of commercial general contracting and construction management services for every stage of a project’s evolution including:

PRE-DEVELOPMENT CONSTRUCTION

PRE-CONSTRUCTION SERVICE CONTINUATION

WHERE WE DO IT

Our team works in locations across Alaska for the state’s leading project owners. Our portfolio includes well-known successes in a variety of sectors including:

EDUCATION

HEALTHCARE

INDUSTRIAL

GOVERNMENT

HOUSING

OFFICE & RETAIL

Cornerstone is a proud recipient of four consecutive Alaska Governor’s Safety Excellence Awards.

Cornerstone General Contractors, Inc.
5050 Cordova Street, Anchorage, AK 99503
P (907) 561-1993  F (907) 561-7899
www.cornerstoneak.com
TABLE OF CONTENTS

FEATURES
14 2015 Legislative Priorities by John MacKinnon
16 Hot ideas: Innovative builders create own solutions to Alaska’s challenges by Rindi White
26 GCI, STG work together to expand high-speed Internet to Northwest Alaska by Rindi White
36 Saving time at the Top of the World by Rachael Kvapil
44 Irons in the fire: Construction updates by Carly Horton Stuart
52 Sixth Annual AGC Chili Cook-off photo essay
53 Stan Smith Foundation awards scholarships by Sharon Stockard
56 AGC in the Community Project: Anchorage Museum’s Brick by Brick builds on sponsor partnerships by Jamey Bradbury
61 AGC in the Community Project: Anchorage Home Builders, AGC spread holiday joy by Van Williams
64 Excellence in Construction & Safety Achievement awards by AGC of Alaska
75 2014 Winners of AGC’s Excellence in Construction Awards photo essays

PROFILES
20 Tunista Construction LLC by Jamey Bradbury
32 Graff Contracting LLC by Rachael Kvapil
48 Carlile Transportation Systems Inc. by Dawnell Smith
62 Alaska Traffic Co. by Van Williams

DEPARTMENTS
6 Winning Bids and Construction Trends
10 President’s Message by Meg Nordale
12 Executive Director’s Message by John MacKinnon
24 Contractors & the Law by Robert J. Dickson
30 Safety Report by Chris Ross
41 Beacon WorkSafe by Ian Cooper, Adam Hall and Brennen Portalski
43 Financial Services & Contractors by C. Greg Carr
82 Member News

The Alaska Contractor is published by MARCOA Publishing, Inc. for the Associated General Contractors of Alaska. Contents of the magazine are not necessarily endorsed by AGC of Alaska or MARCOA Publishing, Inc. All rights reserved. Copyright 2014 by the Associated General Contractors of Alaska.

For information about articles in this edition or for permission to reproduce any portion of it, contact MARCOA Publishing, Inc.
**WINNING BIDS**

**ARCTIC & WESTERN**
- **KOLIGANEK AIRPORT RECONSTRUCT**
  - $7,994,085
- **KNIK CONSTRUCTION CO INC**
  - CLARK BAY IFA
  - $6,921,230
- **WESTERN MARINE CONSTRUCTION**
  - ROBERT STORRS
  - HARBOR C FLOAT REPLACE
  - $4,357,470
- **TURNAGAINE MARINE CONSTRUCTION CORP**
  - UNALASKA LANDFILL EXPANSION REBID
  - $3,643,750
- **NORTHERN ALASKA CONTRACTORS**
  - BARROW RUNWAY 07 SURFACE REPAIR
  - $3,636,500
- **ASRC SKW/ESKIMOS INC**

**INTERIOR**
- **CHULITNA PARKS HWY**
  - MP 123.5-146 RESURFACE
  - $25,973,241
  - **QAP**
- **ELECTRIC ELLIOTT HWY**
  - MP 107.7-120.5 RECON
  - $19,656,000
  - **WOLVERINE SUPPLY INC**
- **TOK CUTTOFF MP 104**
  - TOK RIVER BRIDGE #0663
  - $11,699,696
  - **H C CONTRACTORS INC**
  - FBKS WEIGHT STATION
  - $11,172,615
  - **H C CONTRACTORS**
  - TOK HWY MP 50-60
  - $5,671,025
  - **GREAT NORTHEAST INC**
  - WAINWRIGHT
  - AIRPORT GRAVEL
  - $5,647,885
  - **BERING PACIFIC CONSTRUCTION**
  - POINT HOPE
  - POWER PLANT/UTIL UPGRADE
  - $5,150,000
  - **CONAM CONSTRUCTION CO**
  - AK HIGHWAY
  - DATA EQUIPMENT
  - $4,551,390
  - **RIDGE CONTRACTING INC**
  - HEALY PIT RECLAMATION
  - $3,852,462
  - **SCARSELLA BROTHERS**
  - STEBBINS
  - INTERTIE CONSTRUCT
  - $2,799,464
  - **STG INC**

**SOUTHCENTRAL**
- **ANCH UAA PARKING STRUCTURE**
  - $15,340,000
  - **NEESER CONSTRUCTION INC**
  - SEWARD HWY 54.5-75
  - PAVEMENT PRESERVE
  - $15,157,512
  - **PRUHS CORP**
  - STERLING HWY MP 135-150
  - PAVEMENT PRESERVE
  - $11,961,445
  - **QAP**
  - ANCH BAGGAGE SYSTEM RECAP
  - $8,476,777
  - **CONSOLIDATED CONTRACTING & ENGINEERING**
  - GLENN HWY
  - CONTINUOUS LIGHTING, MP 27-31
  - $6,691,146
  - **NORTHERN POWERLINE CONSTRUCTORS INC**
  - SHIP CREEK WATER TREATMENT
  - HEAT EXCHANGER
  - $5,150,000
  - **FRAWNER CORP**
  - ANCH BAXTER RD/SENATE
  - PAVEMENT REHAB
  - $4,433,736
  - **PRUHS CORP**

**Note:** Winning Bids and Construction Trends
1) Source from projects advertised in the AGC of Alaska Bulletin
2) Calculations based on date of bid
3) Supply/Service; Non-Construction bid results are not always advertised in the bulletin
4) RFP results are not always advertised in the bulletin
### Southeast

- **JUNEAU RUNWAY 8-26 REHAB**
  - $15,920,520
  - **SECON**

- **SITKA UV DISINFECTION FACILITY**
  - $5,496,207
  - **DAWSON CONSTRUCTION INC**

- **SITKA KETTLERSON LIBRARY EXPANSION**
  - $5,362,000
  - **DAWSON CONSTRUCTION INC**

- **FRITZ COVE ROAD REHAB & REPAIR**
  - $3,115,745
  - **SECON**

- **KAKE SENIOR CTR MODERNIZATION REBID**
  - $3,043,000
  - **BARANOF ISLAND ENTERPRISES**

- **PETERSBURG AIRPORT PAVEMENT REHAB**
  - $2,978,200
  - **KNIK CONSTRUCTION CO INC**

### Other Projects

- **ANCHOTIS PKWY SURFACE REHAB**
  - $4,099,558
  - **QAP**

- **OLD SEWARD HWY: RABBIT CREEK TO BRANDON**
  - $3,749,452
  - **QAP**

- **ANCH CHESTER CREEK CHANNEL IMPROVE**
  - $3,664,149
  - **BRISTOL CONSTRUCTION SERVICES LLC**

- **SOLDOTNA AIRPORT-2014 APRON EXPANSION**
  - $3,527,953
  - **ALASKA ROADBUILDERS INC**

- **ANCH CALAIS WATER/DRAINAGE IMPROVE**
  - $3,415,414
  - **SOUTHCENTRAL CONSTRUCTION INC**

- **ANCH KINGS LANDING PHS II**
  - $3,252,296
  - **BRISTOL CONSTRUCTION SERVICES LLC**

- **TALKEETNA LIBRARY RESOURCE CTR REBID**
  - $3,249,885
  - **E & E CONSTRUCTION**

- **KODIAK BLDG 576 SEISMIC UPGRADES/RENO**
  - $3,140,220
  - **LYABACK CONSTRUCTION**

- **OUZINKIE MUNICIPAL DOCK PHS IV**
  - $2,963,200
  - **TURNAGAIN MARINE CONSTRUCTION**

- **ANCH AHFC HQ FIRST FLOOR REMODEL**
  - $2,906,700
  - **PINNACLE CONSTRUCTION INC**

---

**UNBEATABLE SERVICE, RELIABLE SOLUTIONS.**

Partner with Carlile and instantly gain the best, most-creative logistics team in the business.

Visit [Carlile.biz](https://www.carlile.biz) for PO-to-project completion solutions.

---

**Carlile**

1-800-478-1853 | [carlile.biz](https://www.carlile.biz)

One point of contact, a world of solutions.
CONSTRUCTION TRENDS

Source: Winning bids for projects advertised in the AGC of Alaska bulletin.
We believe in Alaska

As Alaskans, we share the privilege of living in Alaska. But when it comes to knowing Alaska – and believing in Alaskans – that takes time. It takes dedication, hard work and wisdom.

Since 1922, one bank has believed in Alaska, and in doing our part to help our neighbors succeed. Today, that ONE bank believes in you.

Learn how local knowledge and experience make the difference. Call 907-777-4362 or 800-856-4362.

FNBAAlaska.com
AGC membership creates strong construction community

You’ve heard it said “strength in numbers,” “no one person is an island,” “two heads are better than one” and many more that are the foundation for accomplishing great things and the means by which many reach success. There are many spheres to each of our business, social and personal circles, but it is the whole circle, the whole community that we rely upon to achieve the goals we have set for ourselves and our construction industry businesses. As I said to you at our annual convention in November, we are all members of the construction community of Alaska, and by working together we can better each of our individual stakes as well as better the industry as a whole.

Associated General Contractors of Alaska membership provides each of you with a ready-made community, a ready-made resource group that can be called upon in a myriad of ways to support and promote your business pursuits. What a great asset to have available to each and every one of us as members. Included in the definition of the word “community” is “a feeling of fellowship with others, as a result of sharing common attitudes, interests and goals.” AGC promotes the construction industry in Alaska and provides that community each and every day of the year; AGC is the common link each of us has with each other. We may be competitors, but we are all an integral part of the industry. It takes each one of us, working together in a healthy, competitive environment, to protect our industry and effect the changes crucial to keeping the construction economy vibrant in our great state.

Are you new in business or new to Alaska? What a great way to break into the Alaska construction marketplace. What a great way to add value to your current business plan and operations. I would encourage you to take a look at the long list of services AGC of Alaska provides, the long list of sponsored events, the long list of opportunities available to you and your staff.

In my own company, GHEMM Company, I recall the first time I finalized a bid without benefit of my other company partners in the office. My sphere was limited that day. In came a bid from an unknown subcontractor who could do it all — drywall, taping, painting, mechanical and electrical tasks — and could do it very inexpensively. Panic set in to which I am certain you can relate. The thoughts running through my head were about risk, benefit, long-term ramifications, what should I do? Ask yourself what you would do if you were in this position. I called an AGC member. I called Terry Fike from Alcan General Contractors. Alcan General Contractors was a good competitor; Terry Fike was a good friend and part of my support network because of AGC. Terry offered sage advice and good commentary that day. I will never forget his kindness, and I will always appreciate the value of my membership in AGC.

With membership comes responsibility, with work comes reward. Last year AGC’s leadership team developed a strategic plan, looking forward over the next five to 10 years. An extensive member survey was conducted, and many thoughtful comments were returned. You told us you appreciate what AGC does, you value your membership in the AGC community and you want to step up your level of individual involvement in the organization. Over the next few months, you will be called upon to help to continue AGC’s mission of promoting and supporting every facet of the construction industry in Alaska.

Committees are being reactivated, reorganized and re-energized to provide the opportunities you asked for, the ability to be involved, increasing your stake in the organization. Thank you to Kevin Welker, immediate past president, for spearheading this effort, and thank you to each of you, in advance, for providing the impetus for this change. When you are called upon, please say yes. If you have an idea or have a desire to become involved, please pick up the phone and let us know you are willing to serve.

I am not alone, and you are not alone. Each of us needs support to achieve our goals and success in all facets of our lives. I appreciate the support of family, friends, employees and colleagues. I appreciate the support I receive and the support my business receives by membership in AGC of Alaska.

I am honored to have been elected president of AGC of Alaska and look forward to serving our industry in the coming year. Along with me, the leadership team of Dana Pruhs, Dan Hall, Jim St. George, Mike Swalling, Teri Gunter and Kevin Welker is ready to go to work for the construction community, which includes all of us living and working in our great state of Alaska. 🏗
Supporting Industry and Economic Development in Alaska

with Insurance, Employee Benefits, and Risk Management Consulting.

Commercial Insurance
Employee Benefits
Personal Insurance
Risk Management
Surety

www.psfinc.com
Rooted in Alaska for nearly 30 years
3800 Centerpoint Drive, Suite 601, Anchorage, Alaska 99503 // 907.562.2225
2233 112th Ave. NE, Bellevue, WA 98004 // 425.709.3600
Govern ing from the middle moves everyone forward

Nationally, there is one message that came from the Nov. 4 election. That is that we are tired of a do-nothing Congress and we want them to work together. Once again, the American public gets tired of the shenanigans of one party and gives the other political party a chance to show some statesmanship. This seems to happen about every eight years. If the usual cycle is followed, the new majority will get cocky at its success and proceed to disappoint the public and get booted out in a few years.

Congress has been accurately described as dysfunctional — a term some would say is too kind. The goal of each party in Congress is one of political advantage — how can one party make the other party look bad. In doing so, they both look bad. How else do you explain the dismal approval rating of Congress?

There is no longer a goal of arriving at a solution to a problem. The goal is political advantage and not what is best for the country. One party may claim a political victory, but in doing so, the public loses. We elect them to do our business, not play chess. We need solutions that are best for the American people.

Looking at political demographics, over 40 percent of Americans identify themselves as political independents — this is a greater percentage than either party can claim. The increasing shift to independent status comes at the expense of both the Republican Party and the Democratic Party. The identity of the political parties is no longer being defined by their fundamental ideology but by the dissertations and rants of their political fringe. The majority of America does not identify with either fringe — the majority is in the middle.

Both parties have demonstrated that they know how to work together and to govern from the middle. MAP 21, the transportation reauthorization bill, signed into law in 2012, is a good example of both sides working together for the American people. Use that as a model. This election is a new opportunity for cooperation and compromise between both parties on issues important to America. These issues include fixing the Affordable Care Act, immigration reform, tax overhaul, federal overreach, government spending and, most important, rebuilding the middle class in America.

In Alaska, there are mixed messages from the results of the November election. A strong margin re-elected the status quo to the Legislature to continue moving the state forward. At the same time, Alaska voters decided to put a new governor at the helm to move the state forward and, since they’re the same voters, presumably forward on the same course.

It won’t be smooth sailing. In late June, oil prices were over $110 barrel but at the beginning of December they were dipping below $75. With oil prices heading south like snowbirds, there are big issues facing Alaska that call for action by the Legislature. That action may result in extreme measures.

Both parties have demonstrated that they know how to work together and to govern from the middle.

Most people would agree that our state spending problem is in the operating budget not the capital budget. Responsible legislators have been talking for years about the need to curb spending. The political reality is that serious fiscal restraint (reductions) won’t happen until we have a crisis. We’re there. There will be cuts, and they will be painful.

Unless you live in an autocratic household, your family decisions are made through open discussion, compromise and consensus. With our household decisions, I know if I said, “It’s my way or the highway,” I’d soon be trotting down the road. The public expects there to be a thorough discussion and a legislative solution that is not only practical and affordable but one that includes solutions from both sides. There needs to be a focus on areas of agreement, not disagreement.

We’ve weathered oil price storms in the past, and we’ll weather this one. Any significant pullback in capital investment by the state will send the wrong message to Alaskans. State capital investment results in an overall climate of optimism that encourages private investment and further stimulates consumer spending. Capital investment and consumer spending — two significant drivers of our economy. As the Legislature discovered with the severe national recession in 2009, solid and responsible capital investment by the state helped sustain Alaska from the severity of the national recession. We need to continue to “Build Alaska” and invest in our economy.

If we want to govern successfully, we must govern from the middle and involve both sides in the solution.
Wherever you work, Crowley delivers the fuel to keep your project going, from the long stretches of Alaska's highways to the state's most remote rivers and coasts. With our extensive terminal network, safe and reliable truck and barge fleet, and experienced Alaska workforce, we'll bring you what you need, wherever and whenever you need it.

Crowley – more than 60 years of safe and reliable service in Alaska.
TRANSPORTATION & INFRASTRUCTURE

Roads to Resources: Roads to Resources represents an investment in our people and the state’s future prosperity. Unlocking the state’s resources benefits all Alaskans. New roads to access natural resources can also provide a corridor for moving fuel and supplies to communities and become Economic Development Corridors that contribute to the sustainability of rural Alaska.

Juneau Access: The Juneau Access project is a critical infrastructure project for Juneau and Southeast Alaska. The project will increase transportation capacity and reduce travel time between northern Lynn Canal communities. It will also help reduce the operating costs and the ever-growing state subsidies of the Alaska Marine Highway System. Road travel is a more efficient, reliable and cost-effective mode of transportation and will reduce travel costs in the region.

Knik Arm Crossing: The Knik Arm Crossing will create a second route from Anchorage to the Matanuska-Susitna Valley, the state’s fastest-growing region, and on to Interior Alaska. Construction of the bridge is expected to create thousands of construction jobs and spur economic development in the immediate area, resulting in thousands of additional, permanent jobs. The crossing will open land for residential, commercial and industrial expansion of Anchorage. It will lower transportation costs to Alaska’s Interior, saving fuel and reducing greenhouse emissions.

EDUCATION & WORKFORCE

Alaska Construction Academies: Alaska is on the cusp of an economic — construction — boom. We need to strengthen our efforts to help Alaska students be ready to enter the workforce. Through Alaska Construction Academy efforts in urban Alaska, students and adults are recruited, trained and placed in jobs in the construction industry. Construction Academy efforts in rural Alaska give students the training and skills needed to continue their education and pursue construction-related careers. Academy training has expanded from the traditional building trade skills of plumbing, electrical and carpentry into civil construction skills of surveying, heavy equipment operator and mechanic, with emphasis in both urban and rural Alaska.

ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT

Workers’ Compensation Insurance Reform: Alaska workers’ compensation insurance rates are the highest in the nation, affecting every Alaska employer and making Alaska less competitive in creating and maintaining jobs. High costs of carrying employees results in employee misclassification and presents a wide range of serious problems affecting employees, employers, social programs and the entire economy. It necessarily follows that reducing workers compensation insurance costs will benefit Alaska workers, make Alaska businesses more competitive and benefit all Alaskans.

The construction industry has made tremendous strides in reducing workplace injuries and has made safety an important part of workplace culture. It’s time for government to do its part. We support a series of changes to the Alaska workers’ compensation insurance statutes in an effort to reduce the cost of insurance for employers and maintain protection and security for workers. These changes should include efforts to reduce high medical costs and systemic fraud and abuse, and to emphasize effective treatment programs that promote injury recovery and the return to full employment of injured workers.

Modernizing the Permitting Process: There have been a number of recent legislative efforts to remove some of the process involved in getting through many of the required state development permits. A significant part of the government regulatory system is a process with no value added that only serves to increase the cost of construction. We need to reform and streamline procedures for obtaining, issuing and appealing permits, leases, best interest findings and other authorizations issued by the state. With this, we need to set severe penalties for those who willfully fail to follow our laws and regulations that protect our people, our environment and our resources.

Government Competition: Contractors invest a lot of money in facilities, equipment, training and everything else they need to be good and competitive. They depend to a large degree on government contracting agencies to let the work, and those agencies depend on the contracting community to perform the work — we have a partnership. The government agencies we depend on for much of our work will sometimes perform that work themselves — work that is of a nature or size that really should be contracted out. They are able to buy specialized equipment with taxpayers’ money and not have to use it enough to “pay” for it. And they will perform under less stringent rules and specification than private contractors are required to.

ENERGY

Susitna-Watana Hydro: Alaska has a long, successful history of harnessing power safely from its abundant natural resources and is one of the most ambitious states in the
nation when it comes to pursuing renewable energy. Susitna-Watana Hydro will provide long-term stable power for generations of Alaskans. Every successful hydro project in Alaska has had controversy and most of all sticker shock when they were ready to get the green light for construction. But they are all considered success stories and great investments today. The Susitna-Watana development will be a significant part of a diverse and sustainable energy infrastructure.

Alaska Gas Line: The rate of progress made over the past four years on an in-state gas line is on par with the Alaska Highway and the trans-Alaska pipeline. We support the continued efforts for development of an in-state natural gas pipeline, designed to deliver natural gas from the North Slope to Southcentral Alaska and tidewater. It should provide gas for export if feasible and should serve as many communities as practicable. The Alaska LNG project is the most critical project for Alaska. When this project is completed, it will reduce energy costs statewide, create thousands of jobs for Alaskans and provide an alternative revenue stream to support other important infrastructure projects.

Sustainability: As a steward of our environment, AGC of Alaska supports those initiatives that will enhance our quality of life for generations to come without burdening them with unusable or overly cumbersome regulations. A significant part of the government regulatory system is a process with little value added that only serves to increase the cost of living and the cost of construction to the point where the improvements to our way of life will not be feasible. We need to continue to “Build Alaska” in many ways. There won’t be two gas lines, and all the mega projects on the drawing boards won’t happen at the same time. We’re also not paying our share of the cost with “money in the bank.” All projects are important to a variety of Alaska constituencies. We support investments in Alaska that go toward the long-term economic viability of the state and the people of Alaska.
Innovative builders create own solutions to Alaska’s challenges

By Rindi White

Alaska’s harsh climate makes typical construction methods fall short when it comes to heat retention, insulation and other aspects. So some Alaskans are getting innovative and creating their own methods to deal with the state’s unique building challenges.

From contractor to manufacturer

Bucher Glass Inc., based in Fairbanks, is sort of a poster business for innovative building features. Owner Scott Bucher said the half-century-old company was formerly a glass contractor and repair business but since the mid-2000s it has focused solely on commercial glazing.

When the company landed a job to remodel the Fairbanks International Airport, it delved into a new product: unitized curtain walls. They’re commonly seen in glass-walled skyscrapers. Because structural steel is contained in the building itself, the glass wall can be lightweight and built partly or almost entirely out of glass.

Bucher said the company began using unitized curtain walls built to specific sizes by a China-based company. After installing the walls on a few jobs, he said, they decided to start manufacturing the walls themselves.

The company already has a 12,000-square-foot building in Fairbanks where aluminum fabrication takes place. Eighteen months ago it began using a 36,000-square-foot space two blocks away to assemble all the finished wall units. It has meant a lot of growth in a short time, he said.

“We have 110 people now, where before we had 24 to 30 people,” he said. “We added 70 jobs — in Fairbanks!”

The company is still expanding, Bucher said, trying to strike a balance between growth and sustainability. Because the Alaska commercial construction market is somewhat limited, he said, his company also takes jobs in Hawaii to keep the factory in production year-round.

In Alaska, Bucher designed and is installing the curtain walls on the Juneau-based State Library, Archives and Museum, or SLAM, building; the walls on the University of Alaska Fairbanks Engineering Building; and on the eight-story, 110,000-square-foot Fireweed Business Center being built by Cook Inlet Region Inc. in Anchorage.

Bucher Glass Inc. specializes in energy-efficient unitized curtain walls manufactured in its factory in Fairbanks. The curtain walls are installed in the University of Alaska Fairbanks Engineering Building, which is designed to perform at least 20 percent better than the American Society of Heating, Refrigerating and Air Conditioning Engineers standard for Fairbanks. “It’s kind of a curtain-wall system that has been developed for the extreme cold by guys in the extreme cold,” owner Scott Bucher said.
What makes the walls appealing is their almost infinite variability. The UAF Engineering Building was designed to perform at least 20 percent better than the American Society of Heating, Refrigerating and Air Conditioning Engineers standard for Fairbanks, said Bucher. His company used triple-glazed glass, thermally improved spacers and lots of insulation, he said, and the wall should exceed the design standard.

“It’s kind of a curtain-wall system that has been developed for the extreme cold by guys in the extreme cold,” he said.

The variations in glass characteristics add to the design appeal. The CIRI-owned office building in Anchorage has dynamic glass that automatically tints when the sun hits it, Bucher said. The dynamic glass is used at and below eye level, but the upper portion of the wall is Solara, a translucent glass with a high insulation value.

New ground for learning

The UAF Engineering Building in Fairbanks is home to another unique building feature: Alaska’s first strong floor.

The floor, part of the $108.6 million state-of-the-art Engineering Building, includes anchor plates embedded in the concrete every 4 feet to allow engineering students to bolt down beams or bridge girders to test their strength. Students can even simulate earthquake conditions on a building by using the floor, said Cameron Wohlford, UAF project manager.

Davis Constructors & Engineers Inc. built the floor, which measures 120 feet by 25 feet and 4 feet thick. It’s reinforced with about 100,000 pounds of rebar, Davis project manager Jason Lindsey said.

The pour was done in one day — Aug. 28 — with 39 trucks, Wohlford said. About 400 cubic yards were poured. The surface was cured enough to walk on in a single day, he said, but the core is still curing and, in October, was registering temperatures of 85 to 90 degrees.

“It will take years to fully cure,” he said.

The new building is still in construction; it’s not fully funded. Wohlford said $70.3 million has been appropriated for the project, and the university is adding $10 million to that, but the project needs $28.3 million to finish. Work is expected to continue through July.

A strong foundation in shifting ground

In a state with permanently frozen soil lurking under about 80 percent of its land, builders in Alaska must work with permafrost in mind. Fail to properly insulate the permafrost and it could melt, causing ground to shift or subside, jeopardizing a whole structure.

For generations, northern builders have been using post-and-pad construction to elevate buildings off the ground and allow air to circulate.
between the house and the ground, hopefully preventing permafrost thaw.

“Traditionally, what you see in residential structures on permafrost and on the North Slope is post and pad,” said Ilya Benesch, building educator and carpenter with the Cold Climate Housing Research Center. The Cold Climate Housing Research Center, or CCHRC, is a private, nonprofit corporation in Fairbanks that specializes in developing, testing and vetting residential building and heating techniques for the north.

“The primary goal is to isolate the structure from the ground so you’re not conducting heat from the structure into the soils underneath,” Benesch said.

Benesch said that in Fairbanks, historically, post and pad is the cheapest method of building a foundation on permafrost. Usually, site preparation starts with a geotextile fabric placed over the ground, followed by a built-up gravel pad slightly larger than the footprint of the structure. A continuous layer of foam-board insulation under the gravel pad provides a layer of thermal protection but is often omitted in residential structures due to budget constraints.

Rows of cement or treated wood-bearing pads several feet wide are placed on top of the gravel pad, followed by posts placed on the bearing pads to support the beams, which in turn carry the house or building. Simplified versions of this construction technique have been used since the mining days in the early 1900s. In contrast, some modern adaptations, such as triodetic foundations, are highly engineered.

Putting a home on pilings is another popular, though usually more expensive, foundation choice, Benesch said. In this case, the typical approach is to drive steel casings into the ground using specialized heavy equipment. How deep varies according to permafrost conditions, but Benesch said 40 feet is typical for Fairbanks residential structures.

A variety of less common construction techniques do exist and can be found in more specialized situations, Benesch said. As a case in point, CCHRC has recently been working with a design dubbed “the thermal raft.”

With a thermal raft, Benesch said, builders clear the ground during late spring when daytime temperatures are warmer but the soil is still fully frozen. The process begins by laying down a geotextile fabric over the house site, followed by a layer of spray foam insulation. Light gauge steel framing is used to build the floor, and this framework is supported level above the ground on foam blocks.

The spray-applied foam then fills in the space between the floor and the ground, as well as some of the area between the floor joists, creating an insulated, structurally integrated floor system that bears directly on the ground.

“The heat transfer through a thick layer of spray foam is comparatively slow,” Benesch said.

Several factors determine how thick the foam mat should be, he said. In some Fairbanks applications, the raft has been just a foot thick. But North Slope projects at Point Lay and Atqasuk have been 18 inches or thicker.

“The North Slope sites likely had lots of ice-rich soil or just ice under there,” Benesch said. “The idea is, we spray a raft deep and wide enough to protect the critical area under the
house both from structure-related heat losses and seasonal warming. Our engineers worked with permafrost experts and used a combination of local soils data and computer simulations to determine the theoretical amount of raft insulation required to keep the structures in those places stable for 50 years.”

Although it’s expensive, Benesch said, in some cases the thermal raft might be a good tool in a changing climate, particularly in Bush villages.

“When one considers the fact that the foam can be flown out easily in drums, it installs in a day or two, and you get top-tier energy performance, it starts to look pretty good,” Benesch said. “The thermal raft approach is a promising design for changing climates, particularly in northern Bush villages with deep, ice-rich soils. Worst case, if the ground starts to fail, you can inject more foam, but you can also move the structure.”

“If you build post and pad, or even with pilings, climate change may cause it to fail anyway,” he said. “If you have massive clear ice under there, if it goes or starts to go and you don’t have the machinery to haul fill in, saving the house can get expensive fast.”

Benesch said it’s not uncommon in recent years to see thermosiphons proactively installed in these situations to keep the ground frozen.

“For a residential structure, that’s a significant extra layer of expense, but it can be very effective,” he said.

**Superinsulation to hold heat**

According to Cold Climate Housing Research Center research engineer Bruno Grunau, Alaskans spend about twice as much on energy and heating as most other Americans.

To that end, the Housing Research Center recently tested a building envelope design aimed at providing a new energy-efficient construction option.

A test house in Fairbanks was built recently with a “double-wall, airtight system with cellulose insulation and vapor diffusion-open capabilities,” Grunau wrote in an August 2013 report for the CCHRC titled “Arctic Wall Performance.” Fairbanks builder Thorsten Chlupp designed the wall.

According to Grunau, common or typical cold climate construction techniques involve installing a vapor barrier on the warm side of the wall. But the so-called “Arctic Wall” structure has no vapor barrier, allowing vapor to move freely from the inside to the outside. Instead, it’s a double wall with nearly 18 inches of dense, blown-in insulation in the two layers. An air barrier atop sheathing separates the two walls, allowing vapor to move through the wall, preventing mold. The insulation value of a wall like this can reach R-70 or higher.

“The air gap created by the furring strips provides ventilation behind the siding and a drainage plane along the outer membrane,” Grunau wrote.

According to Grunau, the design was tested over 13 months and the home’s overall performance analyzed over nine years. In that time, the conditions within the wall weren’t conducive for mold growth.

Grunau said the case study revealed the energy-efficient super-insulated Arctic Wall can be successfully employed in Interior Alaska without risk of mold; however, employing this technique in wetter parts of the state may require additional testing and analysis. Several homes have been built using this technique in the Interior and Southcentral Alaska, he said.

Rindi White is a freelance writer who lives in Palmer.
Plenty of companies tout efficiency as the core value at the heart of their operations. For Tunista Construction LLC, efficiency serves as the organizing principal for every project the company takes on.

Formed as a wholly owned subsidiary of Calista Corp. in 2010, Tunista quickly established a reputation for not only finishing jobs ahead of schedule and on budget but for making the process as streamlined and functional as possible.

As a full-service general contractor whose primary contracts come from the U.S. military and federal government, Tunista understands the importance of minimizing waste and generating maximum value for its clients. To achieve this goal, it employs the principals of lean construction.

“Construction can be a combative business and not very collaborative if you’re operating from an old-school model,” Tunista President Daniel Esparza said. “Lean construction is, for us, about being hyper-collaborative. It’s based on trust — trusting our client and trusting our subcontractors — as we pull a project through to completion, taking out variation and removing obstacles along the way.”

Because many of Tunista’s subcontractors haven’t heard of lean construction, the company begins its projects by running a “boot camp” that explains the principles behind the concept. The goal is to help subcontractors understand the emphasis on eliminating all activities and processes that absorb resources but don’t create value, such as redundant activities.

Tunista Construction LLC constructed a large tent over the Air Support Squadron Training facility project that enclosed the new building’s entire foundation. Heaters were installed to maintain the temperature above 60 degrees so workers could perform the concrete foundation and slab-on-grade work during the winter.
working out of sequence or products that don’t meet customer need.

“We teach them the way we manage work and how to look at where the handoffs and constraints are and talk about how they’re going to actually execute on the job,” Esparza said. “Reducing work flow variance and making sure the sequence of work is managed is critical; it doesn’t do any good for, say, the framer to put in a lot of work but inadvertently hurt the electrical, so you’ve got to pull that guy back and get everybody working at the same speed with the same understanding — that aligns every one’s success and financial incentive.”

Tunista is a successful contractor in the U.S. Small Business Administration business development program as both a HUBZone and 8(a) firm in Alaska and the Lower 48, which has enabled the company to leverage its competitive advantage in federal and state contract opportunities. This reliable performance as a general contractor has won Tunista steady work with its largest client, the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers. The Corps recently awarded Tunista a $10 million competitively bid dining facility project for the Seattle District Corps.

“It’s one of our flagship projects right now,” Esparza said. “It’s ahead of schedule, and we’ve gotten some notable safety quality recognition awards from the client.”

Meanwhile, Tunista is building on past successes at Fort Wainwright near Fairbanks where the company is constructing a 45,000-square-foot company operations building similar to one it completed in 2010.

“That project was budgeted at almost $12 million. It was completed for $11.95 million, under budget and 45 days early,” said Michele Atkinson, marketing and proposal manager for Tunista.

The company’s commitment to customer service and its emphasis on self-performing more than the minimum keep clients coming back.

In addition to its Alaska projects, Tunista operates as a general contractor on projects in the Lower 48. For example, scaffolding is set up to install the brick veneer walls and precast concrete on the south and west faces of a dining facility at Joint Base Lewis-McChord in Washington.
Atkinson cites a design-build project — an Air Support Squadron training facility at JBER that Tunista completed in 2012 — to illustrate Tunista’s above-and-beyond practices.

“On this project, we self-performed 35 percent of the contract, much more than a prime contractor would normally do,” she said. “We take pride in being able to do the work ourselves and be there on site active on the project.”

“Tunista has successfully executed several projects for the Alaska District in the last few years,” said Christopher Tew, chief of the Contracting Division for the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, Alaska District. “And they’ve always done so with an uncommon commitment to partnership and the interests of the soldiers and airman who ultimately use these facilities.”

For their work on the JBER training facility, the company received three Commander Coins given by Col. Wesley Stark in recognition of Tunista’s outstanding performance.

Being active on site means that Tunista can consistently strive to find ways to reduce cost and shorten timelines through value engineering. “We do that as much as we can to get the solutions the client needs, to get them more value for what they’re spending,” Atkinson said. Though the company has begun to invest more in marketing, with its sites set on steady growth, she said that finding cost-effective solutions for clients is indicative of Tunista’s advertising philosophy. “We believe in customer service as the best form of marketing.”

As a subsidiary of one of the 13 Native corporations formed under the Alaska Native Claims Settlement Act, Tunista works for the shareholders of Calista Corp. “They’re the ones benefiting down the line, so profitability is important to us,” Atkinson said. That’s why continued growth through collaboration with their subcontractors is so important to Tunista’s leadership.

That’s one of the advantages of being an AGC member, Esparza said. “That connection to other contractors and subcontractors, that regionally specific training, the other programs AGC offers — those are what makes AGC stand out from the other associations. I’ve been a part of the AGC for 20 some-odd years, and we’ll definitely continue to be an active member. It’s an association we’re proud to be a part of.”

“Our use of lean construction principals is something that really sets us apart,” he continued. “We’ve been very successful in communicating that team approach and helping our subs understand that they’re only as strong as the whole team together, and that’s benefited us, not just in terms of pulling each phase of work through to completion, but in terms of doing so safely.”

As Tunista continues to grow, safety remains priority No. 1. “We’re off and running, making sure we close out every job because growth is definitely our goal,” Atkinson said. “But safety is always No. 1. When you talk about goals, it’s to continue to move forward but with no injuries or mishaps, with everyone going home every night safely.”

Jamey Bradbury is a freelance writer who lives in Anchorage.

Photo courtesy of Tunista Construction LLC

In 2012, Tunista completed a multipurpose machine gun range at Joint Base Elmendorf-Richardson, shown here in the early stages of compaction and general site work.
EXPLORE NEW TERRAIN

TimberTech composite decking and railing products add beauty to homes, businesses and resorts. What’s more, TimberTech is low maintenance, safe, durable and can even help to increase the value of a home. Available at SBS, for a location near you, log onto www.sbsalaska.com.

VISIT SPENARD BUILDERS SUPPLY TODAY!

ALASKA’S CHOICE FOR BUILDING MATERIALS AND HOME IMPROVEMENTS.
Inspections, testing and warranties

Even for the best and most careful contractors, claims occasionally arise that a feature of the work was not completed in compliance with the plans and specifications.

**Inspections and Testing**

These claims by the owner most frequently arise out of some inspection or testing undertaken by the owner or on its behalf. The inspection clause for federal construction contracts as well as the equivalent clause in the State of Alaska Standard Specifications give the owner the right to reject nonconforming work even though it had been earlier inspected and not flagged as defective, as long as the rejection comes before final acceptance. There are, however, some exceptions. Where an owner’s on-site inspector has specifically observed the contractor’s operations at issue, has not objected nor notified the contractor that the work is nonconforming and the work at issue is a reasonable interpretation of the specifications, the owner is treated as having acknowledged that the contractor’s interpretation of the specification was correct.

Further, the owner’s inspection must be reasonable. The inspection must be either one that is expressly called out in the contract or, in the absence of an expressly specified test, one that is normally accepted in the trade. “Bird watching” or “hawk-eyeing” will constitute a breach of the owner’s duty to either abide by the contract or the duty to cooperate. The use of overly stringent tolerances or inspections beyond those reflected in the contract can entitle the contractor to additional costs as well as defeating the owner’s claims of nonconforming work.

The distinction between latent and patent defects becomes important because the latter are waived at final acceptance of the project by the owner. “Patent” defects are those readily discoverable by reasonable means of inspection or by a method of inspection specified in the contract. “Latent” defects are those that would not be discovered by such reasonable inspections or inspections specified in the contract. It is the owner’s burden to establish that the defect was latent, meaning not susceptible to being discovered by observation or by reasonable inspection prior to final acceptance.

Many construction contracts provide, as do all federal construction contracts, that inspectors and even the design professional have no authority to change the contract; only the owner can change it. Thus, prior to final acceptance, the fact that an inspector or design professional has approved a certain feature of the work that does not in fact comply with the terms of the original plans and specifications does not relieve the contractor from having to redo the work to comply with the plans and specifications if the owner so insists.

Similarly, most construction contracts also require the contractor to specifically call out on any submittal any differences from the design drawings, and failing such notice to the designer, the designer’s approval is considered ineffective. The inspector’s or the design professional’s approval of a contractor’s submittal will protect the contractor from later claims of defective performance if the design detail or feature involved is a reasonable interpretation of the original plans and specifications.

**Warranties**

After final acceptance, the owner will rely on the warranty clause to support claims that the contractor has failed to construct in accordance with the plans and specifications. Even though a contractor may not be required to remedy a patent non-conformity after final acceptance under the inspection and testing clause, the contractor may be required to remedy the same defect under the warranty clause, at least during the warranty period.

Some defenses that are available to the contractor on these warranty claims include 1) the lack of notice; 2) lack of timely notice; and 3) design defect.

The warranty clauses provide that the owner must provide notice of a claimed breach of the warranty. The notice is also required under common law. The owner’s failure to give a notice of breach excuses any warranty obligations of the contractor with respect to that claimed breach. Serving the contractor with a summons and complaint in a lawsuit is not adequate notice of a warranty claim.

In addition, the owner’s notice of a warranty claim must be given during the warranty period specified in the warranty clause.

Finally, if the completed project does not meet the owner’s needs such as satisfactory heating, cooling, sealing against the elements or for some other reason does not meet design expectations, it may be that the cause of the problem is a design defect rather than defective contractor performance.

This column provides information about the law designed to help users safely cope with their own legal needs. But legal information is not the same as legal advice — the application of law to an individual’s specific circumstances. Although we go to great lengths to make sure our information is accurate and useful, we recommend you consult a lawyer if you want professional assurance that our information, and your interpretation of it, is appropriate to your particular situation.

Robert J. Dickson is a partner of the Anchorage law firm Atkinson, Conway and Gagnon Inc.
Nimble as a Mountain Goat
AGILE ... ADAPTABLE ... ABLE

Span Alaska’s flexibility and experience have allowed us to provide our customers with custom shipping solutions for more than 30 years.

SHIPPING TO ALASKA? CALL SPAN ALASKA.

SPAN ALASKA TRANSPORTATION INC
1.800.257.7728 • WWW.SPANALASKA.COM
GCI, STG work together to expand high-speed Internet to Northwest Alaska

By Rindi White

Alaska telecommunications company GCI is in the midst of a multi-million dollar project to improve communications services in rural and often underserved communities.

The project brings high-speed Internet as well as more reliable phone and long-distance service to 72 communities in Alaska. The project allows communities previously served only by satellite connections new access to higher bandwidth Internet communications, which opens the door for video conferencing and other uses. It also means less latency, or delays in transferring data, and increased reliability.

This year, GCI and project general contractor STG Incorporated installed six line-of-sight microwave radio towers bisecting the Seward Peninsula, running from Shaktoolik to Kotzebue, and four more between...
Tanana and Galena, along the Yukon River. It was the most towers installed in one year to date on the project, and it was a lot of work to accomplish in a single year, STG project manager Brennan Walsh said.

This phase of the work was started last year, with tower foundations going into place and other preparations made. Getting all nine towers up during the short construction window this year — and the even shorter time that a heavy-lift helicopter was available to work on the project — was pretty incredible, said Rebecca Markley, TERRA project manager for GCI.

“We only have the helicopter for so many days … so all of the foundation work at the sites needs to be completed before the helicopter shows up,” Markley said. “They had eight sites this year, and in 10 days they made it to all eight sites and with all those materials.”

Last year, Markley said, three sites were installed, all relatively close to one another, and the crew almost did not get all the material lifted to site because of weather. This year, the weather was more cooperative, but it was still quite a feat, she said.

“It was amazing to get it all done,” Markley said.

An award-winning project
In September, the prestigious Engineering News Record recognized the GCI TERRA Northwest project as the best regional award for specialty contracting.

According to a press release about the award, the GCI TERRA Northwest project outranked submissions from Washington, Oregon and Alaska to win. It recognizes the project as well as the companies that participated. Those companies included six designers or engineers, two direct subcontractors, seven logistics companies and many suppliers and vendors across Alaska and the Pacific Northwest.

The release provided a good project outline: “The project spans some 450 miles with 14 towers, 22 modules and 22 fuel tanks from Phase 1 through Phase 3, connecting the cities of Nome, Unalakleet and Kotzebue to high-speed data through the existing TERRA Southwest network.”

According to GCI, the total project cost so far is about $209 million.

More to come
The project isn’t quite finished, Markley said. The company is looking for more funding to complete the loop, which runs from Anchorage to Lake Iliamna and out to Dillingham, then along the coast to Eek, where it splits into a line that hugs the coast and serves Emmonak, Chevak and Hooper Bay. Another line branches inward to Shageluk and Grayling and also Russian Mission and Pilot Station.

The line continues up the coast, picking up Unalakleet and Shaktoolik before branching off into Nome. On another branch, it continues up the Seward Peninsula from Shaktoolik to Kotzebue. The line currently stops at Kotzebue, but GCI Rural Development Director Bob Walsh said the company is looking to secure funding for the next phase.

“We have to close the ring, and we also have communities that we’ve
passed over to get to the hubs,” he said.

In early December, GCI announced the launch of its TERRA service in Kotzebue, a significant milestone as it is the first public terrestrial network above the Arctic Circle.

Markley said GCI is in the middle of the permitting process for the next phase of construction. If funding for the next phase — completing the ring from a repeater between Buckland and Selawik to Galena — is found, she said it may take until 2016 to get the four repeaters left constructed.

“Those four sites are in the middle of nowhere,” Markley said. “Huslia is probably the closest village out there.”

The project has been funded through a mix of private and public investments.

**Each site built for independence**

“The most difficult challenge we’re faced with is, these are all on very remote mountaintop sites. Everything up there has to be transported by helicopter,” Brennan Walsh said.

So the towers are designed to be built only with equipment that helicopters can easily lift into place, he said. Some equipment, like excavators, is stripped into parts for easier lifting. To facilitate construction, STG gets help from an Erickson Air-Crane helicopter, one of the largest helicopters on the market. It has a maximum lifting capacity of 25,000 pounds, he said, although the payload generally comes in at less than 20,000 pounds due to the distances the freight must travel.

Part of the added cost for the repeaters is related to reliability, Markley said. While the microwave systems in villages can be connected to the village power, they also supply eight or 12 hours of battery backup in case of a power outage, remote repeaters need to have more.

“On the mountaintops, we have a 48- to 72-hour backup. We need the backup so if the generator goes down, it might take a couple days to get there since access to the site could be delayed due to weather,” she said.

The amount of batteries needed to keep a microwave repeater operating for 48 hours is staggering. Markley said each battery weighs about 400 pounds, and 48 are needed. They take up about half of one of the 10-by-27-foot modules, she said.

**TERRA created new jobs**

The three-year contract has been a boon to STG, Brennan Walsh said. The company created three new full-time positions in the office, helping to administer project management, and four more full-time field positions.

“And it seems like, every season we add another five to 15 part-time employees,” he said. “Those have more to do with local hires in the communities.”

In 2014, Brennan Walsh said, STG had between 75 and 80 people directly involved in the TERRA project.

Markley said GCI has hired maintenance employees internally, but she was unsure just how many new positions the project has created. Five additional contractors have been added to the project team, she said, and a handful of GCI employees.

Markley added that GCI employs site agents in most of the villages along the TERRA project.

“They are our hands and eyes,” she said.

Rindi White is a freelance writer who lives in Palmer.
Tower crews install the lower brace sections on a Baldwin repeater tower 3 miles south of the Arctic Circle.

AGC Online Plans offers complete listings of all current construction projects, supply and service RFPs, addenda and bid results for Alaska.

AGC Online Plans is a sophisticated yet easy-to-use database ... the kind many companies pay more than $1,200 a year for from other providers.

AGC Online Plans gives you FULL ACCESS to plans and specs on an intuitive platform designed for smartphones, tablets and PCs.

AGC Online Plans allows you search words and phrases just like on Google then view and print your results.

AGC of Alaska is introducing this service at no additional cost as part of your 2015 membership. As an AGC member, you get everything you have now — and more!
Many work crews use a popular and effective communication tool — the pre-shift safety or tailgate briefing. These quick several minutes allow work leaders to dispense instructions, to set the tone for the day and also to check in with everyone.

While many companies use this process, there are highly variable success rates. Here are a few key factors to making this critical time spent each day pay big dividends.

**Planning:** Just because these meetings are casual and informal does not mean they are unplanned. Spending a few minutes before each meeting to identify issues, plan any topics, gather data and prepare for the meeting will pay off. There is nothing so aggravating to participants than someone who just rambles on or has a daily meeting for the sake of “checking the box.”

**Regularity:** These should be a daily occurrence not just “when there is time.” These meetings offer excellent opportunities for communication, establishing culture, sharing lessons learned and getting things off on the right foot.

**Passion:** Many of us have seen a boring, dispassionate crew leader conduct a daily briefing. These talks are characterized by a monotone drone and lack of interaction. The smart supervisor will be enthusiastic about communicating with the crew, eager to find out what is happening with everyone and display genuine concern for both the process and the people.

**Participation:** When these meetings are effective, everyone is sharing and talking. Make the environment safe to share. Making the process and meeting nonjudgmental is the absolute minimum, but make it enjoyable for people to share their concerns and thoughts by thanking them for their contributions and establishing a norm that participation is expected.

**Short:** These meetings set the tone for the day — not take all day. Depending on crew size these may be anywhere from five to 10 minutes or even 15 minutes if there is a lot going on, lots of outside contractors involved or a large crew.

**Relevant:** The content should be relevant to the work and environment at hand. There may be a quick safety topic that is apropos to the day, and the discussion should be limited to the task(s) at hand. Covering the mandatory safety meeting topics can wait for a regular safety meeting.

Discuss incidents or unusual occurrences from the day before and share any lessons learned. This might be production or operational issues, safety issues, unexpected events or anything noteworthy.

The tasks and work activities planned for the day should be reviewed. Cover what the production expectations are; if there are any new hires, visitors or contractors who may need special help; or if there are any environmental or site concerns.

One excellent way to begin the day is to review the upcoming work activities and consider:
**Rushing:** Has enough time and manpower been allocated to get the job done without risking safety, productivity or quality issues? If the pace may be increased beyond normal, remind workers about the Critical Error Reduction Technique (CERT) of self-triggering on the state of rushing to avoid unintentional errors.

**Frustration:** Does moisture, heat, cold or body position make the job uncomfortable to perform? Is the equipment prone to breakdown or unreliable? Is there conflict among groups about requirements and completion timelines? Have workers been reminded to “self-trigger on the state of frustration” to avoid making critical errors?

**Fatigue:** Does the job involve long periods of mental concentration? Heavy lifting, pushing or prolonged exertion? Are workers fresh, rested and alert? Has sufficient time been given for periodic rest (especially toward the end of a project)?

**Complacency:** Is the work routine (“I can do this with my eyes closed.” “I’ve done this a million times.”)? Is the crew composed of experienced employees whose very expertise is likely to make them complacent? Have workers been reminded that complacency leads to the mind not on task and how that can set up the other critical errors? Have employees been reminded to look at (and look out for) others both to help fight complacency and to help co-workers avoid unintentional errors?

**Errors:** Have workers discussed the potential hazards (visible and invisible) involved in the task that can lead to line-of-fire and balance/traction/grip errors? Pre-job inspections, job task analysis and written checklists can help remind people of these hazards and can also help them fight complacency.

Try these tips and techniques for your next pre-shift tailgate meetings and watch the passion and participation grow.

---

**The Engagement Effect**, a division of Ross Performance Group, LLC, offers solutions in organizational results, safety and health, leadership, talent management and culture change. Learn more about us at www.theengagementeffect.com or email the author at chris@theengagementeffect.com.
Perhaps the biggest sign of success is the ability to foresee a day when you can retire. Roger Graff, owner of Graff Contracting LLC, started contemplating that possibility earlier this year. However, discussions of “slowing down” haven’t affected the company’s productivity one bit. In late October, Graff was waiting out late-season rain and delaying vacation plans so he could complete work on a project. So while Graff Contracting is technically for sale, things keep trucking along.

“IT’S A PROCESS,” said Graff about this stage of his company’s development. Graff is understated in what he has accomplished since opening his doors in 1996. Specializing in concrete applications for commercial, residential, municipal and military customers, he has led his Anchorage-based company statewide.

Though Graff Contracting started with small projects, such as walkways, sidewalks, curbs, gutters and driveways, its work is literally the foundation. Graff Contracting has provided concrete foundations for municipal and military projects in addition to several hotels.
Graff Contracting offers several options when it comes to the appearance of concrete, from plain to an option of decorative designs.

of many buildings if not the core material that makes up structures, retaining walls and other custom projects. And though concrete is a fairly straightforward concept, Graff Contracting likes to keep things interesting by offering stamped and decorative concrete designs. And if that wasn’t enough to keep a company of 15 employees busy, there is always time for excavations and concrete demolition.

All that Graff brings to the table is built on a lifetime of experience. “It’s a specialty trade, and I’ve been self-employed for most of my life,” said Graff, who also was once half owner of the Alaska Aces hockey team.

Every project has challenges. With 45 years’ experience, Graff said project size is less of an issue than weather and logistics. Materials and equipment are needed in remote places such as Yakutat, Barrow and Prudhoe Bay.

And Mother Nature... well, you can’t pour concrete in the rain. This year, however, Graff said he faced a slightly different challenge: too small a workforce. As a union contractor he struggled alongside other companies to find enough people to assist with projects.

When asked if this seemed counter to those who insist the construction industry is in an economic downturn, Graff simply replied, “I don’t know what construction industry they’re working in.”

Graff Contracting has successfully completed many large jobs throughout Alaska ranging from Pump Station 1 in Prudhoe Bay to a hotel foundation for Crowne Plaza on Arctic Boulevard and Airport International Road to the Grezelka Range on Joint Base Elmendorf-Fort Richardson and hardstands for Alaska Airlines from Barrow to Ketchikan.
Graff Contracting has constructed hardstands for Alaska Airlines in a number of locations around Alaska.

Most recently Graff worked with Wheeler General Contracting to provide Debenham Properties with concrete for an apartment complex that included concrete walls for the structure and an underground parking garage.

Joel Wheeler, owner of Wheeler General Contracting and project superintendent, first worked with Graff Contracting in 2005 on smaller projects that included curbs, walkways and concrete stairs for Weidner Towers on 16th Avenue and A Street.

“Roger knows how to pull together a good crew,” Wheeler said. “He is a dependable contractor who knows how to get things done in a timely manner while staying on budget.”

Dan Enstrom of Kelley Construction Inc. and project superintendent for Texas Roadhouse restaurants was impressed with the speed in which Graff Contracting completed the foundation and floor slab for a second location that opened in Anchorage in September. The first opened last spring.

“I’ve built Texas Roadhouses for six years, about 15 projects in a dozen states, and no one has matched the quality and professionalism of Graff,” Enstrom said. “They worked at an incredible pace, with the frost freeze, wind and snow load making things more challenging. Taking all that into consideration, they are by far the best foundation contractor around.”

Additionally, Graff is personable and knowledgeable, with personnel who are morally and ethically aboveboard, Enstrom said.

Graff Contracting has been an AGC member since 2002. For Graff, membership is an intuitive part of business. Like other AGC members, he makes use of the Plans Room and supports the mission of the organization. Additionally, membership is a good way to stay networked with other companies and stay informed about future opportunities and activities, he said.

How that future will shape up is still in its conceptual “retirement” phase, driven by the fact that Graff is 65 years old. If there are signs of Graff slowing down, they aren’t showing up in his day-to-day activities.

The selling of his business comes up in conversation almost offhandedly, and discussion of the company’s future is much like Graff’s discussion of success — understated.

In whatever way a new owner materializes for Graff Contracting, Graff said he won’t completely retire until he has a chance to work with the new owner for a while, part of what he meant by it being a process. Until then, it’s business as usual.

Rachael Kvapil is a freelance writer and photographer who lives in Fairbanks.
THE ART OF FORM

North America’s leading manufacturer and distributor of solid wood and composite wood mouldings. Find Metrie at your local SBS, log onto www.sbsalaska.com for a location near you.

VISIT SPENARD BUILDERS SUPPLY TODAY!
ALASKA’S CHOICE FOR BUILDING MATERIALS AND HOME IMPROVEMENTS.
There is little good about a structure fire. But in the case of the old Top of the World hotel in Barrow, the fire that destroyed the adjacent Pepe’s Mexican Restaurant expedited the completion of a new hotel that opened to the public this past spring.

John Golick, president and general manager of ASRC SKW/Eskimos Inc., said plans had been long underway to replace the Top of the World hotel — before Pepe’s burned to the ground in August 2013. In fact, the new module design was already being manufactured and assembled in Builders Choice’s Anchorage fabrication plant when the fire occurred.

“The old Top of the World had outlived its life,” Golick said. “And we were getting ready to put up the new structure once it arrived on the barge.”

Though the old hotel did not catch fire when Pepe’s burned, it suffered heavy smoke damage. Within a month the barge with the 64 modules that would make up the new hotel arrived in Barrow. The modular concept was chosen to meet the demands of a compressed building season in Northern Alaska. This allowed Builders Choice and SKW/Eskimos to divide their workforces between the site work and fabrication simultaneously, allowing it to save time and money.
“We got it opened up a whole year in advance,” said Mark Larson, president of Builders Choice, “in time for this year’s tourist season.”

Not to say that the project didn’t present a unique set of challenges.

Colin Seneca, project manager for ASRC SKW/Eskimos, said many lessons were learned along the way. One such last-minute, unexpected change in plans was when they were told they needed to protect the modules (at the barge’s bow) during transport from Anchorage to Barrow. The modules were shipped on an old fuel barge 286 feet long and 80 feet wide. They were stacked three high, each section averaging 53 to 68 feet long and 12 feet wide. This meant a lot of potential exposure to crashing waves.

“We had to load additional Connexes to provide this added protection,” said Seneca, who estimated the total weight of the barge at 3 million pounds with the modules, equipment and miscellaneous items onboard.

The next trial came when the barge arrived in Barrow. The remote location limits the types of easily accessible equipment available to move the modules to their final location.

“The largest crane in Barrow is a 100-ton crawler,” Golick said. “So we faced a challenge there.”

The solution was to roll some of the larger modules on steel plates using Hilman rollers. Then it was a race against the weather to get the structure stitched together into a single unit. Once the exterior was complete, crews fired up the heat so they could work on the interior through the winter.

Seneca describes the new hotel as modern. “It doesn’t look modular. We did a lot to break up lines and use custom fixtures and furnishings to make it look less institutional.”

He said most people would have no idea that the 40,283-square-foot hotel was based on a modular design. There are 79 bedroom suites in the three-story complex that includes a lobby, restaurant, gift store and several conference rooms.

Larson said the modules were the key to getting the job done faster than if the company had it constructed entirely on site. Though it’s not an uncommon approach, he said, it is more commonly used for structures built along the road system where transportation is easier and less expensive. Larson said this was a unique project in that it worked well for a remote location like Barrow, adding that ASRC SKW/Eskimos also served as excellent go-betweens with the owners.

“They handled communication with (owner) Tundra Tours, gathering a list of all their wants and desires and then condensing it down to what was needed,” Larson said. “That saved us a lot of time.”

Tundra Tours and ASRC SKW/Eskimos are subsidiaries of Arctic Slope Regional Corp. When it was decided to upgrade the Top of the World Hotel, ASRC decided to keep the project in-house. Winchester Alaska Inc. was selected as the architect group for the project. Both ASRC SKW Eskimos and Builder’s Choice are satisfied with the results of their first-time collaboration with each other.

Rachael Knapil is a freelance writer and photographer who lives in Fairbanks.
The Code of Excellence

The NECA/IBEW Code of Excellence is our commitment to perform the highest quality and quantity of work in the electrical industry.

It’s who we are.
It’s what we believe in.

NECA/IBEW. MANAGEMENT. LABOR. UNITED.

Supporting and promoting the mechanical contracting industry since 1969 to provide professional services, qualified craftsmen, fair and efficient business practices.

If you need a qualified mechanical contractor, contact AMCA or your local unions.
The Associated General Contractors, through the Construction Education Foundation and the Alaska Construction Academies, is involved in all levels of construction education in Alaska. The Construction Academies provide entry-level construction skill training to both secondary and post-secondary students. The foundation works with AGC of Alaska to offer the AGC scholarship to college-level students taking classes toward a degree that will support the Alaska construction industry.

The annual scholarship information is listed on the AGC of Alaska website every January.

---

**Sung H. Kim**

This has been an amazing experience as I faced many challenges and learned to transcend. I began to think positively about being in Alaska and was fascinated by how wonderful the career opportunities are on a construction management team.

Thank you for your support and keeping me on track to accomplish my goals. I have been disciplined through my life experiences, which act as a stimulus internally and externally, empowering me to want to be successful as a student and in this field of work. Your trust-built investment fund will be well spent to pay my education for this fall semester. I will always remember this precious moment, and you inspired me to become one who supports students like me who are in need of support and in the future give back to society. I really appreciate your support and encouragement!

This scholarship was funded by the Stan Smith Memorial Foundation.

---

**Michael J. Leiker**

I was very happy to learn that I was a recipient of the Alaska AGC scholarship. I am writing to thank all of AGC’s members for your generous financial support towards my higher education.

I am pursuing a Bachelor’s Degree in Construction Management. I received my AAS in May, and I was awarded the “Student of the Year.” This past summer I worked in a village called Manokotik, doing an internship on a civil project for Ridge Contracting Inc. I acted as the quality control manager for a 5-mile stretch of road we installed. The scholarship has afforded me the opportunity to take this internship and gain in my understanding of construction and the managerial methods used to see a project through fruition. I have had the opportunity to inspire locals to take advantage of the educational opportunities in Alaska and set out to achieve their educational goals.

This scholarship was funded by the Stan Smith Memorial Foundation.

---

**How to apply**

The Associated General Contractors, through the Construction Education Foundation and the Alaska Construction Academies, is involved in all levels of construction education in Alaska. The Construction Academies provide entry-level construction skill training to both secondary and post-secondary students. The foundation works with AGC of Alaska to offer the AGC scholarship to college-level students taking classes toward a degree that will support the Alaska construction industry.

The annual scholarship information is listed on the AGC of Alaska website every January.
CHEVY BUSINESS ELITE DEALER

With Chevrolet of South Anchorage being a Chevy Business Elite dealer, we can show you how to get the most from your business vehicles, no matter how large or small your fleet. We will be your dedicated Business Elite Account Specialist assigned to you, for all your new Chevy vehicle needs. Chevy Business Elite dealers put our expertise to work for your fleet with a comprehensive suite of benefits that include: Scheduled Maintenance Program or the 2014 Business Choice Program Express Business Services, work-ready loaners, and more.

“Your priority is business. My priority is you.”
- call Carl Autheament for details: (907) 365-8613.

SAVE 20% ON GM SERVICE PARTS AT CHEVROLET OF SOUTH ANCHORAGE

- DETAILING DISCOUNTS - VIP SCHEDULING - DOT INSPECTION
- SERVICE LABOR - LUBE & OILS

CONTACT CARL FOR DETAILS: (907-365-8613) CAUTHEMENT@LITHIA.COM

FOLLOW US! FACEBOOK.COM/ALASKACOMMERCIAL

CHEVROLET OF SOUTH ANCHORAGE
A LITHIA STORE • 9100 OLD SEWARD HWY ANCHORAGE, AK 99515
CALL: (866) 584-2022 • SHOP ONLINE: ANCHORAGECHEVROLET.COM

DAN JOHNSON
Fleet Sales Manager
(907) 365-8638
dan.johnson@lithia.com

CARL AUTHEMENT
Commercial & Fleet Sales
(907) 365-8613
cauthement@lithia.com

CONTACT LITHIA FLEET SALES TOLL FREE: (866) 584-2022 or alaskafleet@lithia.com
To catch a cheater: Drug testing barriers for employees

BY IAN COOPER, C-SAPA; ADAM HALL, C-SAPA; and BRENNEN PORTALSKI, C-SAPA, Beacon Occupational Health and Safety Services Inc.

There is no question that employment-based urine drug testing is here to stay despite the growing popularity of legalization discussions. As the availability of drugs increases, so do the methods of cheating a drug test.

With new trends come new ideas, rules and regulations. However, it is important for employers not to overlook some of the problems that have existed with drug testing from inception. Employees cheating drug tests has been an ongoing hurdle in the industry. In fact, a quick Web search of “how to cheat a drug test” yields over a million results. Suggestions ranging from synthetic urine, cleansing agents and prosthetic devices are at an employee’s disposal. Tips and tricks to adulterating a specimen are also readily available for any inquisitive employee. So what can employers do to ensure the integrity of the testing process is maintained from start to finish? Systematic barriers designed to thin the cheater pool are set in place throughout the entire collection process. Knowing and understanding these barriers is critical for all employers, especially when the first crucial step falls in the hands of the employer.

What employers can do

Companies that require employees to participate in a drug testing program hold the key to ensuring the beginning stages of the drug testing process are not compromised. First and foremost, it is critical to understand that in any situation that requires a post-accident or reasonable cause drug test to be performed, employers must ensure that the employee is escorted to the site immediately.

Random drug testing does not require that you escort the employee to the collection site. It is highly recommended that employers document the time the employee was notified of the random drug test and the time he or she arrived at the collection site. Documentation will aid in determining if an employee went directly to the collection site after notification of the required test. Additionally, if possible, try to have a supervisor escort the employee to the site for testing. This process removes the opportunity for unsupervised employees to obtain devices or adulterants to cheat the drug test.

The second barrier is at the collection site. Collection site personnel are typically trained using the Department of Transportation’s standard for the collection process. This thorough qualification and proficiency training teaches a collector how to properly conduct a urine collection. This process consists of instructing the employee to remove all heavy outer articles of clothing (e.g., coats, sweatshirts, hats, scarves, etc.), to empty pockets of all contents and to wash his or her hands prior to sending the employee into a secure restroom to provide a sample. Once a sample is presented to the collector, he or she will pay close attention to the temperature, odor and visual appearance of the sample. If any of these quality checks are abnormal, a second collection will immediately take place under direct observation.

The final barrier in place to catch employees attempting to cheat a drug test falls on the laboratory’s shoulders. Each sample that is sent to the lab undergoes extensive validity testing to ensure the specimen is human urine. Specific gravity, creatinine, pH and nitrates are all included in the validity panel attached to each drug screen. If any of these categories are abnormal, the laboratory will release a result that indicates an invalid sample, substituted sample or a sample that is inconsistent with normal human urine.

Laboratory results are reviewed by a medical review officer, who is responsible for determining the final result that will be sent to the employer. When there is undeniable evidence indicating that a specimen was adulterated or substituted, the MRO will release the result to the company as a refusal. In some cases, the MRO may cancel a test if it cannot be proven that the specimen was adulterated or substituted due to an invalid result. If this occurs, the MRO will request the employee retest under direct observation with minimum notification.

Although it may seem difficult to prevent an employee from cheating a drug test, it is important to understand that there are three critical barriers to prevent these instances from occurring. As an employer implementing a drug testing program, the barriers begin with you. Ensure that employees are transported directly to the collection site immediately after being informed of a drug test and the chances of a cheater will decrease significantly.
NOW EVEN MORE SUSTAINABLE WALLS

Comfortable, energy efficient, thermal protection to lower heating bills. Always formaldehyde free. Improve productivity, differentiate your business and sell more jobs with quality high performance products from Knauf Insulation, available at SBS. For a location near you, log onto www.sbsalaska.com.

Spenard Builders Supply
PRC3build

VISIT SPENARD BUILDERS SUPPLY TODAY!
ALASKA’S CHOICE FOR BUILDING MATERIALS AND HOME IMPROVEMENTS.
Money sense: Claiming Social Security

When to claim Social Security is one of the most important financial decisions that retirees make yet few seem to give it much thought. The longer one waits to claim, the higher the monthly benefit. For a retiree with a short life expectancy or pressing financial needs, it may be best to claim benefits as soon as possible. But for many others, waiting to claim Social Security can substantially increase expected lifetime benefits and help reduce the risk of outliving their wealth.

Once retired, those who qualify to receive Social Security can start collecting benefits at any age from 62 to 70. Someone claiming Social Security at the full retirement age (FRA), currently 66, receives a full benefit, known as the primary insurance amount (PIA). The PIA, which is based on a retiree’s earnings history, varies from person to person. Someone claiming Social Security at age 62 receives 75 percent of PIA, while someone claiming at age 70 receives 132 percent of PIA. Thus, someone whose PIA is $24,000 would receive annual benefits of $18,000 by claiming at age 62, $24,000 by claiming at 66, or nearly $32,000 by claiming at age 70. Claiming benefits at age 70, as opposed to 62, raises one’s monthly benefit by 76 percent.1

Those who rely primarily on Social Security to pay for living expenses may have little choice but to claim benefits as soon as they retire. If they delay retirement a year or two, they may be able to improve their retirement security by saving more and by boosting their monthly Social Security check through waiting to claim. Those with enough savings can afford to decouple the decision of when to claim Social Security benefits from that of when to retire. For many, it makes sense to retire on one date and to claim Social Security at a later date. The greater one’s life expectancy, the more beneficial it may be to wait before claiming benefits.

Strategies for couples

The “file and suspend” strategy allows a couple to start receiving Social Security spousal benefits immediately while increasing future benefits. Under current law, an individual must claim their own benefits first before their spouse can claim spousal benefits. Using this approach, the primary earner files for benefits upon reaching FRA and then suspends receiving those benefits until a future date. The spouse can then claim a spousal benefit immediately. By waiting to claim, the primary earner will receive a larger monthly benefit when they do begin collecting. Thus, the couple receives a higher survivor benefit for the lower wage earner if the higher wage earner predeceases her.

Another approach is the “claim now, claim more later” strategy. With this strategy, the high wage earner files a restricted claim to receive only a spousal benefit based on the low wage earner’s benefit. This allows the high wage earner to claim a spousal benefit now (at FRA) and then claim a larger benefit later. For the high wage earner to be able to claim a spousal benefit, the low wage earner must first file for his or her benefits. Note that only one spouse can claim a spousal benefit at a time. The rules need to be followed carefully for eligibility.2

Next steps

When thinking through your Social Security options, start by gathering information on your specific situation. On the Social Security Administration website (ssa.gov), you can download a personal Social Security Statement, which provides your earnings history and an estimate of your future monthly benefits. You can also estimate the monthly benefits you would receive by claiming Social Security at various ages.

Consider your Social Security choices in your overall financial picture. Because each individual situation is unique, you may want to consult a financial advisor.

Neither Merrill Lynch nor its financial advisors provide tax, accounting or legal advice. Clients should review any planned financial transactions or arrangements that may have tax, accounting or legal implications with their personal professional advisors. Merrill Lynch, Pierce, Fenner & Smith Incorporated (“MLPF&S”) is a registered broker-dealer, Member SIPC, and a wholly owned subsidiary of Bank of America Corporation. Bank of America Corporation (“Bank of America”) is a financial holding company that, through its subsidiaries and affiliated companies, provides banking and nonbanking financial services.

For more information, contact your Merrill Lynch Financial Advisor C. Greg Carr of the Anchorage office at 907-564-6681 or greg.carr@ml.com.

1 This is because 132 percent ÷ 75 percent = 176 percent. The 76 percent is in real terms. Because benefits are adjusted each year for inflation, the nominal increase in benefits would actually be more than 76 percent.
2 There are additional rules and strategies for divorced individuals or survivors, beyond the scope of this article, that also warrant careful consideration.
Government entities, nonprofit organizations and private businesses require safe, sustainable infrastructure to meet their unique needs. Whether it’s building a temperature-controlled environment for fragile documents or a new home for one of the state’s major employers, Alaska’s construction industry is up to the challenge.

Alaska’s economy continues to improve, which is good news for the construction industry. According to the University of Alaska Anchorage Institute of Social and Economic Research, the total value of construction spending “on the street” in Alaska in 2014 will be $9.2 billion, up 18 percent from 2013. That means more money for new construction, as well as sufficient funds to complete pending projects.

The following four “in the works” projects demonstrate the breadth of projects currently underway.

**Blood Bank of Alaska facility**

Blood Bank of Alaska ensures that medical facilities across the state have a safe and adequate blood supply. BBAK sees about 2,000 volunteer blood donors monthly and collects more than 20,000 units a year. Neeser Construction Inc. serves as the design-build contractor for the new Blood Bank facility, a phased project consisting of administrative offices, a laboratory, donor area and garage for blood mobiles and other facility vehicles. Once completed, the 57,000-square-foot, two-story building, plus a 4,000-square-foot roof area, will meet future needs of blood banking in Alaska and a growing state population.

“The plans for the new facility have been carefully developed to right-size the building so it can meet U.S. Food and Drug Administration and essential facility requirements, house all existing services efficiently under one roof and provide the opportunity to develop important new services such as in-state blood testing, transfusions, cellular therapy collection and more,” said Ashere Chait, director of marketing and communications for BBAK.

Key project players include not only Neeser but General Mechanical Inc., Last Frontier Mechanical, Alcan Electrical & Engineering Inc., Independent Steel Erectors and Rain Proof Roofing. The $47.2 million project includes $33 million in construction costs.

“Ultimately this new facility will keep Alaska moving forward as technology and processes change rapidly in health care,” Chait said. “As an organization focused on providing blood and blood products to Alaskan patients in need, the potential for in-state blood testing will provide a safer environment for all Alaskans in times of disaster, and additional services will keep Alaska patients closer to home.”

**CIRI Fireweed Business Center**

Cook Inlet Region Inc.’s Fireweed Business Center will provide a new home for CIRI, Southcentral Alaska’s largest private landowner. According to CIRI Corporate Communications Director Jason Moore, 60 percent of the 110,000-square-foot, eight-story building will house CIRI’s corporate offices and the remaining 40 percent will be Class A office space available for commercial lease.

A U.S. Green Building Council Leadership in Energy and Environmental Design (LEED) “Silver” building, the facility will employ key building systems constructed to use less electricity, water and natural gas. These sustainable technologies include:

- Automated intelligent windows that transition to control light and heat.
- Insulated glass that disburses glare-free natural light.
- Vacuum-insulated panel spandrels (exterior beam that extend from column to column usually carrying an exterior wall load) for increased thermal performance.
- Triple-glazed low-E window units.
- Variant refrigerant flow system for on-demand cooling/heating to individual areas.
- Daylight-sensing direct/indirect volumetric LED office lighting.

CIRI hired Davis Constructors & Engineers Inc. as the general contractor. “Construction started this spring, but a lot of work actually happened last fall,” said Nicole Mitchell, Davis’
Project manager. “Mass Excavation Inc. did the majority of the early site work, then we started laying foundation around the first of April. The steel erection and slabs are complete, and we’re currently working with Bucher Glass on the exterior curtain wall. In addition to the building’s energy-saving features, another cool feature will be a Compass Destination System elevator that evaluates real-time passenger traffic and adjusts floor sectoring to get passengers to their floor as quickly as possible.”

The building is due to be completed this spring.

**Project SLAM**

A state-of-the-art facility that collects and manages the care of objects and documents representing the peoples and history of Alaska, the new State Library, Archives and Museum (SLAM) building in Juneau enhances access to primary resource materials for students, lifelong learners and researchers with:

- Expanded physical access through exhibition and more efficient collection storage.
- Increased digital access through digitization and electronic dissemination.
- Continued development of professional skills and opportunities for the development of libraries, archives and museums in Alaska.

Project SLAM is in its second phase. The $138.6 million project budget includes a $7.6 million contract awarded to Bucher Glass Inc. of Fairbanks to provide exterior walls and windows. The project team also includes AGC of Alaska members PCL Construction, ECI/Hyen Architects & Interiors, R&M Consultants Inc., Schneider Structural Engineers, AMC Engineers, Gundersen Painting Inc., Superior Plumbing & Heating and Redi Electric Inc.

The original museum dates to 1967. “The need for a new building came about in the late ’80s, early ’90s,” said Linda Thibodeau, director of libraries, archives and museums.
for the state of Alaska. “The museum was outgrowing its old building, and we were experiencing a host of problems: insect infestations, cracks in the walls and flooding. The new 120,000-square-foot building will take us into the next century by housing five different facilities for three agencies, and we will be able to house the state’s irreplaceable objects and preserve them for the next generation of Alaskans.”

Full funding for SLAM has been gradual but steady and has moved the project through land purchase, design and construction startup in January 2013 and scheduled project completion in May 2016.

**Legislative Information Office**

A single, slow elevator. A building that is hot in the summer and cold in the winter. Corroded pipes. The remodeled, expanded Legislative Information Office on Fourth Avenue in Anchorage includes renovations to replace the mechanical, electrical and plumbing systems while expanding the building from approximately 40,000 square feet to 64,000 square feet.

Tenants can look forward to new, faster elevators; updated restrooms; a new heating and air conditioning system; more windows; and more space for hearing rooms and visiting legislators.

Key project team players include Criterion General Inc., Pfeiffer Development and KPB ARCHITECTS. Improvements are underway, and the project was due to be completed December.

Carly Horton Stuart is a freelance writer who lives in Anchorage.
Looking for an AGC of Alaska member?

Whether you’re on the road, at a job site or at your desk, AGC of Alaska’s Membership Roster allows you to unlock the power of your AGC connections.

Showcase your company with an advertisement in the 2015 AGC of Alaska Membership Roster and get in front of industry leaders.

Find the roster online at www.agcak.org.

For information, contact Clem Mewmaw at: clem.mewmaw@apppublishing.com or (907) 562-9300.
Carlile transports a rock truck for civil construction.

Trucking company dominates as king of the ice road

Two tractors, two brothers and the growth of an ice road icon.

What started as a small trucking company with two tractors in 1980 now moves loads of all kinds along a transportation corridor stretching from Houston, Texas, to Prudhoe Bay. What began as a labor of love of two brothers — John and Harry McDonald — for the long haul now employs 700 workers and has joined a transportation nexus of thousands.

With 320 tractors and over three decades under its belt, Carlile Transportation Systems Inc. knows the long haul, for sure, and its employees know the benefits of working within a network of companies owned by Saltchuk Resources, the Seattle-based company that bought Carlile in 2013.

Inclusion in that complex of companies has had a positive impact on Carlile, said Tom Hendrix, vice president of oil and gas and a 23-year employee. “When you have an entrepreneurial business, your approach is to have a consistent growth of opportunities for employees, and that’s much easier with the horsepower of a large company behind you,” he said. “We’re a small $200 million annual piece of the pie.”

Saltchuk, which brings in about $3 billion annually, owns Totem Ocean Trailer Express, a domestic ocean liner service to Alaska, along with a bevy of marine transportation and trucking companies, a few cargo airlines and several consolidation and logistics operations.
Strength in numbers

Carlile leverages that strength in numbers to get better deals on fuel, parts such as tractor tires and better benefits for employees, Hendrix said. At the same time, working within a parent company makes transporting everything from fittings to modules seamless. The connections make every transition smooth, and each company in the network enlists its regional and specialty expertise.

“We provide full-service transportation and logistics solutions for everything from a store on Kodiak Island all the way up to the largest oil producers on the North Slope,” Hendrix said. “We move everything from small valves and fittings to the largest tractable modules you can use on the road. We support oil and gas producers in building bridges, in pipeline work, in vertical construction, and we carry everything from concrete to roofing panels, structural steel, mechanical and electrical components. We’re the premier company that produces transportation service for modularly constructed oil production.”

Fabrication facilities in Anchorage and Fairbanks build the modules, and Carlile moves them up the ice road. The company also transported much of the materials for the new Alaska Airlines Center at the University of Alaska Anchorage.

“I think very highly of Carlile. They transported 80 percent of the volume on the new $100 million Alaska Airlines UAA sports center,” said Mark Palmatier with Cornerstone General Contractors Inc. His Carlile contact is available day and night, said Palmatier, and the company takes its portion of every project seriously. “Their people and staff become stakeholders to the success of the project.”

Building the complex

Carlile’s wholly owned terminals serve Alaska from Anchorage, Fairbanks, Kenai, Kodiak, Prudhoe Bay to Seward, as well as Seattle; Houston, Texas; Blaine, Minnesota; and Edmonton, Alberta. Saltchuk’s reach extends throughout North America. Its other Alaska companies include Totem Ocean Trailer Express, Delta Western, Northern Air Cargo, Inlet Petroleum and Cook Inlet Tug and Barge.
“Saltchuk is making huge investments in Alaska,” Hendrix said. “TOTE has plans to re-power the two Totem ocean ships with LNG. We’re running a few LNG tractors. And in the pursuit of being a green company, Saltchuk is building the first two LNG-powered container ships in the world, which will be used in the Caribbean trade.”

Safety remains the preeminent value throughout. “Everything you’ve heard about that’s dramatized in ‘Ice Road Truckers’ is wrong,” Hendrix said. “We’re proud to be the slowest trucking company in Alaska. Our safety record is our license to do work in oil and gas. Safety is near and dear to our company. It is on the forefront of everything we do.”

Joe Fey, the heavy haul sales manager for Carlile, said the promotion of safety is one of the key benefits of membership with Associated General Contractors of Alaska. Carlile has been a member since 1994.

“The AGC acts as a representative for the construction industry,” said Fey, an 18-year employee with Carlile who has worked in Kenai, Seward and Anchorage. “They promote safety, provide workshops, gather and share information with their members on a variety of topics. They provide support for key projects and political issues that can affect the construction industry, our state and economy. That industry support coupled with opportunities to network and build relationships with the other members of the AGC are what we see as just some of the member benefits.”

Relationships and connections make logistics and transportation possible after all. As Hendrix noted, the Carlile founders had the two trucks to build the company into one that Saltchuk would want to purchase, but “the credit for what we’ve done goes to the employees.”

Carlile wants to take care of its staff, its customers and its network because that’s what makes transporting things to and from Alaska possible.

“We’re going to be here for the long haul,” Hendrix said. “We’re committed.”

Dawnell Smith is a freelance writer who lives in Anchorage.
COMFORT WITH EFFICIENCY

Endura Performance Standard™ Door System, available at SBS, increases energy efficiency and are durable. Performance products are designed, tested and built to perform in the real world. For an SBS location near you, log onto www.sbsalaska.com.

VISIT SPENARD BUILDERS SUPPLY TODAY!
ALASKA’S CHOICE FOR BUILDING MATERIALS AND HOME IMPROVEMENTS.
Chili lovers and professional judges agreed on two things at the Sixth Annual AGC Chili Cook-off in October: First-place and second-place winners. The People’s Choice and Professional Judges’ Choice picks were identical: Rebel Davis came in first, and Matthew Malone came in second. That was a first. Davis, who works for Senco Alaska Inc., perfected his chili cooking for the Wrap n’ Roll food truck. The rest of the chili entries were also delicious and were accompanied by cornbread and salad. The chili cook-off was enjoyed by AGC members and their families and was hosted by the AGC Associates Council. Professional chefs Tim Fynskov, executive chef of Hotel Captain Cook, and Aaron Schropp, executive chef of Ginger restaurant, had the tough job of helping pick the winners. The fiery top chili was served at the First National Bank Alaska Luncheon during the AGC Annual Conference in November. A big thank you to all who attended, volunteered and contributed to the evening.
Eight young people pursuing construction careers were awarded scholarships funded by the Stan Smith Memorial Foundation during a reception in October at the AGC of Alaska headquarters.

Recipients each received a check for $1,200, which they said will be used primarily to buy the equipment and clothing they need to work in their chosen fields.

“It will help me buy gear,” said Doua Yang, an apprentice with Local 341. “(Gear) is not cheap, especially boots and rain gear, especially in Valdez,” he said. Yang, who has a young family...
who attended the reception with him, has been in the apprentice program for two years and has worked at the Valdez Marine Terminal as well as in road construction, scaffolding and trenching.

In the fall he worked for Pruhs Corp. on road improvements leading to the Eagle River Nature Center.

Before he was in the Alaska Laborers Training School apprentice program, Yang said he was working in a warehouse “lifting boxes.”

“I wanted to do something else,” he said. He was encouraged to join the training program by his brother. “He was in it,” Yang said. “I love it.”

Suzanne McCarthy is the training director for the Alaska Laborers Training School. She said that the biggest hurdle for young people pursuing a career in construction is being able to afford the gear, tools and clothing they need.

“They have families, and they are trying to get their career going and get on their feet financially,” McCarthy said.

She said this past year has been a good one for construction opportunities all across the state. “We had so much work last year that we were sending people to the North Slope,” McCarthy said. “It’s not usual to send people from Anchorage to work on the North Slope; they usually come out of Fairbanks. But they tapped our apprentices because there was an increase in calls for laborers. That is the first time that has happened for our apprentice program.”

Besides Yang, the Alaska Laborers Training School has a second apprentice in its program, Michele Medgard, who is in her second year, working with Local 341. For her first apprentice job, Medgard worked as a laborer, flagger and pilot car driver on a road improvement project between Anchor Point and Homer.

Medgard said the scholarship will help her move forward. “It’s an opportunity to help my future career by purchasing the equipment I need to do my job better and to stay warm,” she said.

Last spring she was working at Point Thomson, where she received valuable training insulating pipe. “Now I’m experienced and trained,” she said. The biggest challenge was
learning to work in extreme weather conditions. “You have to mentally prepared for 40 to 55 below,” she said. “That was the hardest part.”

But she proudly considers how far she has come: “I was a stay-at-home mom, and here I am.”

Bec Smith and Mike Harned made the presentations on behalf of the Stan Smith Memorial Foundation, which funds the scholarships primarily through its annual fishing tournament on the Kenai River.

The foundation continues the work of Stan Smith, a longtime member of AGC who dedicated himself to creating opportunities for others — especially young people. Stan Smith died in 2008, but his work continues through the foundation that was created in his honor.

Bec Smith expressed her gratitude to the individuals and companies who have supported the foundation and its efforts in the industry. Harned echoed that sentiment and described the feeling that Stan Smith created in the construction community. “Everyone said they were Stan’s best friend. Someone else would say, ‘No, I was Stan’s best friend.’ That’s how he made people feel,” Harned said.

John MacKinnon, AGC of Alaska executive director, said Smith was the consummate volunteer. “He could get people to pick up and do anything. This building is dedicated to him.”

As the eight scholarship recipients walked to the podium to receive their checks, they expressed their gratitude for the opportunities they represent.

Mike Piekarski, the Alaska Laborers Training School apprentice coordinator, said the trainees are sent all across the state for on-the-job training and experience. “It’s a great training opportunity for young people to get into the construction industry,” he said. “They get 5,100 hours of on-the-job training working side-by-side with journeymen. They get 144 hours in the class hands-on in addition to that.”

“We send them to Fairbanks to the pipeline training class to work with other crafts so when they go work for a contractor they have already done it once,” he said. “They come out a well-rounded laborer.”

---

Sharon Stockard is the managing editor of the Alaska Contractor.
ANCHORAGE MUSEUM’S BRICK BY BRICK BY BRICK BUILDS ON SPONSOR PARTNERSHIPS

By Jamey Bradbury

The first thing you see when you enter the Brick by Brick Lego art exhibit at the Anchorage Museum at Rasmunson Center isn’t a work of art; it’s work by amateur artists. Using pieces from the 50,000 Legos available in the workshop area, visiting kids and adults alike construct — and take apart — their own creations.

“When you have an exhibition that’s all about the ways your imagination can be inspired by one incredibly simple rectangle, you’ve got to provide the space for people to actively explore that,” museum director Julie Decker said.

Architecture and design firm ECI/Hyer Architecture & Interiors was key to incorporating that creative space into the larger exhibit, which features large-scale sculptures and photographs by local and international artists, all created from what most people think of as a child’s toy. As an exhibit design sponsor, the company worked with the museum for over a year on the exhibit’s concept and layout. Early on, ECI/Hyer provided what Decker calls the “aha” moment that resulted in the creation of walls fabricated to look like giant Legos. They also brought AMC Engineers onboard to provide innovative lighting design that emphasizes the brightly colored displays.

“Our sponsors were instrumental in creating a pretty distinct, home-grown exhibition,” Decker said. “It wasn’t just technical consultation; it was local people getting excited about the idea and finding ways to make it work.”

Brick by Brick was inspired at least in part when Decker heard about Juneau architects who were using Legos to develop a model of the proposed Alaska State Museum building. “This idea that something so small has enormous possibilities — through history, the first people to really experiment with that idea were builders and architects,” she said. “We wanted to showcase that and to demonstrate how Legos really have made their way into the creative, grown-up world.”

“I hope the exhibit provides a way for people to see Legos elevated to the level of art,” said Jae Shin, a principal architect with ECI/Hyer. The firm
traditionally chooses one pro bono project to work on each year as part of an effort to demonstrate its commitment to the community. “We’re kind of a quiet firm, but things like this really let people know we’re more than just a business; we’re part of the community.”

Other sponsors, such as Totem Ocean Trailer Express Inc., which provided additional exhibition support, were attracted by the exhibit’s focus on science, technology, engineering and mathematics (STEM) fields. “We love opportunities to partner with the museum, especially when it demonstrates art as it applies to thinking through complex problems and encouraging young people to get involved in STEM,” said Grace Greene, Alaska general manager for Totem Ocean.

With about 80 percent of the museum’s revenue coming from a combination of admissions, shop sales, auxiliary services and support from

Interactive stations in the Brick by Brick exhibition include a Lego brick workshop area and technology video applications to help visitors create and build.
the Municipality of Anchorage, contributions from sponsors are crucial to providing the remaining 20 percent and making exhibits like Brick by Brick possible, said Ann Hale, the museum’s advancement director. “Especially if we have something that’s really special, like the Brick by Brick exhibit,” Hale said, “we look at companies who’ve supported us in the past and might have a particular interest in the subject matter.”

This exhibit’s emphasis on creation and design also provided an opportunity for the museum to give a little something back to its sponsors. Artists used Legos to create the sponsors’ logos, which will be gifted to each sponsoring company at the conclusion of the show, which runs through Jan. 11, 2015. “That was a really fun and unique thing that we couldn’t do with any other type of exhibit,” Hale said.

The logos fit right in among the three-dimensional artworks, the whimsical photographs of Lego figurines and the elaborate creations of local artists. To visit the show is to be inspired to build something of your very own — and that’s just what sponsors such as Davis Constructors & Engineers Inc. hope visitors will do.

“The exhibit engages imaginative building and brings out the child in all of us,” said Josh Pepperd, Davis president. “We’re proud to provide educational opportunities for young people to test engineering principals and apply their interest in construction fields to something tangible.”

Jamey Bradbury is a freelance writer who lives in Anchorage.
Internationally renowned artists such as Nathan Sawaya, who composes large-scale sculptures from Lego bricks, contributed to the show, which runs through Jan. 11.

### Brick by Brick sponsors

| AGC members |
| PRESENTING SPONSOR ConocoPhillips |
| EXHIBIT DESIGN Donated by ECI/Hyer Architecture & Interiors |
| EDUCATION AND PUBLIC PROGRAM SUPPORT ExxonMobil |
| MAJOR EXHIBITION SUPPORT CIRI GCI BP |
| INTERACTIVE PLAY AREA SPONSORS Alaska Airlines Foundation Alaska McDonald’s Alyeska Pipeline Service Co. Davis Constructors & Engineers Inc. Repsol |
| MEDIA SPONSOR 90.3FM KNBA |
| ADDITIONAL SUPPORT AMC Engineers WILMWORKS Jessey Barnes and Barbara Symmes Totem Ocean Trailer Express Inc. Chaz Limited |
PROTECTION & PRESTIGE
UNDER ONE ROOF

At last, a far more permanent roofing solution – metal. Explore the clear advantages of metal roofing today – why metal has become the fastest-growing category of roofing, and why a Metal Sales roof offers the best value. Find roofing solutions at SBS. For a location near you, log onto www.sbsalaska.com.

Spenard Builders Supply
PRC3uild

VISIT SPENARD BUILDERS SUPPLY TODAY!
ALASKA’S CHOICE FOR BUILDING MATERIALS AND HOME IMPROVEMENTS.
By Van Williams

Never mind Santa Claus. Here comes the Anchorage Home Builders Association Inc.

Ever since 2002 members of the AHBA have done their best Kris Kringle impersonation — minus the beard and all that red — by spreading some holiday joy to Anchorage school-children with Christmas donations through the annual Shoebox Program.

Organizers work closely with some 30 elementary schools in the Anchorage School District to make sure there’s something under the tree. What started as a small idea that helped 40 students has now expanded into a big movement that reaches more than 600.

“It’s so great that our members get into this program,” said AHBA executive officer Nikki Giordano. “Our members come together every year and really come through for us. Even when the economy was down and people didn’t have as much money, they were still giving.”

A few years ago the shoeboxes were replaced with backpacks because you can cram way more goodies inside the larger space. People can sponsor a child by donating $50 or bringing in a backpack stuffed with gifts.

“We’ve had people get real creative and personalize it with stickers and the person’s name,” Giordano said. “There are no limitations, no boundaries. You just fill them with gifts.”

Margaret Empie, AGC special projects coordinator, likes to put more practical items into the backpacks that are donated by the Associated General Contractors of Alaska. She does the shopping herself and secured discounts at local retail stores to get more bang for her buck.

“We try to make sure there is a pair of pajamas and an outfit of some sort: a pair of jeans, a T-shirt, a coat,” Empie said. “We also get dentists to donate toothbrushes, toothpaste and dental floss. And of course every kid gets a toy.”

AGC and AGC staff filled 14 back-packs this year.

The Shoebox Program is the gift that keeps giving beyond the holidays. “We have so many children out there that are less fortunate, and having our community come together to give back is really great to see,” Giordano said. “It’s important to give back to people that don’t have as much, especially when it comes to kids because they don’t choose the situations they are in.”

Van Williams is a freelance writer who lives in Anchorage.

---

**Transportation Solutions for Your Business!**

COMPLETE LINE OF FORD VEHICLES IN STOCK

- E Series Vans
- Chassis Cabs
- Pickups
- All Ready to Work!

SEEKINS.COM

1625 Seekins Ford Drive
Fairbanks, Alaska
(907) 459-4044

1000 Lake Colleen Road
Prudhoe Bay, Alaska
sangel@seekins.com
In the shipping world, you’re only as good as your last delivery. The service keeps them satisfied, but the customer service keeps them coming back.

The Alaska Traffic Co. doesn’t just take orders — no sir, this freight forwarder and consolidator takes responsibility for every delivery as if the employees were handling their own shipment.

“I think that the people who work for us take it personally if we don’t get it right, and so because of that it’s not just a 9-to-5 job where people come in and do a little piece of work and then they go home,” said Nick Lohman, vice president and general manager. “It might be that each person may be involved in a shipment from start to finish, and if it doesn’t go right it upsets them, and I think that is why we do a better job — we are more emotionally invested in getting it right.”

Just ask Jacob Petersen, president of Commercial Contractors Inc. in Anchorage. Petersen is in the commercial glass, metal and flooring business and has relied on Alaska Traffic for 20 years to consolidate orders from companies all across the Lower 48 and ship them to the Port of Anchorage.

The orders can be a logistical nightmare, yet they always come together at the right time, on time, thanks to Alaska Traffic.

“The reason we use them is because they will answer their phone on the first ring, and they’ll answer an email back in 10 seconds, so they are constantly communicating with us and making sure they are getting us the information we need with pricing,” Petersen said. “The time frame nowadays for contracting is so incredibly short. We only work
with people that are available immediately and can get us answers on pricing right away. I’ve used other shipping companies, and nobody is faster than Nick and his people.”

Alaska Traffic was formed in 1956 and is one of the oldest freight consolidators in the state. These guys specialize in getting cargo from the Lower 48 to the Last Frontier and providing all levels of service for all types of cargo.

The company is owned by United Warehouses, a Seattle-based warehouse corporation that is based out of Kent, Washington. That location makes it convenient because cargo shipped to Alaska by sea comes through the ports of Seattle and Tacoma.

“Aside from air freight, which might come from other parts of the country, most of the steamship freight and barge freight comes through Seattle and Tacoma, so that is where, historically, shipments have been received and containerized or put on flatbeds or whatever it is to get on the vessels to get to Alaska,” Lohman said. “It’s a natural consolidating point.”

The company is “all Alaska” in more than name, doing 95 percent of its business in the state. Alaska Traffic has also been a member of the Associated General Contractors of Alaska for 20 years.

Being an AGC member has many benefits, Lohman said.

“For us it’s a good source of information about the type of work that is going on in Alaska, so we have an appreciation of upcoming projects in the state and what the level of activity is,” he said. “It’s also an opportunity to network with various people in the industry.”

Alaska Traffic has arrangements with most major carriers and buys transportation in volume, a benefit that’s passed to the customer. This allows the company to be involved in every step of the shipping process, serving as a representative for its customers.

In other words, Alaska Traffic can take a lot of different shipments from a lot of different companies, combine them and find the best way to ship the cargo to Alaska. Those relationships with the vendors across the country allow Alaska Traffic the flexibility to stand out.

“We don’t have to do as much work as we should be doing because he will do a lot of it for us.”

Van Williams is a freelance writer who lives in Anchorage.
AGC Honors Their Own with 2014 Awards

It’s been a busy construction season, and Associated General Contractors (AGC) members worked all over the state building and repairing critical infrastructure, responding to the needs of a growing business community, and employing Alaskans. In November, AGC announced their annual construction, safety, and organization awards to recognize members for the outstanding work they do.

In a first for AGC, their annual Hard Hat Award went to three Fairbanks brothers. Al, Sam and Andy Brice are founders of Brice, Inc., a Fairbanks company that specializes in “off the road system” construction. The Brice brothers received the award for exemplary service to AGC, the community and the industry. They started Brice, Inc. in 1961 as a land clearing operation, and have grown their business through honesty and hard work. They are known for developing the friendship and trust of people in remote, rural communities; hiring locally; and using local facilities and services.

Tim Brady presented the award at AGC’s annual dinner dance at the Captain Cook Hotel on November 15. To celebrate the 50th anniversary of the Hard Hat award, all prior winners were listed on big screens in the ballroom, and those in attendance were invited up on stage to be honored.

The Stan Smith Volunteer of the Year Award went to Scott Viera of North Star Equipment Services in Anchorage. The winner is selected by the AGC staff. John MacKinnon, AGC’s Executive Director, said “Scott came on the scene three years ago and from that moment, any time we call him, he’s there to help.”

The Associate of the Year Award was given to Anchorage Sand and Gravel Company, Inc. for their work to support AGC.

Several companies won multiple awards this year. One of those was Cornerstone General Contractors, Inc. They were selected for the Parker, Smith & Feek-sponsored Meeting the Challenge of a...
Cornerstone General Contractors, Inc. won for Vertical Construction over $15 million for the UAA Alaska Airlines Center as well as for Vertical Construction Between $5 million and $15 million for the AVTEC Dormitory Replacement in Seward.

Job, Over $15,000,000 Vertical Construction award for the recently completed UAA Alaska Airlines Center (Sports Arena). This $90 million, 200,000 gross square foot world class sports arena features multi-tiered seating for 5,600 spectators in a main performance gymnasium for basketball, volleyball, graduations, and other events; an 800-seat gymnastics training facility; a multiple court auxiliary gymnasium; multiple support spaces consisting of a fitness and training room, student recreation fitness room, administration and coaches offices, laundry facilities, and audio/visual production; locker/team rooms for basketball, volleyball, gymnastics, hockey, skiing, track, and cross country programs; concessions; and a new 150-seat restaurant.

Cornerstone replaced the dilapidated 1960’s dormitory with a new 120 – bed, three story, 35,500 SF facility featuring single and double occupancy rooms with ensuite bathrooms and multiple common areas including a custom built main entry, arctic vestibule connection to the cafeteria and culinary academy, offices, lounges, and recreation rooms. An innovative modular construction approach allowed most of the building to be constructed in a plant off-site, which reduced the duration of construction by an entire academic year. The project was completed on time, on budget, with zero injuries and no claims.

Cornerstone’s Steve Rowe was also selected for the Wells Fargo-sponsored Excellence in Safety — Individual, the second year in a row that Rowe has won this award. “I’m honored to receive this two years in a row,” said Rowe. Cornerstone has had 10 years since their last lost time incident, and three years since their last recordable. Rowe attributes this record to the high level of sup-
port from management for safety. “I came from the field as a carpenter, and I understand safety from the employees’ level,” said Rowe. “We’ve adapted our safety program to really fit the reality of the field.”

Rain Proof Roofing was also selected for multiple awards, including Excellence in Construction Award for a Specialty Contractor: Vertical Construction with Specialty Contractor as Sub-Contractor for the Natural Pantry building.

Rain Proof Roofing was part of the design-build team on the Natural Pantry project working alongside Spark Design, LLC & Neeter Construction Inc. to provide the owner with a modern building that fits their needs. For this LEED project Rain Proof Roofing used materials like Insulfoam insulation that is 100% recyclable & manufactured using post-consumer & post-industrial materials, and Firestone fully-adhered TPO membrane. One challenging area of the project was the curved metal flashing and panels that were installed on the upper Hydration Station wall. The company was successful in completing the project with zero accidents or injuries. Their work earned them the prestigious award of 2014 Firestone Master Contractor.

“This was a fast track job,” said vice president Brian Hines. “We did the whole roof in 15 days.” Hines said the crew was proud to work for a local owner on a unique project. “That gave the project a personal touch,” said Hines.

Rain Proof Roofing was also selected for the Excellence in Safety—General Contractor or Subcontractor (Medium) award and honored at AGC’s annual dinner dance for their 50 years as an AGC member.
Davis Constructors & Engineers, Inc. received the award for Meeting the Challenge of a Job, Under $5,000,000 Vertical Construction for the Government Peak Transit Center Chalet. The Chalet was years in the making, bringing new hope and space to Valley outdoor enthusiasts. Funded by local groups, community councils, the Federal Transit Authority, and MatSu bed tax, its $1,000,000 budget secured an area that hosts ski team events, single-track bike racing, and facility rentals for weddings and other celebrations. In-floor heat, a kitchen and bathrooms, and a space that doubles as a 4,000 square foot community center was provided to the Matanuska-Susitna Borough by Davis in just 100 days in the fall of 2013.

Roger Hickel Contracting, Inc. won the award for Meeting the Challenge of a Job, Under $5,000,000 Transportation, Marine, Heavy, Earthmoving for the Municipality of Anchorage 32nd Avenue Upgrade Muldoon to Brookridge project. The project was awarded to the company in mid-August, 2012 on the 32nd Avenue portion of the project. Even with the very late start, 32nd Avenue was completed in 2012, to include a complete sub drain system, curb and two lifts of paving. The remainder of the project was completed by August 2013. The remaining work was on Cherry Street and included a complete sub drain storm system, new curb and paving. This project constructed much better drainage to the area and generally enhanced the overall access to the neighborhood. Roger Hickel Contracting, Inc. is one of just a few companies in Alaska who specialize in both civil and building construction.

Brice, Incorporated received the Meeting the Challenge of a Job, Between $5,000,000 & $15,000,000
Transportation, Marine, Heavy, Earthmoving award for the Galena Campion Road Erosion Protection project. The Alaska Department of Transportation selected Brice for the project in November of 2012. In the spring of 2013, before the project began, Galena suffered its worst flooding in history when the Yukon River broke up. Brice worked together with the DOT, local leaders, and various transportation companies to complete the original project on time, while repairing a substantial amount of infrastructure in Galena during the same time period. “We feel like we have a good teaming relationship with the DOT, but this was a whole new level of teaming,” said Sam Robert Brice, president of Brice, Inc.

The flood not only wiped out the access to their project, but destroyed all of the housing they planned to use during the project. Brice worked with the DOT and the Gana-A’Yoo village corporation to demolish the old camp, bring in a new camp, and then turn over the camp to Gana-A’Yoo when the project was complete. “The highlight of this project was working together with these partners to solve problems that weren’t a part of the original scope,” said Brice. “We were proud to be able to help with a rapid response to a serious problem.” New Campion Road opened to the public in the summer of 2014.

Kiewit Infrastructure West Company received the award for Meeting the Challenge of a Job, Over $15,000,000 Transportation, Marine, Heavy, Earthmoving for the Northern Rail Extension, Phase I. Kiewit was Construction Manager/General Contractor for this $154 million project that included construction of a 3,300-ft. bridge over the Tanana River, the
longest bridge in Alaska, and an 11,000-ft. levee along the river’s eastern bank. Completed in August 2014, the bridge was built to ultimately connect the towns of Fairbanks and Delta, and the military assets at Fort Wainwright and Eielson Air Force Base with those at Fort Greeley. Despite significant weather, logistical and budget challenges, the project was completed safely, ahead of schedule, and under budget for the Alaska Railroad Corporation.

The Excellence in Construction Award for a Specialty Contractor: Transportation, Marine, Heavy, Earthmoving with Specialty Contractor as Sub-Contractor award went to STG, Inc. for the CD5 Crane Weatherization, Lease & Operation project. STG deployed cranes and pile driving equipment to the North Slope to assist in construction of the Colville Delta (CD-5) bridge. STG deployed five cranes, two vibratory hammers, and one impact hammer to ConocoPhillips’ general contractor Ruskin Construction. Before the cranes and pile driving equipment were transported, STG ensured all machinery was weatherized to withstand the cold. This meant upgrading all hoses and fluids to meet a temperature rating of -70° Fahrenheit. Hydraulics, engines, oil tanks, radiators and crane cabs were all retrofitted to maintain operation during freezing temperatures. Boom lights were also added to each crane for improved visibility.

Jolt Construction & Traffic Maintenance received the Excellence in Construction Award for a Specialty Contractor: Transportation, Marine, Heavy, Earthmoving with Specialty Contractor as Prime Contractor for the Old Glenn Highway Mile Post 15 Erosion Control project. The iconic image
of a house hanging over the river bank has been the image of the erosion damage along the Matanuska River. The undermined house on this project site was a daily reminder of the power of the river and the necessity of the projects’ scope. Jolt Construction created a plan to complete the work during historical high water periods. Jolt excavated and backfilled a 600 lineal foot trench 25 feet deep between the Old Glenn Highway bike path and the Matanuska River. While managing the use of the bike path during working hours, Jolt installed 7,000 tons of rock on a 2:1 slope and backfilled the remaining trench with excavated gravel. When backfill was completed, topsoil was spread and seeded to provide an appealing cover of the heavy erosion protection rock.

Ahtna Engineering Services, LLC received the Excellence in Construction Award for a Specialty Contractor: Vertical Construction with Specialty Contractor as Prime Contractor for the Federal Aviation Administration (FAA) Kuiu Island Self-Sustained Outlet Radio Communications Facility Replacement project. Ahtna executed a logistically complex construction project atop 3,065 and 3,400 foot mountains with no infrastructure. Tasks included demolition and installation of foundations, grounding ring, solar array systems, and equipment building. Ahtna reengineered the foundation design, which decreased the project schedule by 60%, increased safety by reducing project risk, and reduced costs. This design is now the FAA standard on all similar projects. Ahtna completed the project ahead of schedule, on budget, with zero safety incidents despite multiple complex site conditions.

The Sustainability in Construction Award went to Bench-
mark Construction, Inc. for the Rustic Goat Restaurant in Anchorage. Benchmark Construction was hired by Kaladi Brothers in 2012 to help them launch a new endeavor, their first restaurant. The vision for the place was warm and casual neighborhood bistro serving delicious food. They had one problem. The design had not captured the enthusiasm of the original partner. He expressed it this way, “I want my restaurant to have a comfortable yet rustic feel; a warm and cozy place for the neighborhood and visitors.” Benchmark Construction collaborated with the owners from that point forward to change the design to reflect the owner’s vision. “Everyone took great pride in the final product. The team knew we were building something special.”

Other Wells Fargo Excellence in Safety awards went to Davis Constructors and Engineers, and Kiewit Infrastructure West in a tie for the Large General Contractor or Subcontractor category; Ahtna Engineering Services LLC for the Small General Contractor or Subcontractor category; and Anchorage Sand & Gravel for the Associate category.

Conference photos by Kelsey Gray

AGC AWARD WINNERS FOR 2014

**Hard Hat Award**  
**AGC’s Top Award**  
Al, Sam and Andy Brice Owners, Brice, Inc., Fairbanks

**Stan Smith Volunteer of the Year**  
Scott Vierra  
North Star Equipment Services Anchorage

**Associate of the Year**  
Anchorage Sand and Gravel Co. Inc.

**Wells Fargo Excellence in Safety Awards**

**Excellence in Safety:**  
Large Contractor or Subcontractor: Tie  
Davis Constructors & Engineers Anchorage and  
Kiewit Infrastructure West Co. Anchorage

**Excellence in Safety:**  
Medium Contractor or Subcontractor  
Rain Proof Roofing Anchorage

**Excellence in Safety:**  
Small Contractor or Subcontractor  
Ahtna Engineering Services, LLC Anchorage

**Associate**  
Anchorage Sand and Gravel Co. Inc.

**Individual**  
Steve Rowe  
Cornerstone General Contractors, Inc. Anchorage

**Parker Smith & Feek Excellence in Construction Awards**

**Buildings Over $15 Million**  
Cornerstone General Contractors, Inc.  
UAA Alaska Airlines Center Sports Arena, Anchorage

**Buildings Between $5 million and $15 Million**  
Cornerstone General Contractors, Inc.  
AVTEC Dormitory Replacement Seward

**Buildings Under $5 Million**  
Davis Constructors and Engineers, Inc.  
Government Peak Transit Center Chalet, Mat-Su

**Transportation, Marine, Heavy, Earthmoving Over $15 Million**  
Kiewit Infrastructure West Co.  
Northern Rail Extension, Phase I Tanana River SE of Fairbanks

**Transportation, Marine, Heavy, Earthmoving Between $5 Million and $15 Million**  
Brice Incorporated  
Galena Campion Road Erosion Protection

**Transportation, Marine, Heavy, Earthmoving Under $5 Million**  
Roger Hickel Contracting, Inc.  
MOA 32nd Ave. Upgrade Muldoon to Brookridge Anchorage

**Specialty Contractor**  
**Transportation, Marine, Heavy, Earthmoving with Contractor as Prime Contractor**  
Jolt Construction & Traffic Maintenance, Inc.  
Old Glenn Highway MP 15 Erosion Control

**Specialty Contractor**  
**Transportation, Marine, Heavy, Earthmoving with Contractor as Sub-Contractor**  
STG Inc.  
CDS Crane Weatherization, Lease & Operation North Slope

**Specialty Contractor—Vertical Construction with Contractor as Sub-Contractor**  
Ahtna Engineering Services, LLC Federal Aviation Administration  
Kuik Island Self Sustained Outlet Radio Communications Facility Replacement in Southeast Alaska

**Sustainability in Construction**  
Benchmark Construction, Inc.  
The Rustic Goat Anchorage
AGC Members Know How to Par-Tay!
WHY AGC?


These and many other benefits of AGC membership can be yours whether you are a general contractor, a specialty contractor or you do related work for the construction industry.

Here is what our members say about the reasons to join one of Alaska’s leading associations.

Mike Shaw
Roger Hickel Contracting Inc.
AGC affords me the opportunity to work with my competitors on the various AGC committees. Helping to solve the industry problems together is good for the industry and good for Alaska. Helping to build relationships as we build Alaska is an important element of value from being an AGC member.

Steve Percy
Alaska Interstate Construction LLC
AGC means having a voice and forum as a contractor in Alaska. AGC provides collective advocacy for our industry through training, networking and scholarship opportunities; sponsorship of community activities; and addressing industry-relevant issues.

Be a part of Alaska’s third largest industry, paying the second highest wages, with more than 21,000 in the workforce.

AGC: 650 members strong

Fix Your Pipes From The Inside!

Half the Cost of Pipe Replacement!

Before Epoxy Coatings After

Why Replace? Our patented technology creates a new pipe within the original pipe, restoring the pipe system to “better than new” condition for a long-term solution – without digging or tearing up walls, ceilings or floors. With a life expectancy up to 50 years. Certified Green Technologies, NSF 61 & UL Classified.

Pipe diameter applications range from 1/2” to 12” with larger custom sizes available. Used in host pipes consisting of copper, clay, concrete, metal, iron, steel, PVC and fiberglass. Applicable use in the following piping systems, in any infrastructure, in every market sector:

- Potable hot and cold drinking water lines
- Potable water distribution mains
- Industrial pressure applications
- Compressed air systems
- Process pipes
- Hydronic systems (air and water) heating and cooling lines

- Fire suppression sprinkler systems
- Natural gas and petroleum product lines
- Electrical conduit
- Collection, Hold and Transfer (CHT) systems in maritime vessels
- Water mains

- Distribution mains
- Storm drains
- Rain & roof leaders
- Drain and sewer lines
- Vertical & vent stacks
- Industrial pressure applications
- Repair broken pipes
NORTHWEST IRONWORKERS EMPLOYERS ASSOCIATION

We represent several hundred contractors in the Northwest and Alaska who will provide you with highly skilled professionals in the reinforcing, fabrication, rigging, welding, metal buildings, steel erection, ornamental, fence, door, and other specialty needs in the iron working industry. To request bids or obtain contractor information for your specific project visit:

Scan to visit our website.

www.ironemployers.com

Alaska’s sole distributor of

Armstrong

CEILING & WALL SYSTEMS

• Wall Protection Products
• Acoustical Ceilings & Wall Panels • Metal & Wood Ceilings

(907) 522-9550
135 N Post Road, Anchorage, AK 99501
www.gtsinteriorsupply.com

We specialize in Moving Construction Equipment

Alaska Air Taxi, LLC

Save time & money — Move your crew & cargo together

SC7 SKYVAN Other aircraft available

Alaskan Grade Products
FOR EVERY JOB

Arctic Graded Industrial & Hydraulic Hose • Custom & Domestic Wire Rope, Chain & Synthetic Sling Fabrication • Hydrostatic Pressure Testing & Certification
Low Temp Petroleum Handling Equipment • Oilfield Fittings & Accessories • Sheet Rubber, Gasket Material & Adhesives

Proud to be Employee Owned.

Alaska Rubber & RIGGING SUPPLY
ANCHORAGE • FAIRBANKS • KENAI • WASILLA
www.alaskarubber.com • Toll Free: 800-478-7600
2014 Winners of AGC’s Excellence in Construction Awards

Meeting the Challenge of a Job, Between $5 million and $15 million Vertical Construction

Contractor: Cornerstone General Contractors Inc.
Project: AVTEC Dormitory Replacement

Cornerstone General Contractors Inc. recently completed the replacement of the dilapidated 1960s dormitory at AVTEC – Alaska’s Institute of Technology. The new 120-bed, three-story, 35,500-square-foot facility features single and double occupancy rooms with ensuite bathrooms and multiple common areas including a custom-built main entry, arctic vestibule connection to the cafeteria and culinary academy, offices, lounges and recreation rooms. An innovative modular construction approach allowed most of the building to be constructed in a plant offsite, which reduced the duration of construction by an entire academic year. The project was completed on time, on budget, with zero injuries and no claims.
2014 Winners of AGC’s Excellence in Construction Awards

Photo courtesy of Davis Constructors & Engineers Inc.
Meeting the Challenge of a Job, Under $5 million Vertical Construction

Contractor: Davis Constructors & Engineers Inc.
Project: Government Peak Transit Center Chalet

The chalet was years in the making, bringing new hope and space to Valley outdoor enthusiasts. Funded by local groups, community councils, the FTA and the Mat-Su bed tax, its $1 million budget secured an area that hosts ski team events, single-track bike racing and facility rentals for weddings and other celebrations. In-floor heat, a kitchen, bathrooms and a space that doubles as a 4,000-square-foot community center was provided to the Matanuska-Susitna Borough by Davis Constructors & Engineers Inc. in just 100 days in fall 2013.
Excellence in Construction Award for a Specialty Contractor: Vertical Construction with Specialty Contractor as a Subcontractor

 Contractor: Rain Proof Roofing
 Project: Natural Pantry

Rain Proof Roofing was part of the design build team on this project working alongside Spark Design LLC and Neeser Construction Inc. to provide the owner with an amazing end result. Since this was a LEED project, Rain Proof Roofing used materials like Insulfoam insulation, which is 100 percent recyclable and manufactured using post-consumer and post-industrial materials; and Firestone fully-adhered TPO membrane. There were some challenging areas on this project regarding the curved metal flashing and panels that were installed on the upper Hydration Station wall. Our project management team was successful in creating a beautiful product, completing this project with zero accidents or injuries and adding this project to our portfolio to help us win the prestigious award of 2014 Firestone Master Contractor. We are proud to be a part of this project team!
Meeting the Challenge of a Job, Between $5 million and $15 million Transportation, Marine, Heavy, Earthmoving

Contractor: Brice Inc.
Project: Galena Campion Road Erosion Protection

Brice Inc. was selected as the low bidder on the Galena Campion Road project for the Department of Transportation and Public Facilities in November 2012. In spring 2013, Galena suffered its worst flooding in history when the Yukon River broke up. Brice worked with the DOT, local leaders and various transportation companies to complete the original project on time, while repairing a substantial amount of infrastructure in Galena during the same time period. New Campion Road opened to the public in summer 2014.
Meeting the Challenge of a Job, Over $15 million Vertical Construction

Contractor: Cornerstone General Contractors Inc.
Project: UAA Alaska Airlines Center (Sports Arena)

Cornerstone General Contractors Inc. recently completed this $90 million CM/GC project for the new UAA Alaska Airlines Center, a 200,000-gross-square-foot, world-class sports arena featuring multi-tiered seating for 5,600 spectators in a main performance gymnasium for basketball, volleyball, graduations and other events; an 800-seat gymnastics training facility; a multiple court auxiliary gymnasium; multiple support spaces consisting of a fitness and training room, student recreation fitness room, administration and coaches offices, laundry facilities and audio/visual production; locker/team rooms for basketball, volleyball, gymnastics, hockey, skiing, track and cross country programs; concessions; and a new 150-seat restaurant.
Excellence in Construction Award for a Specialty Contractor: Vertical Construction with Specialty Contractor as Prime Contractor
Contractor: Ahtna Engineering Services
Project: Federal Aviation Administration Kuiu Island Self-Sustained Outlet Radio Communications Facility Replacement
Ahtna executed a logistically complex construction project atop 3,065- and 3,400-foot mountains with no infrastructure. Tasks included demolition and installation of foundations, grounding ring, solar array systems and equipment building. Ahtna re-engineered the foundation design, which decreased the project schedule by 60 percent, increased safety by reducing project risk and reduced costs. This design is now the FAA standard on all similar projects. Mobilization required primarily helicopters and barges. Ahtna completed the project ahead of schedule, on budget, with zero safety incidents despite multiple complex site conditions.
AGC FAIRBANKS MANAGER HIRED

Tina Henne has been hired as the new AGC branch manager in Fairbanks. She was born in Anchorage and attended the University of Alaska Anchorage. She and her husband, Brian, have made Fairbanks their home for 22 years. They have three children: Benny, Logan and Emma.

For 18 years, Tina had her own business as a vendor representative for several large food companies (Nestle and Procter & Gamble). For the past six years, Henne was the administrative assistant for the Procurement Technical Assistance Center (PTAC) and the Small Business Development Center (SBDC). She has worked part-time for AGC since 2011. She is actively involved in many volunteer positions for nonprofits in the Interior.

Tina enjoys being with family and friends as well as fishing, boating and traveling. She also revels in some home decorating, remodeling and refinishing projects.

INTERIOR ALASKA ROOFING RECOGNIZED

Interior Alaska Roofing Inc. was recently selected to be a member of the 2014 Perfection Council by Carlisle SynTec Systems, a leading manufacturer of single-ply roofing materials. Carlisle recognizes its top contractors’ dedication to roofing installation excellence by inviting them to serve on the Perfection Council.

EMERGING LEADERS FORM ORGANIZATION

AGC Alaska — Emerging Leaders has formed to provide networking and professional development opportunities for young professionals in the Alaska construction industry. While AGC of Alaska has been its greatest supporter, Emerging Leaders is a self-driven group. Current members are Saigen Harris, STG Inc.; Shannon Bridwell, Cornerstone General Contractors Inc.; Sean Hickel, Roger Hickel Contracting Inc.; Jenith Flynn, Davis Constructors & Engineers Inc.; Craig Sundet, CH2M Hill Constructors Inc.; Kirstie Gray, Red Box Refuse LLC; Justin Keene, CRW Engineering Group LLC; and Eryn Jones, Knik Construction Co. Inc. For information on the organization and its goals, email agcakemergingleaders@gmail.com.

GROUNDBREAKING IN MIDTOWN

Criterion General Inc. is the general contractor for a six-story office building under construction in Midtown. A groundbreaking ceremony was held in October for the construction of the Anchorage offices of Kuukpik Corp., the village corporation for Nuiqsut. The ceremony, at the two-acre project site on 36th Avenue, included a traditional Inupiat dance performance by the Inugailik Drummers. Construction is scheduled to be completed in December 2015. Kuukpik Corp. will occupy 10,000 square feet of the 60,000-square-foot building. Criterion, KPB ARCHITECTS and Pfeffer Development make up the project design-build team.

GOLD PAN AWARDS

Builders Choice received the 2014 Anchorage Chamber Gold Pan Awards for Business Excellence in September. Michelle Tabler with Better Business Bureau Inc. was honored with Volunteer of the Year award. The Gold Pan Awards, established in 1957, are awarded annually to individuals and companies that show entrepreneurial excellence and a commitment to Anchorage through community service.
LYNDEN HOSTS MEMBER MIXER IN SOLDOTNA

Lynden Transport Inc. hosted an open house with refreshments and door prizes in October at the Lynden Transport Service Center in Soldotna. The event, which was co-hosted with the Associated General Contractors of Alaska, is the first out-of-town Member Mixer. To host a Member Mixer, contact Kimberley Gray at 561-5354 or kimberley@agcak.org.

CARLILE GIVES 350 HOODIES

Carlile Transportation Systems Inc. donated more than 350 hoodies to Mountain View Elementary School in November as part of a school-business partnership. Every child in the Anchorage school, as well as teachers and staff, received one of the royal-blue hoodies, which sport the Mountain View Mustangs logo. Carlile employees raised money for the hoodies, and the company matched their donations. Carlile has committed to making sure that every student at Mountain View Elementary, which is a Title I school, gets something new at least once a year.

DAVIS COLLECTS FOOD FOR HUNGRY ALASKANS

Davis Constructors & Engineers Inc. had a fall food drive to collect non-perishable food for the Alaska Food Bank to help feed hungry Alaskan families during the holiday season. To provide an extra incentive to donate, Davis gave a $100 gift card to Cabela’s for every 10 cans, or $10 donated to the project.

GRAZZINI RECOGNIZED AS TOP SPECIALTY CONTRACTOR

Grazzini Brothers & Co. was once again recognized as a Top 600 Specialty Contractor for 2014 by the Engineering News Record. ENR publishes the list each year based upon annual revenues of specialty contractors across the United States. According to ENR, the Top 600 Specialty Contractors as a group cleared revenue of $88.23 billion in 2013, up 8.5 percent from 2012. The 2013 figure is a record, topping 2008’s mark of $87.07 billion. This year Grazzini Brothers was ranked at number 485.

“We are very proud to be recognized as one of the top specialty contractors in the United States,” said Gregory P. Grazzini, president and CEO. Grazzini Brothers & Co. specializes in commercial tile, terrazzo, marble, granite, carpet, vinyl and industrial flooring.
Welcome new AGC Members
from September through December 2014

GENERAL CONTRACTORS
M-ALASKA CONSTRUCTION LLC
Jayson Mathiesen
P.O. Box 241568
Anchorage, AK 99524
Phone: 907-276-1946
Email: jmathiesen@m-alaska.com
Building, industrial and structural construction

SANDSTROM & SONS INC.
Gary Sandstrom
8434 Corbin Drive
Anchorage, AK 99507
Phone: 907-344-3441
Email: sandstorm.sons@gmail.com
Bridges, docks and overpasses across the state

SPECIALTY MEMBERS
KAKIVIK ASSET MANAGEMENT LLC
Ben Schoffmann
560 E. 34th Ave., Suite 200
Anchorage, AK 99503
Phone: 907-770-9441
Email: info@kakivik.com
Maintenance

ASSOCIATE MEMBERS
EQUIPMENT SOURCE INC.
Troy Lockes
1919 Van Horn Road
Fairbanks, AK 99701
Phone: 907-458-9049
Email: tjlockes@equipsrc.com
Equipment sales and rental

ALASKA MECHANICAL CONTRACTORS ASSOCIATION INC.
Jan van den Top, Executive Director
P.O. Box 92950
Anchorage, AK 99509
Phone: 907-677-8588
Email: amca@gci.net
Mechanical contractors trade association

ALASKA TEXTILES INC.
Mary Snare
620 W. Fireweed Lane
Anchorage, AK 99503
Phone: 907-265-4880
Email: mary@alaskatextiles.com
Work wear, safety awards, promotional clothing, promotional items, flame-retardant clothing

AMERICAN RED CROSS OF ALASKA
Angie Glover
235 E. Eighth Ave., Suite 200
Anchorage, AK 99501
Phone: 907-646-5409
Email: angie.glover@redcross.org
Health, safety, preparedness training and products disaster services

WCP PRIVATE WEALTH ADVISOR/SAGEMARK CONSULTING
Mel Bannon
31111 Agoura Road, Suite 200
Westlake Village, CA 91361
Phone: 818-540-6950
Email: mel.bannon@LFG.com
Business succession and family wealth preservation

ARTHUR J. GALLAGHER & CO.
Stuart O’Farrell, Area Vice President
2825 Eastlake Ave. E
Seattle, WA 98102
Phone: 800-334-1634
Email: stuart_ofarrell@AJG.com
Insurance and surety brokerage

CORNERSTONE ADVISORS
David Drews
225 108th Ave. NE, Suite 400
Bellevue, WA 98004
Phone: 425-646-7600
Email: daved@buildbeyone.com
Financial advising and 401(k) plans

ALASKA TRUSS MANUFACTURING LLC
Chris Ingalls
28275 Denaina Elders Road
Chugiak, AK 99567
Phone: 907-688-8778
Email: cingalls@alaskatruss.com
Truss manufacturing

CASSELL CONSULTING INC.
Barry Cassell
2001 Main St., Suite 106
Vancouver, WA 98660
Phone: 360-891-5811
Email: Barry@casselconsulting.com
Consulting, training for construction software

INTERNATIONAL FIDELITY INSURANCE CO.
Steve Lepere
1180 NW Maple St., No. 160
Issaquah, WA 98027
Phone: 425-420-9961
Email: slepere@ific.com
Surety bonding

SITNASUAK CONSTRUCTION SERVICES LLC
Charles Sassara
4341 B St., Suite 402
Anchorage, AK 99503
Phone: 907-929-7000
Email: csassara@snc.org
Construction management

Welcome to all of our new members.
AGC of Alaska

2015 Calendar of Events

AGC Construction Spending Forecast Breakfast
Jan. 29, Millennium Hotel Anchorage

AGC Bowl-A-Thon
Jan. 24 in Fairbanks

AGC Construction Spending Forecast Breakfast
Jan. 30, AGC office Fairbanks

AGC Legislative Fly-In
Feb. 3-4 in Juneau

AGC of America Conference
March 18-20 in Puerto Rico

AGC Spring Board Meeting
April TBA in Fairbanks

AGC Golf Scramble
June 19 in Anchorage

AGC Golf Tournament
July 10 in Fairbanks

AGC of Alaska Annual Conference
Nov. 11-14 in Anchorage
Discover Fountainhead Hotels for your next…

*Business Trip*
*Business Meeting or Conference*

Personalized Guest Service • Outstanding Value • 4 Convenient Locations

*We’ve perfected the extended stay experience*

Complimentary

*Wireless Internet access*
*Fitness center access*
*Airport shuttle for arrivals & departures*

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Locally owned in Fairbanks</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Wedgewood Resort</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Sophie Station Suites</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Bridgewater Hotel</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Bear Lodge</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

FountainheadHotels.com
Reservations 800.528.4916
SOLID PERFORMANCE MADE SIMPLE.

2.4 yd³ Loader
$99,800

4.0 yd³ Loader
$141,500

Introducing SDLG wheel loaders — where simplicity and reliability come standard. Get the performance features you need, and none that you don’t. They’re easy to operate, easy to maintain, and a perfect fit for your day-to-day jobs. Best of all, they’re backed by a local dealer network, so you’ll have a partner that’s with you for the long haul.

Stop by your local SDLG dealer to see how incredible simplicity can be. Visit us online at sdlgna.com.