

Not taking anything for granite

Business News



John Dorroh

One summer day when I was about eight years old, my dad got us lost on a family vacation near Washington, D.C. My Aunt Rena, an experienced back-seat driver, asked him point blank, "Quinn, you're lost, aren't you?"

"No, I'm not lost ... just letting y'all enjoy the countryside."

That's the way it can sometimes be with our choice of career. Lost, just riding through life. However, if the right people come together under the right set of circumstances, job-related contentment can be the result, and we will know that it is the right thing to do with our life.

Mike Quinn and Guy Mackey, co-owners of The Granite Guys, understand this all too well.

"We are blessed," said Mackey, "and we know that the Lord is using us in this venture to be able to minister to others."

A three-year-old business, The Granite Guys has already had to move from its first location on Highway 69 South to a much larger facility on South Frontage Road parallel to Highway 82.

"We've been friends for a long time," said Quinn, "and now we get to work together. It's great."

Former livelihoods

One of Quinn's former jobs was in the restaurant business, working with John Bean at Harvey's. As is the case with restaurant work, weekends were the busiest times.

"I worked at Harvey's for eight years," he said. "I found myself missing a lot of family stuff, especially on weekends — ball games and similar activities. I began looking for a job that would let me get back to my family."

Mackey, on the other hand, had spent about

14 years in the beverage business and in real estate development. A Louisiana native, he worked in Orlando and Austin, Texas.

"At that time I was not really looking to get out of the beverage business," he explained. "A mutual friend asked Mike and me to help him with a granite countertop. He had bought a pre-fabricated unit called a 'blank,' which still had to be finished and installed. We completed that project successfully, and then other people began asking us to do projects for them. It snowballed."

Quinn added, "Because I was looking for another career, I had several projects going on at the time." The countertop project happened to be the one that worked out for him.

"Oh, another thing that we noticed," said Mackey, "was that the beverage business was slowing down for me, but our new granite business was booming."

It simply was meant to be," said Mackey.

The facilities

On my tour of the facilities, I noticed three main areas — the front showroom, which has the feel of natural stone and smells good in a hard-to-describe way, and the work area behind the showroom that is divided into two main sections.

The area on the left serves as a storage area for huge slabs of unfinished pieces of marble and granite. They are packed at their points of origin into large containers, which can house 20-40 slabs. Most come from Africa, Europe and the Middle East.

The area toward the back and the right is where the staff of four fabricates the slabs into finished pieces.

"There are two phases of our work here. First is fabrication, which includes taking 'raw' slabs, cutting them up into the correct dimensions, edging and polishing," Quinn explained. "Next, we go out to the worksite, usually someone's home, and install them. We are the only full-service granite company in the area."



John Dorroh/Dispatch Staff

The Granite Guys owners Mike Quinn, left, and Guy Mackey are shown.

Trained in Atlanta, Quinn and Mackey spent countless weekends with fabricators, attending seminars, trade shows, and on-site installations.

"Our mentors are in Atlanta," Mackey said. "We can call them for anything. If we run into a problem, they are there for us."

"This is our livelihood," he said. "Mike and I have sort of an unofficial motto. That is, it has to be of a quality that our wives would find acceptable for our own homes."

Having fabricated and installed over 400 countertops in the last three years, they know what they are doing. No doubt.

Customers are usually the best source of advertising, and The Granite Guys have had several.

Diana Shelton, a recent Granite Guys customer, said, "They did a great job in my home.

The kitchen is beautiful. They exceeded my expectations, and time wise, they were right on track. I highly recommend them."

Another satisfied customer, Carol Seavey, said, "They did the countertops in my kitchen, and I was very pleased ... they were the nicest workers I have ever had in my home."

The list goes on like that.

The Granite Guys are located on 2859 S. Frontage Road behind NES Rentals. Their hours of operation at the showroom are from 8 a.m.-4 p.m., Monday through Friday, or by appointment.

John Dorroh is a semi-retired high school science teacher, who writes a business column for The Dispatch. E-mail John with your business news or column ideas at traveler2@cableone.net.

Business Briefcase

Nickels named to MSC President's Club

Leroy Nickels, registered representative at LH Nickels & Associates in Columbus, has been named to Mutual Service Corp.'s President's Club.

By being included in the MSC President's Club, Nickels was recognized for his achievements in the financial planning industry. This honor is reserved for MSC representatives who achieve production levels that place them among the top producers of all MSC registered representatives. MSC offers individualized support to more than 1,000 independent financial registered representatives across the country with expected production to exceed \$250 million. MSC specializes in providing branch development support, training, personal communication, state-of-the-art technology, business and compliance support as well as a wide range of product choices.

The first combined Focus 08 National

Conference for MSC and new parent company, LPL Financial, was held in Chicago in August 2008. Nickels was recognized for his exceptional performance and commitment to client service.

Flowers included in The Best Lawyers in America® 2009

Gordon Flowers, an attorney with Brunini, Grantham, Grover and Hewes, PLLC, was recently selected by his peers for inclusion in The Best Lawyers in America® 2009 for his work in personal injury litigation and product liability litigation. He was nominated and evaluated by other leading attorneys throughout the country who cast more than a half million votes on the legal abilities of other



Flowers

lawyers in their respective areas of practice. Attorneys selected for this honor have met the highest professional standards in their field.

Flowers is an attorney in Brunini's Northeast Mississippi office and has over 25 years of legal experience. His practice areas include personal injury, product liability, commercial and environmental litigation.

Eutaw Construction Co. Inc. awarded GRWWP project contract

Eutaw Construction Co. Inc., a 28-year-old heavy civil construction firm headquartered in Aberdeen, has been awarded a contract covering four of the first projects associated with the Gulf Region Water Wastewater Plan. Eutaw was awarded a sum of \$9.2 million to complete these projects by the Pearl River County Utility Authority.

The GRWWP is an overall plan that was developed after Hurricane Katrina to identify water, wastewater and storm

water infrastructure needs in the counties of Hancock, Harrison, Jackson, Pearl River and Stone. The purpose of the plan is to provide infrastructure for long-term growth and recovery in these counties. The projects PRCUA awarded to Eutaw consist of over 47 miles of water and sewer pipe. Areas of Pearl River County improved by these projects are Hillsdale, North Lumberton, Poplarville and Picayune.

Local Century 21 agents among top 100 producing agents

Century 21 Corporate Office has announced the top 100 producing agents in the Southeast Region, which includes Mississippi, North Louisiana, Arkansas and Oklahoma.

Century 21 Doris Hardy and Associates LLC was notified that three



Storey



Whitten

of the 100 top performing real estate agents were from their local Columbus office. Out of 100 agents, Katrina Storey ranked 62, Patton Whitten ranked 77 and Patti Johnson ranked 100.

Harthcock joins Cadence Bank's Mortgage Loan Division

Jim McAlexander, Cadence Bank president, recently announced that Jennifer Harthcock has joined the Columbus Banking Center as a mortgage loan officer and processor.

Harthcock, who has over 13 years of banking experience,

previously served as mortgage loan officer for Trustmark National Bank in Jackson, Columbus and Olive Branch, and later for Bank of America in Memphis, Tenn.

Harthcock, a Columbus native, attended Northeast Mississippi Community College and later Mississippi University for Women where she studied business administration.

She was a member of the Golden Triangle Association of Realtors, Mississippi Homebuilders Association and American Business Women's Association. She was a member of Beta Sigma Phi International Women's Sorority and served as the St. Paul's Episcopal School Board secretary from 2005-2006. In 2002 and 2003, she received the Pinnacle Award for most loan volume closed in a median market.



Harthcock

Official Business

Lowndes County

MARRIAGES

Nov. 6-12

■ Ivan Anthony Chambers and Regina Frascine Caldwell
■ Jonathan Daniel Roberts and Melissa Eleanor Kirkbride
■ Hubert Elmer Barnhill Jr. and Rebekah Lee Collier

DIVORCES

Nov. 6-12

■ Charlotte Douglas and David Douglas
■ Terri McKissack and Stephen McKissack

CITY BUILDING PERMITS

Nov. 4-10

■ Brickyard Properties; 2212 Military Road; sign and banner; same
■ Gail Guynup; 519 Main St.; mechanical; Chris Patterson
■ Jacqueline Edwards; 401 12th

St. N.; reroof; Doug Wheeler
■ Joe Chandler; 622 22nd St. S.; demolish house; same
■ Curtis Crawley; 265 Coretta St.; carport; same
■ Habitat for Humanity; 1921 College St.; mechanical; Chris Patterson
■ Jackie Stennis; 1608 Johanna Fairway; reroof; Keys Properties
■ Castle Properties; 1721 Highway 45 N.; sign; Mid-South Signs
■ Community Counseling; 701 Fourth Ave. N.; repair retaining wall; Sheffield Construction
■ Mattie Woods; 1813 Fifth Ave. N.; underpinning; Payton McCrary
■ Heavenly Creatures; 804B Alabama St.; sign; same
■ Phil Moncrief; 217 N. McCrary Road; Phase I (foundation); CRS, LLC
■ Eddie Williams; 1920 Fourth Ave. S.; repairs; Stan Rector

COUNTY BUILDING PERMITS

Nov. 5-12

■ Bobbie Pearson; 1570 Oswalt Road; construct storage/shop; owner
■ Jesse Rye; 722 Caledonia-Vernon Road; construct storage/shop; owner
■ Caledonia High School; 100 Confederate Drive; construct votech building; Sanderson Construction
■ Caledonia High School; 100 Confederate Drive; construct gym; Sanderson Construction
■ Caledonia High School; 100 Confederate Drive; construct maintenance building; Sanderson Construction

Federal Court

BANKRUPTCIES

Nov. 5-11

■ Arthur L. Perry Sr.; 1512 13th Ave. N., Columbus; Chapter 13
■ Randy Hollis; P.O. Box 285,

Columbus; Chapter 13
■ Debra Denise Hollis; P.O. Box 285, Columbus; Chapter 13
■ Eugene Mason; 413 Moore Ave., West Point; Chapter 13
■ Debra Mason; 413 Moore Ave., West Point; Chapter 13
■ Rhonda Pruitt; 10288 Binford Road, Aberdeen; Chapter 7
■ Robert H. Nethery Jr.; 207 Daisy Drive, Columbus; Chapter 13
■ Santina Deree Nethery; 207 Daisy Drive, Columbus; Chapter 13
■ Stella Mae Sanders; 2118 Silver Ridge Road, Starkville; Chapter 13
■ Christopher T. Mullins; 2000 Duncan Lake Road, Smithville; Chapter 7
■ Amanda Mullins; 2000 Duncan Lake Road, Smithville; Chapter 7
■ Daniel Keith Dailey; 3448 Louisville Road, Sturgis; Chapter 13
■ Terry Lee Cole; 5973 Highway 50 E., Steens; Chapter 7
■ Viola Vasser; 20137 Clopton

Sykes Road, Aberdeen; Chapter 13
■ Ronald T. Ewing; 132 Beech St., Columbus; Chapter 13
■ Robert McKay; P.O. Box 203, Gattman; Chapter 7
■ Donna McKay; P.O. Box 203, Gattman; Chapter 7
■ Nicky A. May; 550 Dodson Road, Caledonia; Chapter 7
■ Doris J. Doss; 115 Rutledge, Nettleton; Chapter 13
■ Bonnie Shields Gandy; 413 Peach St., Columbus; Chapter 13

Chapter 7 is used by individuals who want to walk away from their debts or by businesses that want to cease operations and liquidate assets.

Chapter 11 is used by a large business to put creditors on hold while it restructures its operations and finances.

Chapter 13 is used by regular wage earners who want to pay creditors under a supervised plan.



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