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Diving in



Innovative Welding Service owner Andrew Saltsman applies what he learned welding underwater then to his work on land today.

Andrew Saltsman just knew he was in trouble when two teachers kept glancing at him through the glass in his 11th grade classroom door.

But when he was finally called in front of the teachers, the nervous Saltsman was puzzled to hear one ask, "Have you ever thought about welding?"

The teacher, who taught industrial cooperative training, had taken notice of Saltsman, whose father was a welder. There was a welding job available that paid far more than the fast food joints his friends worked at, and if Saltsman wanted it, he could go to school half a day and work the other half.

Of course, Saltsman said yes to more money and less school.

What he wasn't counting on was getting hooked on the trade. Despite the fact that he learned to weld during a summer of record temperatures, post graduation brought more welding work in different shops.

A stint in the Marine Corps still wasn't pointing him in a certain direction career-wise. But that all changed when he walked into a welding class he had enrolled in to make up for his lack of formal training.

"Up on the bulletin board, there was a poster of a guy hanging under a pipe member welding underwater that said, 'You can be an underwater welder,'" Saltsman remembers. "And I thought, 'That's

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Pork in the road



Hose-Tech's Bill Lesswing chose hose over hot dogs.

Don't misunderstand: **Bill Lesswing** has a passion for hoses. But, deep down, his heart belongs to hot dogs.

"My second goal in life is to get into restaurant ownership, but everyone tells me not to do that," says Lesswing, **Hose-Tech's** assistant chief operating officer.

"I'm from upstate New York originally. It would be an easy, single-item menu – hot dogs. To me, the key of a restaurant making it or breaking it is a very minimal menu so there's no waste. Sahlen's out of New York has natural casing, charcoal-cooked hot dogs. I make my own spicy hot sauce. The key is to use sweet relish and dill pickle to get a mixture of sweet and sour."

Lesswing almost got his chance as a restaurateur when he accepted a compensation package upon leaving his job as an airline mechanic in the 1990s. Instead, he invested in the on-site hose replacement business 10 years ago.

"Irving was our first location," Lesswing remembers. "Three years into it, we opened an industrial hose supply business in Fort Worth. We opened the Houston location two and a half years ago, and we opened in Austin last June. We started with three vans and now we have about 20 employees."

On Aug. 1, Lesswing will move his staff from the original store on East John Carpenter Freeway to a new building on

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Gypsy board

There was an elephant in the room, and everyone was talking about it.

The Dallas Zoo had finally found a new friend for their lone elephant Jenny, whose longtime companion, KeKe, had passed away last year. Gypsy, a sweet-natured 27-year-old female African elephant rumored to have been in a few movies, had been purchased from a private owner by the Dallas Zoological Society to become the zoo's newest star – and, it was hoped, a new friend for the older Jenny.

There was just one dilemma. All new animal arrivals to the zoo have a period of quarantine before their introduction. And while plans were under way to begin construction on the \$27 million, 11-acre Savannah exhibit for a herd of elephants, hoof stock, giraffes, wild dogs and a pride of lions, the zoo didn't have a facility to quarantine an animal as large as Gypsy.



The Dallas Zoo's new large mammal quarantine, constructed by MetalMan Design/Build Corporation, was inspired by a new animal arrival.

"The zoo came to us and said they would like to bring in a new elephant, but needed a new quarantine facility for it – and they needed it in six weeks," says project manager **Tamara Crooks**, president and general counsel of **MetalMan Design/Build Corporation**.

"The zoo couldn't commit to purchasing the elephant until they were confident a facility could be built in time," says MetalMan's Vice President and design-build manager **J.V. McLure**. "I told them to go ahead and make the arrangements – it would be ready."

And it was.

With a budget of only \$460,000, the team completed the design and construction of the large mammal quarantine in five weeks.

"It would typically be a nine-month project at least," says McLure. "I don't know how we did it; it's amazing! It was

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Two squares a day



ES Squared's Albert Mitchell wants every employee to go home to his or her family safe and sound.

As a boy, **Albert Mitchell** often wondered why three children who lived in his neighborhood didn't have fathers. When he learned that the boys' fathers died in separate industrial accidents, he was deeply affected.

"I asked my mom why people go to work to get killed," Mitchell says. "I remember that like it was yesterday."

He also remembers meeting the safety director at the college he attended. Mitchell's father, who worked at the school, mistakenly thought the safety director was a defensive driving instructor. Realizing that people needed to take safety more seriously, and recalling the tragedies that befell his childhood friends, Mitchell sought out the director to be his mentor.

"I took his class, and he opened my mind to what safety was," Mitchell says. "I was hooked. I knew I wanted to be an engineer, and I knew I wanted to own my

own consulting company. He convinced me to get my master's from LSU specializing in safety. Many people get into safety because a company needs someone to do it, but I actually went to college to do this. I made a lifetime choice for a career."

Last year, after co-owning a similar company, Mitchell and his wife, Wanda, founded **ES Squared LLC** (which stands for "Engineering, Safety, Environmental Solutions") in Grand Prairie. Now a father to three children of his own, he says he is grateful for the opportunity to help employees go home safely to their own families after work every day.

"There have been instances where companies instituted fall protection programs through us, and a guy fell and realized he didn't hit the ground because of what we did. And that's what we believe at ES Squared – all accidents are preventable." - mjm