

BUSINESS BRIEFS

Send us your news

Send business news items, story suggestions, photo contributions and other ideas to Business Reporter Melinda Hudgins, The Daily News Journal, 224 N. Walnut St., Murfreesboro, TN 37130. You can also e-mail Hudgins at mhudgins@dnj.com or call 615-278-5131.

PEOPLE

Sullivan joins team at Corporate Flight

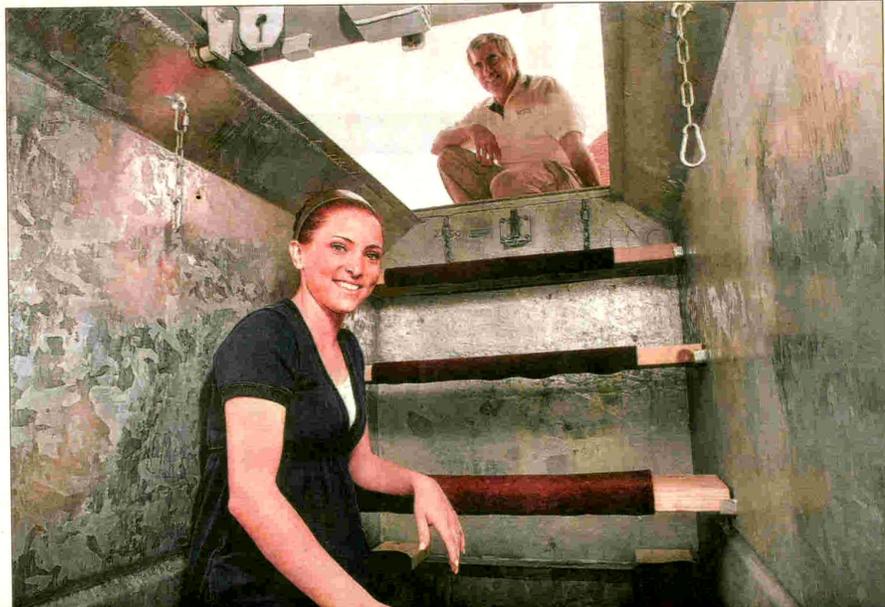
Former Marine officer and senior FBI official Don Sullivan has joined the Corporate Flight team as vice president for government services.



SULLIVAN

His primary responsibilities include expanding the firm's share of government service contracts in both domestic and international markets. "Don has spent his entire public service career protecting and defending the nation," said CEO Allen Howell. "He gained extensive knowledge of the resources required to accomplish specific missions and maintain ongoing operations. Don's knowledge and access will provide Corporate Flight with a considerable competitive edge." Sullivan graduated from the

Built-in storm security



Jalanda Lewis sits in her storm shelter in the garage floor of her Puckett Station home in west Murfreesboro. Above is home-builder Steve Jensen, who has decided to include storm shelters in his new home construction.

In wake of April tornado, Jensen Homes includes shelters

BY MELINDA HUDGINS
MHUDGINS@DNJ.COM

In light of the tornadoes that ripped across Rutherford County two months ago, one home builder has decided it's time to make storm shelters standard on all their new homes.

Steve Jensen, owner of Jensen Quality Homes LLC, explained how the Good Friday tornadoes really hit home for him, as John Bryant of CopperTect worked as a roofer for Jensen Quality Homes for a number of years. Bryant lost both his wife and his daughter in the storm that ravaged his home on the afternoon of April 10.

"I lost my wife to cancer four years ago, and I know what it's like to lose a loved one," Jensen said. "John is a friend of mine, and I am



Jalanda Lewis stands in her storm shelter built into the garage floor of her Puckett Station home in west Murfreesboro.

committed to doing what I clude the shelters inside new can to make sure no one who homes. The Bryant family's buys one of my homes suf-former home at Haynes fers the same loss."

Bryant himself is pleased with Jensen's decision to in-

On the Web

Information is available at www.jensenqualityhomes.com

EF-4 tornado that struck it that day. In the weeks following the devastating tornado, Bryant made public his desire to push legislation to require shelters in all newly constructed homes.

"As a friend of mine, Steve has been touched and saddened by my situation and the loss of my wife and baby daughter," Bryant said. "Inspired to help, Steve has taken the initiative to do his part to prevent anymore lives from being lost. I hope he will be just one of many to come, and no one else will have to bear the loss of a loved one or suffer through injuries as I have."

Drive and Sulphur Springs Road didn't have a shelter and was no match for the

As a custom builder, Jensen is able to work the added cost of a storm shelter into the base price of his homes, which allows the total cost to be built into the mortgage.

"As a builder, I'm making the decision to offer this to my customers," Jensen said. "I have the ability to do something to protect my customers who become my friends through the building process."

Of the numerous storm shelters available, Jensen decided on three options for his clients, each one costing roughly the same.

"I have done research on different shelters. My criteria was simple: safe, cost effective and one that would work in any Jensen Quality Home, with any floor plan," he said.

Homebuyers can opt for an in-ground shelter inside the garage, a steel above-ground box that is bolted to the floor or a cinderblock room built inside the basement.

Craig Gobich and his family had considered the possibility of a storm shelter for their soon-to-be built home in Puckett Station.

"As little as you're going to use it, it's just reassuring that you have it just in case,"

Gobich said. "You hope you never have to use it, but you're certainly happy you have it."

Jensen will be breaking ground on Gobich's home on Monday and will be installing the in-ground shelter.

"Steve did mention that they have ones above ground, but our preference was to be under-ground," Gobich said.

Jensen said it was also important for him to choose shelters that could be installed in existing homes.

In fact, Jensen and his crew installed an in-ground shelter in the Puckett Station home that Jalanda Lewis recently purchased.

"I'm from Florida, so tornadoes were somewhat of a concern to me during my house hunting," she said. "The day we closed on the house, was the day of the Good Friday tornadoes. It was like my worst nightmare came true."

Lewis said the newly installed shelter has brought her peace of mind.

"When strong storms come in, I do get nervous, but in the back of my mind, I know that if anything happens, we just have to run to the garage," Lewis said with relief.

The shelter that now comes standard with every Jensen Quality Home will fit six adults in an emergency situation. Larger shelters are offered as an upgrade and different styles are available if the customer has specific requirements.

Melinda Hudgins, 615-5131 DNJ