

AllCovered NEWS

HIGHLIGHTS TO HELP YOU THIS WEEK

- Rewards Pay Off
- Security Expert: "DHS Set Up to Fail"
- Lots of Ocean Freight Rate Hikes

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PDF FORMAT: <http://www.allcovered.net/AC-News-PDF.htm>

NOTE: All links to stories in PDF version work - just click them

>> SMALL BUSINESS SECTION <<

SMALL BIZ - REWARDS PAY OFF

--- Excerpted from an article by Bob Nelson - Link at end ---

You get more of what you reward.

The best managers today tend to be employee-focused, looking to help others succeed in their jobs. They know the power of positive reinforcement--that is, catching other people doing something right--in working with others and recognizing and rewarding them for their efforts and results.

They know that by providing a positive consequence--whether it is a word of thanks, taking someone out to lunch, or devising a special award--they will greatly increase the chances of having the desired behavior repeated or the high performance even further enhanced.

They know the greatest management principle in the world is: "You get what you reward."

--- REWARD YOURSELF ---

Whether you're a boss or an employee, how often do you take time to reward yourself? We're all so busy it's easy to feel overworked and underappreciated and in the process to become a victim at work, being quick to blame others about the lack of recognition we receive.

Don't fall into this trap. Don't wait for someone to reward you for a job well done. Reward yourself.

Do something to recognize and reward yourself when you finish a project, help a co-worker, or set a personal best level of performance that others may not even be aware of. Giving yourself a chance to appreciate and regenerate is essential to keeping fresh and effective whatever your position is.

--- TAKE A BREAK ---

Taking a break from your routine helps to stimulate your thinking. Jack Canfield, co-author of "Chicken Soup for the Soul" advises others to "increase the amount of time you get away from the office so you can increase the high-level thinking required to come up with big ideas. When I come back to work [from vacation], I immediately see the results. I'm more productive and creative. While on vacation, I'll also get incredible ideas that wouldn't happen at home because I'm too busy putting out fires."

--- REWARDS VARY ---

What works best to relax and rejuvenate, of course, varies widely from person to person, so it is important to be aware of what things you find most satisfying and

REWARDS WORK BOTH WAYS

- Reward great performance and you'll get more performance.
- Reward employees who are great office politicians and you'll get more employees focused on office politics and less on production.

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rewarding. For some people, it is time with their family; for others it may be reading or exercise; still others might like to buy something for themselves--during a stressful time, to acknowledge a milestone, or as a way of picking up their spirits when they feel down.

--- REWARD YOURSELF DAY ---

One company I worked with gave each employee \$50 cash on the condition that they leave the company and spend the money on themselves within the next two hours. Employees then had to return to the company to show everyone what they bought and why. This created a fun, rewarding and amazing experience as groups dashed off to buy or do something for themselves. In addition to getting a chance to buy something for oneself, the activity enhanced both morale and the level of team building that existed in the organization.

When everyone got back together to share, the variety of purchases was as varied as the employees themselves... from gadgets to sports gear to massages.... Many employees were heard to say how they "never get anything for myself" because of a lack of time, money and/or energy we all face or the tendency many of us have to pamper our children and not ourselves.

It doesn't take much to reward yourself--take a break and do so when you feel you've deserved it!

MORE: http://www.bizjournals.com/extraedge/consultants/return_on_people/2007/02/06/column386.html?hbx=e_sol

HEALTH BIZ – BUSH PUSHES HEALTH CARE PROPOSAL: President Bush held a roundtable in Chattanooga, Tennessee to discuss his plan to expand health care coverage by providing a federal tax deduction of \$7,500 for individuals and \$15,000 for families who obtain health insurance on their own or through an employer, regardless of the cost of coverage.
MORE: www.kaisernet.org/daily_reports/print_report.cfm?DR_ID=43098&dr_cat=3

HEALTH BIZ – BUDGET 8% MORE FOR HEALTH INSURANCE: Health care costs rose 8% last year and employers expect the same rate of increase this year and next, according to results from a survey of large employers.
MORE: www.detroitnews.com/apps/pbcs.dll/article?AID=/20070222/BIZ/702220353/1001

HEALTH BIZ – ANNUAL US HEALTH INSURANCE COST TO HIT \$4-TRILLION BY 2016:
MORE: <http://www.chron.com disp/story.mpl/ap/fn/4569211.html>

HEALTH BIZ – SENATORS TAKE HEALTH PLAN TO BUSH: A group of 10 senators - five Republicans and five Democrats - told President Bush that they have agreed on a blueprint for increasing health insurance coverage, and they would like to work with him on it.
MORE: <http://tinyurl.com/2yunhv>
COPY OF THE PLAN: http://wyden.senate.gov/media/2007/02132007_Health_Care_Letter.htm

HEALTH BIZ – GROUP WANTS TO KEEP EYE ON PPO HEALTH PLANS: A group that has monitored health maintenance organizations for a decade is seeking to rein in preferred provider networks and the 150 million Americans they serve. The National Committee for Quality Assurance (NCQA) said it will require carriers of preferred provider plans to undergo a series of extensive evaluations before they accredit the companies.
MORE: <http://tinyurl.com/24b54e>

TECH BIZ – GOOGLE HAS AN OFFICE SUITE OF SOFTWARE: Google has announced a suite of office software tools to compete with Microsoft Office. What it is, how it works, and thoughts on where this might lead your office software future are here.
MORE: <http://ct.eneews.eweek.com/rd/cts?d=186-5628-49-642-1381787-636105-0-0-1>
MORE: <http://news.com.com/Google+goes+premium+in+software+gambit/2009-1032-6161354.html?part=dht&tag=nl.e433>

TECH BIZ – FREE SOFTWARE: There is a ton of free software that may just be the answer to your needs. What's the best? What should you stay away from? Here are some tips.
MORE: <http://www.pcmag.com/article2/0,1895,2090787,00.asp>

TECH BIZ – IBM X60 NOTEBOOK WINS AGAIN: PC Magazine has chosen the latest version of the ThinkPad ultra-portable line as its "Editors Choice" again. The good? Desktop replacement speeds and 7 hour battery life. The bad? It ain't cheap.
MORE: <http://www.pcmag.com/article2/0,1895,2091484,00.asp>

>>>> TRUCKING SECTION <<<<

TRUCKING – GA EYES NEW INTERSTATE TO FLORIDA

The Georgia Department of Transportation (GDOT) is looking at building a new interstate highway to Florida through southwest Georgia.

Constructing such a route, which could stretch 200 miles and cost billions of dollars, would provide an alternate to Interstate 75 between Atlanta and Florida and help boost the economy in southwest Georgia, one of the nation's poorest regions.

The Georgia Department of Transportation (GDOT) will soon award a contract for a one-year study of the route, which could run south along existing Georgia 520 from I-185 in Columbus to Albany, and then along US 19 from Albany to I-10 east of Tallahassee, Florida.

An alternate route would create an I-75 spur from Cordele southwest to Albany and then on to Florida.

Funding the interstate's construction would be a major challenge. With both the state and federal government strapped for new project dollars, a hefty portion of the money might have to be pried from other Georgia road projects (which would be a major political battle) or come from local sources.

MORE: <http://atlanta.bizjournals.com/atlanta/stories/2007/02/19/story4.html?t=printable>

TRUCKING – ATA WANTS TOUGHER DRIVER TRAINING: The American Trucking Associations is calling for tougher driver training standards in efforts to raise the safety bar for new drivers entering the industry. Recently adopted by ATA's board of directors, the new safety policy calls upon the industry to embrace competency-based training standards, provides guidance on the qualifications for driver-instructors and promotes tougher Commercial Driver's License testing for new drivers.

MORE: <http://www.thetrucker.com/News/Stories/2007/2/23/ATAcallsfortougherdrivertrainingstandards.aspx>

TRUCKING – DIESEL UP: The US average retail on-highway price of a gallon of diesel increased a meager 1.5 cents for the week ended Feb. 19.

MORE: <http://www.thetrucker.com/News/Stories/2007/2/20/On-highwaydieselpriicedropsonlyslightly.aspx>

>>>> SECURITY SECTION <<<<

SECURITY – FLYNN SAYS DHS FIGHTING A LOSING BATTLE: The US Department of Homeland Security is fighting a losing battle because it doesn't have the resources to prepare the nation to deal with a terror attack or natural disaster, says Stephen Flynn, a senior fellow at the Council on Foreign Relations and authority on border and transportation security. Flynn said dedicated DHS officials are working overtime to try and protect the nation, but the department's performance remains poor. In his new book, "The Edge of Disaster: Rebuilding a Resilient Nation," Flynn maintains the department was set up to fail and it has succeeded largely at that. The staffing is woefully inadequate. There is no dedicated civil service corps building up capacity. A lot of their work is contracted out. A lot of the contracts don't go well. We're not building any institutional capacity.

MORE: http://www.americanshipper.com/SNW_story.asp?news=49991

SECURITY - FLYNN ON US SECURITY – STORY AND EXCERPT FROM BOOK:

MORE: <http://www.npr.org/templates/story/story.php?storyId=7463514>

SECURITY – CBP WILL REVIEW 1200 C-TPAT COMPANIES: US Customs and Border Protection will revalidate 1,200 companies in 2007, the first year that participants in the voluntary program will have their supply chain security practices verified for a second time by on-site visits to foreign suppliers. CBP plans to re-audit companies every three years as required by Congress in the Department of Homeland Security appropriations act.

MORE: http://www.americanshipper.com/SNW_story.asp?news=49035

SECURITY – US PORTS NEED MORE SECURITY MONEY SAY LAWMAKERS:

MORE: http://www.americanshipper.com/SNW_story.asp?news=50274

SECURITY – NEW FOCUS ON AIR-CARGO SCREENING

The suitcases loaded onto a Seattle-bound flight at Washington Dulles International Airport each went through an electronic device that can sniff out explosives. But the plane's belly also held bins filled with cargo... as varied as decorative plates and computer supplies... most of which got no such scrutiny.

This disparity in the ways aviation security officials scan air cargo has set off an intense debate in Congress.

Officials at the Transportation Security Administration said the security measures in place for air cargo are sufficient to prevent a bomb from getting aboard.

Mandating the physical inspection of all air cargo could actually reduce safety, said Kip Hawley, the security administration's director, because the high cost would require other security measures to be curtailed.

"History is full of examples of invincible, secure systems failing, like the Titanic," Hawley said. "If you put all of your resources into making something invulnerable, you end up ironically with less security."

At major airports across the United States, there are few similarities between security systems for cargo and passenger baggage, even though both end up on the same plane.

For passenger baggage, almost the entire security system is focused on one moment: When the bag is handed off, as passengers arrive at the airport. Every bag is electronically scanned or examined by a second device that swabs it to check for traces of explosives. In unusual circumstances, physical or canine searches are substituted.

The security effort is not nearly so intense for air cargo at any one point. Instead, transportation officials have tried to build a security zone surrounding the cargo packages during their journey from the manufacturing plant to the plane.

Much of the cargo system is based on a belief that the government can be confident of cargo security if it has a record of who is sending the package and completed background checks on the freight forwarding and air cargo employees who have access to the shipments.

MORE: <http://www.ihf.com/articles/2007/02/08/news/security.php>

>>> AIR & OCEAN SECTION <<<

OCEAN – TACA RATES HIKES: Lines in the Trans-Atlantic Conference Agreement plan to implement tariff rate restorations, because they claim rates have become "unsustainable." Effective April 1, the westbound tariff class rate restoration for dry containers to and via Atlantic, Gulf and Pacific coasts ports will be \$320 per 20-foot container and \$400 per 40-foot or 45-foot container. Eastbound, the increase will be \$160 per 20-foot container and \$200 per 40-foot or 45-foot container.

MORE: http://www.americanshipper.com/SNW_story.asp?news=50000

MORE: <http://www.joc.com/articles/news.asp?sid=41249>

OCEAN – ASIA-WEST AFRICA RATE HIKES: Members of the Asia-West Africa Trade Agreement will implement a \$200-per TEU rate increase, effective April 1, as part of a rate-restoration program.

MORE: <http://www.joc.com/articles/news.asp?sid=41247>

OCEAN – MATSON HIKING FUEL SURCHARGE: Matson is raising its fuel surcharge in its Hawaii and Guam/CNMI services to 19.5% from 17.5%, effective March 11.

MORE: http://www.americanshipper.com/SNW_story.asp?news=49998

OCEAN – WTSA CARGO RATE HIKES: Shipping lines in the Westbound Transpacific Stabilization Agreement have scheduled rate increases for miscellaneous cargo not otherwise specified (NOS) for adjustments under commodity-specific rate programs, and for mixed "freight-all-kinds" (FAK) cargo, effective April 1. From the US to Asia the hike is \$40/TEU, \$50/FEU. From inland points the increase will be \$240/TEU and \$300/FEU.

MORE: http://www.americanshipper.com/SNW_story.asp?news=50153

OCEAN – BY 2009 TRANS-PAC BOX SLOTS WILL BE SCARCE: By 2009 demand for container slots on the main transpacific water routes will outstrip supply according to Eric Mensing, vice president government trade and affairs for ocean carrier APL. The Singapore-based carrier is forecasting 10% growth on the head-haul routes from Asia to the West Coast this year and beyond. He sees less than a 2% gap in supply and demand, despite the fact that many mega-ships in the 8,000-to-10,000-TEU range are coming on line, and in two years demand will exceed capacity.

MORE: http://www.americanshipper.com/SNW_story.asp?news=49886

OCEAN – TACA HIKES PANAMA CANAL FEES: Carriers in the Trans-Atlantic Conference Agreement will raise their Panama Canal transit eastbound and westbound fees to \$212 per container from \$192, not subject to currency adjustment factors, effective May 1.

MORE: http://www.americanshipper.com/SNW_story.asp?news=50291

OCEAN – SUEZ CANAL TO OFFER DISCOUNTS: The Suez Canal, one of the world's busiest cargo waterways, plans to offer transit-fee discounts to divert Asia-to-US Pacific Ocean trade to the Atlantic via the passage, in an effort to boost trade before chief rival the Panama Canal completes its expansion.

MORE: http://www.americanshipper.com/SNW_story.asp?news=50138

OCEAN – ROTTERDAM SAYS “HOLD THOSE EMPTIES”: The increase in container flows at the Port of Rotterdam has been so steep in the last three weeks that two of its largest container terminals are refusing to accept empty containers for the time being. APM Terminal Rotterdam and the European Container Terminal have informed shippers and inland carriers of their decision not to accept empties at those their terminals. They have placed no restrictions on loaded import containers, although these containers are being stored outside the immediate operational area of the terminal if not picked up after 14 days. Empty containers are still accepted in Rotterdam for storage at the specialized depots beyond the terminals.

MORE: <http://www.joc.com/articles/news.asp?sid=41260>

OCEAN – MSC NAPOLI SALVAGE CONTINUES: Salvage operations continue on the stranded MSC Napoli off the coast of Southern England. Further container losses were feared possible because of a weekend storm due to hit the area. As of Thursday, 203 containers remained on the upper deck. The Napoli was intentionally grounded on a shoal 40 miles off the coast of Cornwall on 18 January to keep it from sinking as a result of the cracked hull it sustained in gale force winds. Once all the deck cargo has been removed, the lifting operation will turn its attention to containers below deck. Many of these containers - about 1,350 in all - are below sea level, and the operation will require divers.

MORE: <http://www.joc.com/articles/news.asp?sid=41277>

OCEAN – CN STRIKE MAY BE NEAR END: It might be the end, or at least the start of the end. A crippling 13-day Canadian National Railway strike could end this week under a back-to-work order from the Canadian government, but it might end even sooner, as reports from Eastern Canada late last week said hundreds of workers are returning to their jobs. “The UTU is still on strike against CN,” Hunter Harrison, CN's president and chief executive, responded in a statement. “CN is not blocking the return to work of UTU strikers.”

MORE: <http://www.joc.com/articles/news.asp?sid=41271>

OCEAN – CN STRIKE HAS HURT VANCOUVER: The United Transportation Union's strike against Canadian National Railway, involving 2,800 conductors and yard-service employees in Canada, has pushed down cargo volumes through the Port of Vancouver, British Columbia, by an estimated 50%. In the first 10 days of the strike, “an estimated \$730 million in cargo has been held up and the situation is deteriorating,” according to a port spokesman.

MORE: <http://www.joc.com/articles/news.asp?sid=41252>

OCEAN – JACKSONVILLE WANTS TO BE #3 PORT BY 2017: The Port of Jacksonville expects to become the third-largest US East Coast container port within 10 years and has the money and tenants already in place to surpass all but New York-New Jersey and Hampton Roads, port executives told the Jaxport Propeller Club.

MORE: <http://www.joc.com/articles/news.asp?ltype=ocean>

OCEAN – SAVANNAH TO DEEPEN CHANNEL?: The Georgia Ports Authority wants to deepen the Savannah River channel to 48-feet (14.5m) to accommodate larger container ships. GPA executive director, Doug Marchand, says more than 50% of container ships calling on Savannah are "tidally constrained," meaning they can't carry full loads at all tides.
MORE: <http://www.wistv.com/Global/story.asp?S=6105756>

OCEAN – MAERSK LAUNCHING TWO ASIA-BLACK SEA SERVICES: In April Maersk Line will launch two new weekly services with direct connections between the Far East and the growing markets of Greece, Turkey and the Black Sea.
MORE: <http://www.joc.com/articles/news.asp?type=ocean>

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TRADE – SAUDI CARGO AGENT REGULATIONS: The General Authority of Civil Aviation (GACA) in Saudi Arabia will implement a new system for air cargo agents on 26 May. "Currently we have around 200 traditional licensed cargo agents. Following our announcement to introduce regulated air cargo agents (Certified Known Shippers), we have received 15 applications and we expect the number to increase," said Abdullah Rehaimi, president of GACA.
MORE: http://www.arabianbusiness.com/index.php?option=com_content&view=article&id=8195

AIR – DHL SEES DOUBLE-DIGIT ASIA SHIPMENT GROWTH AHEAD: Rising trade within south Asia and Asia-Pacific is boosting growth of express delivery shipments.
MORE: <http://news.airwise.com/story/view/1172139211.html>

AIR – UPS MAY OR MAY NOT TAKE A380F: UPS and Airbus agreed to delay the delivery dates on 10 A380 super-jumbo freighters and left open the option to cancel the order outright. UPS is the last customer for the freighter.
MORE: <http://www.joc.com/articles/news.asp?type=air>
MORE: <http://news.bbc.co.uk/2/hi/business/6390269.stm>

> > > > > **JUST FOR FUN** <<<<<

(These are shared by readers – Please share yours. Thanks. Mike)

LESSONS IN LIFE

--- By Regina Brett of The Plain Dealer, Cleveland, Ohio ---

1. Life isn't fair, but it's still good.
2. When in doubt, just take the next small step.
3. Life is too short to waste time hating anyone.
4. Don't take yourself so seriously. No one else does.
5. Pay off your credit cards every month.
6. You don't have to win every argument. Agree to disagree.
7. Cry with someone. It's more healing than crying alone.
8. It's OK to get angry with God. He can take it.
9. Save for retirement starting with your first paycheck.
10. When it comes to chocolate, resistance is futile.
11. Make peace with your past so it won't screw up the present.
12. It's OK to let your children see you cry.
13. Don't compare your life to others'. You have no idea what their journey is all about.
14. If a relationship has to be a secret, you shouldn't be in it.
15. Everything can change in the blink of an eye. But don't worry; God never blinks.
16. Life is too short for long pity parties. Get busy living, or get busy dying.

17. You can get through anything if you stay put in today.
18. A writer writes. If you want to be a writer, write.
19. It's never too late to have a happy childhood. But the second one is up to you and no one else.
20. When it comes to going after what you love in life, don't take no for an answer.
21. Burn the candles, use the nice sheets, wear the fancy lingerie. Don't save it for a special occasion. Today is special.
22. Over prepare, then go with the flow.
23. Be eccentric now. Don't wait for old age to wear purple.
24. The most important sex organ is the brain.
25. No one is in charge of your happiness except you.
26. Frame every so-called disaster with these words: "In five years, will this matter?"
27. Always choose life.
28. Forgive everyone everything.
29. What other people think of you is none of your business.
30. Time heals almost everything. Give time time.
31. However good or bad a situation is, it will change.
32. Your job won't take care of you when you are sick. Your friends will. Stay in touch.
33. Believe in miracles.
34. God loves you because of who God is, not because of anything you did or didn't do.
35. Whatever doesn't kill you really does make you stronger.
36. Growing old beats the alternative -- dying young.
37. Your children get only one childhood. Make it memorable.
38. Read the Psalms. They cover every human emotion.
39. Get outside every day. Miracles are waiting everywhere.
40. If we all threw our problems in a pile and saw everyone else's, we'd grab ours back.
41. Don't audit life. Show up and make the most of it now.
42. Get rid of anything that isn't useful, beautiful or joyful.
43. All that truly matters in the end is that you loved.
44. Envy is a waste of time. You already have all you need.
45. The best is yet to come.
46. No matter how you feel, get up, dress up and show up.
47. Take a deep breath. It calms the mind.
48. If you don't ask, you don't get.
49. Yield.
50. Life isn't tied with a bow, but it's still a gift.

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