

AllCovered NEWS

HIGHLIGHTS TO HELP YOU THIS WEEK

- Will US Time Change Cause Computer Problems?
- Secrets of Great Places to Work
- Mexican trucks On US Roads
- Higher Surcharges & Fees For Freight

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AllCovered News

Information to help you to manage and grow your logistics business.

YOU DESERVE IT - WE DELIVER IT

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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

**US DAYLIGHT SAVINGS BEGINS
SUNDAY, 11 MARCH @ 2:00a.m.**
Clocks will move ahead 1-hour next weekend

The US will begin "Daylight Savings
Time" earlier this year.
The UK and EU will begin "Summer
Time" on their normal dates.

>> SMALL BUSINESS SECTION <<

WHAT-IF?: WILL US TIME CHANGE CAUSE MORE PROBLEMS THAN Y2K?: A few years back everyone was worried about how computers and networks would get through the change to the year 2000. But very few have thought about what the US action to move its Daylight Savings Time start back 3 weeks will mean. Are you ready?

MORE: <http://ct.eneews.eweek.com/rd/cts?d=186-5673-16-87-194617-639924-0-0-0-1>

SMALL BIZ - SECRETS OF GREAT PLACES TO WORK

--- Excerpted from an article by Richard D'Errico - Link at end ---

To create a workplace that is profitable and personally rewarding, executives must define and continually reinforce the company culture.

Communicating values such as teamwork and integrity, and putting the focus on clients' and customers' needs must be more than just slogans on posters. The values must be embedded in the culture and apparent to everyone in the organization

That was the common theme from four business leaders at the "Great Places to Work Best Practices Seminar" recently.

--- HIRING THE RIGHT PERSON ---

Building a winning environment starts with hiring. One participant says he now asks potential hires to make a presentation on what they would do on the job in the first 90 days. "Don't rush the process. Don't compromise," said another. "I've done that and it doesn't work." Make sure the new hire is right for your company.

--- COMMUNICATION IS KEY ---

The most important way to make employees happy and productive is to improve communication channels. One panelist said she holds a "breakfast club" a couple of times a year. She asks employees what the company does and doesn't do well. One question that tends to generate a response is: If you were president of the company, what would you change? Early on, after one of those sessions, she collected a list of 49 suggestions. Within 24 hours, 29 of those recommendations were enacted.

Another panelist said he learned a valuable lesson about how to create and maintain a great workplace after listening to a very powerful sales presentation. Afterward, he commented on the speaker's forceful show of enthusiasm. The speaker responded: "The only thing more contagious than enthusiasm is the lack of it."

MORE: <http://www.bizjournals.com/ct/c/22658863>

Links to source stories at end of excerpts

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GET READY FOR "DAYLIGHT SAVINGS" CHANGE: Beginning this year Daylight Saving Time in the United States starts three weeks earlier and ends one week later than usual. Microsoft has a guide to help you be sure your Windows operating system and calendar programs are updated.

MORE: <http://go.microsoft.com/?linkid=6337314>

TECH BIZ – IBM PARTNERS WITH GOOGLE FOR ONLINE OFFICE SUITE: In a move that could portend a lot more adoption of Google applications in the enterprise, IBM has struck a deal with Google.

MORE: <http://ct.eneews.eweek.com/rd/cts?d=186-5688-49-645-1100777-642015-0-0-0-1>

>>>> TRUCKING SECTION <<<<

TRUCKING – MEXICAN TRUCKS TO DRIVE IN US --- US TRUCKS TO DRIVE IN MEXICO

"The United States has never shied away from opportunities to compete, to open new markets and to trade with the world. Now that safety and security programs are in place, the time has come for us to move forward on this longstanding promise with Mexico."

With those words, US Transportation Secretary Mary Peters announced a one-year trial to allow more open borders between the US and Mexico for trucking. US trucks will for the first time be allowed to make deliveries in Mexico, and 100 Mexican trucking firms will be allowed to deliver in the US.

Currently trucks from Mexico can deliver up to 25 miles into the US, and US firms up to 25 miles into Mexico.

Peters said the new demonstration program was designed to simplify a process that currently requires Mexican truckers to stop and wait for US trucks to arrive and transfer cargo. She said this process wastes money, drives up the cost of goods, and leaves trucks loaded with cargo idling inside US borders. She added that under current rules, US trucks are not allowed into Mexico because the US refused to implement provisions of the North American Free Trade Agreement (NAFTA) that would have permitted safe cross-border trucking.

US inspectors will conduct in-person safety audits to make sure that participating Mexican companies comply with US safety regulations. The regulations require all Mexican truck drivers to hold a valid Commercial Driver's License, carry proof they are medically fit, comply with all US Hours of Service rules and be able to understand questions and directions in English.

"The trucks must be insured by a US-licensed firm, and from hood to tail lamps, they must meet United States safety standards, including brakes, turn signals and cargo-securing equipment," says Peters.

MORE INFO ON PROGRAM: <http://www.dot.gov/affairs/cbtsip/>

MORE: <http://www.etrucker.com/apps/news/article.asp?id=58364>

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

FAST FACTS

- Program will begin in "about 60 days" when safety audits, licensing and proof-of-insurance processes are complete
- About 100 Mexican & US trucking firms will be allowed to deliver goods in either country

TRUCKING – OOIDA OPPOSES MEXICAN TRUCK PLAN: The Owner Operator Independent Drivers Association opposes allowing Mexican trucking firms to deliver goods in the US. OOIDA says it will talk to lawmakers on issues including safety, security, driver verification, drug and alcohol testing, hours of service, cabotage, inspections and insurance.

MORE: <http://www.thetrucker.com/News/Stories/2007/2/26/OOIDAopposesprogramtoallowMexicantrucksinUS.aspx>

TRUCKING – CRITICS BASH MEXICAN TRUCK DECISION: The news that Mexican trucks will be allowed to haul freight deeper into the United States drew an angry reaction from labor leaders, safety advocates and members of Congress. That aspect of NAFTA was stalled by lawsuits and disagreements between the two countries, though Canadian and US trucks travel freely across the northern border.

MORE: <http://www.localnewswatch.com/benton/stories/index.php?action=fullnews&id=67756>

TRUCKING – DIESEL UP 6-CENTS: US diesel fuel prices for the week ending Feb. 26 jumped by 6 cents to \$2.55. The US average also was 8 cents more than the price charged one year ago.

MORE: <http://www.etrucker.com/apps/news/article.asp?id=58394>

MORE: <http://www.thetrucker.com/News/Stories/2007/2/26/Averageon-highwaydieselup6cents.aspx>

TRUCKING – HIGHWAY WATCH TRAINING ON WEB: A Web-based training module for the American Trucking Associations' Highway Watch program is being made available for truckers who want to receive the anti-terrorism and safety training. Highway Watch trains truckers, first responders, law enforcement personnel and others on how to recognize and report suspicious activity and safety hazards. The program also provides a temporary registration receipt for drivers in Georgia, who must now show proof of Highway Watch training in order to get their Commercial Drivers License (CDL).

PROGRAM: <http://iweb.highwaywatch.com/eweb/StartPage.aspx?site=hwwwbt>

MORE: <http://www.thetrucker.com/News/Stories/2007/2/28/HighwayWatchtrainingbeingofferedthroughWeb-basedmodule.aspx>

TRUCKING – TWIC ROLLS NEXT MONTH: See "Security" section.

TRUCKING – TRUCK TONNAGE INDEX DOWN 3.6% IN JANUARY: The American Trucking Associations' advanced seasonally adjusted For-Hire Truck Tonnage Index fell 3.6% in January after surging a revised 6.2% in December.

MORE: <http://www.etrucker.com/apps/news/article.asp?id=58452>

TRUCKING – JB HUNT TEAMS FOR NEW CHINA SERVICE: Matson Navigation and JB Hunt Transport Services are partnering in new guaranteed, expedited services from Ningbo and Shanghai to Long Beach, California, and various US inland destinations under a single invoice. "For customers requiring time-definite service for imported shipments, this innovative product represents an excellent synergy between our respective service offerings," says Kirk Thompson, president & CEO of JB Hunt.

MORE: <http://www.thetrucker.com/News/Stories/2007/3/1/JBHuntpartnerswithoceanshipperfornewChinaservice.aspx>

> > > > SECURITY SECTION < < < <

SECURITY – US SENATE REJECTS 100% SCREENING: The US Senate rejected a proposal that would require all containers to be scanned at foreign ports before loading on US-bound ships. The amendment by New York Democrat Charles Schumer would have been added to the Senate bill putting into effect recommendations of the 9-11 Commission on which Congress has not already acted. A similar bill passed the House in January, but included scan-all language. When the Senate completes work on the 9-11 recommendations bill, it will go to conference where the scan-all provision will be an item to be reconciled.

MORE: <http://www.joc.com/articles/news.asp?sid=41339>

MORE: http://www.americanshipper.com/SNW_story_main.asp?news=50785

SECURITY – TWIC ROLLS NEXT MONTH: A delegation of congressional security experts visited Southern California to observe use of the latest devices that federal agencies deploy at seaports and border crossings in the war against terrorism -- as the countdown to the Transportation Worker Identification Credential enters its final month. The program will begin at 10 major seaports.

MORE: <http://www.joc.com/articles/news.asp?sid=41281>

SECURITY – DHS WILL RELEASE SECURITY DEVICE SPECS: The US Department of Homeland Security is expected to issue technical requirements for a container security device by the beginning of summer, according to Todd Owen, executive director of cargo and conveyance security at Customs and Border Protection. The agency has been working for several years to develop a device that can detect tampering with container doors while in transit, but insists that no technology has yet met the agency's performance standards for a so-called "smart box."

MORE: http://www.americanshipper.com/SNW_story.asp?news=50664

SECURITY – HOUSTON PLANS UPGRADES: The port commission of the Port of Houston Authority approved \$11 million in security upgrades.

MORE: <http://www.joc.com/articles/news.asp?sid=41315>

>>> AIR & OCEAN SECTION <<<

OCEAN – ESPMC-WITASS CARRIERS RAISE SURCHARGES: Shipping lines in the ESPMC-WITASS conference, covering the Europe/Caribbean/South America trade, will raise their bunker surcharges for April. The dollar and euro-denominated surcharges will be \$209/209 euros per TEU, \$418/418 euros per FEU.

MORE: http://www.americanshipper.com/SNW_story.asp?news=50560

OCEAN – MAERSK HIKING RATES AGAIN: Maersk Line will implement a general rate increase of \$200 per TEU for all shipments from Asia to the East Coast of South America, effective April 1.

MORE: http://www.americanshipper.com/SNW_story.asp?news=50670

OCEAN – NOL PROFIT DOWN 55% ON LOWER RATES & HIGHER FUEL COSTS:

MORE: http://www.americanshipper.com/SNW_story.asp?news=50561

OCEAN – HK JANUARY BOXES UP 1.2%: Container volumes at the Port of Hong Kong increased 1.2% in January to 1.9 million TEUs.

MORE: http://www.americanshipper.com/SNW_story.asp?news=50426

OCEAN – NEW CARGO CLEARANCE SYSTEM IN PAKISTAN: Pakistan Customs has introduced new electronic system of clearance of imported cargo and passenger's un-accompanied baggage at Air Freight Unit, Karachi Airport. The new system will provide the filing of goods declaration and cargo manifest electronically round the clock without any concept of holidays.

MORE: <http://www.pakistantimes.net/2007/03/01/top6.htm>

OCEAN – PAKISTAN PLANS 4TH PORT: The Pakistan government will shortly announce plans to build a fourth port, in addition to Karachi, Port Qasim and Gwadar, to handle increased cargo volumes.

MORE: <http://www.worldcargonews.com/html/n20070225.099190.htm>

OCEAN – NORTH CAROLINA PORTS C-TPAT CERTIFIED:

MORE: <http://www.joc.com/articles/news.asp?sid=41324>

OCEAN – PANAMA CANAL TONNAGE AND WAIT TIME UP: The Panama Canal Authority reports net tonnage that passed through the waterway in the first quarter of its fiscal year increased by 11.7%, the number of ships transiting the canal increased by 8%, and the time it took ships to get through the canal increased by 45.7%.

MORE: <http://www.joc.com/articles/news.asp?sid=41325>

OCEAN – ROTTERDAM HIT BY PROTEST: Protests by unionized workers at port services group Smit is hampering vessel movement at the Port of Rotterdam. By the end of Thursday afternoon, a port spokesman said 10 vessels were waiting to enter and 12 were reported for departure but were delayed by the Smit dispute. The union is demanding a 45-euro per month raise, and one-time payout towards travel expenses and health insurance.

MORE: <http://www.joc.com/articles/news.asp?sid=41342>

OCEAN – BARBADOS PORT STRIKE ON HOLD: The planned strike for Bridgetown Port was postponed last week. General Secretary of the Barbados Workers Union, Sir Roy Trotman, said "the strike was put on hold after further talks with aggrieved workers".

MORE: <http://www.nationnews.com/story/288324066174562.php>

OCEAN – MSC NAPOLI SALVAGE CONTINUES: The salvage operation for the grounded container ship MSC Napoli is proceeding at a steady pace and the UK Department for Transport has confirmed that the final deck containers have been removed. About 853 containers in all have so far been removed from the vessel. Containers stowed in lower holds will be removed next, but because this was expected to be a much slower operation, no timetable was given for the expected completion date of this part of the salvage. All of the heavy fuel oil has been removed from the vessel's bunker tanks and the vessel's position and condition remains unchanged.

MORE: http://www.newsletterscience.com/marex/readmore.cgi?issue_id=209&article_id=2005&l=1&s=45367

OCEAN – THIS MAN “REPOSSESSES” CARGO SHIPS: If repossessing a used car can be tricky, consider retrieving the Aztec Express, a 700-foot cargo ship under guard in Haiti as civil unrest spread through the country. Only a few “repo men” possess the guile and resourcefulness for such a job. One of them is F. Max Hardberger, of Lacombe, Louisiana. Since 1991, the 58-year-old attorney and ship captain has surreptitiously sailed away about a dozen freighters from ports around the world.

MORE: http://www.latimes.com/news/local/la-me-repoman1mar01_0_7780387_story?coll=la-home-headlines

TRADE – CARRIER WINS COGSA DAMAGE LAWSUIT: The US Court of Appeals in Richmond, Virginia has ruled that an ocean carrier may collect indemnification for damages to a shipper’s cargo from a stevedore, even though the claim was filed after the statute of limitations in the Carriage of Goods by Sea Act. The court said that American Roll-on, Roll-off Carriers, a subsidiary of Wallenius Wilhelmsen Lines America, may collect from P&O Ports Baltimore, after the carrier had settled with shipper American Automobile Logistics for \$2.7 million for damage to 166 privately-owned vehicles being transported aboard the M/V Faust for US military personnel at overseas bases. The damage to the vehicles occurred in October, 2000; ARC and AAL settled in December of the same year. Three years later, the carrier and its insurance company sought indemnification from P&O Ports for damage to the cargo.

MORE: <http://www.joc.com/articles/news.asp?sid=41313>

TRADE – CN RAIL STRIKE ENDS: Workers for Canadian National Railway returned to work Monday after Canada's largest railroad reached a tentative agreement with the union representing about 2,800 striking conductors and yard crews.

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

TRADE – CALIFORNIA PUSHING BOX FEE: An activist politician plans to introduce a new bill calling for a \$30 per-container fee to help pay for pollution-reducing measures in California. Governor Arnold Schwarzenegger in 2006 vetoed a similar bill authored by Long Beach Democrat Alan Lowenthal. That bill proposed to divide the fee revenue equally among infrastructure projects, pollution reduction and security. The new legislation will only split the revenues between infrastructure and pollution reduction.

MORE: http://www.americanshipper.com/SNW_story.asp?news=50674

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

TRADE – EGL MANAGEMENT OFFERS TO BUY: EGL Chairman and CEO Jim Crane says he is spearheading a deal to take the transportation company private with a \$36 per share cash offer. Teaming with Crane to buy the company, which operates as EGL Eagle Global Logistics, are investment firms Centerbridge Partners and The Woodbridge Company, as well as members of senior management.

MORE: http://www.thetrucker.com/News/Stories/2007/2/28/EGL_Eaglemanagementoffers36persharetogoprivate.aspx

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

AIR – EU & US PROGRESS ON “OPEN SKIES”: The European Union claims “decisive progress” had been made in week-long talks with the United States to liberalize trans-Atlantic air cargo and passenger services. Jacques Barrot, the EU’s transport commissioner, said he will present the 27 EU member states with a draft agreement on March 22. Reports say it’s a “done deal.”

MORE: <http://breakingnews.iol.ie/news/story.asp?j=16225812&p=y6zz5866&n=16225926>

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

AIR – EMIRATES TO FLY DUBAI HOUSTON: Emirates will launch thrice-weekly Dubai-Houston service on 3 December, becoming daily in February 2008.

AIR – BOEING CONSIDERS NEW 767 FREIGHTERS: Boeing is remaining tight-lipped about possible plans for new freighter models of the 767-200/-300 based on its entry in the USAF KC-X tanker competition in order to counter the A330-200F, which has bolted out of the starting gate with 32 orders.

MORE: <http://www.atwonline.com/news/other.html?issueDate=3%2F2%2F2007>

AIR – UPS CANCELS A380 FREIGHTER ORDER: UPS said Friday it will cancel its order for 10 Airbus A380 freighters, following delivery delays. The decision will leave the European aircraft manufacturer with no firm orders for its jumbo freighter.

MORE: <http://sfgate.com/cgi-bin/article.cgi?f=/n/a/2007/03/02/financial/f062905S99.DTL>

AIR – AIRBUS HALTS A380 FREIGHTER PROJECT: Airbus, the financially troubled European aerospace company, has halted work on the freighter version of its A380 super-jumbo jet following a series of cancellations and deferrals by cargo airlines. The company, which announced 10,000 layoffs on Wednesday, said it still intends to build an A380 freighter but wants to focus on the 555-seat passenger version.

MORE: <http://www.joc.com/articles/news.asp?sid=41336>

AIR – AIRBUS CUTTING 10,000 JOBS:

MORE: http://www.americanshipper.com/SNW_story.asp?news=50791

MORE: <http://news.airwise.com/story/view/1172737544.html>



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

A MODERN PARABLE

A Japanese company (Toyota) and an American company (General Motors) decided to have a canoe race on the Missouri River. Both teams practiced long and hard to reach their peak performance before the race.

On the big day, the Japanese won by a mile. The Americans, very discouraged and depressed, decided to investigate the reason for the crushing defeat. A management team made up of senior staff was formed to investigate and recommend appropriate action.

Their conclusion was the Japanese had 8 people rowing and 1 person steering, while the American team had 8 people steering and 1 person rowing.

Thinking that a deeper study was in order, American management hired a consulting company and paid them a large amount of money for a second opinion. They advised, of course, that too many people were steering the boat, while not enough people were rowing.

Not sure of how to utilize that information, but wanting to prevent another loss to the Japanese, the rowing team's structure was totally reorganized to 4 steering supervisors, 3 area steering superintendents and 1 assistant superintendent steering manager.

They also implemented a new performance system that would give the 1 person rowing the boat greater incentive to work harder. It was called the "Rowing Team Quality First Program", with meetings, dinners and free pens for the rower. There was discussion of getting new paddles, canoes and other equipment, extra vacation days for practices and bonuses; the next year the Japanese won by two miles.

Humiliated, the American management laid off the rower for poor performance, halted development of a new canoe, sold the paddles, and canceled all capital investments for new equipment.

The money saved was distributed to the Senior Executives as bonuses and the next year's racing team was out-sourced to India.

If you have curious, interesting, funny or thoughtful items to share in "Just For Fun", Email them to mike.miller@allcovered.net . Thanks.

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Business Times of Asia = <http://business-times.asia1.com.sg/>

Journal of Commerce = <http://www.joc.com>
Trucking Info = <http://www.truckinginfo.com>
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