

FLEET FOCUS

A newsletter from Lee County Fleet Management

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WHAT CAN WE LEARN FROM CHRISTOPHER COLUMBUS?

Most of us think of Christopher Columbus as a great discoverer, but he was also a great leader and salesman. Before he could begin his great voyage of discovery that changed the world he had to sell what, to his contemporaries, was an utterly ridiculous idea! Consider the circumstances and conditions that were stacked against him.

First, there was absolutely no market for a transatlantic voyage. Hundreds of years of tradition and superstition almost guaranteed there never would be. Second, although Columbus had made sea voyages as a passenger, he had never been the captain of a ship! Third, Columbus was a foreigner (an Italian) living in Portugal and then Spain. Fourth, Columbus did not have sufficient money to fund such an adventure. In fact, the only one who could legally fund a voyage of discovery was a head of state—a king or a queen. So his list of potential investors was rather short. Fifth, his price was not cheap. In addition to needing ships and support, Columbus had a long list of personal demands, including: 1.) a ten percent commission on all commerce between his discoveries and the mother country; 2.) a title – Admiral of the Ocean Sea (*no ego there!*); 3.) the permanent position of governor of all new territories; and 4.) all of his honors passed on to his heirs. Remarkably, Columbus made the sale! He was propelled by a single-minded passion. He didn't mind asking again and again and again. He spent seven years asking King John of Portugal to fund the voyage. Then he went to Spain and worked on Ferdinand and Isabella for seven more years before he finally got his YES.

Columbus had to “see” before he could “sail.” Any successful leader knows this truth. People must buy into **you** before they buy into your dream. High morale in an organization comes from having faith in the person at the top.

QUOTABLE QUOTES:

I am easily influenced. Compared with me a weather vane is Gibraltar.

*Franklin P. Adams
US journalist*

To invent, you need a good imagination and a pile of junk.

- *Thomas Alva Edison
Inventor*

Everything you can imagine is real.

- *Pablo Picasso
Artist*

If a man does not keep pace with his companions, perhaps it is because he hears a different drummer. Let him step to the music which he hears, however measured or far away.

- *Henry David Thoreau*

You have to think any way, so why not think big?

- *Donald Trump
Entrepreneur*

Almost all really new ideas have a certain aspect of foolishness when they are first produced.

*Alfred North Whitehead
British Mathematician*

DO I REALLY NEED TO KNOW THIS?

** The largest stained-glass window in the world is at Kennedy International Airport in NYC. It measures 300 ft. long by 23 ft. high.

** The estimated weight of the Great Pyramid of Egypt is 6,648,000 tons.

** A penny weighs 2.5 grams, about the average weight of a humming bird.

** The amount of money in a Monopoly game is \$15,140.

** The PlayStation 2 was the first system to have graphics capability better than that of the leading-edge personal computer at the time of its release.

** A group of larks is called an exaltation.

** In hockey, a "deke" is a quick fake by the puck carrier intended to trick an opponent out of position.

** President Harry Truman's middle name on his birth certificate is "S" without any letter or mark, such as a period. The 33rd president is Harry S Truman, not Harry S. Truman if you want to be technical.

** New Jersey has the lowest area code - 201.

** In the 1920s, cinema idol Rudolph Valentino had a 9-foot-tall wall built and huge flood lights installed at his Benedict Canyon mansion. Three Great Danes, 2 Italian mastiffs, and a Spanish greyhound ran loose in the yard.

** A study of U.S. money revealed the presence of

bacteria, including staphylococcus, E. coli, and klebsiella, on 18% of the coins and 7% of the bills.

** Both falling out of bed and being struck by lightning carry a 1 in 2,000,000 chance of killing you.

** The Empire State Building's famous tower lights are turned off every night at midnight with the exception of New Year's Eve, New Year's Day, Christmas Eve, Christmas Day, and St. Patrick's Day, when they are on til 3 a.m.

** The average person in the U.S. has seen "Star Wars" 6.7 times since its 1977 release.

** The Boeing 767 aircraft contains 3.1 million parts from 800 different international suppliers.

** The only active US diamond mine is in Arkansas.

** The Brooklyn Dodgers (who later became the Los Angeles Dodgers) did not get their name because of their sporting ability. The term "dodger" was a shortened form of "trolley dodgers," which was first used to describe Brook-lynites for their ability to avoid being hit by trolleys.

** Humans shed about 600,000 particles of skin every hour or about 105 lbs. of skin by age 70.

** Humans get a new stomach lining every 3-4 days. If they didn't, the strong acids used to digest food would also digest their stomach.

** Popped popcorn comes in two shapes: snowflake and mushroom. Movie theaters prefer snowflake because it's bigger. Caramel corn uses mushroom because it won't crumble.

** The average hot dog is consumed in 6.1 bites.

** US baseball fans enjoy about 26.8 million hot dogs each year, enough to circle the bases 36,000 times!

** In 1998, Russian wolfhound Olive Oyl of Grayslake, Illinois, made the Guinness Book of World Records by skipping rope 63 times in one minute.

** While most snores average 60 decibels, the level of normal speech, they can reach more than 80 decibels (a pneumatic drill breaking up concrete).



MEMBERS NEEDED FOR ADVISORY GROUP

Fleet Management is establishing a Fleet advisory group to assist us with Fleet issues and concerns. We are asking for one person from each department or division to attend quarterly one-hour meetings in the Fleet conference room.

If you would like to participate and represent

your department, please check with your supervisor and have him/her forward your name to Marilyn Rawlings at Fleet. Meetings will begin in the fall.

WHAT IS CINCO DE MAYO?

** Cinco de Mayo is a national holiday in Mexico that commemorates the Mexican victory over the French at the battle of Puebla on May 5, 1862. Although this victory was an important step in Mexico's fight for freedom, their actual independence day is celebrated September 16.

** The battle began when Mexico was attacked by France and other European countries because it stopped paying interest to its creditors. The French army outnumbered the Mexican army 2 to 1, was better equipped, and had not been defeated in nearly 50 years before this historic date.

** Despite the victory on May 5, France later went on to occupy Mexico in 1863. They ruled there until they voluntarily withdrew after US pressure in 1866-1867.

** The holiday is celebrated mostly in Puebla and sporadically throughout the rest of the country..

** In the US, the holiday is essentially a day to celebrate Mexican culture

and is celebrated widely across the country. Celebrations include dancing, food, music, and special events to spotlight the culture.

** The first Cinco de Mayo in the US was celebrated in 1967 when a group of California State University students realized there was no Chicano celebration in the country.

** The largest Cinco de Mayo festival is the Festival de Fiesta Broadway in Los Angeles, CA. More than 600,000 people attend. Other major festivals are held in Denver and St. Paul, MN.



LAST MONTH'S TRIVIA

For what brand was the first commercial jingle heard on television in the U.S.?

- a. Pepsodent
- b. Ajax
- c. Ford
- d. Bon Ami

The correct answer is b.) Ajax cleanser's "You'll stop paying the elbow tax, when you start cleaning with Ajax" in 1948. **James Rosa**, Supply Specialist from Lee Tran was this month's prize winner.



HAPPY BIRTHDAY TO U

Nuray Carter	4/05
Colin Powell	4/05
Bob Surratt	4/09
Carlos Cruz	4/09
Dennis Quaid	4/09
Jose Lopez	5/05
Hank Aaron	5/05
Keith Twardus	5/22
George Washington	5/22

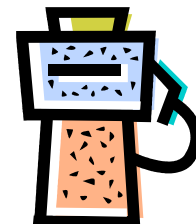


THIS MONTH'S TRIVIA

What term did sports-caster Curt Gowdy suggest instead of "sudden death" for the overtime period in pro football that ends when a team scores?

- a. Sudden Victory
- b. Sudden Life
- c. Sudden Win
- d. Ultimate Win

Send your guess to Marilyn Rawlings at Fleet to be eligible to win a prize.



FUEL PRICES INCH UPWARD - OUCH!!!

County employees can expect to pay more to fuel up their vehicles as the price of oil rose to a nearly 18-month high this month.

Fuel prices in Lee County have been climbing, increasing to \$2.87 a gallon of regular unleaded fuel, according to the AAA's daily fuel gauge report. Gas costs in the area are up from \$2.81 a gallon two weeks ago and \$2.79 a gallon from last month. A year ago, area drivers paid an average of \$2.13 a gallon. County fuel prices hover near \$2.70. Crude oil prices have spiked to more than \$86 a barrel.



MOTHER'S DAY TRIVIA

** Anna Jarvis is recognized as the founder of the Mother's Day holiday in the U.S. On May 12, 1907, two years after her mother's death, she held a memorial to her mother and thereafter embarked upon a campaign to make "Mother's Day" a recognized holiday. She succeeded in making this nationally recognized in 1914 with the help of President Woodrow Wilson.

** The official flower for Mother's Day is the carnation. Red carnations are for mothers still living, while white carnations are to honor those that have passed away.

** Mothering Sunday is held on the fourth Sunday of Lent, or three weeks before Easter, in the UK and Ireland. In South America, most countries

celebrate Mother's Day on the second Sunday of May as well. Argentina celebrates it in October because in the southern hemisphere, spring is in October.

** Mother's Day can be traced back to ancient Greece, when the Greeks held festivals honoring Rhea, the mother of the gods.

** The ancient Egyptians celebrated the goddess Isis, who was considered the mother of the pharaohs. Romans also honored Isis by celebrating for three days.



WEIRD CITY NAMES

- Bong Bong - Wales
- Cut Off - Louisiana
- Eyebrow - Canada
- Who'd Thought it - Texas
- Incorrect - Alaska
- St Louis du Ha Ha - France
- Moron - Mongolia
- Paint Lick - Alabama
- Matching Tye - England
- Zzyzk - California



WANT TO SAVE MONEY ON FUEL?

Remember that your department can save money on diesel fuel by using specific sites that dispense dyed diesel fuel

rather than the more costly gold diesel. The red dyed fuel is about 15 cents cheaper per gallon than its gold counterpart.

The less expensive fuel is available at all county sites except for the Pine Ridge facility and the school board sites. School Board sites are still pumping the higher priced gold diesel.

DID I MISS MY FLEET FOCUS LAST MONTH?

Two times each year, the Fleet Focus combines two issues into one due to heavy workloads of Fleet administrative staff. The first time is during budget season (usually April / May). The second time is during the County's year end activities (September / October). Glad to know some of you actually missed getting your April issue. Hopefully you will enjoy this newsletter twice as much!

EMS RECEIVES SUTTON FLEET'S ABCD AWARD

Chris Sutton, EMS Lieutenant, received Fleet's ABCD Award on Thursday, April 29, 2010 at the 6 Mile EMS location. The ABCD Award is given to a County employee who goes Above and Beyond the Call of Duty and Chris Sutton did just that. Sutton parti-

icipated in an EMS ride-along program with a local high school student. The student, whose mom has serious medical issues, could not afford to go to her prom. Sutton intervened and arranged for not only a dress, but hair, make-up, accessories, and dinner. "Niceness" must be hereditary as Sutton's son offered to fill in when the girl's date couldn't show. Thanks Chris for your gift of going above and beyond!