

## Safety Pays

Management and staff of H. Gordon Myrick, Inc. recently held its 1st quarter 2008 Safety Award Luncheon. After everyone filled up on good food and conversation, HGM vice president Mike Penny talked about safety concerns and handed out door prizes. The Safety Award for 1st Quarter was presented to Ronnie Keyes.

We are proud to report that HGM recently received an Excellence in Safety award for the years 2004-2008 from Associated General Contractors of Mississippi.



*Kelsey Myrick, 2008 graduate of Gulfport High School.*

## 2008 Graduate

Congratulations to Kelsey Lynn Myrick, daughter of Gordon and Rhonda Myrick, on her graduation from Gulfport High School.

Kelsey graduated with a perfect 4.0 grade point average. In her senior year, she led the Gulfport Lady Admirals soccer team to a 5-A State Championship and was selected as the Top Female Soccer Player and Gatorade Player of the Year in the State of Mississippi. In addition, Kelsey and her mixed-doubles partner, Stephen Blakeney, won the 5-A State Championship in tennis.

Kelsey will continue her education at Auburn University this fall, entering the Building Science program. War Eagle!



*Celebrating the groundbreaking for Feed My Sheep's new facility are (left to right) board member Ted Hearn; Johnny Olsen, Guild Hardy Architects; Gordon Myrick, H. Gordon Myrick, Inc.; Joe Steinwinder, chairman of the board; and Gulfport Mayor Brent Warr.*

## ...And Jesus said, "Feed My Sheep"

**T**hursday, April 17, 2008 was a great day for the City of Gulfport and for volunteers of the Feed My Sheep program, as approximately 150 friends and supporters gathered to celebrate the groundbreaking for the new 6,000-square-foot Feed My Sheep kitchen and dining facility.

Feed My Sheep's facilities were destroyed by Hurricane Katrina, and they have been working very hard to get the facility up and running again. Board chairman Ted Riemann noted, "I got up this morning feeling like a six- or seven-year-old child awaiting Christmas with a great deal of anticipation and joy, because it has been two-and-a-half years waiting for this today. We know it's coming out of the ground."

When the facility opens, it will serve an average of 500 free meals a day to the homeless and needy, while their Meals on Wheels program will deliver up to 200 meals daily to mostly elderly shut-ins.

We at H. Gordon Myrick, Inc. consider it an honor, as the general contractor, to be associated with this project. It gives us another opportunity to give back to our community, particularly those who are less fortunate. We look forward to the future ribbon-cutting and opening of this fine facility.

# Try These Time-Saving Tips

Need to run a tighter ship so you can have a little more leisure time? These days that's a pretty common problem and goal. People work more hours and are spread pretty thin. But don't despair. Here are a few time management tips from Worklifebalance.com's ([www.worklifebalance.com](http://www.worklifebalance.com)) CEO Jim Bird:

- **Use a daily planner.** Electronic or paper, it doesn't matter. Choose one that gives you at least one page per day, and then make sure you always keep it with you. Jot down your commitments as you go.
- **Get rid of your to-do list.** Why? To-do lists often end up being frustrating and futile, something you never quite get to. Instead, take your to-do list before you toss it out and transfer the items to a particular time and day in your daily planner. You'll be amazed at how much your stress level goes down and how much you accomplish when you do this.
- **Set aside a block of time to return phone calls and answer e-mails.** Choosing early morning to do this is often best since the other person will have the rest of the day to respond. Of course, urgent messages and phone calls should be returned in a timely manner.
- **When talking on the phone or in face-to-face conversations, give the other person your full attention.** Don't page through your e-mail in-box or fill out your daily planner when you're talking to someone. Make sure that your communication is clear and focused, which will reduce the need for clarification and other time-wasters in the future. Don't multitask when you deal with people. It never pays off.



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# The Best Leaders Listen

What's the key to good communication? Good listening. And how does someone know if you're a good listener? You have to let them know that they've got your undivided attention, according to Cecil Greg in "Exceeding Expectations" on the Robert Half website (originally appearing in *Contract Management*). Here are some pointers on letting someone know you're with what they're saying:

- Restate key points of the conversation.
- Ask for clarification when necessary.
- Ask questions to enhance your understanding of what the other person needs.
- Make eye contact.
- Reassure the listener that you are getting what he or she is saying.

This method is called reflexive listening, and it should help you express yourself clearly and directly.

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# Pick Your Route

Compare online driving directions from Google, MapQuest and Yahoo! all at the same time on one screen. Log on to [directions.seeaarch.com](http://directions.seeaarch.com) and you can see if routes differ dramatically or if one seems more straightforward.

—from *BottomLine/Personal*

# Where There's A Will...

Will Rogers, who died in a plane crash in 1935, was probably the greatest political sage this country has ever known. Here is some of his wisdom:

- Never slap a man who's chewing tobacco.
- Never kick a cow chip on a hot day.
- There are two theories to arguing with a woman...neither works.
- Never miss a good chance to shut up.
- Always drink upstream from the herd.
- If you find yourself in a hole, stop digging.
- The quickest way to double your money is to fold it and put it back in your pocket.
- There are three kinds of men: The ones who learn by reading. The few who learn by observation. The rest of them have to pee on the electric fence and find out for themselves.
- Good judgment comes from experience, and a lot of that comes from bad judgment.
- If you're ridin' ahead of the herd, take a look back every now and then to make sure it's still there.
- Lettin' the cat outta the bag is a whole lot easier'n puttin' it back.
- After eating an entire bull, a mountain lion felt so good he started roaring. He kept it up until a hunter came along and shot him. The moral: When you're full of bull, keep your mouth shut.

SPEED BUMP

Dave Coverly



## Trivial Pursuit

- 1) In the karate grading system, what color belt is earned just before black?
  - a) white
  - b) yellow
  - c) blue
  - d) brown
- 2) What plant is the most common cause of hay fever?
  - a) ragweed
  - b) goldenrod
  - c) thistle
  - d) milkweed
- 3) Which of these U.S. presidents was born in Texas?
  - a) Dwight D. Eisenhower
  - b) George W. Bush
  - c) Ronald Reagan
  - d) George H.W. Bush
- 4) Which of the following dog breeds is *not* considered part of the terrier family?
  - a) Miniature Schnauzer
  - b) Beagle
  - c) Airedale
  - d) American Pit Bull
- 5) To save metal for the war effort, Academy Award Oscar statuettes during WWII were made of what material?
  - a) plaster
  - b) wood
  - c) marble
  - d) plastic

—from *mental\_floss*

Answers: 1) d 2) a 3) a 4) b 5) a

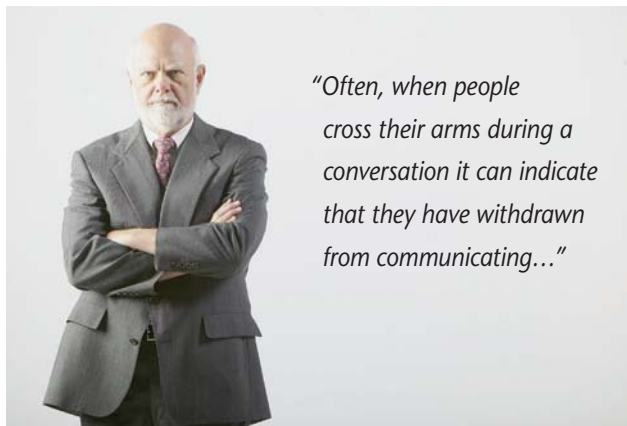
## The Power Of Apology

According to a poll by Zogby International, a market research firm, Americans earning more than \$100,000 a year are nearly twice as likely to apologize after an argument or mistake on the job as those earning \$25,000 or less. Business coach Peter Shaw says he's not surprised by this finding. "This shows that successful people are willing to learn from their mistakes and are keen to mend relationships."

## Watch Your Body Language

Crossing of the arms seems to be a worldwide body language symbol of defensiveness, according to communication and negotiation experts Gerard Nierenberg and Henry Calero ([www.negotiation.com](http://www.negotiation.com)) in *How to Read a Person Like a Book*.

Often, when people cross their arms during a conversation it can indicate that they



*"Often, when people cross their arms during a conversation it can indicate that they have withdrawn from communicating..."*

have withdrawn from communicating and are locked into their position, these body language experts say.

While you can't assume that someone's body language indicates exactly what he or she is thinking, you can use it as a signal to pay attention to your own communication.

When you are engaged in conversation with

someone and they cross their arms, do a mental checklist. Are you communicating in ways that are causing the person to shut down or feel defensive? Be honest with yourself, and do what you can to get the person to relax and open up again. Your goal should be to get the person communicating with you again. Think of the times when you have crossed your arms. When did you do it? Did it mean anything?

## Danger: Don't Walk And Talk

You know that chatting on your cell phone while you drive isn't the safest move you can make (even with a hands-free headset), and now an Ohio State University study says that taking a call while walking can be risky, too. After watching 127 pedestrians, the researchers noted that 48% of cell phone users crossed the street in front of approaching cars; just 25% of those not on the phone did so.

In another experiment, people walking while talking on a cell were less likely to notice random objects in their path (fake vomit, a boot) than those not on the phone.

Being on the phone is distracting, says study author Jack Pasar, PhD, a professor of city planning. "You're not as aware of your environment. You think you can concentrate on multiple things, but even young people can't."

—from *Reader's Digest*

## Who's Your Momma?

If you own a mixed breed dog (aka "mutt"), perhaps you've wondered which of the "Heinz 57 varieties" are part of his make-up. It isn't always easy to tell...until now, that is.

MMI Genomics, Inc. has come out with the Canine Heritage Breed Test, which uses DNA technology developed in mapping the human genome to identify breed characteristics. In other words, by simply providing a swab from Fido's cheek, you can learn if he's descended from any one or more of 38 breeds (eventually to be expanded to as many as 100) currently in the company's testing base.

The cost is \$65, and the results take four to six weeks. Log on to [www.mmigenomics.com](http://www.mmigenomics.com) for more information or to order your test kit.



—from *Bark* magazine

# H. Gordon Myrick, Inc. 2008 Scholarship Award

**W**e are proud to announce Justin Barney as the recipient of the 2008 HGM Scholarship Award. Justin, a Gulfport High School graduate, is the son of Milton Barney, Sr. and Stephanie McNair. He is a four-year letterman of Gulfport Admiral's baseball, and also played on the Admiral football team.

The Reverend Justin Barney is very active in his church. He plans to accept a baseball and football scholarship from Grambling State University, where he will study Theology & Communication.

- He is a member of the Mercy Seat Missionary Baptist Church.
- A member of his youth choir and the male choir.
- Has participated in the Heart Walk with the baseball team.
- Is a member of the Checker Football Club.
- He is an after-school tutor for students at Gaston Point Elementary.
- He is a Sunday School teacher.
- He has attended State and National Baptist Church conventions.

We wish Justin the very best as he continues his education.



*Justin Barney, recipient of the 2008 HGM Scholarship Award.*

# Corporate Management, Inc. Builds New Home

## *12,000-square-foot Cain Office Building in Gulfport, Mississippi*

Corporate Management, Inc. (CMI) has selected H. Gordon Myrick, Inc. to build its new two-story, 12,000-square-foot Cain Office Building in Gulfport, Miss.

CMI owns, manages and operates critical access hospitals, skilled nursing centers, rehabilitation clinics and rural health clinics providing a multitude of health care services across the Gulf Coast. CMI also provides durable medical equipment to health care facilities and the general public, as well as pharmacy services to health care facilities.

We appreciate the confidence CMI has shown HGM in selecting us as their general contractor. We look forward to working with them.

# Butler Awards

At the 2008 Butler Manufacturing Sales Meeting in Orlando, Florida, H. Gordon Myrick, Inc. received its 25-Year Cup Award and was also presented with the \$1,000,000 Builder Award for 2007.



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