

Why Amish businesses don't fail

CNNMoney.com: Amish businesses have an eye-popping 95% success rate at staying open at least five years, according to author Erik Wesner's new book, *Success Made Simple: An Inside Look at Why Amish Businesses Thrive...*

Compare that to the average five-year survival rate for new businesses across the United States, which hovers just under 50%.

Wesner, who worked in business management and sales before immersing himself in all things Amish, thinks it lies in the culture, which emphasizes "qualities like hard work and cooperation."

Another key advantage is that Amish business owners tend to stick with what they know.

PA's new prisons will be overcrowded if lawmakers don't enact prison reforms

PATRIOT-NEWS: Pennsylvania's four new prisons, set to open in 2013, will be filled past capacity as soon as they open unless officials implement a variety of changes to alleviate the state's prison overcrowding, Department of Corrections Sec. Jeffrey Beard told lawmakers Tuesday.

The inmate count is expected to top 54,000 next month, about 10,500 over current capacity.... Beard offered lawmakers five changes that would not cost money to implement, including sending

those with a technical parole violation, a small offense such as missing an appointment, to community-based programs and not back to prison; diverting offenders with short sentences into community corrections facilities; and loosening parole restrictions to allow non-violent offenders to be paroled once they've served their minimum sentence.

The changes could save the state at least \$110 million after three years, Beard said.

LETTER: \$71 million of \$600 million transportation projects backlog unnecessary

"Last year the Lancaster County Planning Commission asked the U.S. Dept. of Transportation for over \$21 million to rebuild the Harrisburg Pike/Route 30 interchange. This was because the High Real Estate Group had announced plans to build a large shopping center on Harrisburg Pike, across from Long's Park. This shopping center is expected to generate thousands of additional vehicles on Harrisburg Pike each day.

"Apparently the federal government did not see any need to rebuild an interchange that was rebuilt only

nine years ago with over \$45 million of state taxpayer money. The interchange project was not funded.

"There was misleading and erroneous information in the application, including numerous references to a medical college to be built by LGH as part of an 'F&M/LGH Eds and Meds' joint campus. (LGH has announced that it has no plans to build a medical college - or anything else - either now or in the near future.) [Continued on back...]

“There are six items on the list published by the Lancaster County Planning Commission. Of the six, there are two line items that could and should be eliminated: (1) the U.S. 30 and Harrisburg Interchange at \$30 million and (2) the Harrisburg Pike roadway and multi modal improvements at \$41 million.

“These deletions would represent a significant savings of \$71 million that could be spent on transportation projects that would benefit the public and not primarily large developers.

INTELLIGENCER NEW ERA: An article “**Lancaster General looks east**” reports “*Lancaster General Health is expanding beyond Lancaster County, pushing east into Chester County, where it plans to erect a building to house doctors’ offices and outpatient services by 2012.*”

WATCHDOG: Now we see why the trustees of LGH rebate only 1% of its over \$100 million in ‘profits’ to public health, education and community safety net projects, despite LGH’s near monopolistic position over health care in Lancaster County and their legal status as a ‘Public Charity.’ “*Grow baby, grow*” seems to be their mantra and mission, at the Lancaster public’s expense.

INTELLIGENCER NEW ERA / AP: An article “**United looks to business travelers**” opens “*United and Continental Airlines are counting on more business travelers – not higher fares for vacationers – to make their \$3 billion merger pay.*”

WATCHDOG: This is but another example of the flood of mergers and acquisitions during the past thirty years that has reversed the early and mid 20th century efforts to promote competition and ignored laws through reinterpretation to prevent such actions. The result: Economic stagnation and further enrichment of the top 3% of society (especially the top 1%) at the expense of everyone else.

EDITORIAL: “Mean spirited” vs. dispelling local myths

Those who frequent the Central Market, Penn Square and Clipper stadium may notice this Old Hound from time to time handing out newsletters. This helps to keep *NewsLanc*’s publisher in touch with public reception and views.

Recently a lady mentioned that she was not going to take a newsletter because she felt that last week’s

article about the Pennsylvania Academy of Music was “*mean spirited*” in its treatment of prominent local contributors. She praised their generosity and could not understand why they would be criticized.

If reporting facts concerning PAM is “*mean spirited,*” we plead guilty.

PA police improperly cite hundreds just for cursing.

ASSOCIATED PRESS: Pennsylvania police wrongly charged hundreds of people with disorderly conduct for swearing, the American Civil Liberties Union said in a pair of free-speech lawsuits filed Wednesday. “*You absolutely cannot cite someone just for uttering a profanity,*” said ACLU lawyer Marieke Tuthill. The problem is ultimately a lack of police training, most likely because officers misunderstand “*the difference between the colloquial definition of obscenity and the legal definition of obscenity,*” she said...

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