

Letters To The Editor

RFID Threat To Credit Cards

To The Editor:

A new wireless threat to your funds and personal information is now in effect!

The new issued common credit cards and passports contain a small radio transmitter called RFID, which are small chips that pass data to store terminals instead of the old magnetic strips!

The problem is that new cell-phones with readers and persons with briefcases can pulse the card and read all about you with everything you do great pain in the wallet.

New badges also contain chips so that the employer or airports, etc., can know exactly where you are at all times in the workplace or in the specific area to be monitored!

You can protect your infor-

mation by obtaining a "RFID" pocket shield that will block the passing of data. Another way in bulk is to obtain an old cigarette metal case and put your new cards in them.

More information is on the Net by a simple search under RFID, and obtain the protective device or learn more about the subject. In the near future, governments will consider the issue of driver's license, medical cards and other ID cards that can be read by just passing by scanners or even in your car window stickers, which you will be told are to protect your vehicle from theft and to make your paying tolls - fines much more quickly!

For now, I'm keeping my new cards in "tin foil!" Happy Holidays!

Glenn Morris
McConnellsburg

Thanks Hustontown High For Teaching Experience

To The Editor:

The November 5, 2009, edition of the "News" reported my employment as a teacher at Hustontown 60 years ago.

The opportunity to teach English and biology, coach boys and girls basketball (with practice on a dirt base, outdoor area and all games away), coach girls softball, assist with the yearbook and teach baton twirling to youngsters served as an experience that significantly influenced my career.

It is indeed remarkable after so many years, to be able to

thank the students, fellow teachers, the principal, the board of education and residents of Hustontown for the opportunity to teach at the high school.

It was also wonderful to see the photograph of Beulah (remarkable) Gordon, with others at the Class of 1951 reunion. She was a fine basketball player.

Coincidentally, the "News" came to my attention by Jack Strait, brother of Russell Strait, who is a subscriber. I am married to their sister, Delores.

Robert H. Saylor
Windber, Pa.

CFSB

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revisit the topic in February to determine if it wishes to continue forward with the agreement.

The board regretfully accepted the resignation of Paul Johnston, the district's representative on the Fulton County Parks and Recreation Board of Directors. Johnston's resignation is effective November 30, and the search is already under way for a replacement.

The 2010-11 school year will see the creation of a new life skills program in the high school. The district is slated to hire one instructor and one classroom aide to help operate the program, which was previously discussed during the board's October full board work session.

First Assistant Basketball coach Dennis Swope was bumped up to step five on the 2009-10 extracurricular activity scale based on his 15 years of coaching experience with the junior high basketball program. Swope's salary was accordingly set at \$2,970.

Approval was also granted to add a section on the district's building usage form that will allow the district to recoup the expense of outdoor lighting. Cost has been set at \$30 per hour for full sports complex usage; \$15/hour for use of one field; and \$5/hour for use of track lights only. The administration pointed out the cost for lighting could change periodically, though, given the rising cost of electric-

ty and will need to be rechecked frequently.

The following individuals were added to the district's professional substitute list after having completed emergency certification through Tuscarora Intermediate Unit #11: Erica Sexton of Needmore and Joyce Mills, Waterfall. Mills' approval is pending the receipt of clearances.

Resignation letters submitted by Tyler Keefer and Susan Sipes were accepted as presented. Keefer's resignation is effective October 30, and Sipes will resign on October 23.

Jeffrey L. DeShong of McConnellsburg was hired to fill a vacancy in the custodial department. DeShong is slated to receive \$8.40 per hour for his duties.

Bonita Suders, also of McConnellsburg, was added to the aide/cafeteria substitute list. Her clearances are in order.

Kathy Hedrick, cafeteria employee, is scheduled to go on Family Medical Leave. Her request and pertinent documents are currently on file in the district office.

Harrisonville resident Rebecca Shotts has been authorized to serve as a van driver.

In addition, the daily rate of #006 bus route contracted to Joycelene Strait was increased from \$129.62 to \$146.78 retroactive to October 28.

At the conclusion of the meeting, the board conducted an executive session to review personnel issues.

Swine Flu: Without Paid Sick Leave, Workers Won't Stay Home

15 states considering laws to make paid sick leave mandatory

By Patrik Jonsson

STAFF WRITER OF

THE ATLANTA SCIENCE MONITOR

ATLANTA - Nearly half of all American workers do not have paid sick leave, and half of these are more likely to go to work feeling unwell - or send an ill child to school - rather than take an unpaid day off.

These findings threaten to undermine President Obama's effort to have anyone exhibiting swine-flu-like symptoms stay at home for as many as four days. The emphasis on prevention and individual responsibility is a welcome departure from the punitive government actions - such as quarantines and forced vaccinations - called for under previous pandemic-response plans, some health experts say.

But for the 48 percent of Americans without paid sick leave, the policy presents a choice between two equally undesirable options: go at home and lose money or go to work despite government exhortations not to. Businesses, too, say the situation leads to so-called "presenteeism," or the act of going to work while unwell, costing the economy \$180 million a year, by one estimate.

Sen. Chris Dodd (D) of Connecticut announced last Tuesday that he is preparing emergency legislation that would guarantee paid sick days for those diagnosed with the H1N1 virus.

"Families shouldn't have to choose between staying healthy and making ends

meet," Senator Dodd said in a statement.

Dodd had also championed the Healthy Families Act, which sought to mandate an hour of sick time for every 30 hours worked. But that bill is stalled in Congress.

In addition, 15 states have proposed mandatory sick-leave laws, and New York City is following the lead of San Francisco, Milwaukee, and Washington, D.C., which have passed some form of mandatory sick-leave measures.

The swine flu outbreak "ties back to the issue of employment rights and social support," says Marc Rodwin, author of "Medicine, Money and Morals." "There's a conflict between what's good for the public and what's good for the individual."

An estimated 100 million workers stand to lose pay if they follow Mr. Obama's advice and stay home. Some 60 million of these Americans - 48 percent of all U.S. workers - have no sick leave at all, according to the Independent Institute for Women's Policy Research, in Washington. (The U.S. Labor Department put the figure at 43 percent in 2007.) Others lack flextime that would let them stay home to care for family members. These data have helped to create momentum to reform labor laws. So have events on the ground.

Though the Obama administration has urged schools to stay open, 351 were closed in the third week of October because of swine flu. Some 600 have closed temporarily this school year, according to the Associated Press.

When schools close, at least one parent often needs to stay home with a child. If the U.S.

were to close all its schools for a month, the cost to the U.S. economy would be \$10 billion to \$47 billion, according to a Brookings Institution study.

Businesses see a different problem - workers showing up when perhaps they should have stayed home. Presenteeism is a major problem, said 56 percent of human resources managers in a recent survey. Employees who come to work unwell tend to have lower productivity and may pass the virus to other workers, they say. The \$180 billion hit the economy takes every year from presenteeism surpasses the costs of absenteeism, estimates the National Partnership for Women and Families in Washington.

In his swine flu emergency declaration Oct. 24, Obama urged larger businesses to designate company "flu monitors" to police cubicles and persuade workers showing symptoms to go home.

The burdens of these measures tend to fall hardest on low-income Americans, especially those in service industries such as restaurants and nursing care, and mall workers, where the share of workers without paid leave is relatively high.

"The flu epidemic really brings into sharp relief the kind of strain that this is putting on families," says Debra Ness, president of the National Partnership for Women and Families. "Our public officials are saying to people, 'If you feel sick, stay at home.' For millions of people, this is advice that's not simple to follow."

The Kaiser Family Foundation reported last year that half of workers with no paid sick leave chose to work when

they were feeling unwell, rather than stay home.

So far, cities and states are taking the lead on confronting the issue.

Legislation in Maine would require large employers to give workers six paid sick days a year. Firms with fewer than 25 workers would give an hour of sick leave for every 80 hours worked. The law would apply to both full- and part-time workers.

"We are all being advised by our doctors to stay home if we're sick, but that is a cruel piece of advice if you don't have paid sick time," Maine Senate President Elizabeth Mitchell said recently.

The backdrop to the debate is the shift Obama has made in pandemic planning. By leaving decisions to the individual and focusing on prevention, he has won plaudits for approaching the pandemic with a balance of concern and context, says Rodwin, also a law professor at Suffolk University in Boston.

But businesses are pushing back. They say many firms can't afford to subsidize the government's strategy - especially if mandatory sick-leave laws are passed.

"Government is trying to do something that's well intentioned, but they have no idea what the effect is on a small-business owner," Jack Friedman of the Queens Chamber of Commerce in New York City told CNN last month.

"The difference between what we're offering and what the government is requiring us to offer could cost our business tens of thousands of dollars."

Commissioners

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ternate courtroom location during remodeling of the courtroom. The commissioners opted to set aside \$2,000 in the 2010 budget to cover any rental and custodial costs associated with the temporary move.

A discussion was also held to push back the work until phase three of the renovation project, in order to help determine what money could be available to help with technology-related improvements in the courtroom. The topic will be discussed with the building project architect.

Recapping a prior conversation, the business manager reminded the commissioners the opportunity exists to participate in a 10-week healthy living program organized by County Commissioners Association of Pennsylvania (CCAP). The program focuses on weight loss reduction, and a total of 10 county employees have signed up to participate to date.

County employees from Potter County won the last competition by shedding a total of 5.44 percent of their combined body

weight. The group took home prize of \$2,000. Participating Fulton County employees have decided if they win the top prize, they will donate their earnings to charity.

Mary K. Seville and Steve Thomas of the mapping and planning office discussed a shortage in Department of Environmental Protection (DEP) funding to complete the ongoing stormwater management project. Thomas stated phase two of the project is 30 percent complete at this time.

Knowing the county is unable to come up with the approximate \$60,000 needed to finish the plan, Seville and Thomas mentioned speaking to the participating townships to gauge their interest in donating \$1,000 to \$2,000 to the project. Participating townships receive guidance as well as ordinances regarding stormwater management.

In the meantime, Thomas is expected to meet with HRG and DEP officials to discuss how much work can be completed with limited funding.

County planning board of directors reappointed this week to an additional four-year term of office include Fred Fleming,

Jeremy Fletcher and Scott Knepper.

Several representatives of the Fulton Industrial Development Association (FIDA), including David Washbaugh, Robert Snyder, Paul Johnston, Clyde Bookheimer, Jason Hawkins and John Duffey, appeared before the commissioners to discuss the submission of an application for funding through the Appalachian Regional Commission by December 1. The funding, if approved, would provide money for a variety of endeavors such as employment of a part-time employee, creation of a Web site and marketing of available lots at the Business Park.

Due to high unemployment in the county, the Southern Alleghenies Planning and Development Commission (SAPDC) currently views this project as important in the region. SAPDC Planning Director Fred Query spoke to the group via conference call on the issue.

The amount requested through the application totals \$24,000 and will be matched by the county's annual allocation to the FIDA. The money will be spent over a two-year period with hopes of the organization

becoming sufficient by the start of the third year.

The commissioners were updated on the statewide recount for Pennsylvania Superior Court. An option, which was unanimously agreed upon by the commissioners, was presented for the county to pay \$1 per ballot cast to have ES&S utilize its central scan system. The county will in turn receive state reimbursement in the amount of \$50 per ballot box.

The system is capable of processing between 3,000 and 4,000 ballots during the course of an hour. An estimated 3,000 ballots were cast during the November 3 general municipal election. The recount will begin at 4 p.m. on Thursday.

A representative of CGI Communications based in Rochester, N.Y., spoke with the commissioners on a conference call to discuss a NACo-endorsed program that will allow for counties to receive free video clips of their area for online marketing purposes. The county has up to two weeks to decide if it wishes to pursue participating in the program.

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