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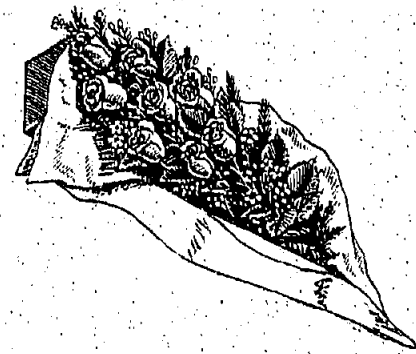
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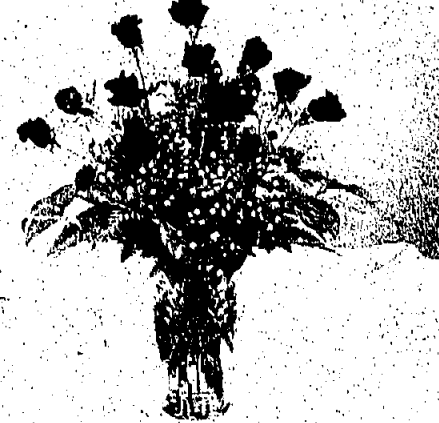


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IN VASE W/GREENS
& BABY'S BREATH



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CASH AND CARRY
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A noisy fight
A legislator addresses the growing problem of aircraft noise, Page 6.

Hawk performs
Kenneth Little Hawk of Union will give a concert Sunday in the First Congregational Church of Union, Page B3.

An 'amazing' play
Dayton students prepare production of a classic, Page 3.

Springfield Leader

VOL. 64 NO. 19—THURSDAY, FEBRUARY 11, 1993—2*

SPRINGFIELD, N.J., Home of William McCare

TWO SECTIONS—50 CENTS

Municipal mediation mandated

By David Brown
Managing Editor
Are you tired of your neighbor's tree encroaching onto your property, dropping leaves and twigs?
Does that neighbor to the left blast his stereo at all hours of the night? Does his Great Dane take care of business on your yard too often?
Fear not. In compliance with a recent ruling by the state Supreme Court, Springfield will soon join 535 municipalities in providing mediation services to hear, and identify, to resolve minor disputes between neighbors.
"It's wonderful," said Springfield Municipal Judge Leonard Zucker. "We should have had this a long time ago."

Required by the end of 1993, mediation resolution committees are expected to relieve local courts of minor cases which often create burdensome backlogs in crowded municipal calendars.
"Municipal court is the lowest court in the state," said Zucker, "and so we're exposed to a lot of very minor disputes between neighbors."
The veteran judge recalled the kinds of cases he has reviewed that would fall under the auspices of a mediation committee: the nuisance of barking dogs, loud music, a tree "over the line. Very, very neighborly disputes," he said.

Zucker noted he has provided informal mediation services in the past, bringing combats together on Monday mornings in an effort to reach a compromise.

Currently, residents who have a minor complaint against a neighbor may file a "notice in lieu of complaint," which begins a mediation process, if one is available, without triggering a formal lawsuit.

Union County Municipal Courts Division Manager Wyllye Cass, who will oversee the implementation of the mediation requirement, declined to elaborate on the plan. "It's premature," he said.

According to Cass, a meeting has been scheduled for next month to brief municipal judges on the new requirement, noting details of the plan are expected to be released next week.

Although she said she has not read the Supreme Court's directive, Union County Bar President Ann Conti praised the results of mediation at the state and county levels. "Mediation is what's happening in the state. I think it would certainly be helpful at the municipal level as a great timesaver."

Zucker speculated the local mediation committee would consist of local residents who have, or would receive, training in mediation skills.

Courting winter



Jonathan Dayton's tennis courts preserved the dwindling signs of the area's first significant snowfall this year. Two to three inches were reported as the average for the county.

Local car thefts jumped slightly in '92; recovery remains high

By David Brown
Managing Editor
While Union County as a whole reported a 20 percent decrease in auto thefts last year, the number of incidents in Springfield remained about level.

According to figures released by the Union County Prosecutor's Office, Springfield reported 99 auto thefts in 1992, a 2 percent jump over 97 recorded the previous year.

"We haven't felt much of an impact one way or another," said Detective Judd Levenson, who monitors auto thefts in the township.

According to Police Chief William Chisholm, the most hit hardest by auto thieves are those nearest the major corridors in Springfield — Routes 78, 22 and 24.

"They usually venture into the center of town," Chisholm said. "The major corridors are attractive escape routes."

While the rate of auto thefts increased, the Police Department's rate of recovery remains high. According to Levenson, approximately 90 percent of the vehicles stolen in Springfield are recovered within several days.

Most stolen automobiles, Levenson said, are located in Newark and the areas surrounding the city, abandoned

after being used for joy rides, parts or in the act of a crime.

"The 10 percent not recovered within that time are usually never recovered," Levenson said, noting some automobiles are shipped overseas, entering the international market.

Levenson said vintage automobiles often fall into the "unrecoverable" category. Corvettes and other classics, he said, command up to five times their value when broken down and sold as parts.

"When a vehicle is reported stolen, the information is entered into a nationwide network, enabling other police departments to identify the car by license plate or vehicle identification number."

Union County Prosecutor Andrew K. Ruotolo Jr. last week announced that auto theft in Union County was down 20 percent in 1992 compared to the previous year. Ruotolo said the number of auto thefts in Union County is the lowest since 1986.

"We've slammed the brakes on auto theft," said Gov. Jim Florio, who joined Ruotolo in announcing the decrease. Applauding what he said was the willingness of local law enforcement agencies to sacrifice personal considerations for the greater good of saving property and lives on a regional basis, he said judging by the

trials seen in Union County's 1993 figures, "We can anticipate an even further decrease this year."

"A little over a year ago, we joined with Essex County in creating an Auto Theft Task Force and Auto Theft Intelligence Group. This cooperative effort represented an unprecedented commitment of full-time resources to the prevention of auto theft," Ruotolo said. "In our first year of making auto theft a top priority, the results are dramatic."

"When we began this effort, we did not have a specific source of funding. We turned to Florio for his help. Not only did he give us a commitment of personnel and technical assistance, he led the way in raising the public's awareness in what they could do in preventing auto theft and the violence of carjacking," Ruotolo said.

"We have empirical data which makes evident that when law enforcement agencies cooperate with each other and the community they serve, we can come to terms with the violence and crime that we confront. I am grateful to the police chiefs, and the men and women they represent, for their longstanding commitment to this effort," Ruotolo said.

Public hearing to address Springfield flooding woes

By David Brown
Managing Editor
Assemblywoman Maureen Ogden, R-Union, will hold a public hearing next week to address the flooding problem that has plagued Springfield residents for the last three years.

Ogden, who represents Springfield in the 21st Legislative District, has scheduled a hearing Monday at the Millburn Public Library at 7:30 p.m. to address flooding problems triggered by the Elizabethtown Water Company's discontinuation of its pumping operations in the Springfield West Field.

"I have decided to hold this hearing to give those homeowners and public officials who've been suffering with the problem for so long a chance to voice their concerns publicly," Ogden said last week.

Springfielders who own homes on

Marion Avenue and Alvin Terrace, and residents of Millburn and Union, have been battling high water levels for the past three years as a result of the water company's ceasing of its pumping operation in the water field.

Springfield officials said they have appealed to the Elizabethtown hierarchy to address the problem, although no remedial steps have yet been announced.

"I've invited representatives of Elizabethtown Water Company to participate so they may hear the area residents' concern and can address what plans they have, if any, to resume pumping," Ogden said.

The issue became a legal one last year when residents filed to have have their property reassessed, claiming that the chronic flooding problem has decreased the value of their homes.

The township has conducted its own studies in search of a remedy to the problem, and have suggested assuming partial or complete responsibility for resumed pumping.

Homeowners in the water field have encountered water damage and cracked basement foundations, in addition to the costs associated with the constant operation of sump pumps, or installing more effective drainage systems.

Affected residents estimate the water table beneath them has risen some 60 feet since the pumping stopped, one foot below ground level.

The water company has sporadically commented on the problem in response to media coverage, stating the situation is being studied and expressing willingness to cooperate finding a solution.

Township mulls action on condo law

By Dennis Schaal
Staff Writer
A victory for condominium "owners?"

Or a burden for municipal budgets and the property tax?
Or both?

The issue is an amendment to the 1990 Municipal Services Act. The amendment, introduced by Governor Florio last month, requires municipalities to provide condominiums and co-ops equal services or to provide tenant boards or groups with a phased-in reimbursement for the costs.

The services in question center around garbage pickups and snow removal. Legislators felt that condo and co-op dwellers faced "double taxation" since they pay property taxes yet must also pay maintenance fees for private garbage pickup and other services.

Township Committee members noted this week that Springfield will grapple with methods of complying with the new law in conjunction with the award of a new garbage contract within the next few weeks. The town-

Board reaffirms Brearley closure

By Dennis Schaal
Staff Writer
The Union County Regional Board of Education didn't blink Tuesday night and voted to close Brearley Regional High School in Kenilworth on June 30.

In a 2-7 vote — the lineup was identical to the school closing scorecard presented last November — the Regional Board of Education defeated a motion by Kenilworth representative Frederick Soos to delay the closing until June 30, 1994. Garwood board member Joan Toth cast the other ballot to delay.

In a related development, the state Department of Education's Bureau of Facility Planning Services Tuesday gave the Union County Regional High School District the formal go-ahead to cease operating Brearley and found the Schools of Choice student reassignment plan "acceptable."

Bureau Director Carl Letourie wrote that the reassignment plan must "ensure racial balance." He suggested that the district adopt a "thematic approach," whereby students would be attracted to one of the three remaining schools based on "common themes" and a strong emphasis on quality. "The district must also submit by May 1 its projected 1993-94 continuation to the Office of Equal Educational Opportunity, which will review the region's desegregation strategy."

The board's compliance decision and the OEEB approval are necessary prerequisites for going ahead with the school closing.

Prior to the vote, only Soos, who announced he will not seek reelection next April, and Toth commented on the pros and cons of the resolution.

Soos maintained that students don't know what courses will be offered at which schools next September and that they don't know which school they will attend either. "All this train has been doing since last October is picking up speed," Soos, the board vice president, said. "We need to make some stops. As someone else said tonight, we're jerking these kids around."

Several Mountaintop residents — particularly from Mountaintop and Kenilworth — picked the Jonathan Dayton auditorium in Springfield Tuesday night to voice opinions on Soos' resolution to delay the closure. Residents from Kenilworth, Garwood, Mountaintop and Springfield addressed the board for an hour prior to the vote.

Several Mountaintop residents urged the board to "keep intact" the school classes.

The board's decision on whether to delay the Brearley closing — the reassignment plan for next September that would allow borough ninth-, 10th- and 11th-graders to choose between attending Governor Livingston in Berkeley Heights or Jonathan Dayton in Springfield.

Kenilworth residents countered that they had no objection to choice for Mountaintop students; they argued that keeping Brearley open would permit Kenilworth students to grasp their preferred assignment also — at home in Kenilworth. Many Kenilworth residents said the board could delay closing Brearley and simultaneously satisfy Mountaintop residents by retaining their option of attending school in Berkeley Heights.

Kenilworth Borough Councilman Dan Roca stated before the vote that "I don't know how I feel about the delay."

"Delay or not, David Brearley will now likely be open in September," Roca predicted. "The ultimate decision will lie at the administrative law level." The latter was a reference to a pending petition to the state Department of Education to overturn the closing decision.

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Ex-employee charged

A former township employee was arrested and charged with stealing money from the office where she once worked.

According to Police Chief William Chisholm, Springfield resident Gina Bertolotti was arrested and charged with burglary after maintenance personnel observed her entering the Springfield Public Library and taking an undisclosed amount of money from a petty cash container. She apparently used a

key to enter the Mountain Avenue building at 10 p.m. on Jan. 27.

According to Chisholm, the 26-year-old former employee of the library was arrested by Officer Mike Ferrigno shortly after leaving the library. The acting director of the library could not be reached for comment on the theft.

Police also arrested a second person in Bertolotti's vehicle for outstanding warrants in Springfield and Linden that are unrelated to the theft.

ship received bids Jan. 26 on the garage contract.

"We absolutely won't violate the law," Township Committeewoman Marcia Forman indicated Tuesday. "We're looking into what the best alternatives are in terms of money."

Under the amendment, municipalities can either provide the services or reimburse the associations on a dollar-for-dollar basis for the cost to the town for providing the services. The five-year graduated payments would start with 20 percent in 1993.

Springfield has three major condominium developments located on Morris Avenue, Mountain Avenue and South Springfield Avenue.

Township Committee member Jeffrey Katz explained that several of the garage contract bids calculated the cost for pickups at the Planned Unit Development located at 855 South Springfield Ave. The bids showed that it might cost the town some \$3,000, \$3,500 to reimburse that particular association for 20 percent of the refuse pickup in 1993.

Katz and Forman emphasized that the township already provides gar-

bage pickup to condo residents who place their trash on public streets rather than interior roadways.

In the so-called condo law a good one?

"I don't think anyone is completely satisfied, but in the long run it will work itself out," Forman said.

The double-taxation argument "isn't valid," however, Forman contends. Developers close to paying the costs by constructing interior roadways that did not meet township specifications and know all along that they would have to provide for independent garbage pickup.

"The developers went into this with their eyes open," Forman said.

The amendment to the state Municipal Services Act — the law had been adopted in 1990 — is considered a compromise. The reimbursement schedule, which stands at 20 percent in 1993 under the amendment, originally was set at 60 percent in 1991. The amendment is not retroactive.

news notes

Meditation class slated

An introductory class in Jewish mysticism and meditation called "Hikbonen Co-Creational Meditation" is being offered in Springfield on Feb. 28 in Congregation Israel, 339 Mountain Ave., from 8 to 10 p.m., and March 3 at the Springfield Free Public Library, 66 Mountain Ave., from 7 to 9 p.m.

A five-session workshop will follow on consecutive Sunday evenings beginning March 14 for anyone who wishes to enroll. Rabbi S.Z. Stern, a student and practitioner of Hibonon for more than 20 years, and teacher of this course throughout the North-East and California, said, "Hibonon Meditation is a powerful, authentic Torah-true way to become vividly clear as to life's central unifying purpose, and to increase one's capacity for joyousness, loving kindness and creativity." The introductory sessions are free, and men and women of all ages and backgrounds are invited. There are no pre-requisites. This program is sponsored by Yehida Institute Inc. of Morristown, a non-profit organization established for the purpose of bringing the inner dimension of Judaism to the world at large. For more information, call Nechama Tarlow at (201) 267-6437 or Rabbi Stern at (201) 644-3420.

Tax advice available

Free income tax assistance is available for taxpayers through the tax aid program of the American Association of Retired Persons. Volunteer counselors, trained in cooperation with the IRS, are operating counseling desks at the Springfield Library, 66 Mountain Ave., from 9 a.m. to noon on Tuesdays through April 13.

The service is designed to help taxpayers understand tax forms and become familiar with special benefits available to them. Assistance also will be available in completing the state income tax form and the Homestead Tax form.

Taxpayers desiring to utilize this service should call the Springfield Library for an appointment at (201) 376-0930. They should bring a copy of their previous year's federal and state tax returns with their 1992 income report forms.

A tax assistance program is also being sponsored by the Mountaineer

chapter of AARP, in cooperation with the Internal Revenue Service and the state of New Jersey. The program is available to all area senior citizens through April 14.

The Mountaineer library will be the site for preparation of federal and state tax returns each Wednesday from 1 to 5 p.m. Call 233-0115 for an appointment and bring last year's tax returns.

AARP Chapter 4498 to discuss retirement

Mountaineer Chapter 4498 of the American Association of Retired Persons will meet today at 1 p.m. at the Community Presbyterian Church, Deer Path, Mountaineer.

Lois Wiehl, program chairperson, announced that Glimmer Shaw will speak on the topic "Money Management in Retirement." All senior citizens are invited to attend whether or not they are members. During the Jan. 21 meeting, members and non-members prepared crafts as a community project and have been presented to the Mountaineer Rescue Squad. President Fred Wiehl wishes to thank all those who participated in this cause.

The chapter announced that tax counseling for the elderly will be offered at the Mountaineer library for all senior citizens at no cost. Counselors will be at the library between 1 and 5 p.m. Wednesday afternoon through April 14. Call 233-0115 for an appointment and bring W-2, 1099 Forms, 1992 federal and state forms, and copies of the 1991 federal and state returns.

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Money seminar slated for Dayton, Johnson

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The seminar covers basic personal financial topics such as investments, lowering taxes, IRAs and other retirement plans, and developing a personal financial plan. Everyone who attends will receive a confidential personal financial plan, workbook, and home study materials. The seminar is designed for people of all ages, income levels and occupations, including retired individuals. Instructors are professional financial planners from Creative Financial Solutions Group Inc. No products or services will be promoted or offered at the seminar.

Red Cross schedules first aid/CPR instruction

The Westfield/Mountaineer Chapter of the American Red Cross will offer courses in Standard First Aid and Community CPR on the following dates:

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February classes: Standard First Aid, Feb. 27 from 9 a.m. to 5 p.m.; March classes: Standard First Aid, March 13 from 9 a.m. to 5 p.m.; Standard First Aid, March 25 from 6:30 to 10 p.m.; CPR Update class, March 3 from 6:30 to 10 p.m.; Community CPR class, March 16 and 23 from 6:30 to 10 p.m.

Seniors set skills, talk

Eileen Freeman, a native of Mountaineer, and collector of angel artwork and other objects, will publish the magazine Angel Watch Network, will be the speaker at the Feb. 24 meeting of the Mountaineer Senior Citizens.

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All meetings are held at the Community Presbyterian Church, Deer Path and Meeting House Lane, Mountaineer, at noon, usually the second and fourth Wednesday of the month from September to June. Coffee is served. For more information, call club President William Wagner at (908) 754-1110.

RM POSTER CONTEST

Kitzy Duncan, a member of Timesavers, will speak to the Mountaineer Active Retirees at 10 a.m. on Feb. 23 meeting at 10 a.m. in Mountaineer Borough Hall. She will explain what the Timesaver is about.

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The Children's Specialized Hospital Sanctioned Junior Wheelchair Swim Meet will be held April 3 at 1 p.m. at the Soney Werblin Recreation Swim Center on the Busch Campus of Rutgers University in Piscataway.

education

Three make dean's list

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Named to the dean's list are full-time students with grade point averages of 3.25 or above on a 4.0 scale with no temporary grades. Glassman is senior majoring in finance, Marcus is a junior majoring in psychology and Peterson is senior majoring in biological science.

Scholla attains honors

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Scholla is majoring in communications and minoring in political science, while serving as the president of the school's College Republicans.



Judith Wickline, principal of Jonathan Dayton Regional High School, presents Jaroslaw Wlodarczyk with a plaque noting his selection as the school's "Student of the Month" for February.

Wlodarczyk named top student

Jaroslaw Wlodarczyk, a senior at Jonathan Dayton Regional High School, has been named as the school's Student of the Month for February.

Wlodarczyk has attained a grade point average of 3.83 and is ranked 16th academically in this year's senior class at Jonathan Dayton.

He is active with several school organizations, including the National Honor Society, Spanish Honor Society, Spanish Club, International Club and Science League teams.

In addition, he competed last year for the Jonathan Dayton track team and has been a member of the varsity swimming team at Dayton for the past two years.

After his graduation from Jonathan Dayton in June, Wlodarczyk plans to attend Penn State University or Rutgers University. He intends to major in engineering.

Mountaineer Echo

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Civic Calendar

The Civic Calendar is prepared by the Springfield Leader and Mountaineer Echo. To avoid conflicts in scheduling local events, please post dates, times and places as early as possible and send to P.O. Box 3109, Union, 07083, or call (908) 686-7700.

Friday

The Springfield Mayor's Committee on Aging meets at 9:30 a.m. at the Sarah Bailey Civic Center.

Monday

The Springfield Board of Education meets at 7:30 p.m. at F.M. Gaudinier School on S. Springfield Avenue.

Tuesday

The Mountaineer Board of Education meets at 8 p.m. at Deerfield School, Central Avenue and School Drive.

Recycling schedule

The Union County Utilities Authority will pick up recyclables in Springfield Feb. 26 and March 12.

Residents are requested to sort out their recyclable materials by 7:30 a.m. the day they are scheduled for collection.

Upcoming events

The next scheduled meeting of the Union County Regional Board of Education is March 2 at 8 p.m. at Arthur L. Johnson Regional High School in Clark.

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Ski club slates agenda

Watching Ski Club has announced a full schedule of ski trips, meetings and activities for the balance of the 1992-1993 ski season.

On Feb. 21, the club will sponsor a trip to Elk Mt., Pa. The trip, which leaves Mountaineer at 5 a.m., includes transportation, lift tickets and a continental breakfast on the way to the mountain.

Watching is the oldest organized ski club in New Jersey. Meetings are every Thursday at 8 p.m. at the Mountaineer Elks Club on Route 22 East, Mountaineer. Guests are welcome to attend any club meetings to learn more about Watching, which has a roster of nearly 135 members.

Watching's other skiing opportunities include March 20 to Hunter, N.Y., and a four-day excursion to Sunday River, Maine, March 10-14, as well as the club's lodge in Manchester, Vt. Guests are welcome on both trips and weekend and mid-week excursions are available at the lodge for potential members throughout the rest of the season.

Though the club's activities primarily focus on snow skiing, a schedule of year-round events also includes water skiing, softball, camping, picnics, white water rafting, sailing, bowling and cycling.

Interested skiers or those interested in learning to ski are encouraged to discover Watching Amateur Ski Club by attending any business meeting or by calling Jean Marie Krueher at (908) 322-4588, Linda Wagner at (908) 542-5436 or Karen Tucker at (908) 647-6330-evenings-information about individual ski trips can be obtained from each trip leader.

New From the Stacks The public is invited to view the art of Louis Winarsky which will be on display in the Donald Palmer Museum in the Springfield Public Library for the month of March. Winarsky, a resident of Springfield, is a graduate of the University of Chicago and the Newark School of Fine and Industrial Arts. His work has been on display at the Montclair Art Museum, the Carnegie Institute in Pittsburgh, Partridge Dickinson University, and the Union County Visual Art Shows at Morek and Co., Rahway. A reception for the artist will be held at the library, 66 Mountain Ave., on Feb. 28 from 1 to 4 p.m.

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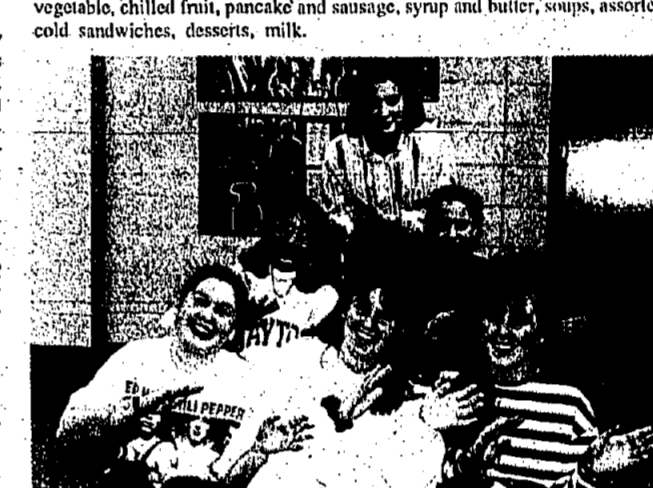
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Jonathan Dayton Regional High School students, clockwise from lower left, Sara Johnson, Nirali Patel, Nicole Bilocchio, Heidi Pasculli, Michelle Poveromo, and Flory Panter will be on stage when the school presents its annual musical, "Joseph and the Amazing Technicolor Dreamcoat." This "Tim Rice/Andrew Lloyd Webber production will be presented in the Halsey Hall auditorium at Jonathan Dayton March 4, 5 and 6 at 8 p.m. For tickets, call the high school at (908) 376-6300.

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A victory or a problem?

The national family leave policy has been mandated and is being hailed as a victory for the family. But is it? Only time will tell. The measure, signed by President Bill Clinton the morning after it was passed by Congress, grants workers in companies of 50 employees or more up to 12 weeks of unpaid leave for birth or adoption of a family member's illness.

Eligible when the law takes effect in six months are workers who have been with a company for one year and are working 25 hours a week or more. Employers must continue health care benefits and guarantee that employees get their job back or one that's comparable.

Former President George Bush twice vetoed a similar leave bill on the grounds it would harm small business. He might prove to be correct. We think this, again, is government sticking its nose where it doesn't belong and not seriously considering some of the ramifications.

For surviving businesses to offer family and medical leave benefits, it could mean fewer job opportunities for women and low-skilled workers.

That appeared to be supported by a 1991 Gallup poll which provided evidence that women of child-bearing age and low-skilled workers will bear the brunt of the government-mandated policy.

The survey found that nearly half of the small business owners questioned would hesitate to hire young women if the law passed. Nearly half said such a law would cause them to cut low-skilled jobs.

The survey revealed that of nearly 1,000 small firms, 94 percent granted requests for leave, two-thirds for family illness and one-third for childbirth.

But there are some more serious questions that must be answered: Will employers cut back or eliminate other employee benefits to take up the slack?

Will workers get less time off than under voluntary policies that, reportedly, nine of 10 companies already offer? Should written proof, such as a doctor's letter, be presented to an employer before leave is granted?

There are hidden costs, too. Who takes up the slack of a worker on leave? A temp? Other employees working longer hours? Work not getting done at all?

We encourage businesses to voluntarily offer benefits such as family and medical leave, but we oppose government mandates, especially when it could hurt a business that's providing jobs in an already shaky economy.

OPINION PAGE

Citizens should challenge FAA's regulations

Feb. 12 was not only President Abraham Lincoln's birthday, but was also the sixth anniversary of when the Expanded East Coast Plan was implemented by the Federal Aviation Administration.

In 1987, the FAA set in motion a plan to restructure air traffic routes around the three airports administered by the Port Authority of New York and New Jersey. The Expanded East Coast Plan, as it was called, was formulated 10 years ago with the goal of making better use of the friendly skies.

Who could object? Newark International Airport is central to New Jersey's economy. It is the fastest growing airport in the New York-New Jersey region.

Good financial records can make preparing your 1992 income tax return less difficult, explain the authors of a new publication from the Internal Revenue Service. The book, "Money Management," offers tips on how to keep records that will make tax preparation easier.

Money Management is a weekly column on personal finance distributed by the New Jersey Society of Certified Public Accountants.

Timing and luck put Florio in good position

Now, Ken looked like a genius then and Florio will look good now. But the economy, good or bad, is driven by forces bigger and more mysterious than government. Frankly, a lot of it is timing and luck.

Steve Adulato Jr. is a political analyst for WQOR-TV, a former state legislator from Essex County and an instructor of public administration and mass media at Rutgers University.

Screening New Jersey

With goodie like federal dollars, labor-union money and political jobs (and) and personal appeals. The New York Times has called Florio "the political gorilla" to Florio's extraordinary. It is.

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obituaries

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