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THE HISTORY OF LABOR DAY

Samuel Gomers, founder and longtime president of the American Federation of Labor quotes that "Labor Day differs in every essential from the other holidays of the year in any country. All other holidays are in a more or less degree connected with conflicts and battles of man's prowess over man, of strife and discord for greed and power, of glories achieved by one nation over another. Labor Day… is devoted to no man, living or dead, to no sect, race, or nation."

Labor Day is a creation of the labor movement and is dedicated to the social and economic achievements of American workers. It constitutes a yearly national tribute to the contributions workers have made to the strength, prosperity and well-being of our country.

The first Labor Day holiday was celebrated on Tuesday, September 5, 1882 in New York City. In 1884, the first Monday in September was selected as the holiday, as originally proposed, and the Central Labor Union urged similar organizations in other cities to follow the example of New York and celebrate a "workingmen's holiday" on that date. The idea spread with the growth of labor organizations, and in 1885 Labor Day was celebrated in many industrial centers of the country. On June 28, 1894, Congress passed an act making the first Monday in September of each year a legal holiday.

The vital force of labor added materially to the highest standard of living and the greatest production the world has ever known and has brought us closer to the realization of our traditional ideals of economic and political democracy. It is appropriate, therefore, that the nation pay tribute on Labor Day to the creator of so much of the nation's strength, freedom, and leadership—the American worker.

Source: U.S. Department of Labor

BILLS EXPAND SERVICES TO SMALL BUSINESS

The House Small Business Committee approved three bills to expand services at Small Business Development Centers across the country:

- The National Small Business Regulatory Assistance Act (H.R. 203) would establish a $5 million-a-year pilot program that would provide small businesses with counseling and training on government regulations and paperwork requirements.
- The Vocational and Training Entrepreneurship Development Act (H.R. 2666) calls for Small Business Development Centers to provide technical assistance to vocational schools so they can teach business skills as well as trades to students.
- The Native American Small Business Development Act (H.R. 2358) is designed to encourage business growth on Indian reservations, where the unemployment rate averages 45 percent, by providing technical assistance to small businesses owned by Native Americans.

The committee also passed legislation (H.R. 1860) to reauthorize the Small Business Technology Transfer program, which funds cooperative research and development projects between small businesses and research institutions.

Source: Dayton Business Journal

SEPTEMBER REMINDERS

As the Labor Day weekend begins, we set ourselves up for the recognition of Library Card Sign-Up Month, National Chicken Month, and National Literacy Month. It's also Be Kind to Editors & Writers Month, so please be kind to this editor/writer as she relishes in the celebration of Classical Music Month. September 18 is Rosh Hashanah (Jewish New Year), the 22nd is National Centenarian's Day (congratulations to anyone who's reached the 3-digit mark!), and September 27 is Yom Kippur (Day of Attonement).



KEEP IT SAFE… KEEP IT CLEAN

In a recent issue of one of the trade magazines, six businesses were fined amounts that exceeded $1,200,000 in fines for violating federal and state regulations in soil and groundwater contamination, the Clean Air Act, hazardous waste, air toxics regulations and failure to report. An average of about $200,000 per violation.



Our environment is very precious to us and we at ChemStation do what we can to protect it. By offering custom-formulated, environmentally-friendly industrial cleaning and process chemicals (delivered to refillable containers), we're doing our part to help you keep it safe and keep it clean.

Interesting Web Sites

Here's another list of interesting Web sites we thought you'd find informative and amusing.

Internet History	www.isoc.org
Angry Shoppers	www.crummycustomerservice.com
City Guides	www.sidewalk.com
Talk to a Gorilla On-line	www.koko.org
Smithsonian Museum	http://2k.si.edu
Home Safety	www.safewithin.com
Tornado/Thunderstorm Info	www.twisters.com





Send your comments to:

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Soapbox

The illiterate of the 21st century will not be those who cannot read and write, but those who cannot learn, unlearn, and relearn.
Alvin Toffler

Any sufficiently advanced bureaucracy is indistinguishable from molasses.
Unknown

I don't mind what Congress does, as long as they don't do it in the streets and frighten the horses.
Victor Hugo

The man who says he is willing to meet you halfway is usually a poor judge of distance.
Laurence J. Peter

I have not lost my mind – it's backed up on disk somewhere.
Unknown

Thanks to the Interstate Highway System, it is now possible to travel from coast to coast without seeing anything.
Charles Kuralt

The difference between genius and stupidity is that genius has its limits.
Unknown

After all is said and done, a lot more will be said than done.
Unknown

Start every day off with a smile and get it over with.
W. C. Fields