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## Awards given

JANUARY 9, 2009

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**WHITE LAKE TOWNSHIP:** Wendy Schmitt, a business education teacher at Lakeland High School in the Huron Valley Schools district, has received the Excellence Award from the Michigan Education Association.

The MEA, the state's largest teachers union, recognized Schmitt for her ability to provide unique educational experiences for students, including a project that concluded with students publishing two books on the Milford Powerhouse.

Schmitt has worked in the Huron Valley district since 1987.

**DEARBORN:** Lorri MacDonald, an online forensic science teacher from Dearborn, has received the first-ever Online Teacher of the Year Award from the Michigan Virtual School, a division of Michigan Virtual University.

MacDonald is a part-time teacher for the school and an assistant professor at the University of Detroit Mercy. She was one of four finalists for the online teacher award, which included teachers from Bay City, Hartland and Kalamazoo.

The virtual school offers about 200 courses that students across the state can take online.

**MACOMB TOWNSHIP:** Allstate [insurance agent](#) Lisa Halsey of the Halsey Agency, located in Macomb Township, gave a \$500 grant last month to Community Assessment Referral and Education (CARE), a nonprofit organization located in Fraser. Halsey, who volunteers with CARE's Teens Talking Truth program, received the grant and an award from the Allstate Foundation for her commitment to volunteering in the community.

**STATEWIDE:** Forty mentoring organizations statewide received grants from \$100 to \$1,000 from Mentor Michigan, the governor's mentoring initiative. Within metro Detroit, 14 agencies received grants to help recruit mentors, including Alternatives for Girls in Detroit, Big Brothers Big Sisters of Monroe County, Child Help in Southfield,

Fitzgerald Public Schools in Warren and the Oak Park Business and Education Alliance. For information, go to [www.mentormichigan.org](#).

### More Local News headlines

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- ▶ Snow heads toward metro area (15)
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- ▶ Novi Police: Pellets shot at school buses

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6. Osgood shines as Wings dominate Stars
7. Life on the sinking USS Chrysler
8. Former exec calls Jason Garrett front-runner for Lions job, then switches to Schwartz
9. As condition of loan, UAW can't strike against GM
10. GM kills Pontiac G8 Sport Truck

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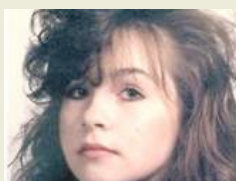
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The story of the female inmates suing after years of warnings that they faced abuse from male guards.



PHOTO GALLERY

2008: The year in pictures

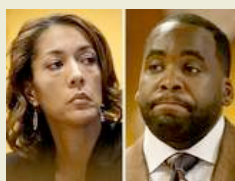
Take a look back at the year that was in this chronological look at the biggest events and best photos.



SPECIAL REPORT

Where children find some hope

Six videos and scores of photos capture the sorrows and hopes of the boys of Christ Child House.



READ THE LATEST

New Kilpatrick, Beatty texts

Read the new text messages between former Mayor Kwame Kilpatrick and Christine Beatty.



PHOTO GALLERY

Metro Detroit's best burgers

We asked readers to point us toward Detroit's best hamburgers. Six weeks later, here are our favorites.

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