

# BUSINESS NEWS

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# THE IT LIST

Your guide to the hot topics in 2010

## Skilled Manufacturing

The automotive supplier closed 2009 with a huge bang, nabbing nearly \$650,000 in exemptions from Traverse City and Michigan over the next 12 years, which will allow it to expand into the aerospace industry without ever leaving TC. Coming down Skilled Manufacturing's assembly line in 2010: 73 new positions, and with them, a much-needed boost—of money and optimism—in the local economy.

## Tom Menzel

He might have switched out cherries for buses, but Tom Menzel has been busy making calls for change as BATA's new executive director in much the same way he did during his three-year tenure at the National Cherry Festival.



He most recently made news for his negotiations with the public transit's union bargaining groups. This year, look for Menzel to make some sweeping service changes as a result of a community survey conducted last fall, watch for news on a wind project that would generate energy for BATA's hybrid buses, and keep an eye on an idea he has to partner with area schools to address the high cost of student bussing.

## Asian Carp



It sounds like something out of a bad science fiction story: A giant, 40-pound fish that's been cultivated in China for more than a thousand years—nickname: "bighead"—is imported to the United States, escapes its pond, and is poised to go on a feeding rampage in the unsuspecting Midwest. Thing is, the story is true.

After a series of floods in the south in the 1970s, Asian Carp made its way into the Mississippi River and headed toward the Great Lakes. In 2002 and 2004 the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers built two electric fish barriers outside Chicago to keep the fish from swimming their way into Lake Michigan and endangering our \$7 billion commercial and sport fishing industry—which seemed to work until "bighead" DNA was found outside Lake Michigan but beyond the barriers.

Following a recent fish kill—the dumping 2,200 gallons of toxin into the canal leading up to the barrier—in which one carp was revealed six miles past the barrier (but not yet in Lake Michigan), Gov. Jennifer Granholm threatened to sue the Army Corp. of Engineers if they didn't shut down the waterway. She has asked Attorney General Mike Cox to draw up papers for such a lawsuit.