



# The Delaware Gazette

DELAWARE COUNTY'S ONLY DAILY NEWSPAPER

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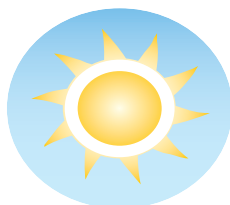
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MONDAY, MARCH 30, 2009

## TODAY'S WEATHER

HIGH  
52  
LOW  
34



FORECAST PAGE 2

## INSIDE



**SPORTS**  
Hayes High School fields its first lacrosse team. Page 9.



**AUTO**  
Nissan's new Z car stays true to its heritage. Page 7

## ONLINE POLL

Log on to [www.delgazette.com](http://www.delgazette.com) to weigh in on this week's question:

If you were making the decision, which of the following stimulus projects would you approve?

- A) Design and construct new intersection at "The Point," where U.S. 36 and Ohio 37 converge on the east side of Delaware.
- B) Strand Theatre reconstruction.
- C) Construct new municipal building in Ashley.
- D) Other.

Readers commenting on this question after voting may have their comments printed on the *Gazette's* editorial page.

## INDEX

- Movies ..... Page 2
- Auto ..... Page 7
- Sports ..... Page 9
- Classifieds ... Page 11
- TV Listings ... Page 18
- Comics ..... Page 20
- Obituaries .... Page 21

## Thank You

Thank you, Gela Tudor, for subscribing to *The Delaware Gazette*, and thank you, Grady Memorial Hospital/Ohio Health, for your advertising support.

## A pig and pie for charity



Gazette Matt Emmons

(Above) Buckeye Valley fourth grade teacher Traci Kennedy-Brockfield, right, kisses a pig Friday brought in by parent Rhonda Crump. (At right) Anna Schaad had the honors of hitting her third-grade teacher, Joan Patterson, with a whipped pie. Buckeye Valley East Elementary Student Council held their third annual Pennies for Patients Drive to benefit the Leukemia and Lymphoma Society. The students reached the goal of raising \$2,500, which allowed them to have the principal and a teacher kiss the pig. In addition, the three top classrooms earned the opportunity to throw a whipped-cream pie at their teachers. Principal Teresa Goins and Kennedy-Brockfield kissed the pig. The pie targets were third-grade teacher Joan Patterson and second-grade teachers Angela Westlake and Candy Staley.



## Delaware dentist making smiles a world away

By CONNIE CURRY  
Special to the *Gazette*

Dr. Byron T. Leidtke, 72, a familiar dentist in Delaware, sees more than 60 patients a day including some from thousands of miles away.

Leidtke served as a Captain in the U.S.A.F Dental Corps during the Vietnam War. After graduating in 1965 from Ohio State University, he taught dentistry there until opening his own practice at 226 N. Liberty St., in 1967, where his practice continues to thrive.

"Over half of my patients are on

Medicaid and it would be immoral to not help and treat my own," Leidtke said.

One patient knows first hand the kindness and generosity of Dr. Leidtke. Elmer Smith, a resident of Ashley who is employed at Gibeyes Pizza and Pub Shop, couldn't afford the high cost of dental treatment. It took about six months for Dr. Leidtke to complete work on Smith's teeth because of the severity.

"I rarely smiled and when I did, I'd cover my mouth. Dr. Leidtke gave me back my smile. He is

absolutely a saint," Smith said. "His staff is wonderful and he is great at what he does."

To celebrate the finalized new look given to Smith, Leidtke made a visit to Gibeyes and took a picture of Smith. "It was truly the first time I smiled without thinking about it," Smith said. The picture is on display at the pizza shop.

Leidtke has a warm tug in his heart when it comes to helping others. With all his experience in dentistry, love of people and being introduced to missionary work from his wife, Leila, he has made six trips to Honduras, far away from the comfort of his modern office back in Delaware.

Pete Twitchell, a contractor and minister, helped build and rebuild the village and medical clinic as severe rain season in February washed out the village. Leidtke recalls Twitchell telling him how a Mosquito Indian pointed at his mouth in an effort to communicate, indicating he needed help with his teeth even though Twitchell was there for construction work. And that was when planning began for Liberty Dental Mission. With the help of many, Twitchell and Leidtke developed, planned, organized and originated the mission. But getting there was not a simple or cheap task.

In 2000, a team including Leidtke and Leila headed to El Castillo, Honduras — the second poorest country in the Northern Hemisphere — to provide medical, dental and spiritual services to approximately 20,000 Mosquito Indians.



Gazette Matt Emmons

Dr. Byron Leidtke, shown in his dentist office in Delaware, occasionally leaves the comfort of his modern practice behind to perform dentistry in Honduras as part of his missionary work.

Please see SMILES, Page 3

## GM CEO Wagoner to step down

By TOM KRISHER  
and KEN THOMAS  
Associated Press Writers

DETROIT — General Motors Corp. Chairman and CEO Rick Wagoner will step down immediately at the request of the White House, administration officials said Sunday. The news comes as President Obama prepares to unveil additional restructuring efforts designed to save the domestic auto industry.

The officials asked not to be identified because details of the restructuring plan have not yet been made public. On Monday, Obama is to announce measures to restructure GM and Chrysler LLC in exchange for additional government loans. The companies have been living on \$17.4 billion in government aid and have requested \$21.6 billion more.

Wagoner's departure indicates that more management changes may be part of the deal, but it is still unclear who will be put in charge of GM. The automaker recently promoted Fritz Henderson, its former chief financial officer, to become president and chief operating officer. Many in the company thought he would eventually succeed Wagoner.

Detroit-based GM issued a statement Sunday saying only that the company expects a decision by the administration soon but that "it would not be appropriate for us to speculate on the content of any announcement."



Wagoner

Please see GM CEO, Page 3

## Obama: Auto industry needs to do more to get help

By KEN THOMAS  
Associated Press Writer

WASHINGTON — President Barack Obama says General Motors Corp., Chrysler LLC and all those with a stake in their survival need to take more hard steps to help the struggling automakers restructure for the future.

Obama, in an interview with CBS' "Face the Nation" broadcast Sunday, said the companies must do more to receive additional financial aid from the government.

"They're not there yet," Obama said.

Details of the plan remained tightly held Sunday, but General Motors CEO Rick Wagoner was stepping down immediately at the request of the White House, administration officials said Sunday.

Please see HELP, Page 3

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