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Communications Technologies, JT&T merge

BURTON — Communications Technologies, Inc., an industry leader in unified communications, has merged with JT&T Communications. Communications Technologies currently provides business communications technology to small to mid-sized companies throughout the Michigan marketplace.

The merger will bring greater levels of service and an expanded offering of products and services to JT&T's existing customers. JT&T will now operate under the Communications Technologies name and all technical staff will become members of the Communications Technologies team.

"It was our objective to partner with an experienced technology organization with a strong reputation and a desire to improve business technology options for the companies they serve," said Jeff Allen, president of Communications Technologies. "By combining the strengths of the two organizations, customers will benefit from a broader array of products and services, including advanced VoIP solutions, IT networking, IT support, consultation and training."

JT&T's customers will receive a number of unique advantages not previously available. Communications Technologies' Partner Plans are a prime example. "Our Partner Plans allow us to truly act as our client's business communications partner," said Allen. "These plans will provide JT&T customers with a level of service and support that exceeds their expectations. Not only do these plans provide coverage for all service and equipment needs for a fixed cost, but they include priority queuing and scheduling, reduced labor rates, preventative maintenance programs and guarantees for response times and available parts. These unique partner plans are unmatched by any other vendor in our region and we're excited to offer them to JT&T's customers."

Additionally, Communication Technologies offers customers the Current Technology Assurance Plan (CTAP), an innovative program that ensures the telecom and information systems of small to mid-sized companies remain current and incorporate the latest in value added solutions.

"We believe technology should provide companies with a competitive advantage and improved operating efficiencies that will positively impact their bottom line. Through our abundance of managed services offerings and support plans designed to lower the total cost of service and ownership, we will help JT&T's customers achieve their business objectives," said Allen.

Communications Technologies, Inc. (CTI) is an independently, locally owned voice and data communications company serving Michigan businesses for more than 20 years. CTI is a one-source solution for ordering dial tone and highspeed Internet, providing voice and data cabling, and installation and support of business telephone systems and computer networks.

CTI's goal is to add value, differentiate its services, and deliver strategic technologies with integrity and innovation resulting in the highest level of customer profitability, satisfaction and competition advantage. For more information about CTI please call 800-860-6910 or visit www.cti4u.com. — **G.G.**



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The popular crime fighter stops by the library for a special meet and greet.

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Common cold or flu bug?

Q: What is the difference between a cold and the flu?
A: Both cold and flu are illnesses of the respiratory tract. Flu is caused by the influenza virus, while more than 200 different viruses can cause the common cold. The symptoms of cold and flu are similar enough to cause confusion, especially during winter and early spring when both are common. However, flu is more than just a bad cold. It is a serious contagious disease that can lead to hospitalization and even death. Groups at high risk for developing flu-related complications include pregnant women, young children, the elderly, and people with chronic health conditions such as asthma, heart disease and diabetes.

Q: How can I best prevent flu?
A: While there is currently no vaccine to prevent against the common cold, being vaccinated in the fall and being flu-aware against the flu. This year, the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention recommend that anyone over the age of 6 months be vaccinated against flu.

Q: Is there a specific treatment for flu?
A: Antiviral treatment is usually advised if required for a cold, while the use of antiviral drugs may be appropriate for flu. In particular, high-risk groups may benefit from taking antiviral medication within 48 hours of symptoms onset to reduce the length and severity of the illness.

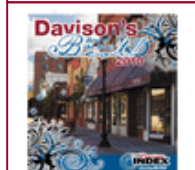
Q: When should I see the doctor?
A: Most healthy people will recover from the cold on their own. Flu symptoms typically last from 5-7 days, a cold will clear up within 7-12 days. People at high risk of complications should consult with a physician. Also see a doctor if any of the following occur:
• Symptoms worsen or return
• Fever lasts longer than three days
• Wheezing or difficulty breathing
• Severe or persistent vomiting

Q: What steps can I take to prevent a cold?
A: Hand-washing is one of the most effective ways to prevent the spread of infection and illness—from the common cold to the flu. Wash with soap and water for at least 20 seconds, scrubbing the backs of your hands, in between fingers and under fingernails. Dry with a clean towel.

Alexander Rodriguez, MD.
is a board-certified family practice physician at McLaren Community Medical Center, Grand Haven, 2011 E. 14th Street, Grand Haven, MI. To schedule an appointment, visit www.mclaren.com, please call 616.323.5400.



Seniors



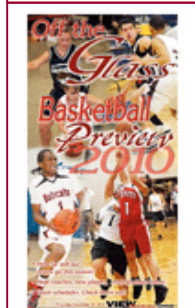
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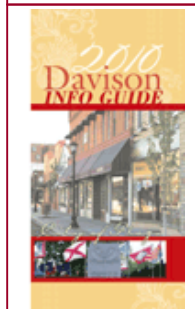
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FLINT CULTURAL CENTER FEBRUARY HIGHLIGHTS

Crime Scene Insects
 January 29 – May 8, 2011 at SLOAN MUSEUM
Old Liner home boxes explore one of the most fascinating areas of criminal investigation – forensic entomology. This exhibit includes hands-on learning stations, examples of real life and lab equipment and engaging case studies. Suitable for children 8 years and older.

Skeler Scarecrow's Starry Sky
 New showing at LOWWAY PLANETARIUM
Our newest sci-fi science event! Skeler, the alien who lives on the planet of the Earth, comes to mid night to watch the Star art. Then, Skeler tells about the Moon, how it moves and its phases. Lastly, we learn about the planets and what makes each planet different. For children 6 years and older.

Picasso
 This February 27 at FLINT INSTITUTE OF ARTS
Throughout his career, Pablo Picasso was a master of several different media. He created over 2,000 prints and over five thousand drawings. This exhibit focuses on highlights from Picasso's body of graphic work and includes over 50 descriptive quotations from his career as an artist.

March to Freedom
 February 10 & 11, 7:30pm at MacArthur Center IM-104
 February 12, 7:30pm at MacArthur Center IM-104
Join us for the Ladies Chorus and Creative Performance Dance Studio as they present the story of the fight against segregation during the 1950s through historic costumes, song and dance. Presented by the Flint School of Performing Arts, Part of the Black Classical Music Family Project.

Dee Dee Bridgewater
 February 26 at Sam at THE WHITING
Grammy and Tony Award winning artist, producer, UN Ambassadoress and host of NPR's Jazzica, Flirt actress Dee Dee Bridgewater focuses her talents on musical interpretation by the legendary Duke Ellington. After capturing the hearts of audiences worldwide in Broadway's production of ELI GEL, Dee Dee is gracing the stage in a performance you won't want to miss!

THE GREAT GILLY HOPKINS
 February 11-26
 FLINT YOUTH THEATRE
An early American folk tale comes to the stage with the reputation for being brave, selfless, and courageous. For many stories live in the hearts of those who tell them. Adapted from the children's book by Katherine Johnson, this play is a mix of humor and magic and will be loved by young people and adults alike.
 Tickets: 810.237.1550 • flintyouththeatre.org

810.237.7333 • FlintCulturalCenter.org

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