

**Priority Mail® Flat Rate Boxes**

©2009 United States Postal Service. The Eagle logo, the trade dress of USPS shipping boxes, and letter carrier uniform are among the many registered trademarks of the U.S. Postal Service.



**LEARN MORE >>**

HOME DELIVERY | SUBSCRIBER SERVICES | CONTACT US | ABOUT US | SITE MAP | Buy a **Classified**

Tue, Dec 08 2009

# The Tribune-Democrat



Currently **27**  
H: 35 L: 29  
Click for more weather

**WEATHER SPONSOR**  
R.E.C. FlooringAmerica  
844 Scalp Ave  
Richland  
814.266.0873

Homepage | Local News | Sports | Features | Obituaries | Order Photos | Retail Ads | Classifieds | Buy a Classified | Wheels | Garage Sale Maps | Zillow Real Estate | Seasonal Content | News Tips | Breast Cancer | Special Sections |

Published: December 06, 2009 11:36 am



## DAVID A. KNEPPER | Where will we be in 2010? Still looking in rearview mirror?

BY DAVID A. KNEPPER

Whoever believes that the future is not predictable should never hang a new calendar on a kitchen wall.

Peter Drucker, the dean of modern business management theory, took a somewhat narrow perspective: "Trying to predict the future is like trying to drive down a country road at night with no lights while looking in the rearview mirror."

I would recommend that those who find some comfort in living in the past should immediately book passage – when that time comes – to Neptune, where a year equals 165 Earth years.

Now that is really making yourself stuck in the past!

John F. Kennedy remarked that "change is the law of life and those who look only to the past or present are certain to miss the future."

Let's do a fast rewind and look at some of the events that occurred in 2009, events that might provide us with a beacon of hope in 2010.

I caution you that I do not have a crystal ball; nor do I pretend to be Nostradamus incarnate. But isn't it much better and more productive to place our cynicism in a bottle and to prepare for the future with renewed hope that life sometimes does get better?

In the 2009 elections, Cambria County voters agreed that it was time for the first woman, Linda Rovder Fleming, to be seated on the Court of Common Pleas.

And right down from her chambers in the courthouse will be Kelly Callihan, who will become this county's first female district attorney.

Both will make history when they are sworn into office in January.

It's a safe bet that even more women will enter politics at all levels of government in 2010.

According to the Center for American Women and Politics at Rutgers University, Pennsylvania ranks 46th among all states in the number of women state legislators, with less than 15 percent.

In the U.S. House of Representatives, only two women out of 19 make up the Pennsylvania congressional delegation.

These statistics certainly reveal the representational disproportionality that exists in Pennsylvania and present a compelling case for more women to consider seeking elected office at both the state and federal levels.

Another prediction for 2010 is that the seeds of regionalization will continue to germinate, often in the most unlikely places – where elected officials are more eager to discuss the future rather than to be anchored to the past.

The desirability by some municipalities and public-safety entities within our region to move forward in forming new partnerships to reduce the costs of new equipment purchases, or to contract for services with other municipalities, is a step in the right direction – where economics and not parochialism drives the agenda.

No doubt in the past when the local economy was more robust and predictable, spending by local governments did not keep pace with local revenues. However, that is not the case today, especially in this time of a weakened and fragile economy.



### Photos



OLYMPUS DIGITAL CAMERA submitted photo/The Tribune-Democrat (Click for larger image)

### Resources

- Print this story
- E-mail this story

### More from the Editorials section

Send a letter to the readers' forum

Breathing easier in Coopersdale

READERS' FORUM 12-8 | 'Buy locally' keeps area economy strong

DR. MATTHEW MASIELLO | War no longer an option for our nation

CHIP MINEMYER | Special surprise rekindles holiday spirit


### Ads by Google

- [Johnstown Pennsylvania](#)
- [Meet Divorced Women](#)
- [Local Classifieds](#)
- [Female Leadership](#)

**Suppes Ford** 101 MAIN ST. JOHNSTOWN, PA 800 985 1597  
www.suppesford.com

**Find a Home!** 

Price:  Beds:

**SEARCH** 

Search for a job

**Go!** 

**Coast to Coast. Around the Corner**

**Find your perfect car**

Select A Make  **SEARCH**

**Classic Car Search (pre-1985)**



Powered by  **SEARCH**

Visit [zip2save.com](http://zip2save.com) for all your favorite circulars & coupons!


-  Circulars
-  Coupons
-  Deals 


**Find a business:** 


Business name or type...

Location:

Maps, Menus, Store hours, Coupons, and more... **SEARCH**

 Find a new or used car.

 Find a new home.

 Find a new job.

### Popular business directory searches

**Premium Jobs**

**ALWAYS HIRING**  
ALWAYS HIRING!  
Call InterMedi@ Marketing Solutions. 1-800-520-4100...>MORE

See all ads

**Garage/Yard Sales**

See all ads

To their credit, local elected officials are making a concerted effort to hold the line on increasing expenditures without raising taxes.

Though their efforts may be heralded by taxpayers, the need to consider regionalization is relevant and way overdue in the long term.

It will not be an easy task, given the reality that change is often met with immediate resistance and much rancor, especially when politics is not left at the municipal doorstep.

But I see 2010 as the year for local officials to finally break away from past practices that have shackled their ability to move forward in a more promising and more rewarding direction – rather than pretend that somehow “things will just get better,” or worse yet, try to sweep their problems under the proverbial rug.

In 2010, I predict that society will continue to demand greater accountability from school leaders, particularly in extending their influence from the schoolhouse walls into their community, to build what may be termed “transformative community responsibility.”

Together with parents, these more enlightened leaders will commit themselves to forging stronger relationships or linkages between the school and community in order to empower parents to play an evermore expanded role for their child’s education.

As parents, we cannot walk away from a shared responsibility for our child’s education anymore than can the school.

Our responsibility for the education of our children does not stop when they step inside the school. Nor does the school’s responsibility end when children exit the school bus.

Recent school board elections seem to suggest that the debates are now more clearly centered on the education of our children, where clearly they should be.

As the curtain closes on yet another year, let us look forward to the challenges of the new year with enthusiasm, hope and appreciation for what we have been given by our Creator.

Working together to build a better future is an overarching goal that is within our reach.

Welcome, 2010.

David A. Knepper is president of Allegheny Development Group LLC and is currently the executive director of the Forest Hills Regional Alliance. He holds a doctorate in educational administration from Penn State. His column appears the first Sunday of each month.



Add a comment on this story

#### NJ Bank for NJ Business

Local Bank that Knows Your Needs & Offers the Tools to Help You Grow  
[www.ProvidentBankNJ.com](http://www.ProvidentBankNJ.com)

#### Christian leadership

Strategic Leadership to Lead NPOs Earn MA with Eastern; Learn How  
[www.eastern.edu/Organization](http://www.eastern.edu/Organization)

#### Financial Education

The College for Financial Planning, educating the nations top advisors.  
[www.cffinfo.com](http://www.cffinfo.com)



Ads by Google

#### Premium Homes

[See all ads](#)

#### Don't Miss This!

[See all ads](#)

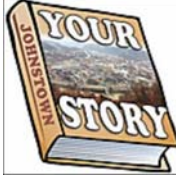
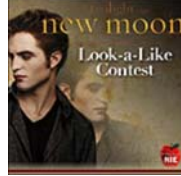


# COMMEMORATIVE STEELERS POSTERS





**NewsTips**  
To send stories and photos, visit [www.tribdem.com/newstips](http://www.tribdem.com/newstips)



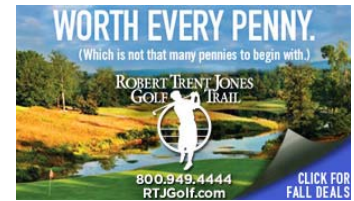
Our Partners  
Relish

The Tribune Democrat, Johnstown, PA  
Calendar

December-January						
M	T	W	T	F	S	S
	8	9	10	11	12	13
14	15	16	17	18	19	20
21	22	23	24	25	26	27
28	29	30	31	1	2	3

ADD EVENT SEE MORE

© 2009, The Tribune-Democrat  
425 Locust St, PO Box 340, Johnstown, PA  
15907-0340  
Phone: (814) 532-5000; Email:  
[Newsroom@tribdem.com](mailto:Newsroom@tribdem.com)



**Popular Business directory links** - [Johnstown Apartments](#) | [Johnstown Attorneys](#) | [Johnstown Auto Dealers](#) | [Johnstown Auto Parts](#) | [Johnstown Auto Repair](#) | [Johnstown Beauty Salons](#) | [Johnstown Car Rental](#) | [Johnstown Dentists](#) | [Johnstown Doctors](#) | [Johnstown Flowers](#) | [Johnstown Hotels](#) | [Johnstown Insurance](#) | [Johnstown Loans](#) | [Johnstown Mortgages](#) | [Johnstown Movers](#) | [Johnstown Pizza](#) | [Johnstown Realtors](#) | [Johnstown Restaurants](#) | [Johnstown Storage](#) | [Johnstown Tax Preparation](#) | [Johnstown Travel](#) | [Johnstown Featured](#) | [More...](#)

**NJ Bank for NJ Business**

Local Bank that Knows Your Needs & Offers the Tools to Help You Grow  
[www.ProvidentBankNJ.com](http://www.ProvidentBankNJ.com)

**Christian leadership**

Strategic Leadership to Lead NPOs Earn MA with Eastern; Learn How  
[www.eastern.edu/Organization](http://www.eastern.edu/Organization)

**Financial Education**

The College for Financial Planning, educating the nations top advisors.  
[www.cfpinfo.com](http://www.cfpinfo.com)



Ads by Google

Community Newspaper Holdings, Inc. • CNHI Classified Advertising Network • CNHI News Service  
Associated Press content © 2009. All rights reserved. AP content may not be published, broadcast, rewritten or redistributed.  
Our site is powered by Zope and our Internet Yellow Pages site is powered by PremierGuide.  
Some parts of our site may require you to download the Flash Player Plugin.  
[View our Privacy Policy](#)  
[Advertiser index](#)