



Chris Orr studies weather maps and plans a forecast for his weather service. The 20-year-old Farmington High School graduate recently landed a job with the Great Lakes Weather Service. He forecasts weather for the upper peninsula and is heard on 11 radio stations.

Forecasting weather turns into avocation

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The equipment Orr needed to predict the weather was expensive and neither college student had much money. They rented some pieces of equipment and arranged for a loan to buy the rest.

Orr's situation brightened when the ownership of Houghton radio station WHDF changed hands in April. Soon after, he was hired to forecast weather for the new station, called WCCY.

Orr and Davis still had problems collecting enough revenue to meet expenses. Davis became discouraged and left the business. Orr continued his venture solo for a while.

"I REALLY ENJOY being right in my forecasts," he said. "I think I'm wrong one day out of every two weeks. It's even more fun when my competition runs a different forecast and it turns out wrong."

Orr's last day of Copper Country forecasts was June 30.

Now he doesn't have to worry about finding clients and he's paid a regular salary.

Great Lakes Weather Service customers include radio and television stations, canning and other agricultural-type companies, county road commissions, power companies and ski resorts.

He has the benefit of three teletype circuits, which transmit weather data from around the nation, and a facsimile machine, which prints out weather maps and charts to help his predictions.

Orr has decided to make meteorology a lifetime occupation.

"I'd like to get into severe weather forecasting for the National Weather Service's center in Kansas City.

"Why severe weather forecasting? I don't know. I like the violence, I guess."

Couple needs home

(Continued from page 1A)

of the Eldredge home, which was estimated to be more than 60 percent damaged.

"We have boarded the house. It's an unsafe structure. City council will have to decide if it should be demolished," Lampi said.

Anna Gargalino, a center supervisor with the Oakland Livingston Human Service Agency (OLHSA), re-emphasized Mrs. Loris's statement.

"We don't provide housing, that's not our business. We can provide meals, health services, and emergency food and clothing," she said. "But where they can turn for housing, I don't know."

Nancy Bates, a member of the Farmington-Farmington Hills Commission on Aging, hopes her group will sponsor a fundraising drive for the Eldredges.

"Either with the commission or personally with help from local clergy, I'd like to get involved," Mrs. Bates said. "They are a retired couple with very little income."

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