

Newspaper group names top managers

Observer & Eccentric General Manager Steve Pope has announced several new management appointments at the Livonia-based organization.

Banks Dishmon has been named publisher of the Observer Group of the Observer & Eccentric Newspapers.

Rick Ficorelli has been named O&E marketing director, and Pamela Blount becomes promotions director for the twice-weekly newspapers operation.

As publisher, Dishmon will oversee management of the advertising, circulation and editorial operations for the Observer group, which has editions in Livonia, Plymouth, Canton, Farmington, Redford, Westland and Garden City.

Dishmon, 42, is a native of Dallas, Texas. Before joining the Observer Group in April, Dishmon spent nine years as vice president of operations for the Dallas/Fort Worth Suburban Newspapers.

In that role Dishmon was responsible for the management of a multi-market news operation which published eight newspapers and one shopper in Dallas and Tarrant counties.

Before that he spent two years as city circulation manager of the Dallas Morning News.

He has also held circulation positions at the Shreveport Times, Texarkana Gazette, Dallas Times Herald, and Denton Record-Chronicle.

He is a member of the Newspaper Association of America, Suburban Newspapers of America,



Banks Dishmon



Rick Ficorelli



Pamela Blount

Texas Press Association, Texas Circulation Managers Association and an honorary lifetime member of Newspaper Circulators of Arkansas.

He has served on the board of directors of the Kiwanis Club of Richardson, Texas and been active in several chambers of commerce.

He holds a bachelor's degree in industrial arts from the University of North Texas-Denton. He and his wife, Debbie, have three children.

Pope welcomed Dishmon to the Observer & Eccentric management team, citing his broad experience in all facets of newspaper operations.

"Banks' experience will be

valuable to this organization. His background in circulation and business is an asset to the Observer Group as it changes to meet the needs of an increasingly competitive economy in southeast Michigan," said Pope.

Ficorelli, a resident of Bloomfield Hills, was previously vice president/marketing of the Metro Times, an alternative news weekly based in Detroit.

Ficorelli worked at the O&E from 1975 to 1985 as retail advertising manager in Wayne County and classified advertising manager.

He also worked as director of telemarketing sales for the Detroit Red Wings Hockey Club. Ficorelli holds a bachelor's de-

gree in marketing from Michigan State University.

Blount, a Waterford resident, comes to the O&E after eight years at the Oakland Press in Pontiac, where she worked as a district sales manager, circulation zone manager and most recently as promotions manager.

She has a bachelor's degree from the University of Michigan.

In other O&E appointments, Pope named Joni Silverstein associate publisher of the South Eccentric Group and Tom Byrd associate publisher of the newly formed North Eccentric Group.

The Eccentric publishes newspapers in Birmingham, West Bloomfield, Southfield, Troy and Rochester.

RECREATION

Each week, the Recreation Division of the Farmington Hills Department of Special Services presents a synopsis of upcoming activities. For more information regarding programs, call the recreation office at 473-9570.

DAY CAMPS

Registrations are now being accepted for the summer day camps which will be held at Heritage Park and the Activities Center. Day camps are scheduled for children ages 6-8 and ages 9-12.

NATURE DISCOVERY WAGON

Pre-registration for children ages 3-6 and a parent or grandparent is being accepted for a program that will provide a tour of Heritage Park's natural sights, sounds and textures of spring. Participants will ride on a hay wagon with special stops along the way. The evening will end with a camp fire and roasting marshmallows.

STARS IN THE PARK

Bring your lawn chairs or blankets and listen to the sounds of the Farmington Community Concert Band on Thursday, May 25, at Heritage Park. Concert begins at 8 p.m. There is no charge for the concert.

WALK MICHIGAN

Enjoy Heritage Park when you participate in "Walk Michigan" on the various trails of the park. Individuals will be eligible for a drawing to win a trip to participate in the Mackinac Bridge walk on Labor Day. Registration is taken on site the night of each walk. The walks will be every

Thursday evening beginning at 6:30 p.m. from May 18 to July 27. Participants should meet at the Day Camp Building. There is no fee for this program.

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CHILDREN'S TOURS DE HILLS

A structured bike tour of approximately eight miles through the City of Farmington Hills will be held from 4-5:30 p.m. on Saturday, June 3, for children ages 8-13. The program will begin with a talk on safety and responsibilities during the ride. All participants must wear a helmet during the tour. The tour will utilize police assistance in crossing major roads. A pre-registration fee of \$6 is required and includes a picnic dinner at Heritage Park at the conclusion of the ride.

CHILDREN'S TOURS

Your child can discover the fun-filled locations of Southeastern Michigan during this week-long program. They will visit both educational and recreational sites. Children ages 6-8 can register for sessions that run June 26-30, July 10-14 and July 24-28. Sessions for 9-12 year olds will be June 19-23, July 3-7 (off July 4) and July 17-21. Fee is \$50 per session. Children should bring a sack lunch each day.

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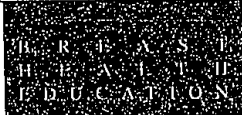
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