

O&E names new IS manager

Greg Day has been named manager of information systems for the Observer & Eccentric Newspapers.

A 15-year employee at the O&E, Day was most recently manager of the Enhanced Media Department where he was in charge of the newspaper's Web site and all Internet-related business services.

In his new position, Day oversees all computerized information management systems at the O&E, which publishes 15 local newspapers in Oakland and western Wayne counties. His responsibilities include system design, selection implementation and operation.

"I look forward to consolidat-

ing all of the computer-related activities at the O&E into a more productive, efficient system that will benefit the company and increase customer satisfaction," said Day.

Day, 38, attended the University of Michigan-Dearborn, where he studied computer science.

A 1978 graduate of Garden City East High School, Day joined the O&E as a computer operator. He was promoted to programmer for business systems, systems analyst and most recently as manager of the Enhanced Media Department.

Day and his wife, Pamela, have four children. They live in Garden City.

Report: CMU charter schools faltering

By TIM RICHARD
STAFF WRITER

Gleeful Democrats said "I told you so" as the House Education Committee took up the auditor general's scathing report on how Central Michigan University weakly supervised its public school academies.

"It greatly concerns me," said Rep. James Agee, D-Muskegon, "that CMU claimed the attorney-client privilege 34 times (in holding back documents from the auditor). The people have a right to know. The attorney-client privilege is OK if there's pending litigation (lawsuits), but this is totally ridiculous."

Michael Mayhew of the auditor's staff said using the attorney-client privilege was rare.

Richard Stafford, the administrator who supervised the CMU audit, begged off answering what might be in the hidden papers because "we can't say what the documents contain if we did not see them."

Agee, a former school superintendent, asked about a reported March 1997 meeting between CMU officials and Art Ellis, state superintendent of public instruction, to discuss the responsibilities of chartering bodies such as universities. "We don't know what happened. Nothing came of it," Agee com-

plained. The audit report said only that "there had not been any substantive issues resolved regarding oversight."

Public school academies (PSAs), commonly called "charter schools," were part of the 1994 school reform package. PSAs were pushed by Gov. John Engler, many legislative Republicans and conservative ideologues such as the Mackinac Center.

Most Democrats and some Republicans supported the bills only grudgingly, fearing they would be a tool for funneling state aid to former private and parochial schools. They also feared chartering authorities would fail to keep a close eye on the fledgling PSAs.

"Was CMU invited to this meeting?" asked Rep. Penny Crisman, R-Rochester.

A CMU representative responded, but then she left the job," replied committee chair Sharon Gire, D-Macomb County.

Affects classroom

Rep. Alan Cropsey, R-DeWitt, sought to defend PSAs by suggesting they were being judged by standards different from public

schools. "The charter schools were fighting for survival against the whole public school establishment," said Cropsey, whose brother is headmaster of Noah Webster Academy, a school denied PSA status.

"It (the audit) didn't get to the heart of what students were learning," Cropsey said.

Two Democrats contradicted him.

Rep. Bob Brown, D-Dearborn Heights, pointed to audit findings that:

■ "The PSAs had not obtained criminal records checks for some employees. Also, eight PSAs did not hire some staff as conditional employees pending the results of criminal records checks," as required by state law.

■ Eight PSAs employed individuals to teach who did not have certificates or permits to teach.

■ One PSA "had students with special education needs who had been attending the PS for more than one year without special education services" being provided.

The audit said CMU needed to improve its monitoring of PSA boards for "potential conflicts of interest" — such as being employed by the PSA or doing business with the PSA. CMU "had not timely identified potential conflicts of interest for nine board members."

OAKLAND DIGEST

Oakland Digest provides a summary of headline stories from around the county during the week leading up to Feb. 19.

BIRMINGHAM

Greens fees increase: Golfers teeing off at Birmingham's Lincoln Hills or Springdale courses will have to pay 50 cents more — increasing greens fees to \$9 for nine holes on weekdays and \$10 on weekends. Non-resident leisure passes will also go up from \$200 to \$300. Business owner passes will rise \$10 to \$60 and designated employees' passes will cost \$140 for the year.

CLARKSTON

Graduation requirements change: Clarkston's school board Feb. 9 approved a new graduation requirement for Clarkston High School that includes more work in language art and a year-long physical education class that incorporates swimming. The requirements

take effect for students slated for graduation in the year 2002.

LAKE ORION

Winter carnival arrives: Olde World Canterbury Village and the Orion Area Chamber of Commerce have a host of events planned for the Third Annual Winter Carnival, Feb. 13-16 and Feb. 22. Events include a 150-block illuminated ice castle at Canterbury Village and a fireworks display over Lake Orion. The carnival will help benefit the Make-A-Wish Foundation. For additional information, call (248) 693-6300.

OXFORD VILLAGE

Councilman enters county race: Oxford Village Council member Tom Athens recently announced his candidacy for the District 1 post of the Oakland County Board of Commissioners. Ruth Johnson currently occupies the seat and recently announced her candidacy for the 4th dis-

trict seat in the Michigan House of Representatives.

ROCHESTER HILLS

Court date set: Rochester Hills teen Michael Conat, 16, who was arraigned on first degree murder charges in the shooting death of his sister Laura Conat, 12, will go to trial on March 9 before Oakland County Circuit Court Judge Fred Meator. Psychiatric testing to determine his competency has already been granted.

SOUTHFIELD

Scholars may drop phys ed: At the March 10 meeting, the Southfield Board of Education is expected to vote on a proposal, which would allow public high school students who participate in the Scholars Plus Program to waive physical education classes if they participate in a school sports team. The board recently discussed allowing the students to waive two semesters, or one credit, of physical education and

enroll in a health class.

TROY

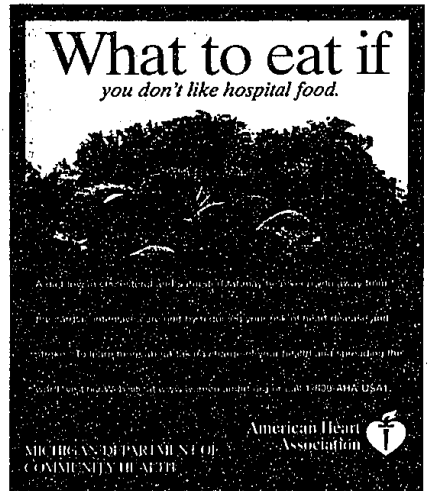
Land plan denied: A request to rezone the property on the east side of Livonia near Big Beaver from residential to community facilities was denied by the Troy Planning Commission. The rezoning, which the commission felt was "premature," would pave the way for a municipal outdoor recreation area.

WALLED LAKE

Students to pay for driver's ed: The Wall Lake Board of Education voted unanimously to maintain the driver's education program, but will charge each student a \$96.25 fee for a minimum of 24 hours of classroom instruction and a minimum of six hours of driving instruction. A follow up meeting to discuss the program's future will likely take place in January 1999.

— Compiled by staff reporter
Sara Callender

What to eat if you don't like hospital food.



A black and white photograph of a person sitting at a table, looking down at a plate of food. The person is wearing a dark jacket and a light-colored shirt. The table is set with a white tablecloth and a glass of water. The background is dark and out of focus.

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