

Gov. Engler fills state posts

Local residents have been appointed to fill a number of state posts by Gov. John Engler, including:

- Stephen M. Conley, of Canton, was appointed to the State Board of Accountancy, which provides for the regulation and application of public accountants for a term expiring June 30, 2002.
- W. John O'Neil, of Walling Lake, Walter Rockinger III, of Dearborn, Gerald W. Richards, of Mason, and Garry L. Sanchez, of Westland, were appointed to the Board of Mechanical Rules, which makes recommendations for mechanical code rules, issues mechanical contractor's licenses and enforce state mechanics codes. Terms expire October 1, 2001.
- O'Neil is president of the W.J. O'Neil Company. He is appointed to represent hydraulic, heating and cooling.
- Rockinger is president of Rockinger Heating and Cooling Co. He is appointed to represent ductwork.
- Richards is a senior engineer for Consumers Energy. He is appointed to represent energy producing utilities.
- Baschout is president of Motor City Ventilation, Inc. He is appointed to represent specialty work.
- Alice Gustafson, of Auburn Hills, was appointed to the Michigan Aeronautics Commission, which supervises all aeronautics within the state and is empowered to make rules about the location, design, building, equipping and operating of all airports within the state.
- Gustafson is president of Hubert Distributors, Inc. and has held a commercial pilot's license for more than 20 years. She is appointed for a term ending May 27, 2003.
- W. Henry E. Beckmeyer, D.O., of East Lansing; Sister Mary Giovanni Monge, of Livonia; Vildan Mullin, M.D., of Whitmore Lake; Gregg K. VandeKieft, M.D., of Okemos; and Steven Weiner, M.D., of West Bloomfield, were appointed to the Advisory Committee on Pain and Symptom Management. The committee is developing a model curriculum for doctors on pain and symptom management. It also develops recommendations on integrating pain and symptom management into health care. All terms expire July 1, 2001.

CAPITOL CAPSULES

GENETIC SCREENING

It's no longer science fiction — medical science can determine the likelihood that an individual will fall victim to one of about 4,000 different diseases through genetic testing.

And health insurance companies in Michigan have already begun the practice of screening customers based on genetic testing, according to state Sen. John Schwarz, R-Battle Creek.

"Don't let them kid you," he said, "they are already doing it."

But the practice will have to end under legislation, an eight bill package led by Senate Bill 815, sponsored by Schwarz and approved by the senate Wednesday, Oct. 27, in a 37-0 vote.

Schwarz believes the testing would make it impossible for some, with genes that make them susceptible to certain diseases, to get insurance.

If insurers argue testing would save money by weeding out those likely to file costly claims, Schwarz is unsympathetic.

"What is the definition of insurance — it's share risk," he said.

The bills would prohibit genetic testing for insurance, require destruction of records of genetic tests, and insure the privacy of genetic tests.

All local senators voted in favor of the bills.

Only Sen. Alma Wheeler Smith, D-Ann Arbor, objected. While voting for the bills, she said she felt they did not go far enough.

"It is my concern that this backdoor approach, rather than going through the complete umbrella protection offered by the Elliot-Larsen Civil Rights Act, does indeed limit the protections available for all of Michigan citizens," said Smith.

Smith and Sen. Dianne Byrum, D-Okemos, earlier proposed prohibitions to genetic testing under the civil rights acts, which the senate did not accept.

son, is sponsoring legislation that would earmark 45 percent of state tax money from Detroit casinos to a state fund intended to help and support local school building bond issues.

Although all state tax money from the three new casinos is already reserved for education, Bogardus' bill would specifically set 45 percent aside for support of local bond issues. Under casino oversight laws, 8.1 percent of casinos' "net win" would be deposited in the state school aid fund for K-12 education.

It is anticipated that once in operation, each permanent casino in Detroit will deposit \$25.4 million into the school aid fund each year.

Earmarked in the school aid fund, the money would then be used for matching grants for school districts which undertake capital improvement programs or install new technology. If voters accept bond issues as the ballot box, and levy 7 mills, the fund would assist in repayment of bonds, Bogardus explained.

She said state assistance would be available for major capital improvement projects at existing schools, new construction and installation of computers and technology.

SCHOOL BUILDING NEGLECT

Many school buildings in Michigan have been neglected in the past few years, and now one lawmaker is looking for ways the state government can help improve or replace those facilities.

Rep. Rose Bogardus, D-David-

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