

CANTON OBSERVER

THURSDAY 04.21.16 || HOMETOWNLIFE.COM || PART OF THE USA TODAY NETWORK



A 'TOE-DIPPERS' GUIDE TO GOING MEATLESS
FOOD, B5

Canton Acts of Culture Week arrives in May

Canton will once again focus a spotlight on arts and culture during the sixth annual Canton Acts of Culture Week.

The week-long event, presented by the Canton Commission for Culture, Arts and Heritage, will begin Sunday, May 1, and continue through Sunday, May 8, at various community locations.

Some of the many goals of Canton's Acts of Culture Week include showcasing community cultural resources and partnerships; celebrating diverse culture offerings; raising awareness of arts accessibility; instilling an appreciation of local arts organizations; and promoting the arts and heritage in and around the Canton

community.

In celebration of the arts, a variety of events will be held, some of which include:

» The Michigan Opera Theatre's "How Nanita Learned To Make Flan" will be performed at 2 p.m. Sunday, May 1, at The Village Theater at Cherry Hill. This 45-minute opera for children will be sung

in English (with some Spanish) by the Michigan Opera Theatre community programs touring ensemble.

It involves a little girl on a fairy tale journey filled with discovery, danger and delicious flan. Nanita's papa, a shoemaker, works so hard he doesn't have time to make his daughter shoes. Nanita's first

communion is coming up, so she decides to make the shoes for herself, but somehow her odd little creations turn out to be enchanted and they sleepwalk her far away. When she awakens, she is lost. How this feisty heroine finds her way back home is part of the story,

See CULTURE, Page A2

Two occupants safely escape Rolling Meadow fire

Joanne Maliszewski
Staff Writer

Two occupants of a home in the 8000 block of Rolling Meadow Drive were able to escape Saturday as Canton firefighters arrived to find a fully involved fire in the attached garage.

Canton firefighters were dispatched to the house at noon on a report that two occupants were trapped inside. While in route, they were advised that the occupants had escaped.

"We transported one of the occupants (for medical care) as a precaution," Deputy Fire Chief Chris Stoecklein said.

Firefighters found the attached garage and a vehicle in the driveway fully involved in fire, with heavy smoke inside of the home. Wearing protective clothing and self-contained breathing apparatus, firefighters were able to quickly extinguish the fire and checked the interior of the home for fire extension.

"There was black, heavy smoke coming from the eaves and the roof vents," Stoecklein said. "We contained the fire to the garage. Our firefighters made one heck of a stop on it. They stopped it spreading to the house."

Fifteen firefighters responded, a good-sized response team because there were no other medical calls at the same time," Stoecklein added.

The fire is believed to be accidental, but its cause remains under investigation. The garage contained a large amount of stored items, Stoecklein said.

In addition to the Rolling Meadow Drive fire, Canton firefighters this past weekend responded to 62 fire and emergency medical calls.



Canton firefighters were dispatched at noon Saturday to a house fire on Rolling Meadow Drive. The garage was totally engulfed. Two occupants escaped safely.

ED WRIGHT

jmaliszews@hometownlife.com

Relay For Life events take shape

Darrell Clem
Staff Writer

They're separate communities sharing a common goal of fighting cancer.

As Relay For Life events draw closer in Canton and Plymouth, the American Cancer Society is recruiting teams from local families, businesses, schools and places of worship, among other groups.

"Relay For Life is a chance to make the greatest impact in the fight to end cancer," said Megan Schaper, an ACS community manager who is leading the Relay events in Canton and Plymouth. "Many participants are loved ones who have faced cancer themselves. Each new team brings us one step closer to saving more lives and we simply cannot finish the



Relay For Life of Plymouth participants walk in Kellogg Park.

ACS

fight without every dedicated cancer fighter."

Relay For Life of Canton is set for 10 a.m. to midnight Saturday, May 14, in Heritage Park. Teams and individual

participants may learn more or sign up by going to www.relayforlife.org/CantonMI.

See RELAY, Page A3

Dearborn man charged with sexual assault in Canton

Joanne Maliszewski
Staff Writer

A Dearborn man faces sexual assault charges in connection with the assault of a woman in a vacant home near Lilley and Warren roads in Canton last week.

Ali Mohamad-Sahrif Al-Aboosi, 45, has been charged with two counts: assault with intent to commit sexual penetration, a felony punishable by up to 10 years, and one count of CSC-fourth degree (force or coercion), which is a high court misdemeanor with a maximum two years in prison and/or a \$500 fine. He was arraigned April 14 in 35th District Court, where he will return for a



Al-Aboosi

probable cause hearing April 29. Bond was set at \$150,000 or 10 percent.

According to Canton police, the man met his victim April 12, moments after offering her a job to clean homes. He reportedly picked up the woman in the area of Telegraph and Ford Road. The woman told police that he took her to a Canton home that is being renovated and assaulted her.

The investigation is expected to continue.

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Colbeck calls for input on state ed LGBTQ policy

State Sen. Patrick Colbeck called Monday for input from Michigan residents regarding the recently proposed LGBTQ policy guidelines from the state Board of Education.

"Now is the time for concerned Michigan citizens to speak out on these proposed guidelines," Colbeck said. "I have serious concerns that these policy guidelines will fail to result in a safe and secure learning environment. I believe that they will distract teachers from their core mission of teaching and helping children become proficient in areas such as reading,

science, math and history."

The proposed guidelines were released Feb. 23 and are publicly available at the Michigan Department of Education website. The state Board of Education is expected to vote on the guidelines at either its May 10 or June 14 meeting.

Comments can be sent to Colbeck by email at senpcolbeck@senate.michigan.gov and submitted directly to the MDE. The department will accept comments on its website through May 11.

CULTURE

Continued from Page A1

along with magical flan. Flan, made by Los Amigos restaurant, will be sold following the performance for \$3 each or two for \$5.

Tickets to the performance are \$6, available online at www.cantonvillage.com or by calling 734-394-5300.

The sixth annual Ladies Dillenbeck art exhibition reception, from 2-4 p.m. Sunday, May 1, at D&M Art Studio, 8691 N. Lilley Road. This exhibition and sale of select original artwork features pieces that were created by local women artists. Art will include drawings, paintings and photography by artists, including Sharon Lee Dillenbeck, her daughters Erin and Kristin, her sister Donna Knight and Marilyn Meredith, Vivian Hewitt, Elizabeth Gullikson, Deana Salhaney, Kyla Suchy, Kay Masini and more. The exhibition is free and runs through May 31. For more information, go to www.dmartstudio.com.

Acts of Fashion, a fashion show, at 7 p.m. Saturday, May 7, at the Village Theater. Doors open at 6 p.m. This charity runway fashion show and shopping experience will present a spring/summer lineup of fashion wear and accessories from the hottest new, local and upcoming designers.

Enjoy a shopping experience of fashion pieces and witness the latest trends from nationally known brands Carson's, Rue 21 and Al Wissam, among others. There will be special performances by Kelsey Rose, Central City Dance, The Detroit Tap Repertoire and others. Tickets are \$15 per person and are available at www.cantonvillage.com. A portion of the proceeds will benefit the World War II veterans dormitory project of the Partnership for the Arts and Humanities.

A complete calendar of Canton Acts of Culture Week events is available at www.cantonfun.org. For more information, call 734-394-5360.

Meet the pope's chief astronomer

Jay Grossman
Staff Writer

As the chief astronomer for the Vatican Observatory, Brother Guy Consolmagno knows all about the heavens.

Consolmagno, 63, attended Our Lady Queens of Martyrs Catholic School in Beverly Hills, graduating in 1966. He's returning Tuesday to his alma mater, where he'll visit different classrooms and share his love of the planets and the stars. He's also speaking at 7 p.m. Monday night at the church; tickets for the event are being sold in advance and at the door.

"We're thrilled Brother Guy came home to share his journey from being a student at Our Lady Queen of Martyrs Catholic School to his Vatican position today," said Mary Henige, a parishioner of the church and school board advisory member. "Catholic school education is core to the mission of the church. Every student's success is important, because you never know where God is preparing that child to serve."

After graduating in 1970 from the University of Detroit-Jesuit High School, Consolmagno earned his master's degree from MIT and a doctorate in planetary science from the University of Arizona. He served in the U.S. Peace Corps and taught university physics at Lafayette College before becoming a Jesuit in 1989.

Pope Francis appointed him director of the Vatican Observatory in September 2015. He also is president of the Vatican Observatory Foundation. At the Vatican Observatory in Rome, his research explores connections between meteorites, asteroids and the evolution of small solar system bodies, observing Kuiper Belt comets with the Vatican's 1.8 meter telescope in Arizona.

In 2014, Consolmagno received the Carl Sagan Medal from the American Astronomical Society Division for Planetary Sciences for excellence in public communication in planetary sciences. He is the first cleric to receive this honor.

Q: How were you appointed to the position of director of the Vatican Observatory and who was the first person you called when you learned about the appointment?

Consolmagno: The term of the previous director was due to end this year, so there was no surprise that we'd have a new director. However, I was very surprised when I heard it was going to be me! The director is appointed by the pope, but in fact since the observatory has been given to the Jesuit order to staff, it's up to the head of the Jesuits, Father Nicholas, to nominate a director. I was nominated in the



SUBMITTED

Brother Guy Consolmagno was appointed by Pope Francis in 2015 to serve as director of the Vatican Observatory.



SUBMITTED

A photo of Brother Guy Consolmagno at Our Lady Queens of Martyrs Catholic School in Beverly Hills, taken in 1958 when he was 6 years old.

spring of 2014 and, late last summer, I heard that the pope had agreed with the nomination.

Naturally, the first people I told about my appointment were my parents! My dad retired from Chrysler many years ago and they've lived in Florida ever since ... in fact, dad just turned 98 years old this week!

Q: What is it like reporting directly to Pope Francis?

Consolmagno: I've worked at the observatory with three different popes and they have all been wonderful. Actually, Pope Benedict was a delight to be with one-on-one; he has a great understanding of our work and a sharp sense of humor! But Pope Francis is certainly special. He can connect with the ordinary folks in the pews in ways that are just remarkable and he has a real talent to cut through the theological verbiage and get to the crux of the matter. If we're Christians, then Christ should be the center of our religion, but sometimes we forget that in all the day-to-day details of running an outfit with 1.3 billion members. He reminds us to keep Christ at the center of all that we do, all the decisions we make.

For me, that comes down to remembering to do science and present science out of sheer joy in discovering the truth, without getting tangled up in worrying about who might be "scooping" my results or what someone else might be doing.

Q: Have you always been interested in science? Why?

Consolmagno: I grew up in the space age; when I started kindergarten, Sputnik was launched and, when I entered my senior year of high school, men landed on the moon. But I think even without that, I would have been fascinated in science. I loved looking at the stars and I loved learning how things worked. I'm the sort of kid who took clocks apart (and didn't always get them back together again properly!). My parents both en-

couraged me in this. In particular, my dad took me out and taught me the constellations. He'd been a navigator in the Army Air Corps during World War II and had learned the major navigational stars then.

Q: How does the Vatican do scientific research? What's your job like?

Consolmagno: We're not much different from any other scientific research institution — each member of the staff has a whole set of collaborators at other universities around the world and we go to meetings and share data and telescope time and write papers with the rest of the scientific world. Science is not just a big book of facts; it's a conversation in a bigger community and we are active members of that community. We went to the same schools and, as I say, we attend the same meetings.

There are some special things about working at the Vatican, however. First, we don't have to worry about getting a grant that is renewed or canceled every three years. Likewise, we're not concerned about being famous or getting promoted to "full professor" status. And so we tend to work on long-term projects, like surveys of galaxies or meteorite properties that may take 10 or 20 years to complete. This is science that the rest of the field can't afford to do, but really needs to have someone provide. So we provide a special service in that way to the rest of the field.

My own job as director, then, is just to make sure that the other dozen astronomers in our group have the space and resources to do their jobs!

Q: Do you feel there's tension between science and religion? How are they connected (or not)?

Consolmagno: I have never felt any kind of tension and, in fact, it's often hard for me to answer people who worry about that, because I really don't know what they are talking about. In fact, my religion gives me the courage to do the science. It lets me believe that there really are answers there to be found. And it encourages me to study something as

esoteric as astronomy, because I feel confident that the closer I come to understanding creation, the more I can appreciate the glory of God.

Likewise, as Pope John Paul II said, science is important to my religion, because it keeps us away from superstition and fear.

Q: Is the Star of Bethlehem real?

Consolmagno: Well, there really is a story about it and it's the story that gives us joy and wonder. Beyond that, we'll never know for sure just what Matthew was referring to in the story; but to be honest, we don't need to know. I enjoy mysteries!

Q: What are your thoughts on the Big Bang theory?

Consolmagno: It's the best description we have so far to explain how the universe developed and how we see it developing today. A lot of people are surprised to hear that the guy who came up the Big Bang theory was actually a Catholic priest/astronomer from the 1920s, a Belgian named Georges Lemaitre. He also had a degree from MIT! So the idea of Catholic astronomers is hardly a new thing.

Q: What are some of your favorite memories from Our Lady Queen of Martyrs Catholic School?

Consolmagno: I remember the teachers fondly, especially Father Hebert (we celebrated his 25th anniversary of ordination when I was in the first grade) and the Sisters of Charity who taught me, including Sister Martin Mary, who was a great science teacher. And, of course, the friends I made, some of whom I am still in touch with today.

The science fairs were especially fun. And I also recall when the new church opened and when we changed the Mass from Latin to English. Those were exciting times!

Q: Do you believe other forms of life exist out there?

Consolmagno: Maybe; it sure might be possible. Let's find out!

Q: "Star Wars" or "Star Trek"?
Consolmagno: Yes!

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OLGC will host groundbreaking for expansion

Our Lady of Good Counsel Church in Plymouth, at the corner of Beck North Territorial roads, is breaking ground Sunday, April 24, on a new 30,000-square-foot expansion to address its need for more space and to further its vision of "offering every person in our community a life-

changing encounter with Jesus." The new two-level building, which will include a full gymnasium, concession stand, activities rooms, multiple meeting rooms, a walking track, child care facilities and special rooms for teens and other groups, is expected to be ready for use in

spring 2017. The new building is being built because the parish has outgrown its current facilities and because it wants to offer everyone in the community an opportunity to meet and know Jesus, according to church officials. The parish has grown by more than 800 fam-

ilies in the last eight years. With thousands of events annually, it needs more space to accommodate its growing needs. The project is being funded with parishioner contributions, of which approximately two-thirds has already been raised. The balance will be funded by a loan

from the Archdiocese of Detroit. OLGC pastor the Rev. John Riccardo said the building is designed to give the church more space to share the Gospel. "Only Jesus can reveal to us who we are, what we're made for, and how to find true fulfillment," he said. "And so everything we

do here is done with this in mind." The groundbreaking ceremony will begin at 1:30 p.m., rain or shine. Archbishop Alan Vigneron, Riccardo, additional OLGC parish leaders and representatives from various contractors will be in attendance. The public is welcome.

Barefoot offers opening deal for 'Laura'

Plymouth's hometown theater will offer an opening night special for "Laura" on Friday, April 22, when patrons may buy one ticket and get the second ticket half-off.

Call 734-404-6889 for the opening night special. Seats may also be reserved online at www.justgobarefoot.com.

Barefoot Productions Theater presents Laura, a hard-boiled detective, a beautiful advertising exec and a string of lovers featured in the murder mystery "Laura," written by Vera Caspary and George Sklar. The play runs April 22 through May 1 at Barefoot Productions Theater, 240 N. Main St., Plymouth.

Mark McPherson is the gritty detective assigned to find out who



Adam Weakley as Mark McPherson and Mouse Courtois as The Girl.

killed the glamorous Laura. He secretly falls in love with her as he reads her letters, basks in the light of her portrait and interviews her friends. As McPherson unravels the whodunit, there are many plot

twists that keep the audience guessing.

Made popular by the 1944 film adaption, "Laura" became widely known and voted by the AFI as one of the top 10 mystery films of all time. The Barefoot Production

of "Laura" is more true to the book than the film version.

The director's unique vision and staging of the production will give the audience a fresh take on the classic.

"We are not setting this production in any specific era. There will be styles reminiscent of the 1940s, as when the original film made its debut, but other characters will be more modern. There will be some surprises with characters, original to the novel but not in the film," said director Mat DeLisle, who is inspired by David Lynch.

The show is at 8 p.m. April 22-23 and 29-30 and 2 p.m. April 24 and May 1.

Author, judge to visit Plymouth Library in May

The Friends of the Plymouth District Library have a busy spring planned for the public, with two important programs scheduled in May. The annual Book and Author luncheon Friday, May 6, will welcome mystery writer and Michigan native Bryan Gruley. The Friends will host U.S. Bankruptcy Judge Steven Rhodes on Thursday, May 12, when he presents "The Detroit Bankruptcy Case: An Insider's View from One Year Later."

Gruley is a Catholic Central graduate and Pulitzer Prize winner. His work includes "Starvation Lake: A Mystery," its sequel, "The Hanging Tree," and a third novel, "The Skeleton Box." He shared in the 2002 Pulitzer Prize for coverage of the 9/11 terrorist attacks as part of the Wall Street Journal staff.

The Mystery Writers of America nominated "Starvation Lake" for an Edgar Award for Best First Novel. The book went on to win the Anthony, Barry and Strand awards. "The Hanging Tree" has been recognized as a No. 1 Indie Next pick, one of Michigan's Notable Books in 2011 and a Kirkus Reviews Best Mystery of 2010.

The Book and Author Luncheon will be held at



Gruley



Rhodes

11:30 a.m. Friday, May 6, at Fox Hills Golf and Banquet Center, 8768 N. Territorial Road, Plymouth Township. Cost for the luncheon is \$30 per person. Reservations will

be accepted until noon April 22. Go to plymouthlibrary.org to download a reservation form or pick up one at the Plymouth District Library.

At 7 p.m. Thursday, May 12, the Friends will welcome Rhodes, the recently appointed transition manager for the Detroit Public Schools, to the library. As 2014 came to a close, Rhodes approved the bankruptcy plan for Detroit, allowing the city to begin the process of exiting bankruptcy. Rhodes will speak about the state of Detroit, one year following the bankruptcy process.

This program is free and open to the public. Refreshments will be served. The Plymouth District Library is at 223 S. Main St. in downtown Plymouth.

Plymouth District Library to host grant workshop

The Plymouth District Library invites all local cultural organizations, municipalities and other nonprofit organizations to an informative workshop about securing grants from the Michigan Council for Arts and Cultural Affairs at 2 p.m. Thursday, April 21.

The mission of the Michigan Council for Arts and Cultural Affairs is to encourage, initiate

and facilitate an enriched artistic, cultural and creative environment in Michigan. A division of the Michigan Economic Development Corp., MCACA offers a variety of grants each year to nonprofit organizations statewide that encourage, develop and facilitate an enriched environment of artistic, creative and cultural activity. These grants fall under

the categories of operational support, project support, capital improvements, educational residencies and retention and engagement programs.

Also available are MCACA mini-grants, available for up to \$4,000. In 2015, 462 of these grants were awarded throughout the state, with total grant funding of \$9.65 million.

Eligible organizations are encouraged to drop in for this free program at the library. For more information on the workshop, go to plymouthlibrary.org.

For more information on the Michigan Council for Arts and Cultural Affairs, go to www.michiganbusiness.org/arts.

RELAY

Continued from Page A1

Relay For Life of Plymouth is scheduled for 11 a.m. to 10 p.m. Saturday, June 11, in Kellogg Park. For more information or to sign up, go to www.relayforlife.org/PlymouthMI.

Teams can register up to the day before the events.

Relay For Life is billed as a family-friendly event that is free and open to the public. It is a movement that unites communities around the globe to celebrate people who have battled cancer, remember those who have died and to continue to fight back.

Canton event

In Canton, participants take turns walking or running around the pond in Heritage Park after spending months raising money prior to the event.

Last year, more than 700 people participated in the Relay for Life of Canton and raised more than \$161,000 to support American Cancer Society patient programs and services such as Road To

Recovery, Hope Lodge, Look Good Feel Better and cancer research.

Cancer survivors and one guest are welcome to a luncheon and to kick off the event with an opening lap at 10 a.m. Survivor registration and check-in opens at 9:30 a.m. The event includes entertainment such as bands and dance groups and a luminaria ceremony, which involves lighting a small candle inside a bag.

Canton's event also will include healthy activities such as a cardio-fitness class, WERQ, from Z-spot Fitness, along with a children's workshop from Home Depot and a furniture build-off competition by IKEA. The event also includes a silent auction.

Canton's event also includes a partnership with St. Joseph Mercy Health System for health screenings, free bike helmets and a chance to consult with doctors about best practices for a healthy lifestyle. This part of the event happens 11 a.m. to 2 p.m. at St. Joseph's cancer center on Canton Center, near Palmer.

Plymouth event

In Plymouth, participants take turns walking or running around Kellogg Park after spending months raising money to fight cancer.


Last year, more than 250 people participated in Relay for Life of Plymouth and raised more than \$75,000 to support American Cancer Society patient programs and services, as well as cancer research.

Cancer survivors and a guest may join the survivor and caregiver luncheon and the kick-off lap at 11 a.m. Check-in begins at 10:30 a.m.

Much like the Canton event, participants will be able to enjoy local bands and dance groups, along with the luminaria ceremony. Plymouth's event also includes the cardio-fitness class, WERQ, by Z-spot Fitness, a silent auction, food, games and activities.

To learn more about the Canton and Plymouth events, go to the aforementioned websites or contact Schaper at 248-663-3417 or by email at Megan.Schaper@cancer.org.


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CASE NO. 14-10698-NA
PETITION NO. 14-4605

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TAKE NOTICE: A petition has been filed with this court regarding the following minor(s): Karissa Ann Haase who was born on 01/30/2002, at Lapeer, Michigan. For a copy of the petition, please contact the Family Court at 989-672-3850 or the Department of Health and Human Services at 989-545-8222.

The mother of the minor(s) is Kelly Talaski. If you are or may be the natural father, you should appear at Tuscola County Family Court, 440 N. State St., Caro MI, 48723 on May 10, 2016 at 9:00am to state any interest you may have in the minor(s). Failure to appear at this hearing is a denial of interest in the minor(s), waiver of notice for all subsequent hearings, and a waiver of a right to appointment of an attorney. Failure to appear at this hearing **COULD RESULT IN PERMANENT TERMINATION OF PARENTAL RIGHTS.**

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Domestic violence bills clear state Senate

A bipartisan domestic violence package that includes legislation authored by Rep. Kurt Heise, R-Plymouth Township, was overwhelmingly approved April 14 by the state Senate.

"The main emphasis of this seven-bill package was to update existing domestic violence laws," Heise said. "This will allow better protections to specific victims of domestic violence, including immediate family and even pets. These type of situations deserve updated and improved scrutiny in the legal system."

As chair of the House Committee on Criminal Justice, Heise listened to hours of testimony in support of the legislation, spoke in support on the



Heise

Kosowski

House floor prior to an October 2015 vote on the package and also testified before the Senate Judiciary Committee in February.

Heise specifically authored House Bill 4480, which prevents a parent protecting themselves or a child from domestic violence or sexual assault by the other parent from being considered a negative factor in child custody

proceedings.

"This is a very specific situation that simply had to be addressed," Heise said. "The Child Custody Act contains many best-interest factors when it comes to children, but situations involving domestic violence or sexual assault had to be updated in relation to a future relationship with the parents."

HB 4480 was approved by a 37-0 vote. It returns to the House for possible concurrence vote.

The package of bills also includes legislation proposed by state Rep. Robert Kosowski, D-Westland, that would add companion animals to personal protection orders.

"Often, in domestic violence

situations, the perpetrator of the abuse will use a family pet as a way to control their human victims," Kosowski said. "In essence, my legislation would add a check box so that a domestic violence victim can include his or her pet while obtaining a personal protection order."

Currently, 28 other states have similar provisions in place. One of these states, Minnesota has been keeping track of how many personal protection orders have included companion animals since 2010. In 2010, the number of personal protection orders including pets was 167. In 2013, that number skyrocketed to 1,067.

"Statistics such as these show that once domestic vio-

lence victims became aware they could include companion animals in personal protection orders, they overwhelmingly chose to do so," Kosowski said.

Kosowski said his legislation does more than just including a check box on a form.

"Right now, domestic violence victims are not leaving their dangerous situations because their abuser is using the family pet as a pawn," he said. "Ensuring victims are aware they can include their companion animals in a personal protection order not only can save the animal from further abuse, it can save the human victims, both adults and children, from being controlled and forced back into violent situations."

Getting facts straight about Miranda rights

The following is a real conversation between a trooper and a witness:

Trooper: OK, sir, if I could just get your statement to what you saw, we should be all set.

Witness: OK, go ahead and "Mirandize" me and I'll talk.

Trooper: You don't need to be "Mirandized" — you're not under arrest.

Witness: Yeah, I know, but I don't want my statement to get thrown out because you didn't read me my rights.

Trooper: I don't need to read you your rights. Reading Miranda is reserved only for the criminal once he is in custody. You're not a criminal and you're not under arrest. We have the criminal in custody and we have already interviewed him.

Witness: Are you sure I don't need to be "Mirandized?"

Trooper: Positive. You don't watch a lot of police shows do you?

Witness: Nah, not really. I love reality television like "Keeping up with the Kardashians."

Trooper: I would never have guessed.

Witness: Can you still "Mirandize" me anyway, just so I can say I was? My friends will think it's

Sgt. Michael
Sura

ASK A TROOPER

cool.

Trooper: Sure, if it will help end this conversation and allow me to get a statement.

This week's question comes from a local high school student: When and why do police officers have to read someone their Miranda waiver?

Great question. The Miranda rights was a decision made in 1966, by the U.S. Supreme Court. Ernesto Arturo Miranda had committed several felony offenses and, during the course of the investigation, the Supreme Court felt that his Fifth Amendment and Sixth Amendment rights had been violated. Just so you know — Miranda was subsequently retried for the offenses and convicted.

The circumstances triggering the Miranda safeguards, or Miranda rights, are custody and interrogation. Custody means formal arrest or the deprivation of freedom. Interrogation is asking explicit questions, or actions, that

are reasonably likely to elicit an incriminating response.

The Supreme Court did not specify the exact wording to use when informing someone of their rights. However, the court did create a set of guidelines that must be followed. The ruling states that a person in custody must, prior to interrogation, be clearly informed of their right to remain silent and that anything they say can and will be used against them in the court. The person must be informed that they have a right to an attorney and can have the attorney present during questioning. It is also explained that if you cannot afford an attorney, one will be appointed for you if you wish.

Further, if you start answering questions without an attorney present and decide to stop, you can stop answering questions at any time and talk to an attorney. The last thing is that you know and understand your rights as they are explained.

If you have questions or comments, email them to askatrooper12@gmail.com. or mail them to Ask A Trooper, Michigan State Police Brighton Post, 4337 Buno Road, Brighton, MI 48116.

Report: Anniversary celebration ends with drunken-driving arrest

A 53-year-old Canton Township man was arrested on a drunken-driving charge after police reportedly spotted his car weaving on the freeway early Saturday. The man reportedly told the arresting officer that he and his wife had been celebrating their 18th wedding anniversary at a casino in Detroit and that he had had a few beers. The wife was a passenger in the car.

The officer had spotted the driver, in a Chrysler 300, on westbound M-14, approaching the ramp to southbound I-275, at about 1 a.m. Saturday, a Plymouth Township Police Department report said. The driver was swerving the car onto the shoulder and changed lanes without signaling, the report said.

Car break-in

An iPhone was reported stolen from a car parked outside LA Fitness, at Ann Arbor Road and Haggerty, while the phone's owner worked out there Friday evening, according to a police report.

The victim, a 27-year-old Redford Township man, told police he had secured the car keys in a locker at LA Fitness, but that when he finished his workout he found the padlock had been broken off and placed inside the locker, police said. He went to check the Lexus and found the phone had been stolen, a police report said.

By Matt Jachman

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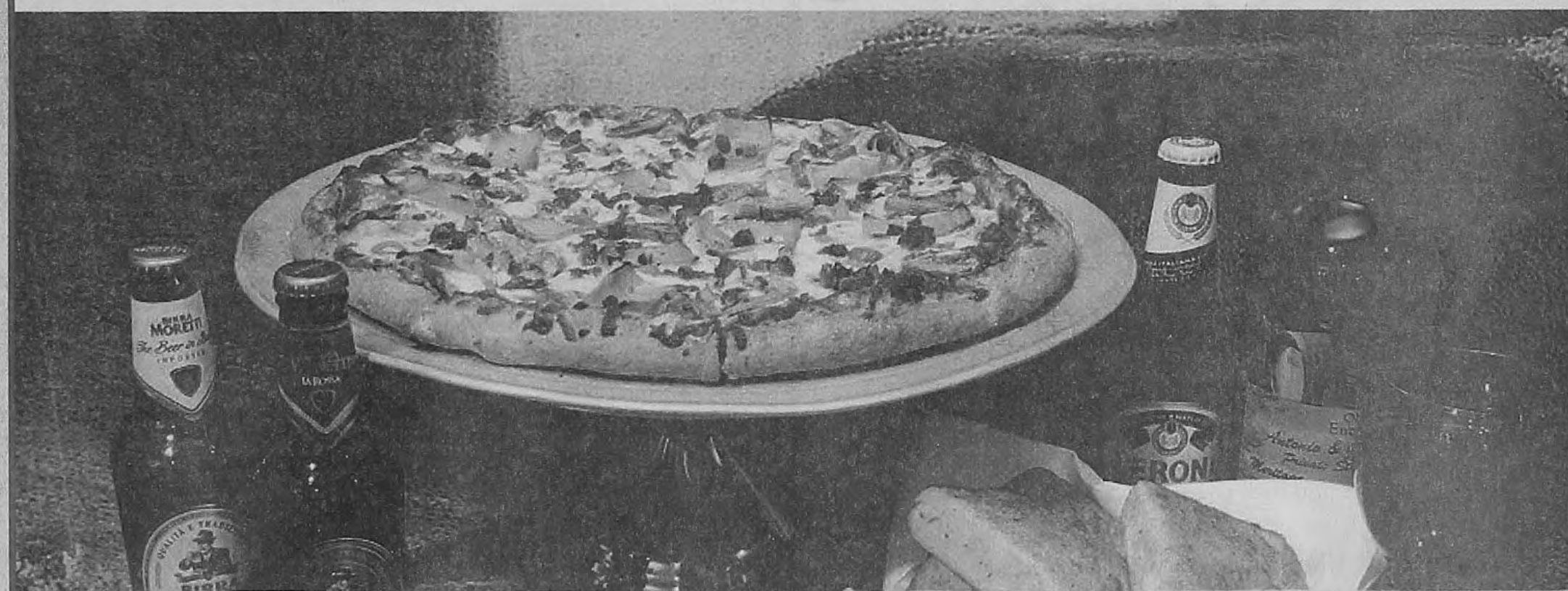
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Be smart and efficient about taxes – year-round

By now, most of us have filed our 2015 tax returns — so we can forget about taxes for another year, right? That would be nice if it were true, but it's not. Unfortunately, taxes are something we must be aware of 12 months a year, not just when we file our tax returns. That doesn't mean we want to let the tax tail wag the dog by making everything we do dependent on taxes; rather, we want to be smart and efficient when it comes to our taxes. In that regard, it is always important to remember that, from a financial standpoint, your goal is not to lower your taxes, but to have more money in your pocket. Lowering your taxes doesn't necessarily accomplish that.

One of the things everyone needs to have in place is some sort of tax record-keeping system. Unfortunately, too many people wait until they receive their 1099s and W-2s to set up a record-keeping system. When people don't have a system in regard to preparing their tax returns, they panic, potentially losing out on valuable deductions or credits. What type of record-keeping system? That all depends. Some are very good with technology and everything is saved electronically, while others are a little more old-fashioned and like saving the physical item. It really doesn't matter, as long as you have a record-keeping system in place that works for you.

Throughout the year, you can experience



Rick Bloom
MONEY MATTERS

One of the things everyone needs to have in place is some sort of tax record-keeping system.

life-changing events that can impact your taxes. If you get married or divorced during the year, it could have a major impact on your tax situation. For example, if someone got married during the year, their tax status would change from single to married and that can have all sorts of implications on withholdings and deductions. It is important to determine how these events will affect you and then make adjustments accordingly. Of course, that doesn't mean you let taxes make these decisions, but as your life changes, so do tax rules.

Even though we file our tax returns once a year, our taxes are actually due on a quarterly basis. It is always important to monitor your withholdings and estimated tax payments so you're not subject to penalties at the end of the year. It is also important that sometime throughout the year you consider whether you should do a Roth conversion. Whether you are working or retired, Roth conversions are something that everyone

should consider. After all, if you can turn tax-deferred money into tax-free money, why not?

Tax rules and implications also come into consideration when you make charitable contributions. For many, as opposed to just writing a check, it may be more efficient to donate appreciated securities. The benefit of donating appreciated securities is that you still receive a charitable contribution for the fair market value of your contribution and you avoid paying taxes on the unrecognized gain. By being aware of taxes, it allows you to keep more money in your pocket.

The bottom line is we must be aware of taxes 12 months a year. Our goal is not to let taxes dictate everything, but to take advantage of the tax law where it helps us. Unfortunately, if you only think about taxes when it comes to filing your return, you won't be able to take advantage of these opportunities. Even though we have filed a 2015 tax return, it doesn't mean we can forget about taxes for another year. If you believe as I do, that it is not more patriotic to pay more in taxes than you have to, you must at least consider taxes and its ramifications throughout the year.

Rick Bloom is a fee-only financial adviser. His website is www.bloomassetmanagement.com. If you would like him to respond to questions, email rick@bloomassetmanagement.com.



At the ribbon-cutting, Vesna Cadikovska and Mario Maniac are surrounded by their staff and Plymouth Community Chamber of Commerce members.

French Toast Bistro opens in Plymouth

French Toast Bistro in Plymouth celebrated its grand opening in March. It is open for breakfast, lunch and dinner and serves French cuisine with a Cajun twist. All the dishes are made to order from its scratch kitchen using the freshest produce, meats and

seafood and as many Michigan-sourced products as possible. It also has a full bar, serving wine, craft beers and signature cocktails.

Owners Vesna Cadikovska and Mario Maniac fell in love with the Cajun-style cuisine while visiting New Orleans last

year. With Maniac having more than 15 years of experience as an executive chef in Plymouth, they decided to make their dreams a reality and opened French Toast.

The bistro is at 40370 Five Mile Road.

BUSINESS BRIEFS

Watts honored

The Water Quality Association recently presented Darwin Watts, president of SEAS Capital Partners in Plymouth, with its highest honor, induction into the WQA Hall of Fame.

The Hall of Fame Award is given for lifetime dedication and service to the water quality improvement industry and extensive participation and unflinching support for the betterment of the association. Watts was presented with the award March 15, during the 2016 WQA Convention & Exposition in Nashville, Tenn.

Watts is a long-time leader in the water quality improvement industry. He served on WQA's board of governors from 2007-14 and was the association's president from 2012-13. Most recently, he played a prominent role in the Water Quality Research Foundation's 2015 Capital Campaign



Watts

with an initial gift and as a member of its National Steering Committee.

Watts has more than 35 years of industry experience. At SEAS Capital Partners, he focuses on strategic, investment and financial initiatives for industry corporations. As a volunteer through WQA, he aspires to help the industry attract more young professionals to become its next generation of leaders.

Skynar expands

Skynar Bookkeeping of Plymouth announced this week a second office to serve its existing and prospective Downriver clients. The new office is located in the Executive Office Suites of Trenton at 2836 W. Jefferson, Suite 112.

"It was time," founder and president Cheryl Skynar said. "With our growing business, we wanted to be closer to the large number of clients we help in the Downriver area. Trenton has some wonderful corporate facilities and we are thrilled with our new second location. The whole town has been very welcoming."

Skynar founded Sky-

nar Bookkeeping in 2002 after a long career in the corporate world. Her husband Tom joined her in the business in 2014 and now handles all daily operations and business development. Today, they employ three staff bookkeepers and service more than 100 clients with accounts receivables & payables; monthly, quarterly and yearly financial reports; payroll; and numerous other bookkeeping functions.

The company is also an authorized QuickBooks reseller. Cheryl Skynar has held the distinction of being an advanced certified QuickBooks desktop pro adviser since 2012 and is certified in all QuickBooks products. Earlier this year, she added the certification of advanced certified in QuickBooks Online. This sets her among the top 5 percent of pro advisers in the country.

On April 28, Skynar Bookkeeping will participate in the 2016 Money Smart Mompreneurial Summit. This event focuses on helping moms start and grow their entrepreneurial enterprises.

Three Canton residents honored for their volunteer service

Three Canton residents have been honored for their volunteer service at Angela Hospice.

Honored this year were Fran Amico for 500 hours, Alberta Karll for 4,000 hours and Marion Rozum for 15 years.

"According to the U.S. Department of Labor and the Bureau of Labor Statistics, the average volunteer in the U.S. contributes about 52 hours per year to their volunteer work," said Syndie Best, Angela Hospice's director of volunteer services. "The average Angela Hospice Volunteer contributes 86 hours per year. That's two-thirds more per person than the national average."

In 2015, Angela Hospice's 440 volunteers logged 37,730 hours and drove 161,848 miles to help patients and their families.

More than 80 volunteers were recognized for reaching milestones per five years or 500 lifetime hours of service.

At Angela Hospice, volunteers work in every



Canton resident Alberta Karll was among those recently honored for her dedication as a volunteer for Angela Hospice.

area imaginable, from selling raffle tickets for annual fundraisers to performing music to feeding patients to providing a break for caregivers to stocking supplies. They assist wherever and whenever needed.

More than half of Angela Hospice's volunteers have volunteered for more than five years,

with 20 receiving their five-year pin at this year's event. And three volunteers contributed at least 600 hours in 2015 alone, nearly 12 times the national average.

For more information about Angela Hospice or becoming a volunteer, go to www.AskforAngela.com or call toll-free 866-464-7810.

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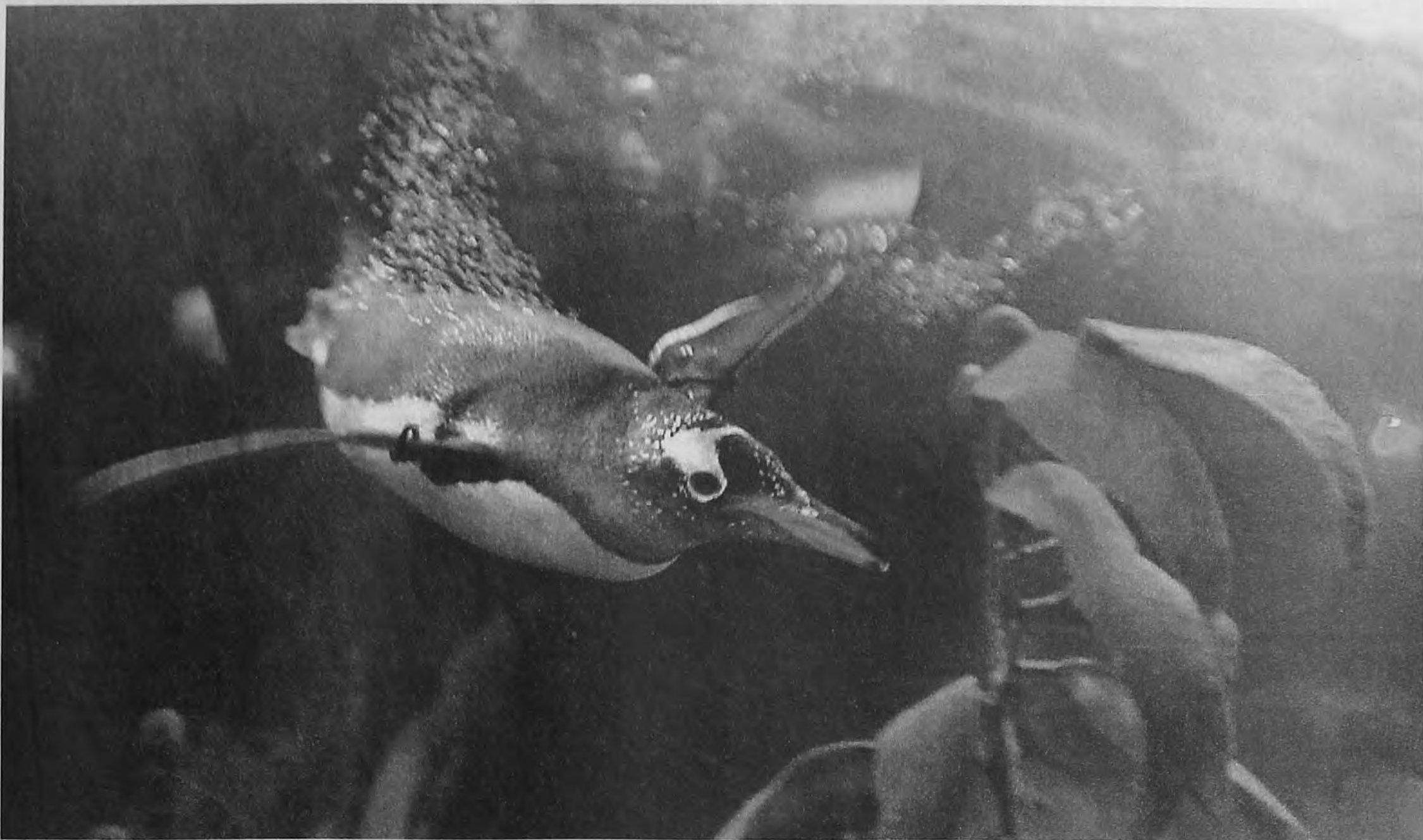
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JOHN STORMZAND | STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER

Swimming together makes for fun times for these Detroit Zoo penguins.

Penguins, people come together at Detroit Zoo

Julie Brown
Staff Writer

Patricia Mills Janeway of the Detroit Zoo remembers 1968 like it was yesterday. That's when the zoo's original penguinarium opened, the first such facility in North America.

"I just remember how cool it was to watch penguins swim. I was mesmerized by it," said Janeway, who grew up in Royal Oak and now calls Bingham Farms home.

She and sister Mary Jo, three years younger, lived nearby at 12 Mile and Woodward. "We decided it would be a good idea to ride our bikes to the zoo," Janeway said. "We spent the entire day here. We just had the time of our lives. There was a squad car parked outside our house" when they returned.

"We didn't think anything of it," she said of the police car. "We were missing." That story had a happy ending, although she doesn't recall their being grounded by their parents.

"It was so long ago, I don't remember what the punishment was," Janeway said, smiling. "And here I am. I get to come to the zoo every day."

On Monday, the zoo's Polk Penguin Conservation Center opened to the public, with Janeway, who handles public relations, busy with the recent press preview. Nearby was zoo executive director and CEO Ron Kagan, standing in the 33,000-square-foot, \$30 million center.

"Well, I'm excited because I think the penguins are having a wonderful time," Kagan said. "From what I can tell, the people are having a wonderful experience."

Inspired by the past

The Polk Conservation Center has been in the works about four years, Kagan said. "I think we were inspired by what was done back then," he said of the former penguinarium. "We felt we needed to do something new and different that was completely authentic."

"I think this has skipped several generations," he added. "It's pretty new and different, definitely using some cool technology."

There are two tunnels that visitors walk through with penguins swimming above, as well

as a large viewing area. It's "an experience for people that's even better than in the wild," Kagan said. "It gives the penguins a phenomenal experience. It also gives the people a phenomenal experience."

There are ramps to walk down to the tunnel viewing area, with scenes of seafaring life, ship decks and masts on the walls. Those scenes go from day to night and back. That's based on polar explorer Sir Ernest Shackleton's Antarctic expedition and crossing of the Drake Passage on his ship, the *Endurance*.

There's also some artwork, as well as scientific exhibits such as one on "Carbon Dioxide, the Heartbeat of Earth's Climate," which notes fossil fuel impact.

Of the new center being unusual, Kagan said, "Worldwide, we're not aware of anything like this. We really have a lot of expertise in this. There's nothing of this magnitude" elsewhere.

He said climate change is most noticeable at the North Pole and South Pole, a key element of the new center's educational outreach. "There's quite a bit of science," said Kagan, a Huntington Woods resident. "We try to help people understand what can they do to make things better. It gives you a whole range of opportunities to have a smaller footprint on the planet."

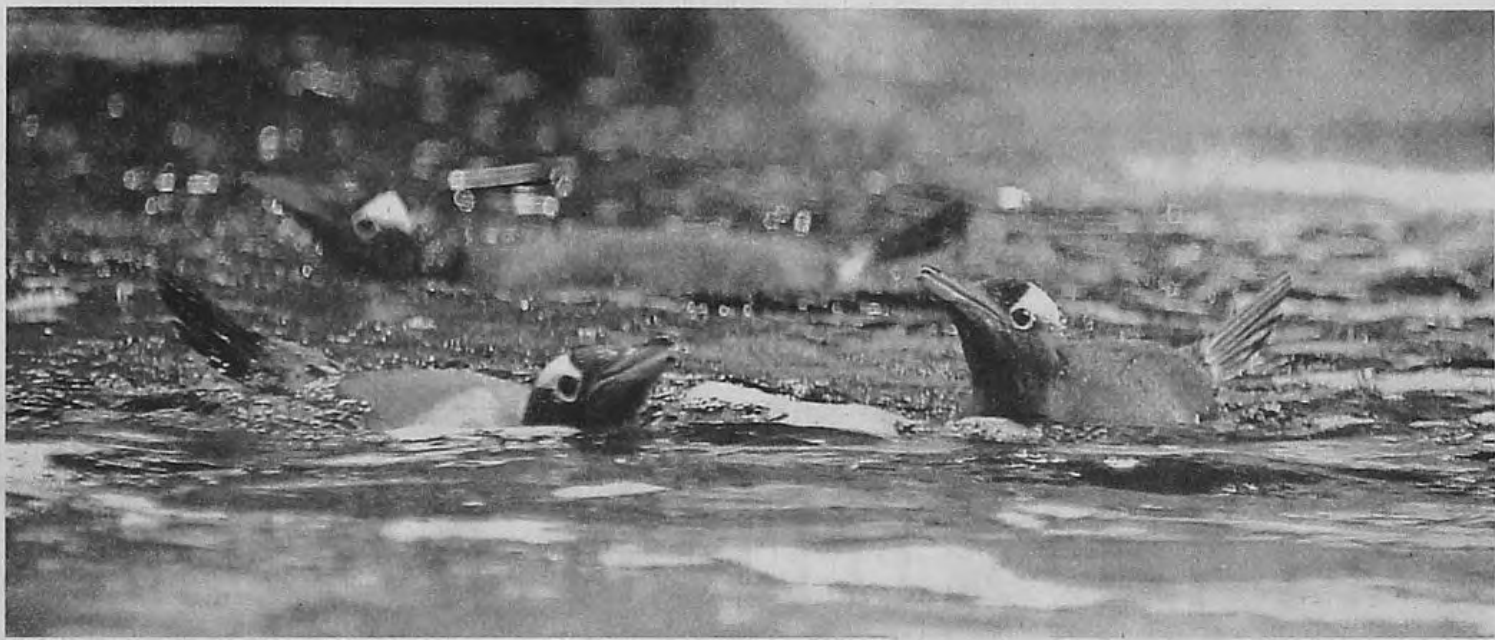
Scott Carter, chief life sciences officer, noted of the four penguin species of gentoo, macaroni, rockhopper and king, only the king penguins haven't moved to their new home yet.

The king penguins are starting their annual molting, noted Carter, a Grosse Pointe Woods resident. "It's kind of a challenging time for them physiologically," he said.

'It really becomes real'

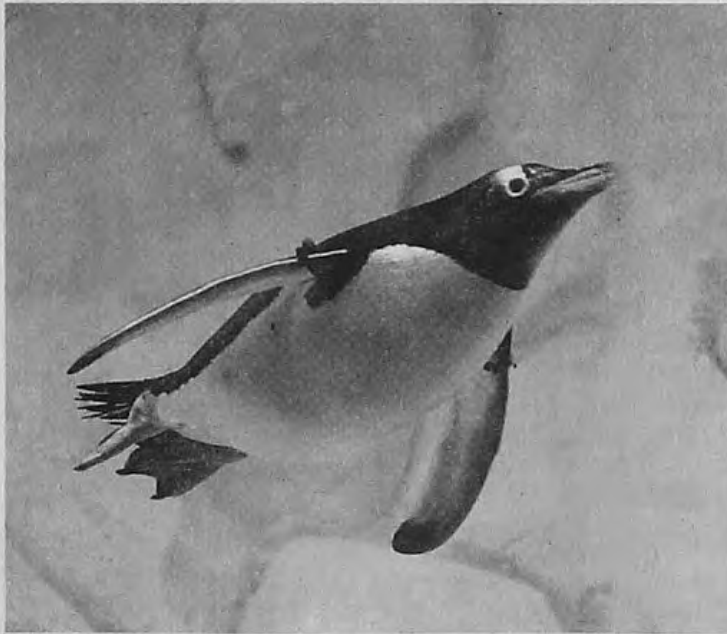
"We're still kind of amazed," Carter said of the opening. "We know the community's really looking forward to this. (Opening day is) when it really becomes real," he said.

"It's part of our mission to educate people," Carter said, including basic zoology as well as saving the planet. He recommends, for example, using reusable cloth grocery shopping



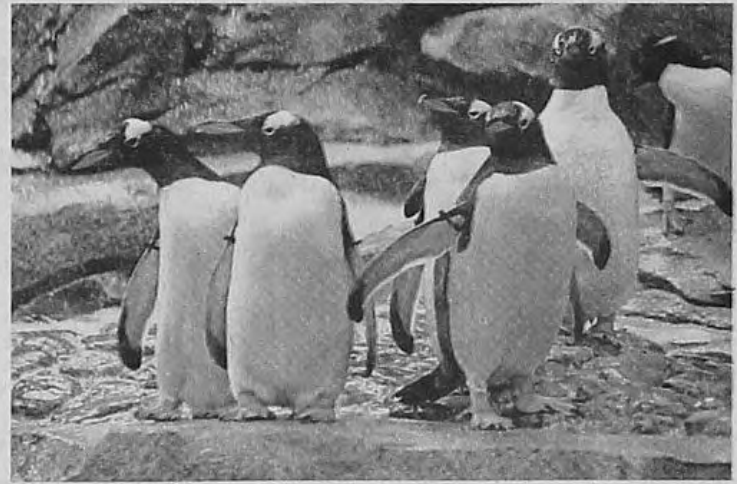
JOHN STORMZAND | STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER

Patricia Mills Janeway of the Detroit Zoo remembers "how cool it was to watch penguins swim. I was mesmerized by it."



JOHN STORMZAND | STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER

A gentoo penguin swims in the Polk Penguin Conservation Center at the Detroit Zoo.



JOHN STORMZAND | STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER

There will be four species of penguins housed at the Polk Penguin Conservation Center.



JOHN STORMZAND | STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER

The Detroit Zoo hosted the press preview for the new penguinarium last week.

bags.

"We're having a huge impact just because of some of the decisions we make," Carter said. "It is (challenging), but it's not impossible. I became a vegetarian at 40. I think a lot of us have the motivation."

Admission to the Polk Penguin Conservation Center is included with Detroit Zoo admission, although timed-entry

passes are required and are available on a first-come, first-served basis at admissions. While waiting, visitors can see historical photographs from Shackleton's expedition at the Wildlife Interpretive Gallery. See more online at <http://penguins.detroit-zoo.org>.

jcbrown@hometownlife.com
Twitter: @248Julie



JOHN STORMZAND | STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER

The new penguinarium at the Detroit Zoo opened Monday.

OUR VIEW

Avoid cellphone use when you're driving

April is Distracted Driving Awareness Month, in which the National Safety Council invites you to Take Back Your Drive.

New technology in vehicles is causing drivers to become more distracted behind the wheel than ever before. Drivers — 53 percent of them — believe if manufacturers put “infotainment” dashboards and hands-free technology in vehicles, they must be safe. But, in fact, these technologies distract our brains even long after you've used them, according to the NSC.

Police officials often speak to the need to make it “none for the road” when it comes to drinking and driving. We believe the same holds true for use of cellphones while on the road. Driving is just too complex

of a task to be attempting to carry on a cellphone conversation on the road.

Thousands have died in crashes involving cellphone use. The NSC notes, make no mistake: this multi-tasking technology is about convenience, not safety.

Many distractions exist while driving, but cellphones are a top distraction because so many drivers use them for long periods of time each day. Almost everyone has seen a driver distracted by a cellphone, but when you are the one who is distracted, you often don't realize that driver is you.

With some state laws focusing on hand-held bans and auto makers putting hands-free technology in vehicles, it's no wonder people are confused. However,

while many drivers honestly believe they are making the safe choice by using a hands-free device, it's just not true. Your brain remains distracted by the conversation, the NSC says.

While no state has a law prohibiting all cellphone use while driving, employers are putting policies in place banning the use of hand-held and hands-free devices. The city of Tulsa implemented a total-ban cellphone policy for employees, for example.

Additional information is online at www.nsc.org. Why not take time to learn more about this important issue — and be safe on the road at all times, for yourself and for others?

LETTERS

No mention of dyslexia

To Sen. Patrick Colbeck:

I was delighted to see reading education and instruction highlighted in your guest column of the Observer & Eccentric.

There was a glaring piece of the puzzle missing in your comments. Not once did you mention the word “dyslexia.” Dyslexia education and training for teachers is critical to the success of children diagnosed with this alternative learning style. One in five students has this learning-based disability.

The recent bipartisan approval of the READ Act is an opportunity to bring funds to hire dyslexia specialists for our districts. Ask any teacher or reading specialist in

your district and they will tell you that they have not been trained to specifically address the dyslexic student. Your column continues to perpetuate the white elephant sitting in the literacy room.

I hope that you will expand your knowledge of the spectrum of dyslexia. I invite you to join an educational opportunity I am helping to bring to educators within the Plymouth-Canton Community Schools district.

On April 21 from 9:30-10:30 a.m. Dr. David Winters, vice president of the Michigan branch of the International Dyslexia Association and an associate professor at Eastern Michigan University in the Department of Special Education, will be presenting on dyslexia and assistive technology

for the dyslexia student. We will be meeting at Canton High School in Room 127.

Michelle Dillon
Plymouth Township

Rescinds pat on back

After seeing the headlines on the front page of this paper (April 14), regarding the 5-percent pay cut for Canton Township elected officials, I thought Supervisor Phil LaJoy and Clerk Terry Bennett deserved a pat on the back.

But, alas, the devil is in the details. The reductions will not take effect until 2017, after the upcoming election.

Two of the three mentioned in the article, LaJoy and Bennett, are not seeking re-election and will not lose one centavo. The third, John Anthony, will have to overcome the odds and be re-elected in November to achieve the \$12.50 weekly reduction in his part-time job salary of \$12,731 annually.

So I'll rescind that pat on the back and replace it with “typical political chicanery.”

James Huddleston
Canton

Trott sounds 'Obama is weak' alarm again

It is an election year and U.S. Rep. Dave Trott, R-11th District, has finally emerged from a year of silence — and, of course, voting repeatedly to repeal Obamacare — as a veritable emailing machine.

One of his latest is an attempt to callously exploit the ISIS attack in Brussels by fear-mongering in order to advance the non-sensical conservative meme that somehow Obama hasn't kept us safe.

As usual, the statistics don't substantiate this claim. Since 9/11, an average of 3.2 Americans in the U.S. have perished annually by terrorist attacks launched by Islamic extremist sympathizers of all types and that number includes Ft. Hood and San Bernardino. To put this threat into perspective, on average you are 55 times more likely to be killed by a falling TV set, twice as likely to be killed by fireworks, six times more likely to be killed by a cow, 11,562 times

more likely to die in an auto accident, eight times more likely to be killed by a dog and ... well, you get the idea.

Consequently, we will have to file this with all the rest of Trott's inaccurate or exaggerated claims, like Obamacare is a job-killer (although since inception, 200,000 jobs per month have been created), Mexicans are invading at our southern border in droves (although net immigration there is zero and has been for several years), that Obama has been a big spender (although he has cut the deficit by at least 50 percent and increased new spending at a slower rate than any president since World War II), that Obama has been bad for business (although the Dow Jones has nearly tripled from the low point of the Bush crash and profit to GDP ratios are at record levels) or a whole host of others.

C'mon Dave, we deserve better than exaggerated dangers and inaccurate memes.

Mitch Smith
Canton

Political silver lining

As the saying goes “every cloud has a silver lining.” Right now, Donald Trump is a cloud hanging over the GOP. One silver lining is the increase in voter turnout he has brought; it is always good for our country when more of us vote, but usually bad for Republicans.

If Trump becomes the nominee, expect a large voter turnout.

Regular Republicans who actually care about the country will either not vote or vote against Trump, no matter how much they dislike it.

Democrats should be out in large numbers and vote for candidates all down the ticket to keep the country moving forward for us all.

Trump is a huge cloud hanging over the Republicans, but they must own it because they led the dumbing down of America.

Party leaders might still make the cloud go away and with it will go “the silver linings.”

Chuck Tindall
Novi

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A GANNETT COMPANY

MDOT: I-275 will close in early May

David Veselenak
Staff Writer

There's still no hard date for when motorists can expect southbound Interstate 275 through Livonia, Farmington Hills and Novi to shut down, but the time frame has been narrowed.

The Michigan Department of Transportation sent out a message last week saying the road will be shut down sometime in early May. An exact date has not yet been selected, but it will be announced in the coming weeks.

The announcement came about an hour before a scheduled public meeting on the project last week at Davenport University in Livonia, which saw hundreds of interested motorists, residents and officials attend to get the latest information on the planned work on the freeway spanning from Five Mile to the I-96/I-696/M-5 interchange this summer.

Bill Erben, an engineer with MDOT, said the selected contractor will have to give five days notice to the state when it plans to shut down the freeway.

The total span of the project is 109 calendar days, meaning that's how long the contractor has to reopen the freeway once it is shut down.

"That's the bulk of this

project, but then there is some pavement rehab work that takes place up in the interchange," he said. "Some resurfacing, some patching, there's landscaping that goes with this project, there's ditch clean out to re-establish the ditch flow lines."

Some preliminary work has already begun, with bridge closures on Seven Mile in Livonia and other work planned for both Meadowbrook in Novi and Haggerty on the Farmington Hills/Novi border. Trees have also been taken out along the ditches and to lay wires for the electronic sign boards and freeway cameras, though MDOT says more than 700 trees will be planted to replace them.

Southbound I-275 will close first, leaving northbound traffic maintained. That will allow for the concrete rehabilitation and other work to happen along the southbound lanes, which will remain closed until the work is finished, most likely sometime in July. Then the northbound lanes will close, leaving only southbound I-275 open, for the remainder of the project. Both sides of the freeway are expected to reopen early in the fall.

'It's not going to be pretty'

The \$70 million project will detour traffic to



The eastbound ramp over I-275 at Seven Mile is already closed as workers begin removing and replacing its road surface. The effort is part of the reconstruction efforts on the major highway that lies between Northville, Novi and Livonia and Farmington Hills.

JOHN HEIDER | STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER

as far away as the Southfield Freeway, the Lodge Freeway and I-696, though Erben said that's only the official detour route. Trucks and other heavy traffic will be expected to use those freeways, as MDOT can only detour to state trunk lines.

But he expects local drivers will eventually discover other routes they find to work easier for them once the freeway closes.

"We have to send you to the next available

freeway, which we don't have one until Southfield," Erben said. "You can find a way on any of the local roads north or south. But we can only send you to our roads."

Trying to find that detour is going to be a challenge for Livonia resident Diane Snyder. She works in Wixom and uses I-275 on a daily basis. She's hoping to find a steady route others haven't discovered to minimize the effect on her commute and living.

"It affects me 24/7,

basically," she said. "I've already been trying to map out directions."

It's going to affect Northville resident Joan Wilson as well. She's a frequent traveler of the freeway, taking it to places such as Canton, Ann Arbor and Detroit frequently. She came to the public meeting to learn more about the routes she could possibly take to still get around town, something she got from an MDOT employee.

While it will be tough,

she said, she joked with the people around her at the meeting, saying they'll see each other a whole lot this summer on surface roads.

"It's not going to be pretty, because it's going to be me and everyone else doing the same thing. It's just going to add more time," she said. "I'm very concerned. This is going to affect me greatly."

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S-u-c-c-e-s-s comes to top spellers through studying, hard work

Julie Brown
Staff Writer

Joseph Nunez, 11, and Bassit Fijabi, 13, may use spell check, as many of us do — but they're also pretty good spellers on their own.

The two topped the field in the Wayne-Westland Community Schools 36th annual Earle Chorbagan Spelling Bee. Nunez, a sixth-grader at Marshall Upper Elementary School, is the upper elementary winner, while Fijabi, an eighth-grader at Stevenson Middle School, is the middle school winner.

"I had a list of spelling words and then I organized them into flash cards," Fijabi said of studying. His winning word was "einkorn" at the district level. "I spelled that correctly," he said.

Einkorn is an old kind of Mediterranean wheat that's now rarely grown.

He and Nunez advanced to the Wayne County event in March. "It was pretty fun," Fijabi said of that. "I met a lot of other spellers." His mom, Morayo Awe, said, "Yes, I'm proud. When he was in elementary, yes, I did" help with spelling study.

Her work schedule then changed and Fijabi has studied on his own in middle school for the spelling bees. His mom is proud of his spelling trophies.

Nunez won at the district level with "inclement." "That was the word I got to advance to the regionals," Nunez said Monday at the Board of Education meeting, where both boys were honored.

"Just took the list and just studied every night," Nunez said of his preparation for the district event. "Pretty much just like any test."

Of the regional competition, Nunez said, "It was really challenging. I'm just glad I got to participate. I'm really proud of what I accomplished."

Carol Middel, vice president of the school board, said, "You both went above and beyond. You did us proud."

Mary Jane Mielke is Wayne-Westland's director of professional development. Mielke noted of regional competition, "Wayne-Westland's getting a reputation down



Bassit Fijabi, 13, an eighth-grader at Stevenson Middle School, is the middle school winner of the Earle Chorbagan Spelling Bee.



Joseph Nunez, 11, a sixth-grader at Marshall Upper Elementary, is the upper elementary winner of the Earle Chorbagan Spelling Bee this year.

there. They did a fantastic job," Mielke said of the boys.

Plaques with their names will go in school hallways "so everyone can see what they've accomplished. They did such a good job," Mielke said.

She added, "I think spelling's important, but I'm old. These young men did a fantastic job of putting letters together."

Mielke is a 30-year educator. "I know we don't teach spelling as spelling anymore. It's embedded in all the curriculum," she said, noting she's not a classroom teacher.

Earle Chorbagan is a retired educator and was principal at what was then Adams Middle School in Wayne-Westland. "He's there every year. He was there this year. He's always encouraging the kids and cheering them on," Mielke said.

Mielke acknowledged she spells well. "I'm a reader. I think if you're a reader, you're also a good speller. But I still use spell check," she added

with a smile.

She attended the regional competition in March at the Charles H. Wright Museum of African American History. "A lot of tension for the kids," she said, adding with WXYZ-TV (Channel 7) sponsoring, the students see faces they know from television. "A very big deal," Mielke added.

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Revisit distant memories from a bygone era

Tour historic 'polio treatment' facility in Farmington Hills

Aileen Wingblad
Staff Writer

For much of the world, polio and its devastating effects are from a bygone era. Thanks to vaccines that came into use in the mid-1950s and early 1960s, the virus that historically left millions dead or with some degree of paralysis has nearly been wiped from the face of the Earth.

An upcoming event in Farmington Hills will highlight a major role a facility in the local community once had in treatment of those infected — and spread word about efforts to eliminate polio altogether.

The Farmington Rotary Club, in cooperation with Botsford Commons Senior Community, is hosting a free public open house of the historic "Sister Kenny Hospital," 1-4 p.m. April 23.

Elizabeth Nunn was an Australian nun credited with developing and promoting hydrotherapy as a treatment for polio. In the 1920s, she spent a considerable amount of time working with young patients at the Michigan Hospital for Crippled Children — which eventually was renamed the Sister Kenny Hospital, explained Ginger Barrons, a Rotarian for the past 26 years and District 6380 polio co-chair. Designed by famed architect Albert Kahn, the building is



This Albert Kahn building in Farmington Hills, now part of Botsford Commons, is the former home of the Sister Kenny Hospital, where children with polio were treated in the 1900s.

now part of the Botsford Senior Living Center, which will open its doors to guided tours for the open house.

"It's a really cool piece of Farmington history," Barrons said. "The Farmington-Farmington Hills area served as a key place for the revolution of polio treatment worldwide. I don't think many people in the community know about that, but they should."

Impressive features of the former hospital include Kahn's "stunning architecture," she said, including red brick, arched doorways, slate roofs and limestone inlays of children playing. "And in the basement, you can still see the original outskirts of the pool (where hydrotherapy took place)," she said.

Also, photos from the Sister Kenny Hospital time period will be on display, on loan from the Walter Reuther Historical Library collection.

Along with allowing a look inside a historic building that's typically

not open to the public, the April 23 event will "help build awareness and advocacy, and raise funds" for polio eradication, the "number one health goal of Rotarians," Barrons added.

Thanks to efforts by Rotarians, as well as the World Health Organization and others, to vaccinate children across the globe, Pakistan and Afghanistan are the last two countries where new cases of the disease still emerge — but the numbers are dwindling, she said.

"We're very, very close to eradication. Last year, just 21 new cases were reported," she said.

Free-will donations will be accepted at the open house for the Rotarians' Polio Eradication Fund.

The Botsford Senior Living Center is at 21400 Archwood Circle, off Tuck Road north of Eight Mile Road, in Farmington Hills.

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SECTION B (CP)
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SPORTS

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Vying for a 50/50 ball Tuesday night are Canton's Mary Galm (left) and Plymouth's Alexis White.

JOHN KEMSKI | EXPRESS PHOTO

GIRLS SOCCER

Chiefs, 'Cats battle to 1-1 standoff

Defense dominates season's first meeting between Park rivals

Tim Smith
Staff Writer

The rosters look much different, but two longtime Park rivals became reacquainted on the soccer pitch Tuesday night.

After 80 minutes of action on the varsity grass field at Plymouth-Canton Educational Park, Canton and Plymouth

played to a 1-1 tie.

"We did a lot better job defensively, especially in the midfield third of the field," veteran Plymouth varsity girls soccer coach Jeff Neschich said. "It's coming together. It's weaving in the newer, younger players into what we've got and tonight was probably our best effort so far of the season."

Canton coaching counterpart Jeannine Reddy lamented letting an early 1-0 lead get away when Plymouth freshman Morgan Gooden — one of 12 ninth- and 10th-graders on the Wildcats' roster — scored

the equalizer in the 39th minute of the opening half.

"They just got momentum and we kind of backed off the ball and stopped winning the 50/50 balls," Reddy said. "I think the last 20 minutes of the first half, we just weren't connecting anymore."

On the doorstep

On the tying goal, making a crisp crossing pass from the right side of the 18-yard box was Plymouth senior Olivia Janke.

Ready at the far post for

See RIVALRY, Page B3

GIRLS BASKETBALL

Klemmer out as Salem coach

Tenure ends following difficult second season

Tim Smith
Staff Writer

Lindsay Klemmer's tenure as head coach of Salem's varsity girls basketball coach began under trying circumstances — she assumed the helm following the December 2013 death of coaching legend Fred Thomann.

And it ended following a season of adversity, during which the Rocks' ultra-talented Petree sisters bolted for Class C Ypsilanti Arbor Preparatory. Salem wound up with an 11-10 record.

Klemmer, a standout player herself both at Salem and Madonna University, was relieved of her coaching duties following the annual evaluation process, athletic director Brian Samulski noted in a Tuesday email to the Observer.

"We have an evaluation process at the end of each season for all of our varsity coaches," Samulski wrote. "After the completion of this year's evaluation for our girls basketball program, it became necessary for the lead-

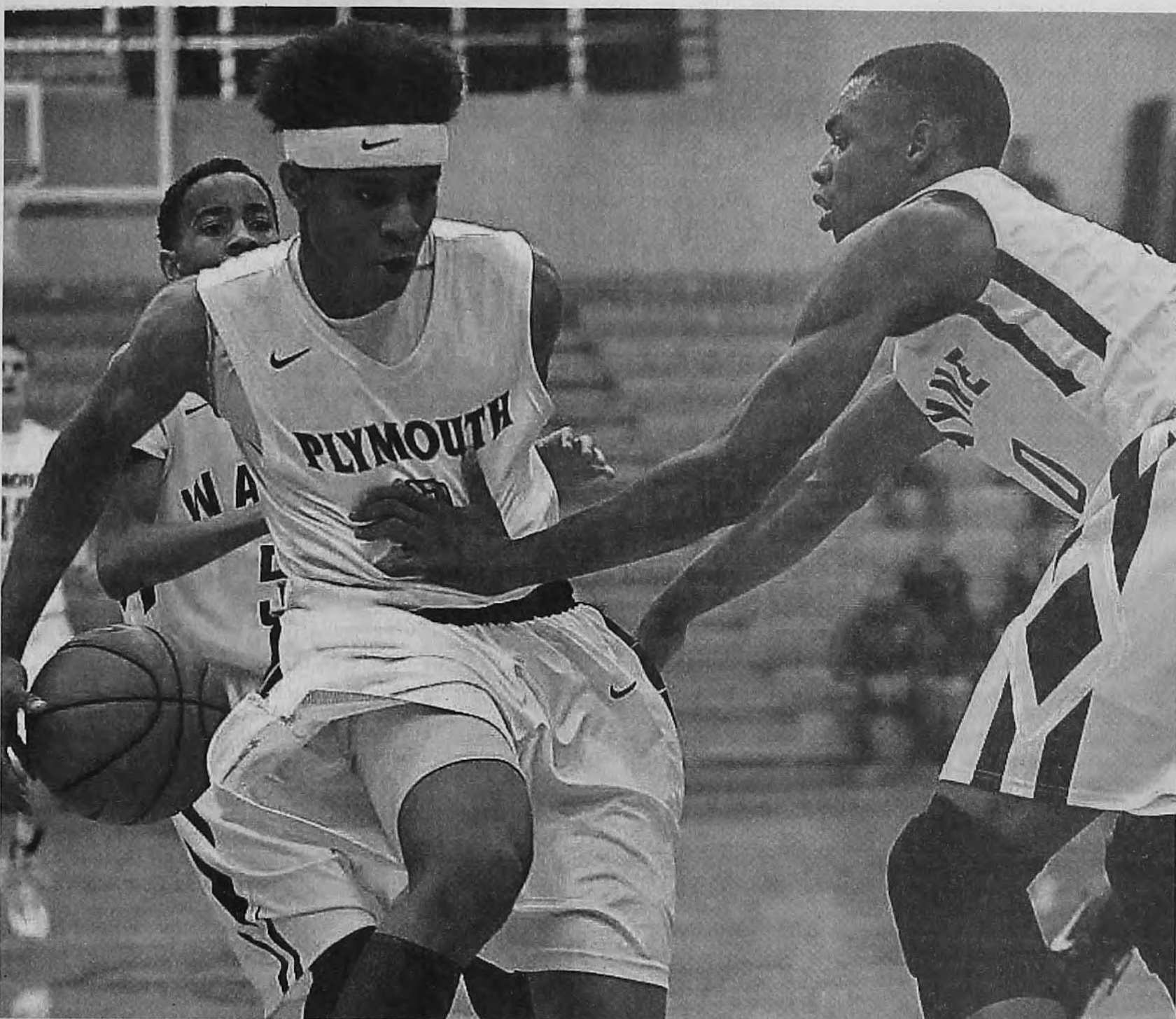
See KLEMMER, Page B3



After over two seasons at the helm, Lindsay Klemmer was let go as Salem's varsity girls basketball coach.

JOHN KEMSKI | EXPRESS PHOTO

SPRING ARBOR SIGNS DAVIS



This kind of dazzling play by Plymouth senior Brent Davis caught the attention of Spring Arbor coaches.

MICHAEL VASILNEK

RAISING THE ROOF

Plymouth cage star Davis credits faith, parents and coaches for college chance

Tim Smith
Staff Writer

When he played basketball at Plymouth, Brent Davis lifted his game in every way possible.

The senior shooting guard now has the chance to literally and figuratively rise even higher — both as a player and a person at Spring Arbor University, a Christian college located near Jackson.

"I have to give thanks to God, because I know with-

out him I wouldn't be in this position right now," Davis, a Canton resident, said following Friday's signing ceremony in the Plymouth High School gymnasium. "Especially, this was perfect, this is a Christian school."

Davis said faith always has been a major influence in his life and he thanked his parents (Brent and DeRay Davis) for making sure Christianity always was front and center.

"They (his parents) taught me discipline and

taught me about prayer," the thoughtful, well-spoken future Cougar said. "Without that, I know I wouldn't be here. God gave me a miracle and I can say that."

"The way this was set up, I can't even explain it. So I'm extremely thankful. I'm thankful to my dad, for all those long car rides to different camps and tournaments, and to my mom. ... My parents have a really, really big influence in this."

Just perfect

His dad said the younger Davis worked tirelessly for the chance to continue playing basketball at the collegiate level.

He also echoed others who said Spring Arbor, a National Association of Intercollegiate Athletics Division II program that plays in the Crossroads League, was the best place for his son.

"We thank God that he's

See DAVIS, Page B2



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PCCS GOLF CLASSIC

Shamrocks top tourney field at Fox Hills GC

Plymouth places third out of 21 teams

Tim Smith
Staff Writer

The weather finally heated up Sunday and so did the quality of golf played at the annual Plymouth-Canton Community Schools Classic at Fox Hills.

Leading the 21-team field with a score of 302 strokes was Novi Detroit Catholic Central. The Shamrocks also boasted the individual medalist in Sean Sooch, who registered 71.

Among the three Park teams, Plymouth had the best showing with a third-place score of 314. Finishing 10th and 16th, respectively, were Canton (346) and Salem (364).

Sparking the Wildcats were Jack Boczar (74), Kyle Kozler (75) and Justin Kapke (79).

For the Chiefs, top performers were Suhas Potluri and Brian Oldani, who had respective scores of 81 and 84. Other finishers for Canton included Phillip Conrad (89), Paul Maurer (92) and D.J. Jablonski (93).



BRENTON HENDERSON
Salem's Bryce Henderson gets ready for his next shot at Sunday's PCS tournament at Fox Hills.

Salem's top performer was Bryce Henderson, who scored an 87. He was followed by Adam Marcero (90), Hayden Winch (92), Woody Mashni (95) and Shawn Weldon (101).

Meanwhile, Plymouth's junior varsity also had a strong day, placing fourth with Joe Fontana the JV medalist with a 79. Freshman Justin Lauer shot an 82.

PCCS CLASSIC
April 17 at Fox Hills G.C.
TEAM STANDINGS: 1.

Novi Detroit Catholic Central (1), 302; 2. East Lansing, 310; 3. Plymouth, 314; 10. Canton, 346; 16. Salem, 364 (21 schools).

Individual medalist:
Sean Sooch (Detroit CC), 71.

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SPORTS ROUNDUP

Opening Day for PCLL

Plymouth-Canton Little League is kicking off the 2016 baseball season with Opening Day festivities beginning 11 a.m. Saturday at Plymouth Township Park No. 1.

The ceremonial first pitch will be from Miracle League of Plymouth players, plus the Plymouth Fife & Drum Corps will be there to add

to the fun.

Plymouth grid meeting

The Plymouth Wildcats football staff and boosters is holding a mandatory meeting for 2016 players and parents 6:30-8 p.m. Tuesday, May 3, at Plymouth High School.

The meeting, which will take place in the cafeteria, is for all levels.

Any questions or concerns, contact Coach

Mike Sawchuk at 734-765-1766 or email michael.sawchuk@pcesk12.com

Canton grid meeting

At 6 p.m. Tuesday, May 10, Canton football staff members and the boosters club are holding a mandatory meeting for players and parents.

Direct questions to head coach Tim Baechler at tim.baechler@pcesk12.com.

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Meet celebrity vegan chef at book release, wine social

Sharon Dargay
Staff Writer

Celebrity chef Jason Wrobel says he wrote his new cookbook for all of you “toe dippers” into the world of healthy, meatless, dairy-free cooking and nutrition.

You may be more conscious of food choices, buy organic produce, understand the importance of buying locally, and you may occasionally try vegan and vegetarian recipes, but don't necessarily identify yourself with those labels.

“They may be trying to eat healthier. Those are the people I want to talk to,” said Wrobel, a Detroit native whose new book, “Eternity,” includes more than 150 vegan recipes, nutrition advice, lists of favorite products, pantry contents and kitchen essentials, food substitutions, and more.

“I wanted it to be a lifestyle guide in addition to a cookbook. I wasn't interested in doing the standard cookbook format, appetizers, entrees, desserts. What I wanted to do was create a guide where people could learn basic nutrition. If I want to improve an aspect of my health, here is how I can start doing it.”

Wrobel said readers can “choose their own adventure for ultimate health” as they select chapters from the book that are relevant to their lives.

The book's 14 chapters are arranged according to eating strategies for specific health goals such as improved brainpower, strong bones, better sex, and healthy heart. Each chapter includes several recipes, a list of relevant nutrients and foods, nutritional explanations, and lifestyle advice. Chapter 4, Eat for Happiness and Good Moods, for example, explains the importance of eating selenium-rich food, vitamin D, and omega-3 fatty acids — while avoiding dairy products — to help keep bad moods at bay. It also suggests lifestyle strategies that include meditation, exercise, and keeping a gratitude journal.

Book release, benefit

A signed copy of the book is included in the \$75 per person ticket price at the “Eternity” book release and wine social, 4-6 p.m. Saturday, April 23, at Greenspace Cafe, 215 W. Nine Mile, Ferndale. The event also includes artisanal plant-based snacks, talks by Wrobel, NBA champ and wellness advocate John Salley, and Joel Kahn, M.D., cardiologist, and a sampling of Salley's vegan wine. A signed bottle of the vegan wine is included in \$100 tickets. Call 248-206-7510.

Proceeds from the book release and



“People need to get back into their kitchen and make food with their own two hands. That is non-negotiable.”

JASON WROBEL



CAULIFLOWER LENTIL TACOS WITH FRESH GUACAMOLE

This was the most popular recipe from Jason Wrobel's television series on the Cooking Channel. In his new book, it's listed as a choice for helping to build muscles.

Guacamole:

- 6 ripe avocados, pitted and diced
- 1 ½ cups diced red onion
- 1 to 3 medium-size jalapeno peppers, to taste, stemmed, seeded, and minced
- ¼ cup plus 2 tablespoons fresh cilantro, finely chopped
- ½ cup fresh lime juice
- 1 ½ teaspoons sea salt
- ¼ teaspoon ground cumin
- Pinch ground black pepper, to taste
- Pinch cayenne pepper, to taste (optional)
- 1 ½ ripe medium tomatoes, seeds and pulp removed, diced

Cauliflower Lentil Taco “Meat”:

- 1 cup green or brown lentils
- 3 cups filtered water
- 1 head cauliflower, stems and leaves removed, broken into 1-inch pieces
- 2 tablespoons extra-virgin olive oil
- 2 medium yellow onions, diced (about 1 ½ cups)
- 1 jalapeno pepper, seeded and minced
- 4 cloves minced garlic
- 4 teaspoons chili powder, divided
- 2 teaspoons ground cumin, divided
- 1 teaspoon ground coriander, divided
- ½ cup canned or homemade tomato sauce
- 1 ½ teaspoons salt, or to taste
- ½ teaspoon ground pepper, or to taste
- 15.5-ounce package organic taco shells
- 4 cups shredded romaine lettuce, reserved for topping

- To make the guacamole, mash the avocados in a medium bowl until slightly chunky. Add the onion, jalapenos, cilantro, lime juice, salt, cumin, pepper, and cayenne, then mash the mixture some more.
- Cover with plastic wrap directly on the surface of the guacamole to prevent oxidation. Refrigerate until chilled, about an hour. Just before serving, add the tomatoes to the guacamole and gently mix.
- To make the Cauliflower Lentil Taco “meat,” rinse and drain the lentils thoroughly. Add the lentils to a medium saucepan. Add the filtered water and bring to a boil. Reduce the heat to low and simmer until tender, about 30 minutes. Drain.
- Pulse the cauliflower into rice-size pieces in a high-speed food processor. Heat the olive oil in a large skillet over medium heat. Cook the onion and jalapeno until the onion is translucent, about 5 to 7 minutes. Add the cauliflower rice, garlic, 2 teaspoons of the chili powder, 1 teaspoon of the ground cumin, and ½ teaspoon of the ground coriander, and cook for 4 minutes. Stir in the tomato sauce and cook another 3 to 4 minutes or until the cauliflower is tender.
- Add the cooked lentils, the remaining 2 teaspoons of chili powder, 1 teaspoon of ground cumin, ½ teaspoon of ground coriander, and the salt and pepper. Cook for an additional 3 minutes.
- Scoop the Cauliflower Lentil Taco “Meat” into the taco shells and top with shredded romaine lettuce and a dollop of guacamole. Serve immediately.

wine social will benefit Sasha Farm, an animal sanctuary in Manchester, southwest of Ann Arbor.

“I volunteered there between 2003 and 2006. I'd go pretty often to bale hay, feed the animals and help out on the farm,” said Wrobel, who shares his home with cats Lynx, Clawdia, and Figaro. “So, it's very near and dear to my heart.”

By then, Wrobel had been a vegan — not eating animal products — since 1995. He made the gradual switch from a typical American diet to plant-based diet after his grandfather lost his battle with cancer. Wrobel began to question the prevailing notion that “you get old and get a disease and die.”

He didn't consider pursuing a culinary career until after moving to Los Angeles 11 years ago. He had worked as an advertising copywriter in Detroit after graduating from college with a bachelors degree in marketing and theater. In California he pursued acting and music, but “the money was not coming in.”

“I thought I really like making food. What if I got really good at it? For the past 11 years, that is what I have focused on.”

YouTube, Cooking Channel

He studied at the Living Light Culinary Institute in northern California and earned certification as a professional raw foods chef and instructor. Positions at vegan restaurants in Los Angeles, New York, and Detroit followed. He combined his passion for food and theatrical presentation in 2009 on YouTube, where his “J-Wro Show” can be seen. A show on the Cooking Channel, “How to Live to 100,” followed in 2013. His new YouTube series takes him into the kitchens of “average Americans” where he improvises a healthy, vegan meal with whatever ingredients they have on hand.

“Things take time in life. What I tell people coming up in this business is you must learn to cultivate patience. You've got to put the work in but amazing dreams can manifest.”

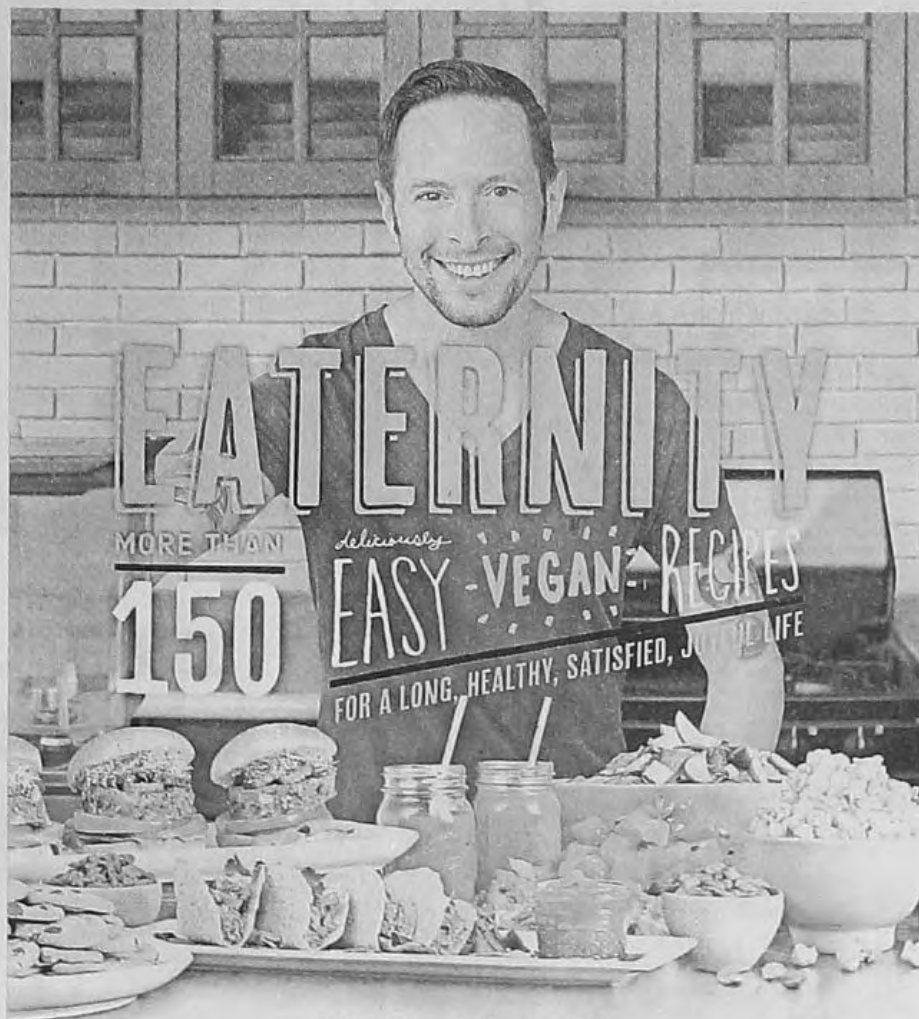
That's also part of his message to those who say they don't have enough time to cook healthy food at home.

“People need to get back into their kitchen and make food with their own two hands. That is non-negotiable. I don't feel we can achieve optimal health if we're constantly eating fast food and eating out all the time.”

“The busyness factor is a lame excuse. I understand that family and career and making money is of course very important, but if we do it at the expense of our long-term health, it will catch up with us. And then it will be a lot harder when that day comes for people to maintain the basics of life.”

Visit Wrobel's website at jasonwrobel.com

sdargay@hometownlife.com



JASON WROBEL

Meet Chef Jason Wrobel and get a copy of his new book Saturday, April 23 at Greenspace Cafe in Ferndale. Proceeds from the event benefit Sasha Farm, an animal sanctuary in Manchester, southwest of Ann Arbor.

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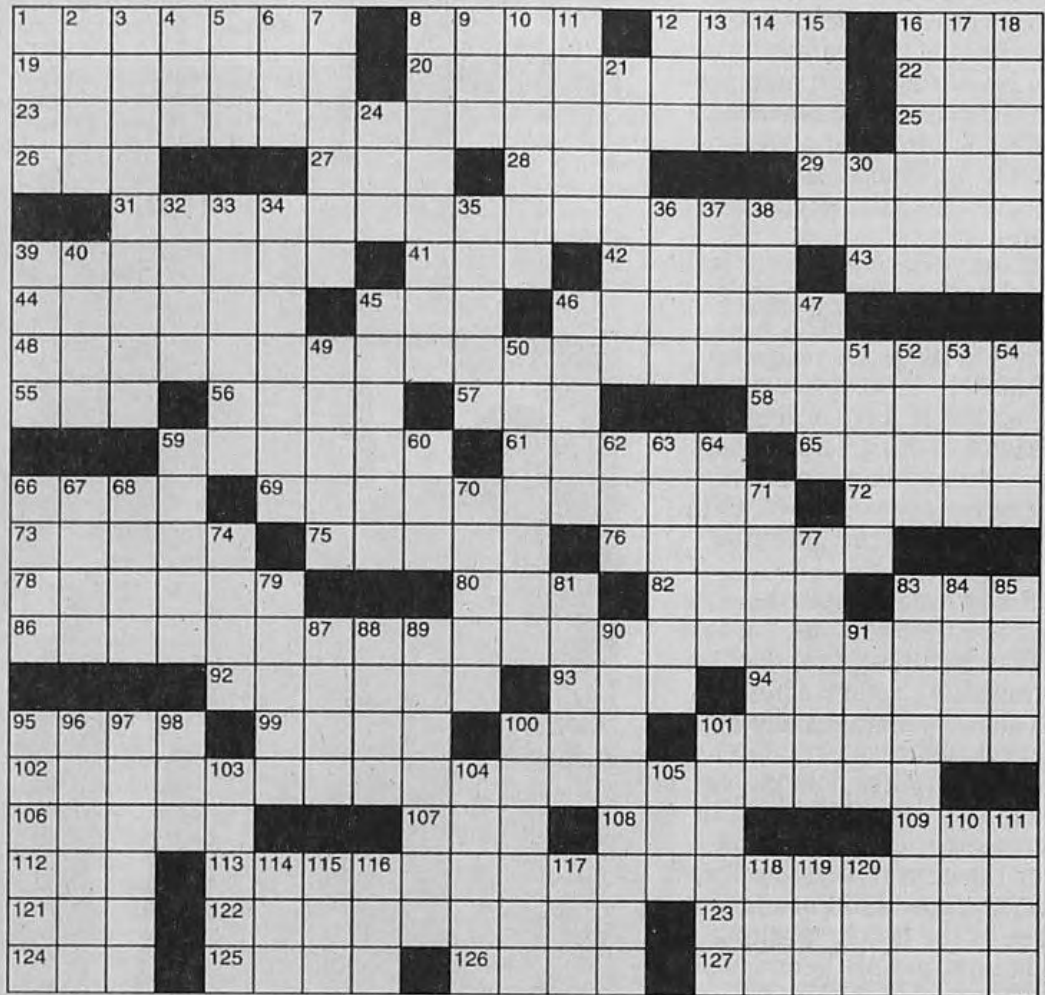
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THURSDAY PUZZLE CORNER

CROSSWORD PUZZLER

- ACROSS**
- 1 Fuel dispenser
 - 8 Beat, as wings
 - 12 Pairs
 - 16 Boo-hoo
 - 19 Waldorf — (hotel)
 - 20 Instantly
 - 22 Stan of comics
 - 23 Start of a riddle
 - 25 Eggs in a lab
 - 26 Lock insert
 - 27 AAA request
 - 28 — Aviv
 - 29 Entryways
 - 31 Riddle, part 2
 - 39 Said aloud
 - 41 Zebra's kin
 - 42 Very gloomy
 - 43 "Electric" fish
 - 44 One of the 12 apostles
 - 45 Post-Q string
 - 46 Alternative to Zoloft or Paxil
 - 48 Riddle, part 3
 - 55 Olive of comics
 - 56 2004-10 nickname on the Houston Rockets
 - 57 Actor Mineo
 - 58 Biting comedy
 - 59 Boozed up
 - 61 Slangy assents
 - 65 Arcade coin
 - 66 Not firm
 - 69 Riddle, part 4
 - 72 Allows to
 - 73 Less diluted
 - 75 Opening for a letter-shaped bolt
 - 76 Like part of the heart
 - 78 "The Simpsons" voice actor
 - 80 Disk in a 1990s fad game
 - 82 "Milk" Oscar winner Sean
 - 83 OR figure
 - 86 Riddle, part 5
 - 92 Crystal-lined stones
 - 93 Scepter
 - 94 Mobster's code of silence
 - 95 Fair-minded
 - 99 Take — (sample the drink)
 - 100 The "E" of PEI: Abbr.
 - 101 Having as a foundation
 - 102 End of the riddle
 - 106 Persona non — (outcast)
 - 107 Quadrennial games org.
 - 108 Brain wave test, in brief
 - 109 Chest bone
 - 112 Address for a knight
 - 113 Riddle's answer
 - 121 Koko or Kong
 - 122 Most itty-bitty
 - 123 Decorated pilots
 - 124 Get married
 - 125 Hedge shrubs
 - 126 Lofty works
 - 127 Least slobby
- DOWN**
- 1 Rubberneck
 - 2 Court great
 - 4 "So — say"
 - 3 "Don't move"
 - 4 Lobster trap
 - 5 Geller with a psychic act
 - 6 Prefix with represent
 - 7 Gave a gentle touch
 - 8 Whizzed by
 - 9 Ignited
 - 10 Some spitzes
 - 11 Actor Finch
 - 12 Lao —
 - 13 "Says —?"
 - 14 Gut-punch sound
 - 15 Exaggerated
 - 16 Dress
 - 17 Let slip
 - 18 Leavenings
 - 21 Quickly, musically
 - 24 Santa's laugh sounds
 - 30 Swallowed
 - 32 Utter agony
 - 33 Noble Brit
 - 34 Said nothing
 - 35 "Cómo —?"
 - (Juan's greeting)
 - 36 Univ. lecturer
 - 37 Minnelli of "Arthur"
 - 38 Garner
 - 39 As many as
 - 40 "So — say"
 - 45 School break
 - 46 Volcano that destroyed St. Pierre
 - 47 Small talk
 - 49 Knows the answer
 - 50 Be really flattering
 - 51 Ringlike Isle
 - 52 Tandem, e.g.
 - 53 Pitcher
 - 54 Hangers
 - 59 Far from lax
 - 60 650, in old Rome
 - 62 Gardner of old films
 - 63 Table protector under a warm dish
 - 64 Not as itty
 - 66 Fix, as a dog or cat
 - 67 Liqueur akin to Sambuca
 - 68 Herr's wife
 - 70 Pueblo dwellers
 - 71 Vocalize loudly
 - 74 Actress Diana
 - 77 Absence of vigor
 - 79 "Save me —"
 - 81 Avant — (totally new)
 - 83 Cajun dish
 - 84 Painter Dix
 - 85 Bluish green
 - 87 "Baloney," to Brits
 - 88 Falco or Adams
 - 89 Patches
 - 90 Costs for cheap apartments
 - 91 Jail unit
 - 95 Many-pieced puzzle
 - 96 Still green
 - 97 Floped in
 - 98 Trike rider
 - 100 Cut in glass
 - 101 Enthusiast
 - 103 Run-down
 - 104 Lead-in to economic or political
 - 105 Lead-in to colonial
 - 110 Glazes, e.g.
 - 111 Unequaled
 - 114 "— hawl"
 - 115 "Gross!"
 - 116 Little — (tykes)
 - 117 British verb ending
 - 118 Be in the running (for)
 - 119 Noted time
 - 120 Actor Faxon



For assistance or suggestions on the Puzzle Corner, contact Steve McClellan at (517) 702/4247 or smcclellan@michigan.com. Want more puzzles? Check out the "Just Right Crossword Puzzles" books at QuillDriverBooks.com

SUDOKU

		5		7				
	1				5			
2		8			4			7
			9		1	4		
		4				6		
		7	3		8			
9			7			8		6
			8				1	
				3		2		

Here's How It Works:
Sudoku puzzles are formatted as a 9x9 grid, broken into nine 3x3 boxes. To solve a sudoku, the numbers 1 through 9 must fill each row, column and box. Each number can appear only once in each row, column and box. You can figure out the order in which the numbers will appear by using the numeric clues provided in the boxes. The more numbers you name, the easier it gets to solve the puzzle!

6	9	2	9	6	3	4	1	7	8
3	1	7	6	5	8	9	2	4	6
9	4	8	2	1	7	7	3	9	6
2	6	1	8	4	3	7	7	9	5
8	3	9	7	2	2	4	4	6	1
3	8	2	9	6	9	6	2	8	3
2	3	8	1	9	4	5	7	8	3
7	9	5	4	6	7	1	8	3	4
3	2	4	8	5	3	8	7	1	6
1	8	1	3	9	6	7	2	4	5

JAZZ WORD SEARCH

WORDS

ARRANGEMENT JUG
 AUDIENCE KEYBOARD
 BLUES NEW ORLEANS
 BOOKINGS ORCHESTRA
 BOTTLENECK PARTNERSHIP
 BRASS PERFORMANCE
 CAJUN RAW
 CALLIOPE RECORDING
 CHANGES RHYTHMIC
 CONTEMPORARY SCAT
 CYCLE SESSION
 DISSONANCE SOUTHERN
 ELEMENT STAGE
 FAME TALENT
 FUSION TICKETS
 GENRE TRUMPET
 JAM VOCALS
 JAZZ WASHBOARD

Find the words hidden vertically, horizontally & diagonally throughout the puzzle.

CHECK YOUR ANSWERS HERE

Crossword Answers

Word Search Answers

GASPUMP FLAP TWOS CRY
 ASTORIA LIKEASHOT LEE
 WHATISTHE TITLEOF OVA
 KEY TOW TEL GATES
 SHAKESPEAREPLAYTHAT
 UTTERED ASS GRIM FEELS
 PHILIP RST PROZAC
 TELLSTHETALEOFASHABBY
 OYL TMAC SAL SATIRE
 SOUSED YEARS TOKEN
 SOFT MISCHIEVOUS LETS
 PURER TSLLOT ATRIAL
 AZARIA POG PENN DOC
 YOUNGSTERINALARGE CITY
 GEODES ROD OMERTA
 JUST ASIP EDW BUILTON
 INNORTHEASTERN ITALY
 GRATA IOG EEG RIB
 SIR THEURCHINOFVENICE
 APE TEENSIEST AIRACES
 WED YEWS ODES NEATEST

Realtor: Starter homes getting scarcer in Oakland County

Jay Grossman
Staff Writer

Bring some boxing gloves if you're looking to purchase a house for under \$250,000 in Oakland County.

The market is that hot right now.

"There was an open house here in Birmingham and we had a fight over the house," said Dan Elsea with Real Estate One. "We had one guy who barricaded himself in the home and he wouldn't open the door until he was told the seller actually looked at his offer. He spent the night in jail ... and he didn't get the house."

Elsea and Eric Larson of the Larson Realty Group were keynote speakers at the Birmingham Bloomfield Chamber's annual real estate forecast breakfast. Both men predict the real estate market in southeast Michigan will continue to appreciate at a steady clip over the next several years.

Elsea, whose company is the eighth largest broker in the nation, said a majority of homes in the price range of \$250,000 to \$500,000 are selling within 30 days or less in Oakland County. The market for million-dollar luxury homes has slowed down, with more listings than potential buyers.

Residential properties less than \$250,000 are moving faster than lightning because the inventory for starter homes has shrunk dramatically in the past two years.

Elsea expects housing values in southeast Michigan to increase around 15 percent over the next five years. Royal Oak, Berkley and Ferndale are three of the hotter markets right now, mainly because of their appeal to millennials in search of starter homes.

"Royal Oak is clearly outperforming the rest of the market in this area," Elsea said.

Larson, who also serves as CEO of the Downtown Detroit Partnership, believes more cooperation in the region is necessary to help Michigan attract new commercial and industrial opportunities.

"We need to start thinking less about Birmingham and Bloomfield competing against Troy and Southfield ... and more about how we are competing as a region and how are we competing as a state," Larson said.

Larson Realty Group has the redevelopment rights for the old Tiger Stadium property. Outside Detroit, the company has plans for a 24-unit condominium development in Bir-



Dan Elsea, president/CEO of Real Estate One, was a featured speaker at April 5's real estate forecast breakfast in Birmingham.



Eric B. Larson, president/CEO, Larson Realty Group, and CEO, Downtown Detroit Partnership, was a featured speaker at April 5's real estate forecast breakfast in Birmingham.



Bruce Kridler of Greenleaf Trust and Betsy Reich of the Colburn Group at April 5's real estate forecast breakfast in Birmingham.

mingham's Triangle District.

While praising entrepreneurs Mike Ilitch and Dan Gilbert for investing heavily in downtown Detroit and the adjacent Foxtown and Midtown districts, Larson said the challenge in the years ahead will be to rehabilitate the rest of the city.

"You can fit San Francisco, Boston and Manhattan in Detroit," he said at the breakfast. "Those three cities combined have over 11 million people ... Detroit has around 700,000 people."

Right now, about 6,000 people live in the immediate downtown Detroit area. Larson said that equates to about three

people per square mile in terms of density. In comparison, the downtown population of other major cities averages about 11 people per square mile.

On the plus side, more than 300 new hotel rooms are being planned in the downtown, along with approximately 715 residential units. There's also the M1 Rail that's expected to come online in 2017, which should help attract new development.

"So the supply is starting to catch up with the demand," Larson said.

The forecast, held Tuesday at the Townsend, is the third and final of an annual series

presented by the Birmingham chamber. The other two focus on government and the economy.

"All three of this year's forecast programs featured outstanding speakers who truly are leaders in their industries," chamber president Joe Bauman said. "Each of the programs plays a key role in fulfilling the chamber's mission to serve our six communities as their leading resource for advancing business interests and building relationships."

jgrossman@hometownlife.com
586-826-7030
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Assessment: Sometimes you need to stand, fight

Q: I am upset about the tax assessment I received this year from my township and I don't know what the results are going to be, but I did appeal to my local assessor. What do you think I should do with the result?

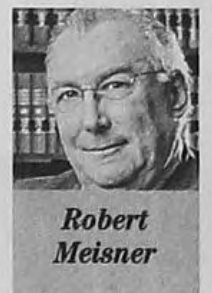
A: I would have difficulty recommending what specifically you should do other than if you are locked in to an assessment given the facts and circumstances of your case that you think is unreasonable, you need to appeal to the Michigan Tax Tribunal at

the least. You don't want to be stuck with an unreasonable assessment which is much greater than the fair market value of your property even the tax assessor argues that he is not looking at your individual property, but a composite of neighboring properties. Obviously, the assessors are out to get as much as they can and at some point you have to stand up and fight.

Q: My neighbor and I have jointly been utilizing a driveway for a number of years and we have always gotten along, but the driveway is on his property. Is it really necessary to have some sort of formal agreement?

A: It certainly is because your neighbor may sell his property or there may be some other untoward event which sours your respective relationship. You should prepare, with the assistance of an attorney, an easement agreement codifying your right to use that portion of the driveway with the requisite contribution by you and your successor which would be equitable. You are just looking for a problem down the road if you don't do something to establish the legal relationship and it probably should be your dime to do so.

Robert M. Meisner is a lawyer and the author of "Condo Living 2: An Authoritative Guide to Buying, Selling and Operating a Condominium." He is also the author of "Condominium Operation: Getting Started & Staying on the Right Track," second edition. Visit bmeisner@meisner-law.com. This column shouldn't be construed as legal advice.



Industry report: Vacation home sales drop some, investment buys up

Vacation home sales cooled off in 2015 but remained at the second highest amount in nearly a decade, while investment purchases increased for the first time in five years, according to an annual survey of residential home buyers released today by the National Association of Realtors. Mirroring the strong price growth seen throughout the United States, the median sales price of both vacation and investment homes surged in 2015.

NAR's 2016 *Investment and Vacation Home Buyers Survey*, covering existing- and new-home transactions in 2015, found that vacation-home sales last year declined to an estimated 920,000, down 18.5 percent from their most recent peak level of 1.13 million in 2014.

Investment-home sales in 2015 jumped 7.0 percent to an estimated 1.09 million from 1.02 million in 2014. Owner-occupied purchases jumped 15.9 percent to 3.74 million last year from 3.23 million in 2014 — the highest level since 2007 (3.93 million). Sales estimates are based on a national online survey including responses from over 2,000 U.S. adults who purchased a residential property in 2015, and exclude institutional investment activity.

Lawrence Yun, NAR chief economist, says vacation sales took a sizable step back in 2015, but still came in at the second highest amount since 2006 (1.07 million). "Baby boomers at or near retirement continue to propel the demand for second homes, although headwinds softened the overall volume of vacation sales last year," he said. "The expanding pool of buyers amidst a dwindling number of bargain-priced properties led to tighter supply and fewer sales and caused the price of vacation homes to rise. Furthermore, the turbulence that hit the financial markets the second half of the year likely seized some would-be buyers' available cash."

The median sales price of both vacation and investment homes soared in 2015. The median vacation home price was \$192,000, up 28.0 percent from \$150,000 in 2014. The median investment-home sales price was \$143,500, up 15.3 percent from \$124,500 a year ago.

According to Yun, many of the metro areas with the strongest price appreciation in 2015 were in the South — the most popular destination for vacation buyers — and particularly in several Florida markets. While increased buyer

demand contributed to the run-up in prices, it also likely squeezed less affluent households looking to purchase vacation properties.

Vacation-home sales accounted for 16 percent of all transactions in 2015 — down from 21 percent in 2014 (21 percent), but still the second highest share since the survey was first conducted in 2003. The portion of investment sales remained unchanged from a year ago at 19 percent, and owner-occupied purchases increased to 65 percent (60 percent in 2014).

"Despite a smaller share of distressed properties coming onto the market, investment purchases reversed course in 2015 after declining for four straight years," Yun said. "Steadily increasing home prices and strong rental demand appear to be giving more individual investors assurance that purchasing real estate will diversify their portfolios and generate additional income if they decide to rent out the home."

This year's survey found that in addition to longer-term rentals, investors are most likely to attempt to rent their properties for less than 30 days. Among investors, 42 percent did or tried to rent their property in 2015 and plan to rent their property in 2016.

Twenty-four percent of vacation buyers did or tried to rent their property in 2015 and plan to rent their property this year. Vacation buyers are more likely to use a property manager or social media to rent their property, while investors are more likely to use a traditional real estate agency.

The share of vacation buyers who paid in cash jumped to 38 percent from 30 percent in 2014, while cash purchases by investors decreased to 39 percent from 41 percent a year ago. Of buyers who financed their purchase with a mortgage, over half (52 percent) of vacation buyers and 44 percent of investors financed less than 70 percent of the purchase price.

The overall trend of fewer distressed properties (short sale or foreclosure) on the market resulted in vacation buyers and investors purchasing less of them in 2015. Thirty-six percent of vacation buyers (45 percent in 2014) and 39 percent of investors (44 percent in 2014) purchased a distressed property a year ago.

REAL ESTATE BRIEFS

Investors

The Real Estate Investors Association of Wayne will have an open forum. Investors will answer questions and offer a market update. Meetings are at 6-9 p.m. the third Tuesday of each month at the Red Lobster on Eureka in Southgate.

Members are free, guests \$20, which will be applied to their membership. The Red Lobster is next to 7-Eleven, near Trenton Road.

Any questions or concerns, call Bill Beddoes at 734-934-9091 or Wayne Koehler at 313-819-0919.

Short sales

If you owe more than what your house is worth, you may be interested in a free informational seminar on short sale procedures.

Bonnie David, broker/owner of Quantum Real Estate, is the presenter. It will be 6-7 p.m. each Thursday at 129 N. Lafayette, downtown South Lyon.

Call the office at 248-782-7130 or email june.quantum@gmail.com for your reservation or additional information.

Free foreclosure tours

Free foreclosure tours are 1 p.m. every other Sunday. Meeting place is Panera Bread on the southeast corner of Middlebelt and I-96.

Email Georgia@addedvalue-realty.com or visit FreeForeclosureTour.com.

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