

# Farmington Observer

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## Opinions differ

# How tax laws will aid couples

By Craig Piechura  
staff writer

Married couples who work will get a bit of a break from the Internal Revenue Service the next time they pay taxes. But the savings will hardly be noticeable until the 1982 tax forms are filed, IRS officials said.

Relief for couples currently penalized by the so-called "marriage penalty" will be slowly phased in over a three-year period.

Other changes in the new tax law, known as the Economic Recovery Tax Act of 1981, include deductions for a spouse who earns less; deductions for child care in the care of an adult dependent in an approved institution or non-institution setting.

The new tax laws also allow couples to deduct for charitable donations without itemizing and divert more earnings into a tax-deductible, interest-earning retirement fund.

The various provisions take effect at different times through the next five years and, in some instances, increase in subsequent years.

"It's not all it's cracked up to be," said Paul Craig, a personal tax manager employed by Williams, Meiselbach & Thalacker tax-consultant firm in Farmington Hills.

"I'll be blunt with you," Craig said. "It's going to be a savings but it's like everything else. When they say it's a \$25 billion tax cut that sounds great. But when you spread that over 200 mil-

**'It's going to be a savings, but it's like everything else. When they say it's a \$25 billion tax cut, that sounds great. But when you spread that over 200 million taxpayers, it's a nominal savings.'**

— Paul Craig

lion taxpayers it's a nominal savings." Sarah Wreford, acting public affairs officer at the Internal Revenue Service's Detroit office, said there's something for almost everyone in the new tax laws but persons have to know about the benefits in advance to take full advantage of them.

She also adds that working couples "should not expect much of a credit in the '81 tax year" because most benefits won't be phased in until 1982 and beyond.

In 1981 taxes, which are due April 15, working couples will receive a 1 1/2 percent tax credit that is already figured into the tax tables found in the back of the tax-form booklets.

Persons who don't use the tax table — for example those who income average — can subtract 1 1/4 percent of the tax owed by using the tax-rate schedule.

The savings isn't much in 1981, Ms. Wreford said. But when it comes time to fill out the 1982 federal tax form, working wives and husbands can knock 5 percent off

the lower-earning spouse's adjusted gross income before computing tax owed to the IRS.

The maximum allowable write-off in 1982 is \$1,500, 5 percent of \$30,000 — the highest amount a person can use as a base figure in determining the write-off.

AS AN EXAMPLE, a husband who earns \$50,000 and whose wife earns \$30,000 could deduct \$1,500 in 1982 and \$3,000 in 1983 when the break jumps to 10 percent of the lower-earning spouse's income.

Because the deduction is determined by computing one's adjusted gross income it isn't necessary to itemize deductions on the "long form" to take advantage of the new tax provision.

Ms. Wreford of the IRS cited figures which show that only 29 percent of all U.S. taxpayers itemize deductions. The rest opt for the simpler, and often more advantageous, short form.

The change that will affect all taxpayers is a 5-percent reduction in individual income tax which will begin Oct.

1. The tax cut will show up on the first paychecks that follow that date. Individual income tax rates will be cut 10 percent in 1982 and again by 10 percent in 1983.

Tom Wilde, district manager of H&R Block income tax preparers, said persons with a current take-home pay of \$250 can probably expect to see \$5 or \$6 in additional take-home pay on their next paycheck next month.

"There's no question that it'll reduce taxes," Wilde said. "On the same income you'll pay less tax."

Like most financial analysts, Wilde said it's too early to tell whether the president's plan will stimulate the economy and cause the citizenry to work more and save more, thus increasing national productivity.

"IT SEEMS LIKE most people who take home more take-home pay clear existing debts," Wilde said, adding that it's unclear whether the tax laws will encourage buying and investment.

On Jan. 1, working taxpayers can deduct 20 percent of expenses for the care of children or other dependents for a maximum credit of \$720 for one dependent or \$1,440 for two or more. The current limit is 20 percent of expenses.

Persons earning more than \$10,000 have their tax credit reduced by 1 percent for every \$2,000 earned in wages over \$10,000. Thus, the maximum child-care credit for a person earning \$30,000 would be \$480 for one dependent and \$960 for two or more dependents receiving care.



Pam Smith of the Farmington H&R Block office explains some of the new tax laws.

## Bitterness left behind by Holocaust survivor

By Mary Rodrigue  
staff writer

A veteran of 10 Jewish concentration camps, including Auschwitz, saying good things about a German officer?

Author Markus Rothbart describes such anecdotes in his recent book "I Wanted to Live to Tell a Story."

Rothbart, 55, will speak about his Holocaust survival on Wednesday, Sept. 23, at the Farmington Hills Branch Library.

Though his book (Vantage Press, \$7.95) describes the horrors of a Jewish teen-ager teetering on the verge of death in Nazi occupied Poland, Rothbart's message isn't a bitter one.

The crux of his story he sums up in his preface.

"I hope as you read my story you will feel the warmth of humanity that

I felt during the most awkward time of my life.

"Amie's prejudices in people. It is wise to seek out the good. My life is dependent upon my search for the better part of a society filled with hatred."

Today Rothbart owns Eastern Market Beef Processing Corp. in Detroit, a world apart from his youth in Plazwka, western Poland.

His recollections of three years of camp life are clear "but like a dream." Documenting by journal or even discussions were forbidden in that society.

IT TOOK FOUR years to write the 155-page book, and several years to find time to fulfill his lifelong desire.

"Things like this don't go away. You think of that type of life," he says.

"American people should know

what happened as a preventive measure."

The drive to relate his story is what motivated him to hold on during the years of oppression.

Taken prisoner in 1942, he was moved nearly a dozen times because of advances of the Allied troops. He worked as a blacksmith, tool and die maker, and at odd jobs to survive.

When liberated by the Russians in Czechoslovakia in 1945, Rothbart was 18 and weighed 80 pounds. Obsessed with a desire to see if his family survived, he walked the last 20 miles of his journey back home instead of waiting overnight for a bus.

Though separated for years, the whole family — parents and two sisters — were reunited. Two years later they moved to Michigan where Rothbart's uncle lived.

"My objective (with the book) is to



Markus Rothbart

say that you can't condemn a people you don't know," he says.

Contemporary American Nazis he describes as sick and isolated.

Though the memory of the Holocaust must be kept alive for future generations, hatred must be rid of, Rothbart says.

His book is available at iBrowne in West Bloomfield and B. Dalton's bookstores.

His talk Wednesday starts at 7:30 p.m. in the library, 32737 12 Mile.

## Search abandoned for missionaries

The search for five persons reported missing in Alaska last week has ended, according to officials of the Farmington Hills-based Far Eastern Gospel Crusade.

Authorities believe the plane in which the missing were traveling went down over the water off Cape Yakutaga on the Alaskan Gulf Coast Sept. 13.

Among the missing are the Rev. Philip Armstrong, minister of missions for the Crusade, and volunteer Paul Mortenson, of Northville.

The National Transportation Safety Board is investigating the incident.

The search being made by personnel from Elmendorf Air Force Base was called off Thursday.

Also on board were Paul Backlund, the pilot; Bill Ballou, mission business manager; and Wanda Ediger, secretary for a Christian radio station. All three lived in Glennallen, northeast of Anchorage.

The missing five were returning to Glennallen after touring the mission's new radio studio under construction in Petersburg. The studio recently was granted FCC approval to operate.

Memorial services for Mortenson will be at 7:30 this evening in Southfield's Highland Park Baptist Church on Lahser Road. Armstrong's memorial service will be Tuesday at the same location and time.

THE FINAL radio contact with the airplane was when it was at 5,000 feet and without power. The pilot said he was going to attempt a landing on the beach.

Originally, officials believed the five may have survived the landing and were protected from the elements by blankets and food on board the plane.

Armstrong founded the Protestant in-

terdenominational mission in 1945. Today its 330 missionaries serve in Alaska, Japan, Taiwan and the Philippines.

Mortenson is a retired vice president of the Sperry Rand Corp, based in Troy.

## Flouride students dwindle

The flouride teeth cleaning program in Farmington Public Schools could be discontinued next year if student participation continues to dwindle.

A 25 percent drop (from 2,146 to 1,643) in elementary and middle school students involved in the program last year resulted in expenses exceeding income.

If participation falls below 25 percent this year, the 19-year-old program will be axed.

The schools topical flouride committee, chaired by Gill Elementary School principal Nick Abid, made that recommendation to the Farmington School Board last week.

"I think the availability of flouride in the local water supply, the economy, and the availability of (treatment) through dental insurance has caused participation to drop off," Abid said.

At its peak in 1965-67, 61 percent of students participated in the program.

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## This guy is no friend of the sun

By Craig Piechura  
staff writer

It's ironic for anti-nuclear activists to promote power from the sun — "the greatest source of radiation in the solar system," says Arthur Brown.

You won't find Brown, 49, of Pinckney, basking in the sunlight. He believes he has solid proof that persons who stay indoors live longer than outdoorsmen. He theorizes that ultraviolet rays of the sun trigger "pro-aging hormones" that cause cells to die, destroy vitamin E and cause cancer in human beings.

The Farmington businessman runs seven different business ventures in the old winery building on Grand River at Orchard Lake, heading a lawn spray company, an ad agency and various trade publications. While he works, he wears No. 15 sun screen lotion on his skin and special glasses to block ultraviolet rays.

Brown admits he's no scientist but hopes scientists will pay attention to his theory. He has spent more than a thousand dollars and countless hours developing a 12-page brochure that details his "Theory of Senescence." A radio talk show on WJR has already interviewed him and the National Enquirer is interested.

The thing he worries about least is being labeled a crackpot.

"Imagine Columbus got a lot of kidding when he said the world was round," Brown says. "Galileo had to

hide his notes and write backwards."

After sending his material to an expert on aging, Dr. Joan Smith-Sonneborn, a researcher in the University of Wyoming's Department of Zoology and Physiology, he received a letter back stating:

"I WOULD NOT move from the information you have to the theory you propose. There are aspects of what you say I agree with, but your non-scientific approach is not allowed in my scientific world."

"Although it's true that damaging ultra-violet rays can accelerate the aging process in paramita, there can also be beneficial effects at critical doses."

The researcher's response doesn't discourage Brown in the least.

"I've been carrying this idea around for years," he says. "If you feel you know something that's important you feel a responsibility to say it or do it."

The best evidence for his belief that the sun ages all animals, Brown says, is found in a series of newspaper stories about a Windsor, Ont. family where three of six children were kept hidden in an attic for 11 years until they were discovered by police in July 1960.

Photos of the three children show evidence of stunted growth and, Brown says, delayed puberty.

"The Dickerson children may be looked upon as an unofficial, yet accurate, experiment showing the results of the interruption of solar exposure," Brown writes. "Three children were



Arthur Brown

exposed (to the sun) and grew 'normal'. They were kept unexposed to solar radiation and grew at a much slower pace."

NEWSPAPER accounts from the Windsor Star of July 29, 1960 state: "The physical development of the three (confined) children is years behind normal average. The oldest of the group, Connie, will be 18 in three days. Her height and weight are those of a 9-year-

old girl. There is nothing about her physique to reveal that she should be, according to her age, a fully-developed young woman.

"Connie, who at age 13 should be approaching young womanhood, has the look of a 5-year-old child, barely out of infancy. Gordon, the 15-year-old brother, is the size of a 7-year-old boy."

Brown says he's talked to two of the Dickerson children and has failed to convince them his theory is valid. Brown maintains that by boarding up the windows of the Dickerson attic to keep the landlors from discovering there were six children living in the rented home, the children's mother "literally stopped the aging process" for the three kept hidden.

While he isn't suggesting children should be shut in attics, Brown believes the incident demonstrates his theory that people live longer by staying out of direct sunlight.

If you're still interested, Brown will tell you he's convinced at one time the earth was covered by a giant water canopy which was suspended above us, shielding mankind from the sun's damaging rays.

This, he says earnestly, would show how Noah could live to be 950 years of age and explain the Ice Age and Great Flood.

Still skeptical? No matter, Brown expects as much. A little disbelief and derision won't deter him in his tireless quest to unlock the secrets of the universe.

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