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Friday, February 17, 2012
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Representative sponsors bill to dump state's estate tax

PONTIAC—State Rep. Jason Barickman (R-Champaign) has introduced legislation that would eliminate the state portion of the estate tax. Barickman says that the tax unfairly targets farmers and business owners who inherit property from deceased heirs.

"The estate tax is unfair in its' very nature. There is no reason relatives and those who inherit property from the deceased should be taxed a second time on that very same property," said Barickman. "We are talking about family farms and locally owned businesses that have been handed down for generations. Why should those who have worked their entire lives making their family business or family farm successful be punished with an inflated tax simply because of a death in the family?"

House Bill 4998 would repeal the Illinois portion of the estate tax. Currently, Illinois offers an exemption for estates valued under \$3 million. That exemption will be raised to \$3.5 million in 2013. The federal exemption is set at \$5 million, with estates valued above that level being taxed at a 35% rate. Illinois levies a 7.2% to 16% tax rate on estates worth over \$3 million. Due to these rates, some individuals will pay taxes as high as 51% on farms or businesses being passed down a generation. Barickman says the high tax rates have forced many families to sell pieces, or all, of family farms or businesses just to pay the taxes.

In 2010 Illinois did not impose a death tax. When the Democrats voted to increase income taxes by 67% in January 2011, they reinstated the estate tax. Late last year, the General Assembly passed legislation increasing the estate tax exemption to \$3 million, and subsequently \$3.5 million.

Barickman said while he supports proposals to increase the estate tax exemption, the best way to protect farmers and businesses and the jobs they provide is to do away with the Illinois portion of the tax entirely. Barick-

man said ending the estate tax will help preserve family farms and small businesses for future generations.

"This is not a new concept. In fact, for the entire 2010 year our state did not impose death taxes. So I think this is a very reasonable proposal that can be put into law and provide a level of future predictability for farmers and business owners," Barickman said. "We really need to get away from the band-aid approach to governing and offer comprehensive solutions. Businesses need to be able to plan five and ten years in advance, and they want to see long term solutions to these types of issues.

See ESTATE on other side

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Saturday: Prime Rib, Rib eye
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Sunday: NO open Bowling

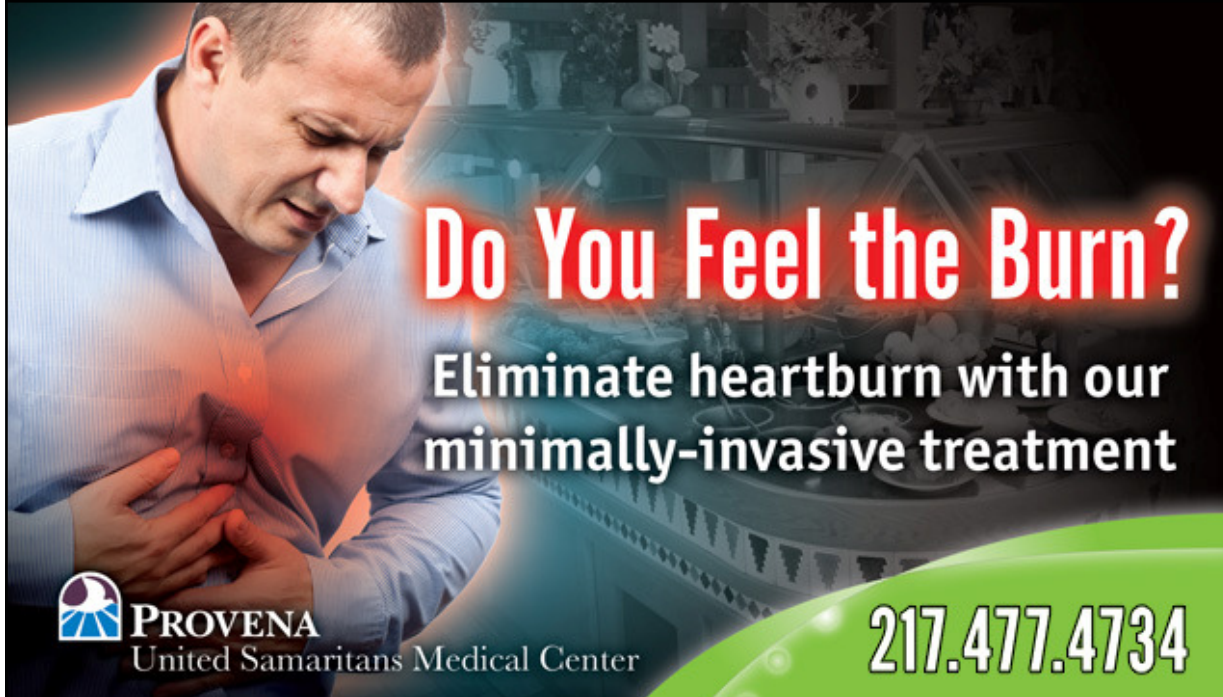
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Letters to the Editor

Funding issues impact helpless among us

There was recently another report in a newspaper of the Vermilion County nursing home dilemma. This is not the only one with continuing financial problems. Much is due to the lack of faster state-promised funds from Medicaid and subsequently, the total overhaul of our medical system if the federal government has its way (we pray not!). Changes coming have already been sent out to hospitals and other health care providers to start putting in place the dictates when the plans are to

Estate continued from other side

One and two year extensions create confusion and make it difficult for investors and job providers to gain confidence in our economic system. Given our state's recent history of tax increases and budget problems, how can you blame them for wanting a certain level of predictability regarding Illinois tax policy?"

House Bill 4998 is currently awaiting action by the House Rules Committee.

be implemented, some now and others totally in a couple years.

In the meantime, our elderly and disabled in the nursing homes, assisted living and at home have been severely impacted due to lack of funding for the ever-growing needy. How long will those assisted living situations that currently receive Medicaid fund-

Police News

Roy Zamora Jr., 20, of Hoopeston, was ticketed for no valid drivers license, no valid registration and improper backing after an accident at 7:52 a.m. Wednesday.

Police said Zamora, in a 1990 GMC truck, backed into the 800 block of East Seminary and was struck by a 2002 Dodge Durango driven by Roselyn E. Norman, also of Hoopeston.

No injuries were reported.

Obituaries

GOBLE—Ralph Goble, 85, of Danville, died at 1:24 p.m. Wednesday, Feb. 15, 2012, at home. Arrangements are pending at Anderson Funeral Home, Hoopeston.

Weather

Chance of rain/snow today. High 37. Tonight, chance of flurries. Low 14. Tomorrow, sunny. High 23, low 12. Sunday, sunny. High 28, low 19.

For current weather conditions, call Hoopeston Weather Service, (217) 283-6221.

North Fork Conservation Club

4148 N 1700 East Rd., Hoopeston 283-4646

Fish Fry

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ing be able to continue care for so many? And those who are able to live alone at home (the best place) with some help for housekeeping, grocery shopping and some personal care? Hard to believe but there are many more living at home than in nursing homes.

Basically, what they are saying to them is: "We no longer need you since you are not able to work and pay taxes to support "our" current lifestyles? So....." Fill in the blanks.

God have mercy on us who fail to help those who are helpless because we are so selfish. God bless those taking care of family and friends the best they can.

Alice Lawrence Fink
Hoopeston

Letters to the Editor policy

Just the Facts welcomes letters to the editor. Letters must be signed by the writer and must include a daytime phone number for verification. Letters must be in good taste and of general interest to readers. Unsigned letters will not be published. Letters may be mailed to P.O. Box 441, Hoop-

Classifieds

HELP WANTED

Experienced floral designer needed at Welcome Home Gifts, Hoopeston. Part time. Call (815) 528-0743

Hoopeston Area CUSD #11 has an opening for the following positions:

- Part-time Personal Aide at Maple. Position hours are 12- 3 p.m. and start date is as soon as possible.
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