

Words cannot express the depth of our appreciation for the many acts of concern and sympathy at the passing of our mother and grandmother, Margaret Gocking.

A special thank you to the wonderful staffs at Carle Hoopeston Regional Health Center and Heritage Health for their exceptional care and assistance; to Pastor Jeff Alexander for his friendship and concern for Mom during her life as well as in her final days; to the many area churches, pastors and caring congregations for their prayer support; to the ladies at Community Church of the Nazarene for the lovely dinner; to Ryan and the Anderson Funeral Home family for their compassionate service; to Mom's dear neighbors Jim and Betty Richards for their many years of friendship; to co-workers at Community Bank and Hoopeston Public Library for all their support; and to our many friends and neighbors for their cards, calls, food, memorials and countless other acts of kindness. We are richly blessed!

> Bob & JoAnn Charbonneau Danny, Lisa & Ashley Danner

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Phone/Fax (217) 283-9348 Lourdine Florek, owner

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Barickman, Harms introduce bills in respective chambers

Barickman proposal focuses on estates

SPRINGFIELD—State Senator Jason Barickman (R-Bloomington) plans to introduce legislation that will ease the estate planning burdens on family farms and small businesses by re-coupling Illinois' Estate Tax, or Death Tax, to federal law.

For many years, the taxing threshold in Illinois for things like farmland and business assets was identical to federal government guidelines. But when Democrat leaders passed a record tax hike in early 2011, they decoupled the state rate from the federal rate, raising tax liability for families that own farms and small businesses in Illinois.

Today, the state taxes estates valued above \$4 million, while the federal government only taxes estates valued above \$5.25 million.

Barickman, who grew up on his family's farm in Livingston County, says the difference results in a more complicated estate plan and drives up the planning costs for farm families and small business owners.

"When Pat Quinn and Democrats in the legislature raised taxes on Illinoisans in 2011, they made it harder for families to plan for passing farm land and assets

See BARICKMAN on other side



Harms bill would protect religious groups

WATSEKA—State Representative Josh Harms (R-Watseka) has introduced legislation to protect religious organizations from having to participate in any way with same sex marriages.

After the passage of Senate Bill 10, same sex marriage, there were protections put in place for churches but not for facilities associated with the church. Harms said this legislation, House Bill 4263, is necessary to ensure religious organizations are not statutorily forced to go against their faith.

"Now that the General Assembly and the Governor have allowed gay marriages in Illinois, we must make sure that our religious organizations are adequately protected from doing anything that goes against their religious beliefs," said Harms. "The original gay marriage bill that passed gave protections to churches but not other facilities owned and operated by the church, such as schools, banquet halls, and other places of worship. This legislation will correct the error in the original bill and protect religious organizations from having to go against their faith."

HB 4263 was filed January 22 and is currently waiting to be assigned to a House committee.

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VFW Menu

Orange & 4th Ave., Hoopeston Wednesday Wings 5-8 p.m. 50¢ each ThirstyThursdays &Tacos 5-8 p.m. \$1.25 domestic beers, \$2 imports NFCC Fish Fry Fridays11 a.m.-7 p.m. Come out and support your VFW!



Fiction

Cinders: A Chicken Cinderella by Jan Brett Friends by Eric Carle

The Crocodile and the Scorpion by Rebecca Emberley Diary of a Wimpy Kid: Hard Luck by Jeff Kinney The Show Must Go On by Kate Klise

Comets soar past HA ladies

Tori Smock led the Hoopeston Lady Cornjerkers in scoring, rebounds and steals but the Oakwood Comets still managed to win, 44-28.

With eight points, six rebounds and four steals, Smock "left everything she had on the floor," said Coach Clinton Mathewson.

Haley Dixon chipped in eight points, while Karena Colunga had five on the night.

RyLee Waymouth had five rebounds and Brea Bushong had one assist. Carissa Vaughn and Colunga each had two steals during the match.

The loss brings the ladies record to 6-15.



Court Dispositions

Duke by Kirby Larson Snowflakes Fall by Patricia MacLachlan Madeline and the Old House in Paris by John Bemel-

Couple welcomes daughter

James Farris and Ashley Graves, of Hoopeston, are pleased to announce the birth of their daughter,

Kaylee Renee Elizabeth Farris. Born at 10:23 p.m. January 18, 2014, she weighed six lbs., seven oz. and was 21" long. She was welcomed home by big sister, Sophia Noelle Lorraine Farris.

Maternal grandmother is Christine Hubbard, and paternal grandmother is Shari Egebrecht, both of Hoopeston.



Police News

Angelica R. Bolton, 25, of Hoopeston, turned herself in to police at 12:02 p.m. Tuesday. Wanted on a Vermilion County traffic warrant for failure to appear for pre-trial, she was released on \$375 bond.

A 40-year-old Hoopeston man reported at 7 p.m. Tuesday that someone damaged his car in the 400 block of East Young.

Barickman continued from other side

between generations," Barickman said. "It is common sense to pair the Estate Tax rate with the federal government to ease the planning burden for farm families and business owners."

Barickman's legislation would once again "couple" the state's rate to the federal rate beginning January 1, 2015. He said that will give families predictability when planning for the transfer of an estate and will help retain farmland between generations.

Weather



Chance of snow today, tonight. High 33, low 21. Tomorrow, chance of snow, snow/sleet late. High 28, low

mans Marciano

Kelsey Green, Reading Queen by Claudia Mills Leopard's Gold (Chronicles of the Red King #3) by Jenny Nimmo



Celebrate our 1st Anniversary

Saturday, February 1

All Beer \$1 All Liquor \$2 Jello Shots \$1 each or 6 for \$5 Live Band - Mason Jar 8:30-12:30

Classifieds

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