HEALTH CARE

From Page A1

available source of care.

With nearly 10,600 primary-care doctors caring for patients, Illinois ranks 22nd in its rate of doctors per 100,000 residents, according to a report from the Association of American Medical Colleges. That puts the state slightly above average for its supply of active primary-care doctors.

Nationally, 79.4 primary-care physicians were active in patient care per 100,000 Americans in 2010. Illinois had 81.8.

More health pros

Gov. Pat Quinn has requested a statewide strategy to address the need for more health professionals — not just doctors, but nurses and other providers.

Illinois Department of Public Health Director LaMar Hasbrouck, a physician leading a workgroup studying the gaps, said solutions in Illinois may include delivering health care through real-time video hookups, a fast track to credentials for military veterans who gained medical experience at war, sharing nurses across state borders and "warming up to the idea" that nurses and PAs can do more to deliver primary care.

Licensed practitioners need to work "at the very top of their license and experience and professional competency, so we can get every ounce of care from them," Hasbrouck said at a meeting on implementing the health law in Illinois.

It could be an uphill battle.

The Illinois State Medical Society, which represents more than 11,000 doctors, successfully lobbied against legislative measures this year to give nurses with advanced degrees more authority to practice without a doctor's supervision and to allow trained dentists to give flu shots and other immunizations. The doctors argued that it's unsafe to push those boundaries.

Twenty-two counties in Illinois have primary-care doctor shortages, according to state and federal health officials. An additional 200 pockets of urban and rural Illinois have shortages. It would take nearly 1,000 new primary-care doctors, according to a government estimate, to bring all those areas up to a healthy supply.

Dr. Basil Jaradah listens to Awanda Mitchell's lungs Thursday at Crusader Community Health in Rockford. CEO/President Gordon Eggers says the shortage of primary-care doctors is of "profound significance." MAX GERSH/ROCKFORD REGISTER STAR

Tracking the need

The most severe shortage is in Gallatin County on the Kentucky border. The county of 5,500 residents has no hospital, dentist or full-time doctor. Some residents pay $50 a year for an air ambulance service that can fly them to a hospital in emergencies. Women deliver their babies at hospitals an hour away.

The lack of primary care is a fact of life and a detriment to health, said retired teacher and community volunteer Kappy Scates of Shawneetown, whose regular doctor is 20 miles away in a neighboring county. "People without insurance or a medical card put off going to the doctor. They try to take care of their kids first," she said, so increased coverage through the Affordable Care Act will help.

Many of the counties with severe shortfalls of primary-care doctors are sparsely populated and losing residents, according to census data.

In southern Illinois: Washington, Clay, Fayette, Clinton, Johnson and Hamilton counties.

In central Illinois: Menard, Macoupin, De Witt, Marshall, Shelby, Douglas, Mason, Moultrie, Piatt, Brown and Woodford.

In northern Illinois: Henderson, Mercer, Carroll and Ogle.

Rockford's three health systems have extended or plan to expand health services to Ogle County.

SwedishAmerican Health System just opened a primary-care clinic in Rochelle and has clinics in Byron and Davis Junction. Rockford Health System also has a clinic in Byron, and OSF Saint Anthony Medical Center is opening a clinic in Byron this year.

Freeport-based FHN has clinics in Lanark, Mount Carroll and Savanna, which are all in Carroll County.

Hope for future

Recommendations from a 2010 report on the physician workforce in Illinois were never implemented, said Dr. Russell Robertson, dean of the Chicago Medical School at Rosalind Franklin University of Medicine and Science in North Chicago. He holds out hope for the new statewide strategy, which he will take part in creating.

But Robertson said there are forces, such as the so-called "hidden curriculum," that make recruiting primary-care physicians difficult. During training, student doctors study with physicians who are specialists and who unintentionally dissuade them from primary care.

"They say, 'You're such a smart person. Why would you want to spend your time providing primary care?' It changes their perspective."

The University of Illinois College of Medicine at Rockford is doing its part to bridge the gap of doctors needed in rural areas. Its Rural Medical Education Program has graduated about 300 students in its 20-year history.

Director Dr. Matthew Hunsaker said more than 70 percent of graduates still practice in Illinois. The program's focus is bringing students into primary-care fields of family medicine, general internal medicine and pediatrics, which Hunsaker called the "anchors" of rural communities.

"We're unique because we're starting with students when they begin medical school to identify those with an affinity for rural communities, as well as primary care," he said. "That can be a challenging process, but we've done pretty well at it."

Hospitals in Gibson City, Dixon, Carthage and Fairfield have been strong partners for the rural medicine program, Hunsaker noted.

Melissa Westphal: 815-987-1341; mwestphal@rrstar.com; @mlwestphal

We want to talk with you about a new transmission line.

Please join us for an open house to discuss the Grand Prairie Gateway Project, a new electric transmission line proposed for construction in Ogle, DeKalb, Kane and DuPage Counties. Your input is an important part of the process to ensure that our transmission system meets our customers' needs.

For more information or to learn more about the project study area, please call the project hotline at 1-877-279-4732 or visit ComEd.com/GrandPrairieGateway.

Public Open Houses

July 9, 2013 4 - 7 p.m.
Kings Elementary School
100 First Street
Kings, IL 61068

July 10, 2013 4 - 7 p.m.
South Elgin Lions Club
500 Fulton Street
South Elgin, IL 60177

July 11, 2013 4 - 7 p.m.
Sycamore Veterans Association
121 S. California Street
Sycamore, IL 60178

ComEd®
An Exelon Company

© Commonwealth Edison Company, 2013

RS-RRS000099127

Opening Late Summer 2013

Now Taking Reservations!

Affordable Assisted Lifestyle for Adults 22-64 with Physical Disabilities

To reserve your new apartment, stop by our sales office on
12450 Regency Parkway Unit# 276 in Huntley, IL
Located inside Heritage Woods of Huntley

DEER PATH of Huntley
SUPPORTIVE LIVING COMMUNITY

Call Today to Learn More
847-515-1800

Community located on 12500 Regency Pkwy Huntley, IL 60142

Managed by BMA Management,Ltd. www.deerpath-dslf.com

ILLINOIS LEGISLATURE

Graduated income tax stirs debate

Issue divides Republicans, Democrats

By Doug Finke
GateHouse Media Illinois

SPRINGFIELD — Months before legislators may even take up the issue, the idea of instituting a graduated state income tax is drawing intense opposition.

Last week, Senate Minority Leader Christine Radogno of Lemont and House Minority Leader Tom Cross of Oswego issued a joint statement that they and their fellow Republicans in the legislature "stand united" against a progressive income tax.

Radogno

That was followed by a statement from Americans For Prosperity Illinois praising the Republicans for their stance.

"I'm not surprised that people want to perpetuate an unfair tax," Sen. Don Harmon, D-Oak Park, said in response to the statements. "It (a flat tax) benefits the more well-off, and it's not surprising to me Republican leadership would step up for its core constituency."

Harmon

The source of all of this back and forth are two proposed amendments to the state constitution that would get rid of the state's flat income tax and replace it with a graduated tax like that in place for federal income taxes.

The amendments are nearly identical, except one was filed in the House and the other in the Senate — both on the last day of the spring session. Neither has been assigned to a committee for a hearing.

Harmon is the lead sponsor of SJRCA40, along with 12 other Democrats. Rep. Naomi Jakobsson of Urbana is the lead sponsor of HJRCA33 along with 21 other Democrats.

"I believe we will have a comprehensive debate over income tax policy during the next gubernatorial election leading into the expiration of the temporary income tax on January 1, 2015," he said. "I think it's high time to consider amending the Constitution to authorize a fair tax where those who make less pay less and those who make more pay more."

'Healthy debate'

The governor's office is up for election in 2014. A crowded field is developing for next spring's primary. At the same time, lawmakers next year will be looking at putting together a state budget knowing that the bulk of the income tax hike will expire halfway through the fiscal year — unless lawmakers approve an extension of the tax.

Since income taxes will be a major debate next spring anyway, Harmon believes it's an ideal time to debate the broader question of bringing a graduated income tax to Illinois.

"I think it would be a healthy debate," said Sen. Andy Manar, D-Bunker Hill, a co-sponsor of Harmon's amendment. "My preference is if we keep the tax increase, we do it a little bit differently."

Manar said the state's tax code is "stuck decades in the past."

"I think the current tax structure is regressive," Manar said. "I don't believe the tax code has the flexibility in it to reflect the regressive nature of the flat tax."

Manar

The Republican leaders disagree. Cross said Democrats are "starting to push a new tax increase which will negatively affect small businesses and family farms."

"Taxpayers should be wary," Radogno said. "This isn't about fairness, it's about increasing revenue to fuel even more spending."

Both leaders pointed out the 67 percent income tax increase in 2011 did not solve the state's financial problems.

More or less?

Americans For Prosperity argues that a graduated income tax would kill jobs and economic development. It says a graduated income tax proposal from the Center for Tax and Budget Accountability would raise marginal income tax rates for anyone making more than $5,000.

However, in a paper issued by the center last year, it said its plan would "cut the overall income tax burden for 94 percent of all taxpayers. That means on average, taxpayers with under $150,000 in base income would receive a tax cut."

At the same time, the center says its plan would raise at least $2.4 billion in new revenue annually.

"You have to overcome so much misinformation on the tax policy issue in general," said Ralph Martire, executive director of the center. "Here's the reality of the current tax situation. When measured as a percentage of income tax paid, low- and middle-income people pay a lot."

Of the 41 states that have an individual income tax, only seven have a flat tax.

However, just what a graduated income tax would look like in Illinois is a big question. Neither of the two proposed amendments lays out in any detail just what the graduated income tax would consist of. They simply say a graduated tax should be adopted.

Harmon said details of how a graduated income tax would work and how it would affect people in various income levels will have to be developed before asking people to vote on an amendment to change the Constitution.

"I think we are going to need to flesh out a variety of competing proposals," Harmon said. "I do think we are going to have to suggest a specific plan."

Although Illinois lawmakers won't have to act on the amendments until well into the spring session next year, Harmon said he wanted the issue out there now.

"There is no advantage in springing this on my colleagues in the General Assembly or the voters at the last minute," Harmon said. "I want to build a coalition."

OBITUARIES

KENNETH T. LOVAAS, 91
BELOIT, Wis. — Kenneth T. Lovaas, 91, of Beloit died Friday. Arrangements are pending at Daley Murphy Wisch & Associates Funeral Home and Crematorium.

O

MARV C. OSTERHOLZ, 64
ROCKTON — Marv C. Osterholz, 64, of Rockton died Thursday, June 27, 2013, at home with family at his side, after a battle with cancer. Born Aug. 19, 1948, in Platteville, Wis., son of Donald and Ada (Pennekamp) Osterholz. Veteran of the Vietnam war, serving as a sergeant in the U.S. Army, carrying a M60. He received two purple hearts and one bronze star for his bravery. Married Lorraine Kawalec on Aug. 31, 1974, in Platteville. Marv was an avid hunter, outdoorsman and biker. Member of the Lyran Club, ABATE and RWCS. Survivors include wife, Lorraine; son, Chris (Cate) Osterholz; granddaughters, Cameron and Alexandria; mother, Ada Osterholz; brother, Dale (Louise) Osterholz; sisters, Rita Osterholz and Diane Obershaw; brother-in-law, Andy (Wendy) Kawalec; nieces; nephew; beloved dogs, Jesse and Sam; and many friends. Predeceased by his father.

Service at 10 a.m. Monday, July 1, at Delehanty Funeral Home Ltd., 401 River Lane, Loves Park. Burial in Rockton Township Cemetery. Visitation from 4 to 7 p.m. Sunday, June 30, at the funeral home. In lieu of flowers, a memorial will be established for cancer research. Visit delehantyfh.com.

R

ALBERTINE 'TINA' REDMOND
ROCKFORD — Albertine "Tina" Redmond, of Rockford departed this earthly life Tuesday, June 25, 2013, at OSF St. Anthony Medical Center, after a long illness. She was born March 27, 1941, in Durant, MS; the daughter of William and Lizzie Redmond. Albertine lived in Rockford since 1960, coming from Durant. She was employed by Aramark Food Service at Rockford College for 22 years before becoming ill. She graduated from Durant Attendance Center. Albertine leaves to cherish many loving memories, three daughters, Cynthia (Ron Teal) Jones, Sonya (Garry) Ball, and Michelle (Demetris) Handy; three sons, Larry, Patrick (Sherry), Marvin (Nicole) Redmond; ten grandchildren; one great-granddaughter; three sisters, Allene Henderson, Ella and Agnes Redmond; two brothers, Henry (Anita) and William Redmond Jr.; a host of nieces, nephews, other relatives and friends including special cousin, Gertrude Semster. She was predeceased by her parents; two sisters, Annie Williams, and Francis Davis; one brother, Robert Redmond. Special thanks to OSF St. Anthony Hospital Cancer Center and nurses on 4 West.

Services will be held 11 a.m. Tuesday, July 2, 2013, at Ephesians Missionary Baptist Church, 1112 Taylor Street, with Pastor Norris Flannigan officiating. Burial in Greenwood Cemetery. Visitation will be held from 9 a.m. until the time of service. Arrangements completed by Carl E. Ponds Funeral Home, 2429 W. State Street.

S

RICHARD SCOTT, 72
MORRISON — Richard Scott, 72, of Morrison died Friday. McDonald Funeral Home is assisting the family.

ANTHONY SMITH, 46
ROCKFORD — Anthony Smith, 46, of Rockford died June 23. Progressive Funeral Parlor, Chicago, is assisting the family.

CLIFFORD O. SQUIRE JR., 83
ROCKFORD — Clifford O. Squire Jr., 83, completed a full life on Tuesday, June 25, 2013. Born July 25, 1929, in Rock Island, IL to Clifford and Martha Squire. A 1947 graduate of St. Ambrose Academy and a 1951 graduate of St. Ambrose College, where he played tennis, which was a passion for most of his life. Enlisted in the Army after graduation, and served for four years stationed in Germany performing counterintelligence and reaching the rank of sergeant. He continued his career working as a civilian with the U.S. government, first returning to Germany for several years assisting in refugee relief. After coming back to the U.S., he married Mary Ellen Drury in 1963, and worked as a defense contractor for the next two decades, primarily with Sundstrand. He retired from the government in 1984, and then continued working as a contract consultant for the next 15 years. He was always ready with a joke or interesting story, he was able to see the best in everyone and every situation. His wide range of interests ranged from Vatican postage to beer memorabilia, to classic Volkswagens. Survivors include wife, Mary and children, Michael, Joseph, and Janet. Predeceased by parents and daughter, Ann.

Services at 1 p.m. on Monday, July 1, 2013, at Honquest Family Funeral Home with Crematory, Rockford Chapel, 4311 N. Mulford Rd. Visitation at 12 noon until time of service. Burial Calvary Cemetery. To express condolences visit honquestfh.com.

HELEN L. STANFA, 87
ROCKFORD — Helen F. Stanfa, 87, of Rockford died Friday. Arrangements are pending at Honquest Family Funeral Home with Crematory, Rockford Chapel.

W

GERALD WEIGHTMAN, 92
ROCKFORD — Gerald Weightman, 92, of Rockford died Friday. Arrangements are pending at Fitzgerald Funeral Home, Riverside Chapel.

KENNETH D. WILLIAMS, 75
ROCKFORD — Kenneth D. Williams, 75, of Rockford departed this earthly life to be with his Lord and Savior, Jesus Christ, Friday, June 28, 2013, at home. Born June 11, 1938, in Wayzata, Minn., son of Joseph and Mary (Joseph) Williams. Veteran of the U.S. Army. Married Teresa L. Ralston on Jan. 11, 1997, in Rockford. Attended First Evangelical Free Church. Survivors include wife, Teresa; children, David Williams, Michele Haik, Kelly Williams, Shelly Turner, Matt McLaren and Marissa Montalbano; 13 grandchildren; siblings, Chuck, Helen, Rose Mary and Joe; numerous nieces, nephews and cousins. Predeceased by parents; and brother, Larry.

Memorial service at 7 p.m. Tuesday, July 2, at Delehanty Funeral Home Ltd., 401 River Lane, Loves Park, with visitation from 5:30 p.m. to service time. In lieu of flowers, memorials to the family. Please visit delehantyfh.com.

GO
Your Guide to Having Fun
go.rrstar.com

Smart phone
Smart news
Smart people
m.rrstar.com

God Bless America - We Express Our Gratitude and Jubilation!

We want to talk with you about a new transmission line.

Please join us for an open house to discuss the Grand Prairie Gateway Project, a new electric transmission line proposed for construction in Ogle, DeKalb, Kane and DuPage Counties. Your input is an important part of the process to ensure that our transmission system meets our customers' needs.

For more information or to learn more about the project study area, please call the project hotline at 1-877-279-4732 or visit ComEd.com/GrandPrairieGateway.

Public Open Houses

July 9, 2013 4 - 7 p.m.
Kings Elementary School
100 First Street
Kings, IL 61068

July 10, 2013 4 - 7 p.m.
South Elgin Lions Club
500 Fulton Street
South Elgin, IL 60177

July 11, 2013 4 - 7 p.m.
Sycamore Veterans Association
121 S. California Street
Sycamore, IL 60178

ComEd®
An Exelon Company

© Commonwealth Edison Company, 2013

AFFIDAVIT OF PUBLICATION

This is to certify that the Public Notices regarding **"...ComEd's Grand Prairie Gateway Project open house meetings..."** for **Commonwealth Edison Company** were published in the following newspaper(s) on the following dates:

Rockford Register Star

Name of Newspapers

Rockford, IL

City, State

On July 21, 2013; July 28, 2013; August 4, 2013

Date(s) Published

April Reef — 8-20-13

Newspaper Representative — Date

Melissa J. McCrea — 8.20.13

Notary Signature — Date

OFFICIAL SEAL
MELISSA J. MCCREA
NOTARY PUBLIC - STATE OF ILLINOIS
MY COMMISSION EXPIRES OCT. 15, 2016