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OBITUARIES

Raymond Morris

Raymond William Morris, 101, of Neoga, formerly of Charleston, passed away at 9:59 p.m. on Saturday, April 8, 2023, at Heartland Senior Living in Neoga.

Funeral services will be held at 10 a.m. on Thursday, April 13, at the Immanuel Lutheran Church, 902 Cleveland Avenue in Charleston. Pastor Kenneth Hoover will officiate. Burial will be in Rest Haven Memorial Gardens in Mattoon. Visitation will be held from 6-8 p.m. on Wednesday, April 12, at the church. The Edwards Funeral Home is assisting with arrangements.

Raymond was born on August 17, 1921, in Mattoon, the first of 10 children born to John William and Marie (Price) Morris. He married Madonna Naidene Buser on December 14, 1941, in Mattoon. They were happily married for 77 years before she passed away on June 3, 2019.

Survivors include one son, Gary Morris and his wife Jeri of Mattoon; one daughter, Lori Counts of Mattoon; three grandchildren, Clint Morris of Franklin, Ind., Stephanie Sapp and her husband Joe of Mattoon, and Katie (Counts) Good of Charleston; six great grandchildren; one sister, Shirley Easton of Mattoon; two brothers, John "Mick" Morris of Mattoon, and Anthony Morris and his wife Sharon of Altou; a sister-in-law, Joyce Buser of Mattoon; and several nieces and nephews.

He was preceded in death by his parents; his wife, Madonna; two brothers, Clifford Morris, and Art Morris; four sisters, Marguerite Lepper, Ruth



Morris

Edwards, Dorothy Hills, and Betty Welch; and a brother-in-law, Owen Buser.

Raymond was an Army Veteran of WWII. He was a Military Police stationed at Belle Fourche SD with German POWs.

He was a faithful member of the Immanuel Lutheran Church in Charleston. He served as chairman of the church congregation; he served as a trustee, elder, usher, and Sunday School teacher for many years. He also got the church a Christmas tree every year for several years.

He always participated in the EIU Run for Your Life and received a trophy for 1,000 miles but kept running and walking for years after.

Raymond farmed until he was 85 years old, and he also worked as head of maintenance over student housing for married couples at Eastern Illinois University for 32 years.

Raymond enjoyed wood-working in his barn, and spending time with family. He was a great mentor and leader for his family.

Memorials may be made to the Autism Society.

Pritzker: 'Devil's in the details' when considering lifting ban on new nuclear

By JERRY NOWICKI & NIKA SCHOONOVER
Capitol News Illinois
news@capitolnewsillinois.com
SPRINGFIELD

Lawmakers went on a two-week spring break last week with more than 700 bills already passed in at least one chamber of the General Assembly.

They will return to Springfield on April 18 for a final one-month stretch in which the measures can be amended, defeated or sent to the governor.

Among the bills to successfully move to the other chamber are a measure to lift the state's 1987 moratorium on nuclear power plant construction, a bill that would create

statewide building codes and another requiring retail establishments to accept cash payments within certain hours.

Gov. JB Pritzker noted last week that he's generally supportive of the concept of lifting the nuclear construction ban, although he didn't commit to signing the proposal contained in Senate Bill 76, which passed on a 39-13 bipartisan roll call.

SB 76, as written, would allow any type of nuclear construction, including the large-scale projects.

Statewide building codes

Beginning in 2025, Illinois could have statewide building codes for new or substantially renovated commercial and residential construction under



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a bill that passed the Senate before break.

Sponsored by Dave Koehler, D-Peoria, Senate Bill 2368 allows the state's Capital Development Board to prohibit occupation of such a facility until it is inspected. The building would have to be compliant with several state or federal building codes for electricity, energy efficiency, accessibility, and plumbing, as well as the Fire Investigation Act.

"Basically, what this does is establishes a statewide building code as a minimum standard," Koehler said during floor debate. "Now most communities are going to have well above the minimum standard. But the reason that this is important is because Illinois is one of only six states in the union that does not have a statewide building code."

Koehler said when Illinois has a natural disaster and applies for funding from the Federal Emergency Management Agency, the state has to check a box noting it doesn't currently have such a code.

"And so it costs us money," he said.

The bill would require municipalities with existing building codes to adopt at least the newly created statewide minimum standard and submit their plans to the state. A homeowner renovating a residential property in a jurisdiction without a building code would have to adopt the code of any jurisdiction within 100 miles of the construction in the contract with their builder.

Otherwise, it would have to comply with the new statewide standards, which

apply to new construction and any renovations that increase the property's value by 50 percent or more.

Republicans questioned whether a statewide code would be enforceable in smaller towns.

"It's up to a municipality as to how they want to enforce it," Koehler said. "The Capital Development Board is responsible for having organizations say that they're, you know, what codes they have and all that. In terms of who enforces that? I don't know."

Sen. Chapin Rose, R-Mahomet, used a small town in his district as an example to speak against the bill.

"In Metcalf, Illinois, they don't have anybody to mow the lawn, okay, let alone inspect a house," Rose said. "But more importantly, you're telling an awful lot of people who couldn't afford to repair and maintain their home in the first place that we just doubled or tripled the bill. And there may or may not be some guy from the (Capital Development Board) knocking on their door."

The measure passed 34-18 with one present vote and it awaits action in the House.

Cash requirements

Lawmakers advanced a bill that would mandate retail establishments to accept cash for purchases under \$750. Senate Bill 1979 passed 40-16 in the Senate with mainly Democratic support.

Sen. Omar Aquino, D-Chicago, is the bill's lead sponsor. He said SB 1979 is aimed at protecting "underbanked and unbanked" people who only carry cash.

"This bill is making sure that those folks...have an ability to still purchase needed things," Aquino said. "Getting fuel, getting their medicine at the pharmacy, getting food on the table that they're able to purchase from groceries and restaurants."

The bill also says retail establishments can't charge a higher price to customers paying with cash. SB 1979 also exempts restaurants, gas stations and grocery stores from the requirement between 11 p.m. and 6 a.m. in an effort to protect against robbery.

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PUBLIC NOTICE • PUBLIC NOTICE

ARCOLA SCHOOL DISTRICT INVITATION TO BID

Arcola C.U.S.D. 306 will receive sealed bids for Asbestos Abatement for 2023 Locker Room Renovations at Arcola Elementary & High School, 351 W. Washington Street in Arcola, IL.

The base bid work is to remove asbestos-containing pipe insulation and associated fittings and vibration collars from outside the boys' entryway vestibule, and boys' and girls' locker rooms utilizing glove-bag removal methods.

The Date of Commencement is July 10, 2023.

The Date of Substantial Completion is July 19, 2023.

The Mandatory Prebid Meeting is on Wednesday, April 12, 2023, at 12:00 p.m. The Prebid Meeting will be held at Arcola High School, 351 W. Washington Street in Arcola, IL 61910.

Please visit IDEAL Environmental Engineering's website at www.idealenvironmental.com to register, confirm pre-bid attendance and order the project manual. The cost for the project manual is \$125. Costs are non-refundable and must be ordered through the website. Manual may be viewed at Owner or Engineer offices.

The Bid Opening will be on Monday, April 24, 2023, at 9:00 a.m. at Arcola C.U.S.D. 306, 351 W. Washington Street in Arcola, IL 61910.