

Gov. Pritzker vetoes bill that would have allowed new nuclear construction

By **ANDREW ADAMS**
Capitol News Illinois
 aadams@capitolnewsillinois.com
 Gov. JB Pritzker on Friday vetoed a bill that would have lifted a 1980s moratorium on the construction of new nuclear reactors.

The passed in May with three-fifths majorities in both legislative chambers, meaning that if all of the members that voted for it also support an override of the governor's veto, it still could become law. Its Senate sponsor, state Sen. Sue Rezin, R-Morris, said she has already filed paperwork to bring the bill up in the legislature's fall veto session scheduled for late October and early November.

The governor said in a message to lawmakers explaining his veto that he did it "at the request of the leadership team of the Speaker of the House and advocates."

While Pritzker said he saw "real potential" in small modular reactors, or SMRs – a type of "advanced" nuclear reactor that proponents tout as a path forward for the industry – he also said he doesn't think the legislation goes far enough in regulating the nascent tech-

nology. "This bill provides no regulatory protections for the health and safety of Illinois residents who would live and work around these new reactors," Pritzker wrote. "My hope is that future legislation in Illinois regarding SMRs would address this regulation gap."

The governor also cited an "overly broad definition of advanced reactor" in the bill that he said could "open the door to proliferation" of large-scale nuclear power plants, like the reactors at the state's six existing generating stations.

Pritzker said these traditional reactors are "so costly to build that they will cause exorbitant ratepayer-funded bailouts."

The bill would have allowed for the construction of reactors that meet the federal government's definition of "advanced reactor," which require that fission reactors have "significant improvements" to things such as safety features and waste yields.

Rezin, in a phone interview with Capitol News Illinois, said Pritzker's characterization of the bill allowing construction

of traditional reactors is "just not true."

"This is a pattern of a governor that is bending to special interests," Rezin said.

Rezin also noted the limitation in the bill to only apply to advanced reactors came out of bipartisan negotiations.

"Advanced nuclear reactors would help supplement the flaws that wind and solar unfortunately have by providing reliable power 24/7, because wind and solar alone don't have the infrastructure or technology to provide our state with the reliable, affordable and efficient energy it needs," Rezin said in a news release.

Rezin's claims about advanced nuclear reactors are contentious, particularly among some environmental advocates that have been leading voices in the push for carbon-free energy in Illinois.

On Tuesday, a pair of influential advocacy groups sent a letter to Pritzker asking him to veto the bill. The Sierra Club Illinois Chapter and the Illinois Environmental Council's joint letter outlined several concerns, including waste disposal, costs and a lack of up-

to-date regulation.

"Nuclear power comes with significant safety risks and results in highly hazardous wastes that threaten our drinking water, with no safe, permanent waste solution in sight," IEC Executive Director Jen Walling said in a Friday news release. "Rather than abandon all safeguards, Gov. Pritzker recognized that such substantial risks merit the highest protective guardrails our state can offer."

Waste was the central concern of the original moratorium, which will end when the head of the state's Environmental Protection Agency finds the federal government has "identified and approved" a method for the disposal of high-level nuclear waste, a responsibility the federal government has failed to successfully act on.

Currently, nuclear waste is stored on-site at the plant that produced it. But in the 1970s and 80s, a facility outside of Morris, Illinois, became home to waste from California, Minnesota, Nebraska and Connecticut, making Grundy County the nation's only de facto high-level storage site.

Rezin defended her proposal on the subject of waste as well, pointing out in an interview that companies building nuclear reactors must submit plans for waste management when they apply for permits.

"This is a very heavily regulated industry by the federal government," Rezin said.

Beyond waste, environmental advocates also say that focusing on nuclear power diverts attention and resources away from the development of wind, solar and battery storage technology.

"SB76 would have opened the door to increased risk, negative environmental impacts, and higher costs for consumers while jeopardizing our progress toward Illinois' clean energy future," Sierra

Club Illinois Director Jack Darin said in a Friday news release.

The nuclear moratorium does not affect research reactors, like the one under development at the University of Illinois Urbana-Champaign.

In addition to this bill, the governor on Friday also vetoed a measure that would have required the state to implement a contract to provide religious dietary options in schools, which Pritzker rejected because food service contracts are a district-level responsibility. Pritzker also used his amendatory veto powers to modify two bills that have to do with property taxes and government procurement.

Peace Meal Menu

Monday, August 21 - Salsa Chicken Parmesan, Ranch Mashed Potatoes, Corn & Black Beans, Fruit, Bread

Tuesday, August 22 - Sub Sandwich with Ham, Turkey and Cheese, Potato Salad, Very Veggie Salad, Fruit

Wednesday, August 23 - Turkey Tetrastizini Peas, Roasted Zucchini, Spinach Salad w/Mandarin Oranges

Thursday, August 24 - Ham Loaf w/Glaze, Mashed Sweet Potatoes, Brussels Sprouts, Pineapple Chunks, Bread or Roll

Friday, August 25 - Kielbasa with Sauerkraut, Delmonico Potatoes, Stewed Tomatoes, Rosy Applesauce, Rye Bread

Call 800-543-1770 for reservation information. Skim milk and desserts with no sugar added are available in many locations. Ask the site supervisor for information. Sometimes we need to substitute on our menus. We still guarantee a nutritious meal. The Peace Meal Senior Nutrition Program suggests a donation of \$3.50 for each congregate and home delivered meal. No older person shall be denied a meal because of their failure to contribute all or part of the cost of the meal. We accept the Illinois Link Card.

Sidewalks

From page 1

ment, tourism and street department.

Munds includes a blood drive with the event and said this year's drive raised over \$4,000 and enough blood donation to save up to 63 lives.

There were 189 participants from 17 states this year. He asked the Council to pencil in July 27-28, 2024, for next year's event

Kleiss thanked Munds for bringing the report to the Council.

Kleiss also noted that the city received a thank you note from recently crowned Miss Tuscola Claire Meyer. He also urged caution in the roads as kids start school next week.

On the consent agenda, the Council approved:

- \$26,790.23 to Clark Dietz for downtown alley improvements phase 2 engineering;
- \$64,673.84 to Walker Company for annual oil and chip for roads;
- \$3,836.96 to Jim Crane for motor fuel tax engineering for the annual oil and chip;
- A Community Building lease with alcohol to Jeanne Pettry for a wedding reception Sept. 29;
- Marion County Horizon Center 5k run Sept. 16;
- Cast Iron Pub's homecoming block party with street closure Sept. 23;
- A craft market at Festival Square Oct. 7 requested by Cindy Little.

Softball

From page 1

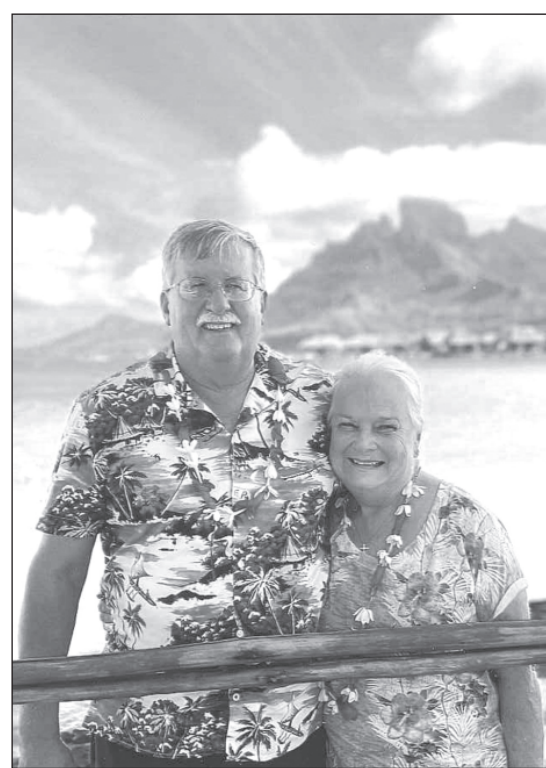
cant experience, but Kinleigh Pellum, Adijah Riggleman, Addison Obenland, Sylvia Thompson-Burton and Anna Craig are also expected to spend time on the pitching rubber.

With all last season's misfortunes behind them, Pellum and the team have set high expectations for 2023.

"My expectations are for a regional championship game appearance. I know these girls have the potential to do it and we just have to do it one game at a time," Pellum opined.



Anniversaries



Carol and Jeff Martin

Jeff and Carol (Scheu) Martin of Tuscola are celebrating 50 years of marriage this week.

The couple were married on Aug. 19, 1973, in Tuscola.

They are the parents of Wyatt (Kendra) Martin of

Mahomet, Stacie Martin of Mahomet, and Justin (Akiko) Martin of Honolulu, Hawaii. They have five grandchildren.

Jeff Martin is retired, having worked at LyondellBasell and Cabot Corporation.

Carol Martin is a retired teacher. She worked at Tuscola Community Schools as a special education teacher.

The couple celebrated their milestone with a trip to Bora Bora.



Commercial Business Products that work hand in hand!

BANKWISE

Progress Business Checking Positive Pay

The Opportunity Bank **BANKPROSPECT.COM**




PROSPECT BANK

See Customer Service Representative for details Some Restrictions May Apply



Villa Grove BINGO
 Every Friday Night
 VFW post 2876

6:30 pm - Early Bird
7:00 pm - Regular Bingo



Jackpots:
 Egg in a Basket Raffle Chance **up to \$2000**
 Blackout Jackpot Chance **up to \$1000**

Bingo Lic# B1934
 Pull Tab Lic# P-48

CHURCH DIRECTORY

Camargo United Methodist Church
 103 E. Main Street
 Camargo, IL 61919
 Church - 832-9388
 e-mail: umccamargo@gmail.com
 Office Hours:
 Tuesday and Thursday
 8:30 a.m. - 12:30 p.m.
 Pastor - Lenny Summar
 Traditional Worship - 9:00 a.m.
 Contemporary Worship 10:30
 "Come just as you are to worship"
 Open Communion first Sunday of each month
 Prayer Group - Meets after Sunday Service.

First Baptist Church
 300 E Dagg, Tuscola
 Pastor: Mike Wilder
 Sunday Worship: 10:00 a.m.
 217-417-6842

First Christian Church
 (Non-Denominational)
 "Come Rejoice With Us"
 701 N. Sycamore St.
 Villa Grove, Illinois
 Phone(217)832-5231
 Fax (217)832-9348
 Website: www.fccvg.com
 E-mail: fccvg@frontier.com
 Minister- Mike Zylstra
 E-mail: fccvgmin@frontier.com
 Open communion observed weekly
 Morning Worship Service: 9:30 a.m.
 Sunday School (all ages) 10:45 a.m.
 Jr. & Sr. High Youth Group
 1st & 3rd Sundays 6:00 p.m.

First Christian Church
 100 E. Church St., Tuscola
 253-2394
 Sunday Worship services: 8:00 & 10:30 a.m.
 Sunday school: 9:15 a.m.
 Youth Group 7th-12th @ 6:33 Sundays
 After school program
 5th-6th girls, Wednesdays
 www.fctuscoca.com

Tuscola United Methodist Church
 901 N. Prairie Ave.
 253-4232
 Sunday Worship Services:
 10:00 a.m.

First United Pentecostal Church
 1 South Pine Street, Villa Grove
 Wheelchair Accessible
 Where Lives are Changed!
 Pastor Jerry L. Conner
 Church 832-7071 • Residence 832-8577
 Sunday School—10:00 a.m.
 Worship Service—10:00 a.m.
 Evening Evangelistic Service—6:30 p.m.
 Monday, 1st one of each month
 Ladies Auxiliary, 7:00 p.m.
 Monday—Friday
 Ladies Prayer Group—9:00 a.m.
 Tuesday Youth Service—7:00-8:00 p.m.
 Thursday Bible Study—7:30 p.m.
 Free Home Bible Study
 We welcome you to worship with us in all of our services

Forty Martyrs Catholic Church
 201 E. Van Allen St
 Tuscola, IL 61953
 Pastor: Rev. Angel Sierra
 Office Phone: 217.253.4412
 Sacrament of Confession:
 Saturdays 5:00 pm
 Or by appointment by calling the church office: 217.253.4412
 Week-day Mass Times:
 8:00 am Monday, Thursday & Friday
 Weekend Masses:
 5:30 pm Saturday
 8:00 am Sunday

Immanuel Lutheran Church
 600 E Northline Rd.
 Tuscola, IL 61953
 217-253-4341
 Services: Saturday 5:30 pm
 Sunday 9:00 am

Sacred Heart Catholic Church
 208 N. Pine Stret, Villa Grove
 Pastor -Rev. Aloy Ndeanafo
 Office: 832-8352
 Hours: M-F 8:30am-1:30pm
 Email: villagrove.hume@gmail.com
 website: sacredheartandstmichael.com
 Mass Times: Saturday: 4pm
 Sunday 10:00am
 Sunday @ St. Michaels in Hume 8:00am
 PSR:
 Sunday 9:00-9:45 am