

Herald & Review

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Quick Take



EXTRA GREEN: Brett Grandon and Matt Vercellino dig into some of the 864 golf balls they recovered and sold this year for some extra cash.

Better than par

Digging in the mud turns up a treasure trove of golf balls for two Decatur youngsters.

Lifestyle / D1

Manhunt ends

Police arrest pro football player Rae Carruth on murder charges.

Sports / B1

Special session

A compromise may end the special session on anti-crime legislation.

Central Illinois / A3

Push for peace

Clinton launches a new drive for peace between Israel and Syria with the Israeli prime minister and Syrian foreign minister joining the president in Washington.

Nation / A2

Lottery

Here are the winning numbers selected Wednesday in the Illinois State Lottery:
Pick Three-Midday: 1-9-0
Pick Three-Evening: 3-1-4
Pick Four-Midday: 0-3-1-6
Pick Four-Evening: 0-0-1-9
Little Lotto: 03-12-13-14-18
Lotto: 09-11-15-28-41-44
Lotto jackpot: \$8 million
Big Game jackpot: \$23 million

Weather

Today: Partly cloudy. High 36.
Tonight: Increasing clouds late. Low 25.

Details / B6

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IP plans to finalize Clinton sale

Announcement expected today on completion of power station deal with AmerGen Energy.

By SUSAN REEDY
 Staff Writer

DECATUR — Illinois Power Co. and AmerGen Energy Co. officials expect to announce today that the companies have closed the sale of the Clinton nuclear power station.

"If they are able to resolve everything as expected, and complete the transaction, the company expects to make an announcement about the sale of the plant (today)," said Shirley Swarthout, spokes-

woman for Illinois Power.

Bill Jones, spokesman for AmerGen and PECO Energy Co., confirmed that there could be an announcement today.

Members of Illinois Power's management team were meeting in Philadelphia on Wednesday with officials from AmerGen, which is a joint venture of PECO and British Energy Inc. of Edinburgh, Scotland.

Swarthout said the two companies have been ironing out a tremendous number of details the past few weeks. There shouldn't be any substantial changes from the purchase agreement announced in July, she said.

Illinois Power officials announced in

April they had an interim agreement with AmerGen to own and operate the plant.

The sale is a key element of the merger agreement between Illinois Power's parent company, Illinova Corp., and Dynegy Inc., a Houston-based national power and natural gas marketing firm.

Dynegy's largest shareholder does not want to be in the nuclear power business, thus requiring the sale of the Clinton plant for the merger agreement.

Analysis contacted Wednesday said the sale is a smart move for Illinois Power, which periodically struggled to keep the plant on line since it started producing energy in 1987.

More nuclear power plants will be sold

as companies realize it's not cost effective to operate just one, said Barclay Jones, professor of nuclear plasma engineering and radiological engineering at the University of Illinois.

"The power industry is consolidating so that they can have enough plants to support more of a broad work force," he said. In that way, employees who are only needed occasionally can travel from plant to plant, he added.

"It's going to become harder and harder for single plants to compete in the system."

STATION

Continued on A4

ENVIRONMENTAL CONCERNS

Mattoon weighs power plant plan



FIGHTING FOR THE LAKE: Lisa Summers has enjoyed the time she and her husband have spent over the past 22 years at Lake Mattoon. Summers and other lakeside residents have formed Friends of Lake Mattoon and are working to put the lake first in response to Reliant Energy Corp.'s plans to build a power plant in the area.

Residents raise questions about risk to environment as city considers sale of lake water

By DEBBIE PIERCE
 Staff Writer

MATTOON — When a Houston, Texas-based company came calling on Central Illinois with a plan to build a \$175 million to \$190 million power plant, some elected officials saw it as a good opportunity.

The city of Mattoon, which is being asked to sell water from Lake Mattoon to cool the generators Reliant Energy Corp. wants to operate, started looking at the proposal as a chance to make some needed improvements at the lake.

The improvements at the lake haven't had money to complete. The city of Neoga — which has been asked to treat the water after it is used by the proposed plant and then send it into the Little Wabash River — could stand to gain user fees for its city coffers.

Shelby County and the Neoga school district, where Reliant wants to build its power plant on 80



acres 2.5 miles south of Neoga, could generate more property tax revenue — as much as \$400,000 a year.

Not so fast, urge some lake residents who are concerned about the quantity of water there, especially after last summer's drought. Lake Mattoon is the city's primary source of potable water.

To date, the proposal has jumped a couple of hurdles. Shelby County approved zoning for the plant last week and Reliant has permits to do its own wastewater treatment if Neoga doesn't come through with approval. Reliant also has Environmental Protection Agency emissions permits for air space.

In Mattoon the water and sewer board, by a 3-2 vote with one abstention Wednesday, agreed to recommend city council approval of a contract for sale of the water. The council will consider the contract in special session at 5 p.m. today.

LAKE

Continued on A4

Charges from protest bring Jackson back to Decatur

Civil rights leader and 3 others scheduled to appear in Macon Co. court today.

By BRAD MUDD
 Staff Writer

DECATUR — The Rev. Jesse Jackson was charged with two misdemeanor crimes late Wednesday afternoon in Macon County Circuit Court.

Jackson was charged with criminal trespass and contributing to the delinquency of a minor.

Macon County State's Attorney Larry Pichter said Jackson was arrested Nov. 16 after crossing police lines at Eisenhower High School.

Three others were arrested with Jackson, but only two of the other men were charged Wednesday.

John Cunningham faces a misdemeanor charge of resisting a police officer, while Cleo Willis was charged with two felony counts of aggravated battery.

Fletcher said Mark Allen also was arrested, but no charges were filed against him, Pichter said.

The four originally were arrested on preliminary charges of felony mob action, but none were charged with that offense.

The men are scheduled to appear in court at 9 a.m. today for arraignment. They have been free on personal recognizance bonds.

Jackson has announced plans for a news conference immediately following the arraignment. He also is expected to meet with Decatur residents and community leaders in a closed-door strategic planning session.

"I have no comment on the charges now. It's not appropriate to comment right now because no one has received notice of the charges," Pichter said. "The information on file reflects the matter that has been under investigation."

JACKSON

Continued on A4

Richland establishes tie to work injury center

College's exact role in planned DMH facility expected to be announced.

By KEN JACKSON
 Staff Writer

DECATUR — Richland Community College is expected to be named as a key partner in Decatur Memorial Hospital's plans for a \$12 million facility located on workplace injuries.

A news conference is set for this afternoon at 2:30 p.m. at the Central Illinois Industrial Conditioning and Training Center, which is already under construction.

Expected to participate are

Ken Smith, president and chief executive officer at Decatur Memorial Hospital; Dr. David Fletcher, founding medical director of DMH Corporate Health Services; and medical director of Midwest Occupational Health Associates, and Chuck Novak, president of Richland.

It was not known Wednesday



Novak

Was approved to negotiate contract with center

What Richland's role is going to be. College officials were told they were not supposed to talk about it in advance of the news conference. Novak did not return a phone message from the Herald & Review.

Fletcher said Wednesday he was not at liberty to discuss further details. Decatur Memorial Hospital also was releasing no further details.

In August, Smith and Fletcher announced plans for the center to rehabilitate injured workers and train workers to avoid injury.

"This has been a dream of

CENTER

Continued on A4

'Jingle Bells' pays way in court

NASHVILLE, Tenn. (AP) — Jingle bells, jingle bells, the tick-ets go away.

Judge Mark Fishburn let some drivers off without a fine or safe-driving classes if they sang "Jingle Bells" in traffic court Monday and Tuesday.

"It was a spur-of-the-moment thing," he said. "Everybody seemed to be in a festive mood. I turned to the audience and said if they were really in the Christmas spirit."

He convicted a few people, including two teen-age boys who were going 80 mph in a 45 mph zone.

Fishburn said dropping traffic charges is common this time of year because officers often don't want to prosecute people at Christmas.

The judge didn't drop any charges unless the arresting officer agreed to it.

One woman arrived late, after everyone else had sung the carol in unison.

She "got real red" with embarrassment and said she would be better off paying the fine than singing solo, Fishburn said.

The judge dropped her turn-signal and registration violations anyway.

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