

A1
35P

# Herald & Review

Serving Central Illinois Since 1873

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Decatur, Illinois

**Quick Take**

**EXTRA GREEN:** Brett Grandon and Matt Vercellino dig into some of the 864 golf balls they recovered and sold this year for 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 found pro-street pro-fighter Rae Carruth on murder charges.

**Sports / B1** **Carruth**

**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: 1-0-1-9
- Pick Four-Evening: 0-0-1-9
- Little Lotto: 03-12-13-14-18
- Megabucks: 1-2-3-4-5
- Lotto Jackpot: \$8 million
- Big Game Jackpot: \$23 million

**Weather**

■ Today: Partly cloudy. High 36.

■ Tonight: Increasing clouds late. Low 25.

**Details / B6**

**Inside**

Ann Landers ..... D3  
Business ..... C1-2  
Classifieds ..... C4-10  
Comics ..... D4  
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Opinion ..... A8  
Puzzles ..... C4, 6, 8  
Sports ..... B1-3  
Television ..... D3

**countdown:**  
**Celebrate 2000**

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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**  
H&R Staff Writer

DECATUR — Illinois Power Co. officials expect to announce today that the company has 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 Swardt, spokesman for 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 between Illinois Power's parent company, Illinois Corp., and Dynegy Inc., a Houston-based national power and natural gas marketing company. AmerGen'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 to stand.

Clinton 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 1973.

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 there is less competition 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 CONCERN**

## Mattoon weighs power plant plan

**FIGHTING FOR THE LAKE:** Lela 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.

**By DEBBIE PIERCE**  
H&R Staff Writer, Chief

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 in the area, the city saw it as a good opportunity.

The city of Mattoon, which is located about 10 miles from Lake Mattoon to cool the generators Reliant Energy Corp. wants to operate at the plant, saw the proposal as a chance to make some needed improvements at the lake.

That's why the city hasn't had money to come up with.

The city of Neoga — which has been asked to treat the water after it is treated at Mattoon — could stand to gain some fees for its efforts.

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 and water quality after last summer's drought. Lake Mattoon is the city's primary source of drinking water.

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

In Mattoon, the city council, sewer board, by a 3-2 vote with one abstention, Wednesday, agreed to recommend to the city council the approval of a contract for sale of the water. The council will consider the contract in a 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 MURO**  
H&R Staff Writer

DECATUR — The Rev. Jesse Jackson was charged with two misdemeanor counts 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 Fichter 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. Mark Willis was charged with two felony counts of aggravated battery.

Fichter said Cunningham also was arrested, but no charges were filed against him, Fichter said.

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

The four were ordered 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 after the arraignment. He also is expected to meet with Decatur residents and community leaders for a door-to-door strategic planning session.

"I have no comment. The charges now are not appropriate to comment right now because no one has received notice of the charges," Fichter 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 JEFFREY**  
H&R Staff Writer

DECATUR — Richland Community College is expected to be named as a key partner in Decatur Memorial Hospital's plans for a \$1.2 million facility focused on workplace injuries.

A news conference is set for this afternoon at the 1000 block of St. Paul, next door to the Central Illinois Industrial Conditioning and Training Center, which is already under construction.

Expected to participate are Ken Smithmeyer, president and chief executive officer of Decatur Memorial Hospital; Dr. Donald Fletcher, founder and managing medical director of DMH Corporate Health Services and director of Midway Occupational Health Associates and Chuck Novak, president of Richland.

It was not known Wednesday 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 left a recorded 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 information.

In August, Smithmeyer and Fletcher announced plans for a \$1.2 million rehabilitation 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 ticks go away.

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

"It's a once-in-a-moment thing," he said. "Everybody seemed to be in a festive mood. I turned to the audience and said, 'This is what we're 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.

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