Thursday, March 29, 2018

Waltemate's new venture Page 13

Exhibit #1 Joyce Blumensline 2419 E. Reservoir Pearis, ZZ 61619 ew 304-688-0950 Heart of IL Group Sievra Club again

# of Baldwin plant cut

During the March 23 Randolph County Board of Commissioners meet-ing, the commissioners approved a resolution to sign a PILOT agreement with Dynegy in regards to the value of the Baldwin

Dynegy Reassment of Baldwin Plant

power plant. "I think everybody knows "I think everybody knows what's going on as far an Dynegy requesting a reasseasment," said Jeremy Walker, Randolph County state's attorney and the county board's legal advisor. "This is mostly based upon the fact (Dynegy) mothalled one unit and operates now on only two units. (Dynegy) began negotiating with (Assessor Wayne Voss) and came up with a tentative figure, which was basically a one, hird reduction of the top." In tax year 2016, the plant

In tax year 2016, the plant
In tax year 2016, the plant
was assessed at a value of
892 million with a tax liability of \$4.8 million.
Voss and Dynegy reached
a tentative agreement for

#### But payment in lieu of taxes will help for now

conspiracy

an amount of \$61.4 million for tax year 2017.

Dynegy then proposed the PILOT agreement, which will cut the assessed value to \$40 million, but payment will be made in lieu of taxes to bring the amount taxing districts get back to what they would get in taxes on \$61 million.

\*\*PILOT is an acronym for payment in lieu of taxes, "PILOT is an acronym for payment in lieu of taxes, walker said. "It takes the equalized assessed value down further than proposed basessed." Defice the payment in lieu of taxes brings it back up to where it was."

The Beel Bud school dis-

it back up to where it was." The Red Bud school dis-

the first to sign the agreement with Dynegy when it did so March 18.

The cut in assessed value will mean about a \$1 million loss in real estate taxes to Red Bud schools. Red Bud Superintendent Jonathan Tallman said Red Bud does not receive much in the way of state

aid.

"What we get from the state is only about 10 percent of our total revenue," Tallman sad. "I'm not sure how much we will get now because our tax revenue will fall. We are so affluent, because of the power plant, that state aid is low."

Tallman said he expects state aid to go up, but it

crease.
"It is going to be a loss for all of the taxing districts, there's no question about it," Walker said. "That's it," Walker said. "That's just what's going to happen whenever part of the power plant is shut down, and they say it's not worth what it was, and quite frankly, it isn't. Everybody is going to feel the pain on this. However, everybody appears to be on board."

Besides Beandelph County

Besides Randolph County. Besides Randolph County, the taxing entities directly effected are the 708 Mental Health Board, the ambulance district, Red Bud school district, the Baldwin Fire Protection District, Southwestern Illinois College and Road District 1. "The benefits of the PILOT are stability," Walker sald. "This agreement would be for tax year 2017, 2018 and 2018."

binds Vistra Energy to the

binds Vistra Energy to the agreement.
Vistra is in the process of purchasing Dynegy, a transaction Walker expects to be closed in the middle of April.
"Vistra has a reputation for being cut throat, for lack of a better word, when it comes to taxes," Walker said. "They are going to fight us every step of the way from what we can tell from past practices as far as what that power plant is worth."
Walker explained that if

worth: Walker explained that if the county did not agree to the PILOT resolution, once tax year 2017 is complete, the county would have to deal with Vistra.

"If we got into contested litigation over what the plant is worth, my opinion as legal advisor would be to not distribute any tax money above and beyond what

ey above and beyond what Dynegy or Vistra is saying

Randyl Court States Atlany

Continued on Page 5\_ Nox + Page

# Steeleville eateries enjoy extra business from game

With the Steeleville American Legion's Queen of Hearts jackpot well over #1 million, activity around the town has increased

the town has increased tremendously. Not only does the Legion post make profits from its game, but so do other area businesses. Subway restaurant manager Jordan Handsbury said last Thursday that his business not only doubles. Thursday nights the night

business not only doubles
Thursday nights, the night
of the weekly drawing,
but because ticket sales
have been so brisk, business also is up all week
because of people going to
Steeleville.
Therefore, Subway is
showing its appreciation.
Last Thursday Handsbury
donated a platter full of
sandwiches, wraps and
cookies to the volunteers
working the Queen of
Hearts drawing.
"We just want to show our
appreciation because we

But mayor says it's now windfall for the town government

get such good business from the game," said Handsbury. Other business, have seen a spike in business, too, because of the Queen of Hearts.

Paul Gentry, owner of Hook Line and Sinker, said busi-

ness has been wonderful. He said the majority of the business comes before the

business comes before the drawing.

"We get full, and right about 20-till (8), everyone wants to pay and head down to the Legion." Gentry said.

Thursday night business is so heetic, Gentry said has had to double his service staff that evening. Normally, he has two waitresses for Thursday, but he's been



Pictured above is Jordan Handsbury as he delivers food to volunteers at the Queen of Hearts drawing last Thursday. Seated from left are volunteers Joann Wittenbrink, Emma Ritter and Ruth Waeltz.

# One last ride for Guidry

By Travis Lott
A Chester man and former boat captain piloteth his last ride March 23.
Leaving from the dock in Evansville, Bobby Guidry concluded his 20-year carear on riverboats.

evanisvine, Bobby Guidry
concluded his 20-year career on riverboats.
Serving as a deck hand,
seaman and captain, boat,
Cuidry owlfe Abpeasaid
he has served as captain
for 10 years.
Guidry is a third genration captain. His father and grandfather both
worked on boats, and his
father is still working.
But Guidry's career ended when he was diagnosed
with melanoma, the most
dangerous form of skin
cancer. Guidry is in stage
4 of the disease.
Abbey said Guidry is

4 of the disease.
Abbey said Guidry is
a family man. He has a
13 year-old daughter, Patty.
"That's who he lives for."
Abbey said. "She's his everything."
The smile seen on Guidry's face as he sits in the pilot seat says all that needs
to be said about what this
trin means to him.

trip means to him.
"It's amazing," Abbey said. "I know it's all he

wanted."
The ride was arranged by Jason McConnell, who also works on the river. McConnell's wife is Guidry's

cousin.

McConnell said the ride
was OK'd by the port captain.



Bobby Guidry piloted a riverboat for the last time Friday afternoon.

"They all think it's a great idea," McConnell said.
McConnell also had a message for his friend.
"I want to say it was an honor knowing this young captain, not only as a great friend, but as my brothor."
McConnell said. "I'll miss

our time together dearly. The good Lord is taking a great captain for his tugboat in the sky, but most of all, he is taking a great man; and I know he will be watching over me as I finish my time on the river."

## Sparta will build \$14 M sewer plant

Sparta is set to spend more than \$14 million on

a new sewer plant. Action came at the city council meeting Monday night, when six sepa-rate but, mostly dealing with the project, were approved and contracts awarded

Commissioner Robby

warded.
Committeioner Bobby
Klausing and the project
was broken down into
six separate projects in
order to give smaller, local contractors a better
chance at landing the
contracts.
The big winner was Kote & Luitjohan Contractors of Highland, which
will build the treatment
plant for \$10.3 million.
Red Dot Construction
of thester will handle a
waten main replacement
and update along Hilli
crest. That work, which
is not sewer related, will
be completed at the same
time as the sewer work,
since contractors will be
working in that area on
the sewer project anyway. Red Dot will also
build two lift stations
with force mains and
a force main that goes
to the sewer plant. The
total for all those projects comes to nearly \$3

million.

Baxmeyer Construction of Waterloo will build the west end sanitary sewer for \$778,000.

The total bids came in over estimates of nearly \$13 million, but some extra work was added to the plant specifications after the estimates were made. HMG of Highland will be the engineering firm for the project at a cost of \$1.4 million.

City manager Corey Rheinecker said the new plant will allow the city to eliminate both existing sewer plants. The new

to eliminate both existing sewer plants. The new plant will be built off Burns Avenue near the existing plant.

Rheinecker said he hopes work will start in June. It will take 18 to 24 months to complete.

will take 18 to 24 months to complete.
"Our northwest plant needed updating, and the old plant off Burns Averue was built in 1907 and is falling apart," said Rheinecker. "It was cheaper to build one new plant." In other action at the council meeting, the bid from Lexus Sobozak to nurchase the city-nwed

purchase the city-owned property at 619 N. Mar-

Continued on Page 5





45

# Power plant...From Page 1\_\_\_\_\_\_

saying it's worth,"
Walker said.
Walker used last
year's tax bill of \$4.8
million as an example.
"If we say the assessed
value to \$85 said litton.
\$40 million, you're talking about half of what
we said." Walker said.
"So, if we collected the
taxes and distributed
using last year's number, we would distributed
using last year's number, we would distribute
uses. Said with year's down
ref, if eight years down er, if eight years down the road if the PTELL the road if the PTELL board in Springfield said Dynegy or Vistra is right and it's only worth the \$40 million, guess who owes the \$2.4 million? The coun-ty of Randolph does." Walker acknowledged

that this is not the per-fect situation, but it is a great resolution to a potential really big

a potential really big problem.
"If things stay static, we have ourselves three years of peace and three years of stability," Walker said. "It might be three years of maybe not liking the numbers where they're at, but quite frankly, at least we have peace." If the mothabiled unit is brought back online or another unit at Baldwin is taken offline, then the agreement would be terminated

and negotiations would be brought back to the table. The same will occur

The same will occur once the three-year agreement runs out if everything remains static along the way. County Commissioner Marc Kiehna inquired about how the worth of the power plant is determined. Walker said from the

walker said from the county's perspective, Randolph believes it's fandolph believes it's fandolph believes the of how much money it would cost to replace and how much the equipment is worth. "What Dynegy had alluded to, and I can tell you what Vistra will, is that cosl-fired power plants are dinosaura, Walker said. "(They would say) these things are money losers and not worth anything." Walker said throwould think there should be an assessed should be an assessed value of less than \$20

value of less than \$20 million.

"Those are the kInds of numbers that have been floated in discussions," Walker said.
"That's what we're looking at for the future. They say there is no value in coal-fired owner plants anymore."

power plants anymore."
Kiehna asked if, in
Walker's opinion, it
would be best to sign

the PILOT agreement.
"From the county's legal perspective, stability is a good thing," Walker said. "From everybody actually getting their tax money the next few years, this is a good thing." County Commissioner Dave Holder said once the agreement is fi-nalized, he is going to attempt to figure what the reduction of revenue for the county will be with this agreement. "It will be a substantial amount," Holder said. "With the county's core funds Dynegy counting out of our sky million in taxes last year. Not all of that is evoine ment.

out of our #4.5 million in taxes last year. Not all of that is going away, but a certain portion is. We could be looking at a considerable reduction." Kiehna said this will be another hit on top of what happened a couple of years ago when the county saw a decrease in sales tax revenues in the sale of a decrease in sales tax revenues in the sale of coal at the power plant from over \$2 million to under \$800,000. "We knew this was coming," Kiehna said. "Wayne (Voss) has been saying this has been coming for years," Walker said. County Chairman Ronnie White said the county is not happy to

have to take this big of a hit, but the feeling is that it is better than the alternative to roll the dice directly with Vis-tra right out of the gate. White pointed out that Baldwin is at least a

Baidwin is at least a clean coal plant.

"It is one of the clean-est coal plants in the world, and it's paid for," White said. "I be-lieve those are huge advantages. To Baidwin's disadvantage, others are cheaper to run because they don't have all the equipment to have cleaner air. I think with the way things are going, cleaner air is better. I'm praying that will be an advantage for Baidwin.

Kiehna made a motion to approve the agreement, saying the county does not have much of a choice.

"It's not the best situation, but in the long run, there are a lot of older coal plants running in Illinois," said Doug Sachtleben Appraisals. "We're optimistic. After discussions with Voss, we feel (the power plant) will continue to run, but we don't know at what level or for how long. We need to be preparing for these kinds of changes."

### Steeleville businesses...From Page 1

staffing four.

Business has also picked up on other days, as well. Hook Line serves lunch Thursday through Sunday, and he said that has increased.

"Everybody's coming from all over to buy ticket," Gentry said. "People hear about our restaurant and come in. The word of mouth from the drawing has been wonderful."

been wonderful."
Gentry said he believes restaurants in
surrounding communities like Percy have been
thriving, as well.
"I think it's been good
for the whole area,"
Gentry said.
Cassie Norris, assistant manager at Huck's,
said business booms on
Thursdays because of
the drawing.

the dray the drawing. She said business usu-

ally picks up around noon, but that time is

Thursdays to handle the

Thursdays to handle the rowd.

Itobin West, store manager at Casey's, said gas business hasn't increased much, but some food hales have spilled.

"If they're not serving food over there (the Legion), aber the drawing, we are very busy," West said. "Lets week was outstanding." Business uppears to increase as he jackpot goes up.

"We have de linitely seen an increase in sales (on Thursdays)," said Nina Hille, ohner of Mi Casa. "The higger the pot gets, the more increase we see on Wednesdays, too. We're also getting a lot of new people at the restaurant. We appreciate the business."

Hille said the sub shop has had to double the amount of bread it would normally make on a Wednesday and Thursday.

The rush of customers has also meant eateries have had to staff more people during the night of the drawing. "March 15), we started with an extra employee," Hille sald. "We have two normally, but three now for those nights." Dairy Queen owner Bruce Hartel said that the drawing has certainly helped everybody in town.

"There are people parked from the Legion down to the banks by 5:15," said Hartel. "We get a nice rush before (the drawing), then we have a pretty big rush from 5:15 to close." Hartel said the harcent and the said of the control of the control

rounding area.

"A few weeks ago, I talked to some people who were in there

The rush of customers who drove from quite a has also meant eateries ways out of town," Harhave had to staff more tel said. "They've been

there other nights, too." Steeleville Mayor Bob Sutton acknowleged that the size of the current jackpot is bring-ing more people into

town.
"We estimated there we estimated there were 3,000 people at the last drawing," said Sutton. "They have to eat somewhere."

But Sutton noted that the town gets only 1 per-cent of the sales tax from the increased business.
"That doesn't really

"That doesn't really amount to anything in terms of what the town is doing. We have put four police officers on duty just for traffic patrol Thursday nights."

Look for another big crowd next week. The jackpot is up to \$1.5 million. There is no drawing this week because of Easten.

# Spring Has Arrived... or A 3D We Have The Trest You Wheel Alianment. So Have The Potholes!

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#### Sparta council...From Page 1

ket was accepted in the amount of \$1,505. Police Chief Sean Lukes said UTV and

golf cart applications and stickers will be available as of Monday at the police station. Successful applicants will be able to drive

those wehicles on city street.

The acuncil hired Adam Dercks and Antonio White as partitime police officers and Harvak Hughes as a partitime animal control officer.

A resolution was ap-

will be costly, so the city agreed to pay his and his wife's insurance premiums when he retires until April of 2022. The resolution is contingent on the union agreeing that the action does not set a precedent.

# Meacham...From Page 4

It's encouraging to know there are still some activists and lawmakers with the com-mon sense and cour-age to fight the radical left lats' view of human

In a recent article ti-tled "Ohio looks to pro-tect by rents from trans-gendel movement," the Washington Times re-ports, "In esponse to that (custod) decision, Aaron Baer, president

of the Ohio-based Citiof the Ohio-based Citi-zens for Community Values, said state Rep. Tom Brinkman, a Re-publican, will intro-duce legislation that would ensure the state

sideration the denial of hormone therapy as a reason for the re-moval a child." For more by John Meacham, visit laugh-with john.wordpress.

### Storm phobia...From Page 4

from severe weather

from severe weather phobla, 4.7 percent believe they to and the remainder is not sure.

When is care to severe weather respected feelings of amounts of the reported feelings of amounts from the reported feelings of amounts feelings of helps of the respectables (60.8 percent). Participate the reported taking a weather related course also admitted experiencing more anxiety amptoms and behaviors.

and behaviors

and behaviors.
"My father lives in Kansas and the second he hears about tornados, he'll change his schedule to avoid being on the road and then start watching television reports more intensely." Coleman said.
"Our research indicates that we schulk near he Our research indicates that we actually may be

able to see such phobias

able to see such phobias in others but have difficulty in seeing them in ourselves."
She also believes the study lays the groundwork for a better understanding of severe weather phobia phenomena as well as the role that weather knowledge and anxlety plays in the high of individuals and the seeing of the seeing the see



Stellhorn speaks

Greg Stelliforn of Thrivent Financial was the recent guest speaker at the Christ Our Savior Lutheran High School government class, as part of the class' section on personal finances. Stellhorn spoke with the students about investment, insurance and protection of assets.



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f D B TA B P

# Rando Received, Clerk's Office 4/20/2018 PC#2720ke hit revenue target

By Dan Zobel
The Randolph County
Soard of Commissioners
approved its 2017 finan-Board of Commissioners approved its 2017 financial audit during the March 29 board meeting, as well as a number of other action items. "Our situation is better than last year, but not quite where we needed to be," said Commissioner Dave Holder.

Molder added that the Holder added that the board Inew it would be a little short than what was budgeted for the year, but with the county's approval in the Dynegy PILOT agreement, there will be no chance to meet the revenue target. "We have to go back to the drawing board to reduce expenditures," Holder said. Treasurer Justin Jef-Treasurer Justin Jef-Treasurer Justin Jef-

reduce expenditures," Holder said.
Treasurer Justin Jeffers said he thought the county had already hit he bottom of where it could go financially, but with the Dynegy situation, there is little light to be seen.
"We have a \$350,000 shortfall we didn't anticipate," Jeffers said. "The county's cash flow is in significant trouble." Holder said tax revenues were not bad, but expenditures turned out higher than hoped. Holder said the Randolph County Care Center lost around \$100,000 coveral years ago.

Holder also pointed out that additional fees im-plemented by the county in early 2017 did not re-ally make a difference

\$350,000 Randyl Conster Budget Shortfall due to Dynagy

in early 2017 did not really make a difference until later in the year. "Our concerns are in the general overall operations of the county," Holder said. "The bad news is with Dynegs, That is the real Issue." Chairman Ronnie White said the board continues to look at ways to increase revenue. "Justin and I will be meeting with a gentleman to make aure we're getting paid by the state as we should be," White said. "We will also have an energy audit to help un figure out where we can save costs." Jeffers said the county is working every day to sworking every day to save should see the said. "He working every day to save well as working every day to said where we can save costs."

defines said the county is working every duy to provide efficient services. "It has been a collective effort with the commissioners to find ways to reduce expenses and reiservenues," Jeffers said. In other news, the board approved a solar panel ordinance. Dave Walter, the administrator of land resource management, explained that work on the ordinance began in October 2017 with the progress committee.

committee.

After multiple meetings with the Progress Committee, zoning board,

Dynegy change hit county budget

Ameren, Egyptian Elec-tric, Dynegy and Farm Bureau, a proposed ordi-nance was put together. The ordinance includes information on deco

missioning a solar farm, which could happen if a solar farm is out of

a solar farm. Is out of service or not producing electrical energy for 12 months.

If this happens, the so-lar farm will be deemed nonoperational and de-commissioning and re-moved of the facility will

commence.
"This situation is interesting," said Commissioner Marc Kiehns.
"We want the (Baldwin) power plant to be viable, but now we're adopting a solar ordinance, which is competitive to coal."

White concluded and

Write concluded and said the county had to set expectations of what it wants with saler. He said the ordinance addresses solar farms, as well as smaller solar gardens. Places using solar power already in the county will be grandfathered into the ordinance.

into the ordinance.

The board approved a three-year lease with University of Illinois Extension, which serves Perry and Randolph counties and has an office in Sparta.

Special use permite were approved for Eugene Schmidt of Evansen Schmidt

The care center will soon have an architect perform a survey of the nudding to add the county in what needs fixed first at the building.

Administrator Michelle Cate said there will probably be talks about a new roof, at least on the south side where most of the leaks are occurring.

Michele Cross, South-western llimits workNet career specialist, talked to the board about on the job training opportunities.

Cross, who has an office in the courthouse, said through the program, workNet will march qualified applicants with approved job openings, design a training plan that meets the business' needs and the business will be rembursed a percentage of the new employee's wages during the on the job training period. Twas at a recent worklow will be rembursed a percentage of the new employee's wages during the on the job training period. Twas at a recent worklows investment meeting and the top three things and the top three things and the top three things

"I was at a recent work-force investment meeting and the top three things for businesses were for employees to show up on time, pass the drug test and show up past the first check," White said. "We need good employ-able people to build up Randolph County jobs."

in the area.

The cost of the shipping containers would



From left are Illinois Bankers Association Chairman elect Dan Daly, Monika Bajan Holder and IBA vice president of education services and products services Callan Stapleton.

## Holder is FLA graduate

Murphy-Wall State Bank assistant vice president Monika Ba-jan Holder has gradu-ated from the Future Leaders Alliance, a program through the Illinois Bankers Asso-ciation

ciation.

The graduation was held during the IBA's annual ONE conference at Embassy Suites in East Peoria March 2.

The 13-month FLA program aims to en-

hance professionalism through education, community service and networking. Holder holds the posi-

Holder holds the posi-tions of teller supervi-sor and training spe-cialist. She started at Murphy-Wall in 2014 as a part time teller, but used her masters de-gree in human develop-ment and foreign trade and customer service experience to advance to the rank of officer at

the bank.
Holder is bilingual, speaking English and her native Hungarian to offer multi-lingual customer service.
The ONE Conference

The ONE Conference was attended by Holder and other Murphy-Wall employees Claudia Chlo-atte, Kara Austin, Sa-rah Folden and Bailey Thompson. The conference fea-tures 37 sessions on sev-eral aspects of banking.

## P'ville council hears idea to build fire training facility

By Jeff Blair
Pinckneyville firefighters may not have
to travel to Champaign
for some of their training in the future.
Fire Chief Jim Gelaw
presented the city commissioners with an idea
to construct a training
facility on city-owned
property at Monday
night's city council
meeting.

property at awonay night's city council meeting. Glelow said the proposed site is cast of council meeting. The council meeting was a council meeting the cast sever plant:

"The Idea is to place shipping containers like those used to transport products on sidps." Glelow said. "We would put the containers to gether and set them up like small rooms of a house and stack two on top of each other to replicate a two-story house."

He said the idea is to replicate much of the

He said the idea is to replicate much of the training that firefighters currently have to travel to Champaign to get. Gielow added that the facility could also be utilized by the police department and other fire departments in the area.

Project gets unofficial support

be around \$2,000 each. There would also be a cont in preparing the containers for train-

containers for training use.

"We will also have some site preparation costs, such as getting electricity and water to it," Gielow said.

The Pinckneyville Rural Fire Department

The Pinckneyville Rural Fire Department has verbally committed to helping out with some of the costs. Glelow said the idea came together quickly, and he is still putting information together. "I mainly wanted to find out tonight if the council would be interested in purening this project," he said.

Glelow also asked if the five acre truch he is proposing is currently under a farm rental contract. Attorney Don Bigham said it's possible, but he said part of the area may have already been taken out of the farm rental pro-

gram when the new solar panels were in-stalled for the east sew-er plant.

Bigham said it shouldn't be a problem on using the proposed area.

rea. The commissioners all

The commissioners all voiced support for the project. Gielow said he will come back to a future meeting with more details and cost figures. In other notes, a resolution was placed on file to approve a proposal from Mid-South Tank Consultants to inspect the city's three water towers. The total cost for all three towers will be siz,000. The city will receive a detailed report on the condition of all three towers and any repairs that may be needed.

An ordinance placed

needed.
An ordinance placed on file at the March 12 meeting was approved entering into a mowing contract with Aaron Hawk to mow the new soccer field area. This will be an as needed mowing contract.
Tautchia Coleman and Dr. James Wittenauer

Dr. James Wittenauer were re-appointed to the zoning board. Both terms expire April 30, 2020.

## cannabis warning

The Illinois Department of Public Health has issued a warning about the dangers of synthetic cannabinoids, often referred to as K2, fake weed and to as K2, fake weed and spice after six people in northeastern Illinois who used synthetic cannabinoids suffered severe bleeding. "Despite the perception that synthetic cannabinoids are safe and a legal alternative to marjiuana, many are il-

a legal alternative to marijuana, many are illegal and can cause severe illness," said IDPH Director Nirav D. Shah, M.D., J.D. "The recent cases of severe bleeding are evidence of the harm synthetic cannabinoids can cause." Synthetic cannabi-

Synthetic cannabi Synthetic cannabi-noids are not just one drug, but potentially hundreds of chemicals manufactured and sold. These chemicals are called cannabi-noids because they act on the same brain cell on the same brain cell receptors as the active ingredient in cannabis. However, synthetic cannabinoids are unsafe because it's difficult to know what's in them or what your reaction will be. The reactions have been found to be life-threatening in some cases.

Anyone who has a merious reaction to synthetic cannabinoids should call 911 or go to the emergency room immediately.

### Kinkaid watershed meeting

The Kinkaid Area Watershed Project will host its annual meeting at the Community Center in Ava's Bower Park April 8 at 7 p.m.

The meeting is open to the public.

The guest speaker for the evening will be Brad Turberville, the deputy district renger for Shavene National Forest.

Turberville will discuss how logging can improve water quality in Kinkaid Lake.

Hinhaid Lake.
The meeting will also
see the election of three
KAWP officers.
This years is also the
20th anniversary of
KAWP's hoeption. Lou
Strack wrote a newsletter in which he reflected
on KAWP's achievements
such as obtaining grants such as cotaming grants to put together a water-slied plan, the first two years of shoreline protec-tion and several methods

## Three locals receive Southeast Missouri State University scholarships

Three local students re-ently were awarded scholcently were awarded schol-arships to attend Southeast Missouri State University

Pinckneyville earned the University Scholarship and Residence Life Leaders of Award. Garavaglia is the daughter of Jim and Susan Garavaglia

of Pinckneyville High
School. She will be a 2018
gradusted Pinckneyville
High School.
Faye Hathaway of ElIls Grove was given the

Spring, Missouri.
Hathaway will be a
2018 graduate of Chester High School.
Autumn Rowold of Chester received the Regench School.



FSB Banking 24 - 877-426-3396

Received, Clerk's Office 4/20/2018 PC#2720 Le Exhibit #2

Heart of Illinois Group

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# Vistra Energy Completes Merger with Dynegy

Combination Creates Leading Integrated Power Company Across Key Competitive U.S. Power Markets

**NEWS PROVIDED BY** Vistra Energy → Apr 09, 2018, 09:10 ET

IRVING, Texas, April 9, 2018 /PRNewswire/ -- Vistra Energy Corp. (NYSE: VST), the parent company for TXU Energy and Luminant, today announced it has completed its previously announced merger with Dynegy Inc. (NYSE: DYN). The closing of the transaction follows the overwhelming approval from stockholders of both Vistra Energy Corp. and Dynegy Inc. in March, and the receipt of all required regulatory approvals. Vistra Energy Corp. will be the name of the combined company moving forward, and the combined company's stock will continue to trade on the New York Stock Exchange under the current ticker symbol for Vistra Energy.

The combination of Dynegy's generation capacity and existing retail footprint with Vistra Energy's integrated ERCOT model creates the lowest-cost integrated power company in the industry and positions the combined company as the leading integrated retail and generation platform throughout key competitive power markets in the United States.

With the transaction complete, Vistra Energy now:

- Employs about 6,000 ceople a cress is office 4/20/2018 PC#2720
- Serves approximately 2.7 million residential customers in five top retail states.
- Serves approximately 240,000 commercial and industrial retail customers.
- Owns approximately 40,000 megawatts of installed generation capacity.
- Has power generation capacity that is more than 60 percent natural gas-fueled, with 84 percent located within the ERCOT, PJM, and ISO-NE competitive power markets.
- Projects that it will produce approximately 50 percent of gross margin from more stable capacity payments and retail operations, as well as approximately 50 percent of adjusted EBITDA from the ERCOT market.

"With this combination completed, Vistra Energy is now positioned to be the leading integrated power company in the United States," said Vistra Energy President and Chief Executive Officer Curt Morgan.

"We further believe our low-cost structure, diversified business operations, and strong balance sheet create the platform to produce significant shareholder value, as demonstrated by our stated expectation to exceed our previously communicated merger-related synergy and operational improvement targets," added Mr. Morgan. "The combined company's EBITDA to free cash flow conversion rate of approximately 60 percent from its ongoing operations is expected to provide significant excess cash for diverse capital allocation opportunities, reduction of debt to our stated 2.5 times net debt to EBITDA target, disciplined growth investments, and return of capital to our stockholders including share repurchases and dividends. We welcome our Dynegy colleagues, and look forward to serving our new customers and communities where we operate."

In accordance with the terms of the merger, Dynegy stockholders are entitled to receive 0.652 shares of Vistra Energy common stock for each share of Dynegy common stock that they owned, resulting in former Vistra Energy stockholders and former Dynegy stockholders owning approximately 79 percent and 21 percent, respectively, of the combined company.

Vistra Energy also announced that three of Dynegy's directors, Hilary E. Ackermann, Paul M. Barbas, and John R. Sult, have been appointed to the Vistra Energy Board of Directors, effective immediately. These appointments bring the total number of directors of the combined company's board to 11.

The Vistra Energy leadership team can be viewed on Vistra Energy's website.

#### **ABOUT VISTRA ENERGY**

Vistra Energy (NYSE: VST) is a premier, integrated power company based in Irving, Texas, combining an innovative, customer-centric approach to retail with a focus on safe, reliable, and efficient power generation. Through subsidiaries that include TXU Energy, Dynegy Energy Services, Homefield Services, and Luminant, Vistra operates in 12 states and six of the seven competitive markets in the U.S., with about 6,000 employees. Vistra's retail brands serve approximately 2.9 million residential, commercial, and industrial customers across five top retail states, and its generation fleet totals approximately 40,000 megawatts of highly efficient generation capacity, with a diverse portfolio of natural gas, nuclear, coal, and solar facilities.

#### **Cautionary Note Regarding Forward-Looking Statements**

The information presented herein includes forward-looking statements within the meaning of the Private Securities Litigation Reform Act of 1995. These forward-looking statements, which are based on current expectations, estimates and projections about the industry and markets in which Vistra Energy operates and beliefs of and assumptions made by Vistra Energy's management, involve risks and uncertainties, which are difficult to predict and are not guarantees of future performances, that could significantly affect the financial results of Vistra Energy. All statements, other than statements of historical facts, are forward-looking statements. These statements are often, but not always, made through the use of words or phrases such as "may," "might," "should," "could," "predict," "potential," "believe," "will likely result," "expect," "continue," "will," "shall," "anticipate," "seek," "estimate," "intend," "plan," "project," "forecast," "goal," "target," "would," "guidance," and "outlook," or the negative variations of those words or other comparable words of a future or forward-looking nature. Readers are cautioned not to place undue reliance on forward-looking statements. Although Vistra Energy believes that in making any such forward-looking statement, Vistra Energy's expectations are based on reasonable assumptions, any such forward-looking statement involves uncertainties and risks that could cause results to differ materially from those projected in or implied by any such forward-looking statement, including but not limited to (i) the effect of the merger on Vistra Energy's relationships with Vistra Energy's and Dynegy's respective customers and their operating results and businesses generally (including the diversion of management time on integration-related issues); (ii) the risk that the credit ratings of the combined company or its subsidiaries are different from what Vistra Energy and Dynegy expected; (iii) adverse changes in general

economic or market conditions and regulations; (iv) the ability of Vistra Energy to execute upon the contemplated strategic and performance initiatives (including the risk that Vistra Energy's and Dynegy's respective businesses will not be integrated successfully or that the cost savings, synergies and growth from the merger will not be fully realized or may take longer than expected to realize); (v) the outcome of lawsuits that have been filed, or other lawsuits that may be filed, against Vistra Energy or Dynegy relating to the merger; and (vi) those additional risks and factors discussed in reports filed with the Securities and Exchange Commission ("SEC") by Vistra Energy and Dynegy from time to time, including (a) the uncertainties and risks discussed in the sections entitled "Update to Risk Factors," "Risk Factors," and "Cautionary Statement Regarding Forward-Looking Statements" in Vistra Energy's prospectus filed with the SEC pursuant to Rule 424(b) of the Securities Act on March 21, 2018 (as amended and supplemented), and (b) the uncertainties and risks discussed in the sections entitled "Risk Factors" and "Forward-Looking Statements" in Vistra Energy's respective annual reports on Form 10-K for the fiscal year ended Dec. 31, 2017.

Any forward-looking statement speaks only at the date on which it is made, and except as may be required by law, Vistra Energy will not undertake any obligation to update any forward-looking statement to reflect events or circumstances after the date on which it is made or to reflect the occurrence of unanticipated events. New factors emerge from time to time, and it is not possible to predict all of them; nor can Vistra Energy assess the impact of each such factor or the extent to which any factor, or combination of factors, may cause results to differ materially from those contained in any forward-looking statement.

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