



Pen City Current

Friday, January 11, 2019 | 14 pages | Volume 3 • Issue 23

Digital transition for first responders handed to PSAP

BY CHUCK VANDENBERG
PCC EDITOR

MONTROSE - A proposal to switch emergency radio frequencies in Lee County from UHF to digital was handed over to the Public Safety Answering Point board Wednesday night.

At a meeting of the Lee County E911 board, Lee County Sheriff Stacy Weber, who's an alternate on the E911 board, but chairs the PSAP board, said it was time to get moving on the digital conversion.

The move would require purchasing equipment that is digitally compatible, some of which is already being



WEBER

purchased as part of attrition through county emergency departments. The E911 board is the taxing district that generates revenue, in part, for the communications equipment of all emergency responders in the county. Weber said the cost of the conversion, which has already taken place in the majority of the state, could exceed \$1 million.

He said all new equipment and equipment upgrades that are purchased are digitally compatible and will work with the new program when it's implemented.

Weber brought the rest of the PSAP board to the

meeting to present a unified board asking the members of the E911 board to turn it over and hire a different consultant. Currently the E911 board was working with Loftsgard Consulting out of Adel, Iowa for guidance.

"We've got to the point where everybody's ready for someone to go ahead and get this thing started, at least get it moving in a direction," Weber told the board. "The PSAP board has been over it at every meeting, and two meetings back, the PSAP board voted that we'd like to head this up."

Weber said the PSAP board wants to opt out of the

See **DIGITAL**, page 6

IFC restarts after power outage

PCC STAFF

WEVER - Officials at the Iowa Fertilizer Company said a power outage on Wednesday will cause a restart and the plant will have high flaming and noise levels over the next few days as the facility restarts.

Company officials



ALLMAN

released a statement from Managing Director Darrell Allman

outlining the situation and what can be expected at the facility as the restart occurs.

"Late morning yesterday, Iowa Fertilizer experienced an unplanned interruption due to a loss of electrical power to our production and the plant will begin the restart process immediately," Allman said. "Over the next few days, members of the community will see higher than normal

See **RESTART**, page 6



Photo by Chuck Vandenberg/PCC

Just flyin' by

Jack Ragar, a second grader at Holy Trinity Catholic, flies by third-grader, Jay Ellison, during an 8-minute boys' youth game at halftime of the HTC girls' basketball game Tuesday night.

Pilot Grove gives \$3K to Keokuk library group

PCC STAFF

KEOKUK - Pilot Grove Savings Bank donated \$3,000 to the Keokuk Public Library Foundation in support of their new Library Park. Pilot Grove Savings Bank just

celebrated its 5th anniversary of having a presence in Keokuk and this donation is a way of saying thanks to the community in which they do business.

The library park is going to encompass more than

half a city block surrounding the public library and will include a reading and sculpture garden, a plaza with café seating and mobile charging stations, and

See **DONATION**, page 5

EMPTY NEST

By Curt Swarm



Nauvoo man's quest is to better others' lives

The voice on the phone was of an elderly man. I could hardly understand him. "My name is Tommy Sinnott. I'm from Nauvoo, Illinois. I read your column. Have you ever read the book, 'The Purpose Driven Life' by Rick Warren?"

88-Year old Tommy Sinnott of Nauvoo, Illinois gives away Rick Warren's book, "The Purpose Driven Life" I lied and said I had. All I needed was another book to read. My reading list is way too long.

He went on to say, "I read the book and it changed my life. I bought a bunch of the books and now I give them away to whoever wants one, so it can change their lives."

He had my attention. There was something in his voice that sounded so sincere. I changed my mind and told him, "Maybe I haven't read the book. Could you send me one?"

He did. The book is divided into 40 chapters. You are to read one chapter a day for 40 days. I am doing that—40 days to change your life. The first sentence in the book says, "It's not about you." I'm about half way through and it is having a profound effect. Such titles as, "What On Earth Am I Here For?" are pretty heady. I decided I needed to meet Tommy Sinnott.

He is 88 years old and lives on the Mississippi River in a house with a beautiful view. Like most octogenar-

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Obituaries/Lottery Numbers

LOREN MICHAEL "MIKE" RAHN

Loren Michael "Mike" Rahn, 74 of Keokuk, IA died Monday, December 31, 2018 at Lexington Square in Keokuk.



RAHN

He was born June 9, 1944 in Ft. Madison, IA, the son of Loren Earl and Norma Wright Rahn.

Mike graduated from Nauvoo High School in Nauvoo, IL with the Class of 1962.

He was a veteran of the United States Army and proudly served his country.

Mike had been employed by the Army Ammunition Plant in Middletown, IA for nineteen years. He had also been employed at a Walmart Warehouse and at Walmart in Keokuk as a greeter.

Mike loved going to car shows and admiring antique cars. He enjoyed playing cards, especially Rummy and Spades. He also enjoyed shooting pool and playing Yahtzee, which he always played to win. Mike liked to go fishing and cruising around in his Corvette.

He is survived by three sisters, Nancy Ballinger of Ft. Madison, IA, Teri Rahn-Cowles St. Joseph, MO and Barbara Schaffer (Jim) of Radcliff, KY, mother-in-law Beverly Rahn of Fort Madison, one brother, Thomas Rahn of Texas, several nieces and nephews, including one special niece and caregiver, Techa Petterson of Hamilton, IL, great-nieces and nephews and great-great-nieces and nephews.

He was preceded in death by his parents, two brothers, Patrick Rahn and Jack Rahn and one sister, Linda Ballinger.

A joint memorial service with military rites will be held for Mike and his brother Patrick at 1 p.m., Monday, April 8, 2019 at the Oakgrove Cemetery in Hamilton, IL with Pastor David Turner officiating.

Online condolences may be left for the family at www.vigenmemorialhome.com.

PATRICK A. RAHN

Patrick A. Rahn 72, of Valrico, Florida, formerly Keokuk, IA died November 20, 2018 in Florida.

He was born on November 3, 1946 in Keokuk, IA the son of Loren Earl and Norma Wright Rahn.



RAHN

He loved to watch drag racing, hang out with family, play cards and perform magic card tricks.

He is survived by his daughter, Shanna Pettys (Terry), grandchildren, Angel and Savannah, two brothers, Loren "Mike" Rahn, and Thomas Rahn, three sisters, Barbara Schaeffer, Nancy Ballinger, and Teresa Cowles, step-mother, Beverly Rahn, his friend and caregiver, Linda Hellerman and friend and former employer, Rose Welch.

He was preceded in death by his parents, a sister, Linda Ballinger and a brother Jack Rahn.

A joint memorial service will be held for Patrick and his brother, Mike, at 1 p.m., Monday, April 8, 2019 at the Oakgrove Cemetery in Hamilton, IL with Pastor David Turner officiating.

Vigen Memorial Home in Keokuk, IA is assisting the family with arrangements.

Online condolences may be left for the family at www.vigenmemorialhome.com.



DIXIE M. LAIR

Dixie M. Lair, 83 years, of West Point, Iowa died at 10:30 am Tuesday, January 8, 2019 at the Donnellson Health Center, Donnellson, Iowa. She was born November 22, 1935 in Del Norte, Colorado, the daughter of Richard A. and



LAIR

Mamie A. (Noles) Boyd. She married Kenneth C. Lair. They later divorced.

Dixie was a homemaker, who also worked as a teacher's assistant at Jefferson School and as a tailor for Glasgow's Clothier for many years. She was a 50 year member of the Order of the Eastern Star; a Mother Advisor for the International Order of Rainbow for Girls, Fort Madison Chapter; a member and past president of Business and Professional Women; past member, district and state officer of the West Point American Legion Auxiliary; and a past Ambassador with the Fort Madison Chamber of Commerce. She was a member of the West Point Presbyterian Church. Dixie enjoyed sewing and decorating. She loved her family.

She is survived by one son, David Lair (Consuelo Garcia) of Coralville, Iowa; two daughters, Cindy Lair of Boulder, Colorado and Mindy (Michael) Krawiecki of Wildwood, Missouri; three grandchildren: Gabriel and Alejandro Garcia-Lair and Alexandra Krawiecki; and life partner, John Roxlau of West Point. She was preceded in death by her parents.

Dixie was transferred into the care of Barr Memorial Chapel, Fort Madison. Her family will greet friends from 1:00 to 2:00 pm Tuesday, January 15, 2019 at the Barr Memorial Chapel. A Memorial Service will follow and begin at 2:00 pm Tuesday afternoon at the funeral home, with Larry Shipley officiating. Burial will be at a later date in Montana. A memorial has been established for PAWS or Business and Professional Women of Iowa Foundation Educational Scholarship Program. Contributions may be left at the funeral home. Online condolences to the Lair family may be made at www.barrmemorialchapel.com.



IOWA LOTTERY WINNING NUMBERS

Lotto Drawings

Game	Draw Days	Sales Cutoff Time	Approx. Drawing Time
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Mega Millions®	Tues & Fri	8:59 pm	10:00 pm
Powerball®	Wed & Sat	8:59 pm	9:59 pm
Lotto America™	Wed & Sat	8:59 pm	10:00 pm
Pick 3 - Midday	Daily	Noon	12:20 pm
Pick 3 - Evening	Daily	9:40 pm	10:00 pm
Pick 4 - Midday	Daily	Noon	12:20 pm
Pick 4 - Evening	Daily	9:40 pm	10:00 pm



1/9
6 19 37 49 59
Powerball: 22
Power Play: 3



1/9
13 19 35 44 50
Star Ball: 1
All Star Bonus: 2



1/9 MID-DAY
1 3 5
1/9 EVENING
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For the Record

For the Record

Fort Madison Police Report

01/07/19 - 8:48 a.m. - Fort Madison Police responded to a report of vandalism in the 300 block of 3rd Street.
 01/07/19 - 12:53 p.m. - Fort Madison Police responded to a report of vandalism in the 900 block of 15th Street.
 01/07/19 - 6:24 p.m. - Fort Madison Police responded to a report of vandalism in the 200 block of 26th Street.
 01/07/19 - 7:07 p.m. - Fort Madison Police responded to a report of a shoplifter in the 1200 block of Avenue H.
 01/08/19 - 3:24 a.m. - Fort Madison Police arrested Casey Joe Wolf, 38, of Fort Madison in the 1300 block of Avenue G on a charge of disorderly conduct. He was taken to the Lee County Jail and held.
 01/08/19 - 3:24 a.m. - Fort Madison Police cited Michael Eugene Wixom, of Fort Madison in the 1300 block of Avenue G on a charge of disorderly conduct. He was released upon citation.
 01/08/19 - 9:54 a.m. - Fort Madison Police responded to a report of vandalism in the 300 block of 3rd Street.
 01/08/19 - 11:19 a.m. - Fort Madison Police responded to a report of a larceny/theft on Iris Lane.
 01/08/19 - 2:24 p.m. - Fort Madison Police responded to a report of a stolen vehicle at the intersection of 27th Street and Avenue N.
 01/08/19 - 3:44 p.m. - Fort Madison Police responded to a report of vandalism in the 400 block of 23rd Street.
 01/08/19 - 5:06 p.m. - Fort Madison Police responded to a report of vandalism in the 4600 block of Avenue J.
 01/08/19 - 3:46 p.m. - Fort Madison Police cited Cheyanne Marie Woodsmall, 19, of Fort Madison, at the police department on a charge of reckless use of fire. She was released upon citation.
 01/09/19 - 10:30 a.m. - Fort Madison Police responded to a report of a shoplifter in the 2600 block of Avenue L.
 01/09/19 - 10:57 a.m. - Fort Madison Police arrested Jordan Nathaniel

Cox, 20, of Wever, in the 2600 block of Avenue L, on a charge of 5th degree theft. He was released on a promise to appear.
 01/09/19 - 12:17 p.m. - Fort Madison Police responded to a report of a larceny/theft in the 1600 block of 20th Street.
 01/09/19 - 1:24 p.m. - Fort Madison Police responded to a report of a larceny/theft in the 1400 block of Avenue I.
 01/09/19 - 2:43 p.m. - Fort Madison Police responded to a report of a property damage accident in the 500 block of 2nd Street.
 01/09/19 - 9:20 p.m. - Fort Madison Police responded to a report of vandalism in the 3400 block of Avenue L.
 01/09/19 - 1:30 p.m. - Fort Madison Police arrested Joshua Charles Corcoran, 37, homeless, in the

1400 block of Avenue I, on a charge of interference and trespassing. He was taken to the Lee County Jail and held.

Lee County Sheriff's Report

01/07/19 - 11:55 a.m. - Lee County Sheriff's deputies arrested Ronald Kenneth Brandenburg, 26, of Keokuk, at the sheriff's office on a judgment entry. He was taken to the Lee County Jail and held.
 01/07/19 - 6:20 p.m. - Lee County Sheriff's deputies arrested William Francis Rankin, 40, of Argyle, no address listed, on a charge of domestic abuse assault- first offense. He was taken to the Lee County Jail and held.
 01/07/19 - 6:21 p.m. - Lee County Sheriff's deputies arrested Stephanie Jo Rankin, 35, of Argyle, in

the 2800 block of 170th Avenue in Argyle, on a charge of domestic abuse assault- 2nd offense. She was taken to the Lee County Jail and held.
 01/07/19 - 6:45 p.m. - Lee County Sheriff's deputies arrested Jason Ryan Ruggles, 31, of What Cheer, Iowa, at the sheriff's office on a warrant for failure to appear. He was taken to the Lee County Jail and held.
 01/08/19 - 8:38 a.m. - Lee County Sheriff's deputies arrested Sophia McKenna Gregory, 20, of Hamilton, Ill., at the Lee County Jail on a charge of 5th degree criminal mischief. She was held in custody.
 01/08/19 - 1:00 p.m. - Lee County Sheriff's deputies arrested Tara Victoria Nolan, 35, of Keokuk, at Boonies Bar and Grill in Argyle on two

warrants for forgery. She was released on bond.
 01/08/19 - 3:12 p.m. - Lee County Sheriff's deputies arrested Ashley Sue Dale, 24, of Burlington, at the sheriff's office on a charge of violation of probation. She was taken to the Lee County Jail and released on bond.
 01/08/19 - 10:08 p.m. - Lee County Sheriff's deputies arrested Kent Michael Elder, 36, of Keokuk at the sheriff's office on a warrant for violation of parole. He was taken to the Lee County Jail and held.
 01/09/19 - 11:16 p.m. - Lee County Sheriff's deputies arrested Samantha Latashia Owings, 27, of Fort Madison, in the 1600 block of 34th Street in Fort Madison, on a warrant for 3rd-degree theft. She was taken to Lee County Jail and released on bond.

01/09/19 - 7:30 p.m. - Lee County Sheriff's deputies arrested Ladarius Jason Levane Burton, 20, of Fort Madison, at the sheriff's office on two charges of possession of stolen property, one charge of going armed with intent, carrying weapons, and two charges of assault. He was taken to the Lee County Jail and held.
Those listed above are presumed innocent until proven guilty in a court of law.

Fort Madison Fire & Rescue Report

01/08/19 - Fort Madison firefighters responded to six medical calls, false alarm at old prison, burn complaint by Burlington Northern Santa Fe
 01/08/19 - Fort Madison firefighters responded to three medical calls.

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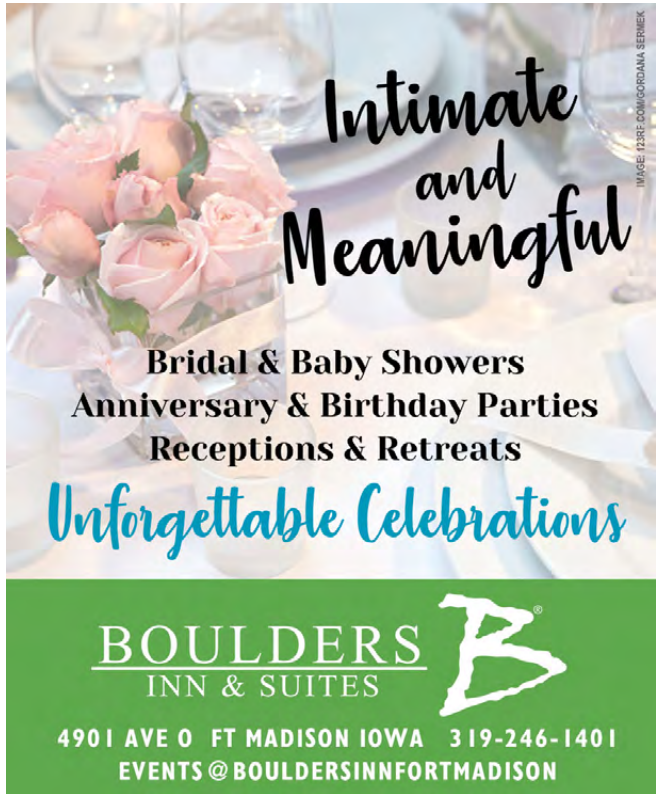
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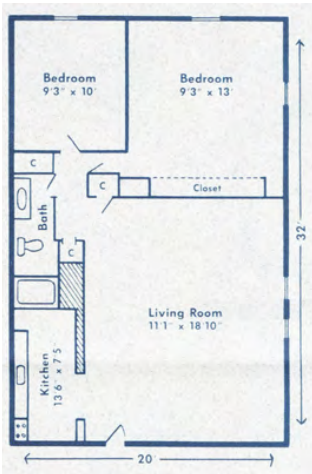
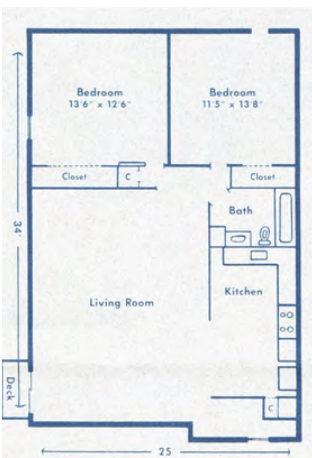
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From the Front/Weather

Nauvoo man living according to "The Purpose Driven Life"

SWARM - Continued from Page 1

ians, he's had a number of careers. For a short time, he worked for the FBI in Washington DC. His main career, however, was with the rubber plant in Keokuk where he worked off and on for 40 years. He lost his right thumb in a roller accident which kept him out of the military. He held many positions at the rubber plant. Without any college education he was an industrial engineer, a time-study engineer and personnel administrator hiring people. He likes to say he went from being hated by everyone to being liked. He worked for Douglas Aircraft in California building C-124's, the largest cargo airplane at the time. He was an extra or stand-in actor in many movies and stage productions, including, "My Girl" with Jamie Lee Curtis and Dan Aykroyd. His wife and he were also quite well-known artists, displaying their oil paintings from Davenport to Memphis, Tennessee. Exhausted from art shows, he put down the brushes 20 years ago. Whatever he's done, he's always had fun.

Weighing 193 lbs, he decided to go on a diet. He

stopped eating "thirds" after meals and lost 18 pounds. Then he stopped eating "seconds" and lost another 18 pounds. Not satisfied, he started walking. The first day he walked a quarter of a mile, turned around and looked and didn't know if he could make it back. By the third month, he was walking a hundred miles a month. He is down to 144 pounds.

He's also a self-proclaimed perfectionist. Although his handwriting is fine, even with the missing thumb, Tommy uses a template or writing guide for much of his written correspondence. He's been writing with letter guides for 25 years. Whatever he does, he gives it his all.

About Rick Warren's book, "The Purpose Driven Life," Tommy says, "I'm trying to live by it. Eternity is too long to be wrong. If there's nothing out there, you're okay. If there is something, you'd better have it right." So far, he's on his 17th reading and given away 32 books. If you'd like a book, Tommy's phone number is (217)453-6409.



Tommy is Catholic, but hadn't been to church in years. Because of the book, he decided to return. He talked to the priest and the priest invited him to confession. The priest asked him how long it had been since he'd been to confession, and Tommy told him 47 years.

He heard the priest whisper, "Record!"

Have a good story? Call or text Curt Swarm in Mt. Pleasant at 319-217-0526, email him at curtswarm@yahoo.com or find him on Facebook. Curt's stories are also read at 106.3 FM in Farmington.



Courtesy Photo

Funds to help with Keokuk's planned Library Park

DONATION - Continued from Page 1

a small performance and outdoor classroom space with permanent in-ground seating.

Keokuk Vice President Scott Piper commented on the project, "My wife Kaki, who is a Library Foundation Board Member, and I visit the library weekly to check out books. The library is such an active center for all ages of our community. There are always young kids attending story hour, adults reading papers and

magazines, and people researching on their numerous public computers. I also routinely pass by the Library when they are closed and see people sitting on the outdoor benches accessing the library's free WIFI net work. The library is just such a great place to expand your personal knowledge base. The Library Park is a great project idea and will continue to expand the Library's programs and services."

Pilot Grove Savings Bank is a proud supporter of this project and the library, which benefits the community of Keokuk.

5-DAY WEATHER FORECAST

FRI 11 Jan

Snow
High- 32.1° F | Low -28.8° F

SAT 12 Jan

Snow
High- 31.3° F | Low - 29.6° F

SUN 13 Jan

Light Snow
High- 26.4° F | Low - 22.3° F

MON 14 Jan

Light Snow
High- 31.7° F | Low - 15.3° F

TUE 15 Jan

Sunny
High- 36.1° F | Low - 34.9° F

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Education News/From the Front



Courtesy photos

Seven students from Holy Trinity Catholic earned honors at the State Debate competition held in Des Moines on Jan. 4-5. From left to right are: Michael Hellman, Mason Holvoet, Sam Avery, Wyatt Hellman, Ryan Otte, Reagan Garrels, and Samantha Pothitakis.

HTC debate team brings home honors

DES MOINES - The Holy Trinity Catholic Debate Team had great success at the State Debate Tournament on January 4th and 5th. Every student from HTC earned awards. Sam Pothitakis received the award for Top Senator in "C" chamber. Michael Hellman and Reagan Garrels earned medals of excellence and

Sam Avery earned Excellent Senator, all three in "B" Chamber. Finally, Ryan Otte, Mason Holvoet and Wyatt Hellman earned a seat in the "A" Chamber which is televised and available on Mediacom on Demand for a year. Ryan received the Excellent Senator award while Wyatt and Mason received Superior Senator.

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Project could carry \$1M price tag, take 18 months to finish

DIGITAL - Continued from Page 1

contract and start fresh with a larger company, at an initial cost for the first phase of consulting at \$29,000. He and E911 Chair Tonya Harvey have spoken with officials at both companies and attorneys and said there are no legal hurdles to switching consultants. Weber said the project will take 18 months at a minimum.

"Everything we do with this project comes through here and will be paid for by you folks, but in order to move faster, the PSAP board wants to go ahead and take the helm."

Board member Steve Cirinna said no matter who the consultant is, the first thing they should do is look at the pros and cons of each possible digital platform that can be used and present that information.

Fort Madison Police Chief Tim Sittig said that's all part of the consultant work.

"They go into researching what's available and what it's going to cost and provide us with options and then follow through assisting with implementation," Sittig said. "The one we looked at has a larger staff and more experience on a broader range to help us out with those decisions," Sittig said.

Weber said the goal will be to get by, making the transition as inexpensive as possible.

"But to the benefit of all the first responders, we just have to get moving on

it," Weber said. "I've talked to probably 10 other sheriffs who've already gone through the process and they all started the way we did trying to do it inexpensive, but you have to be really careful."

Sittig said because of the large scope of the project, it will be important that PSAP and E911 work together to get the project rolling.

Keokuk Police Chief Dave Hinton also told the board it was time to get moving on the project.

"All the questions you have we've asked," Hinton said. "We have to rely on the experts to get answers for those questions. It's a huge project and a big expense," Hinton said.

Fort Madison Fire Chief Joey Herren said the financial impact will be complicated.

"Financial side is the complicated part because you're going to have to pay for this with a bond, so it's going to have to go under a mil levy," he said. "We use this upfront money to pay for the consultants. We've asked the right people and it is available to do that through you folks. This board kind of controls that money, so we need the blessing of all you folks to help us get this done financially," Herren said.

The E911 board did vote to opt out of the last phases with Loftsgard and voted to allow the PSAP board to take over the transitioning of the county to digital communications.

Restart will include high flaring, excess noise

RESTART - Continued from Page 1

flaring, accompanied by higher than normal noise levels due to the flaring and other steam venting. Flaring is the flame that is occasionally visible above our facility. The flaring during startups is, by design, safe and is harmless to the environment and the surrounding community. The flaring will change in color and intensity as we advance through the different states of the startup process. Intensity at night could be amplified by the particular timing of a startup stage or due to low cloud cover. Iowa Fertilizer continues to meet and exceed all air quality permits and regulations regarding these flares."

Allman said the plant start up will be completed as quickly as practical and they hope to be back into full production in the next few days.

"As always, Iowa Fertilizer Company will maintain our commitment and focus on safety, the environment, and the well being of our surrounding community during these startup activities," the statement read. "At Iowa Fertilizer, we take safety very seriously and work diligently to always be a good neighbor. Those with questions or concerns can feel free to contact us at 515-422-9296."

Iowa Fertilizer Company is a leader in the fertilizer industry. The plant in Wever, Iowa, is the first greenfield nitrogen fertilizer facility constructed in the United States in more than 25 years. Utilizing its state-of-the-art production, industry-leading technology, and environmentally sustainable processes, Iowa Fertilizer Company helps provide farmers in Iowa and around the country with a stable, domestic supply of fertilizer. For more information, visit Iowa Fertilizer Company at www.iowafertilizer.com.

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