



Pen City Current

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More IFC start-up plans this week

Flares and venting part of the process to get facility online

BY PEN CITY STAFF

WEVER - With construction of the Iowa Fertilizer plant nearly 98 percent complete, the facility will reach another critical milestone as the company begins ammonia plant start up activities later this week, officials said in a release this morning.

"This is a significant moment for Iowa Fertilizer Company and more importantly for the customers we will serve throughout the United States," Darrell Allman, Site Operations Director at Iowa Fertilizer Company, said in a release this morning. "The start up activities taking place over the next several weeks underscore the tremendous progress that has been made at our plant in Wever and will help ensure the plant is operating

correctly."

Due to the holidays and start-up activities, officials were not available for comment this morning.

During this period, start up activities will include:

Steam Processes - Sections of the plant will release steam indicating that pipes are being cleaned or from equipment in operation. Also, a low-level hissing from the steam may be heard and observed as the steam is released, ensuring all of the pipes and other equipment are ready to safely produce fertilizer products.

Lighting - As new components of the facility are connected to power, there will be increased lighting on the site. The lights used at the facility utilize new advances in technology that will reduce the impact locally. In particular, the plant will

use 180 degree lights that focus on the plant rather than out to the community. These lights will be visible at night during the start up and operation of the facility.

Flares - Natural gas, as both a feedstock and a fuel, is a crucial component, in making

"The activities that will take place at the plant over the next several weeks are standard steps in our startup process..."

-Larry Holley
IFC President



Photo courtesy of Iowa Fertilizer Company

Plant 98% complete

According to Iowa Fertilizer Company officials, more start-up activities will take place this week as the plant runs through more final checks. A release this morning said the plant was nearly 98% complete.

ammonia and when the start up phase begins a flare or flame of natural gas and hydrogen will be visible, particularly in the evening. Those in the community and those traveling by the plant may notice the flame. However, this is a normal process that marks the start-up operation of the facility and ensures the plant is operating safely and correctly. When the plant reaches full operation, the flaring will not normally be burning.

"Safety and environmental stewardship are the guiding principles of Iowa Fertilizer Company and central to our commitment to Wever, Lee

County and the entire southeast Iowa community," Larry Holley, President of Iowa Fertilizer Company, said. "The activities that will take place at the plant over the next several weeks are standard steps in our start up process and we want to ensure the community is aware of all that is taking place."

Today's announcement follows the company's recent celebration of the completion of a \$10 million road project to safely access the plant, the startup of the boilers, and air blows of pipe and other equipment.

Once production begins later this year, Iowa Fer-

tilizer will deliver 1.5 to two million metric tons of fertilizer products every year, providing farmers in the United States a stable, high-quality and domestic source of fertilizer.

The plant in Wever is the first greenfield nitrogen fertilizer facility constructed in the United States in nearly 30 years. With state-of-the-art production, the company will help provide farmers in Iowa and around the country with a stable, domestic supply of fertilizer, while also utilizing industry-leading technology and environmentally sustainable processes.

Visit the company website at iowafertilizer.com.



Photo by Kelsey Vandenberg/FMHS

Honoring our veterans

The Fort Madison High School held a ceremony to honor all local veterans on Thursday afternoon. The students donated \$230 to the American Legion as part of the afternoon's ceremony. Several local dignitaries, school officials, teachers and students spoke at the event.

Wilson still leads in Pick 'Em

FORT MADISON - You'd think when the editor takes undefeated Cleveland and a poor San Francisco team to win and they do, he'd be in a better position.

The Pen City Current editor got four picks right out of seven to sit at 6/14 in the contest. We had seven new people enter the contest this week. Ryan Wilson still leads the way after the magician went 7-7 in week one, but showed his humanity in Week 2 going just 3 of 7 for a two-week total of 10/14. Other contestants still leading the editor are Davis Rung at 9/14, John Goetz and John Vandenberg at 8/14 and Sara Sandburg has 7 right in two weeks.

Others still in contention for the \$50 are Sonya Sirois and Tim Wondra with 5 wins and James Ross, Jason Rung, Mike Gulick and Travis Painter all with four wins, just two back of the editor. Remember, you have to beat the editor. No ties.

For the week, Wondra, Vandenberg and Sonya Sirois each had five correct, Ross, Davis Rung, Jason Rung, Gulick, Painter and the editor each four correct picks, Goetz and Wilson with three each, and Todd McGhghy and Sandburg each with two correct.

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Local News

Letters to the Editor

Veterans give thanks to FMHS

A great big THANK YOU to all who took part in and attended the "Holidays With The Veterans" assembly that was put on by the Student Government of Fort Madison Community High School on December 22, 2016. It was an honor for the Legion Honor Guard to be asked to post the Colors for the program! The

program was very nice, and all Veterans were honored at the assembly. The speakers did a great job, as did the Honor Guard. The students on the Student Government Council had several fundraisers during the school year and raised \$230.00 Dollars for Post 0082. They presented us with a symbolic (huge) check

during the program, accepted by Commander Vice and myself. They will get the original to us at a later date. Our thanks also go to the Student Government Council, the Student Body, the Faculty, Band and Chorus of FMHS for the honor shown to Veterans.

**Dan Vice, Commander
George Shields, Adjutant**



Photos by Chuck Vandenberg/PCC

In with the new

The former Fox Theater on Avenue G in Fort Madison was sold, according to co-owner Larry Wright who owned the facility with his wife, Trudy, for almost a decade. Below, Wright looks over inventory in the lobby of the theaters.

Sold! Former Fox Theater in new hands

**BY CHUCK
VANDENBERG**
PCC EDITOR

FORT MADISON - A run past the old Fox Theater in Fort Madison shows plenty of activity and a "sold" sign in the window.

On Thursday evening, Larry Wright, who has owned the theater with his wife, Trudy, for the past decade, confirmed that the theater had been sold and indicated the theater could be back up and running soon. "We're very excited about this sale and excited for the community," Wright said amidst boxes and bins of memorabilia in the lobby. "We've done a lot of the leg work here to get the theater ready to go and we're happy to see this."



Wright wouldn't confirm who the property had been sold to but said negotiations have been going on for the past couple months. "We have had conversations with many people about this theater, some were owners of other theaters," he said. "But this last time they offered, we counter offered and things went back and forth a while and now we've sold."

Wright said his wife and family have been doing a lot of the work on reha-

bilitating the building. He said he they hadn't done a whole lot with the west theater."

"I think they're looking at bringing in digital equipment and getting ready to get up and running," Wright said. He said he couldn't really speak to any timelines on when the theater may reopen.

Fraise Real Estate and Auction brokered the deal and a spokesperson there said the company couldn't release the name of the buyer.

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Watch for Pigskin Pick 'Em Challenge Week 3
to be announced this week!

Entries must be submitted by 11:30 a.m. Sunday




Looking for 15 college-bound students

ACT prep

Next Exam February 11th

Registration Day December 27th 6pm - 8pm

Class meets every **Tuesday** from 6pm to 8pm until the test date

Dinner is served at 6pm

807 Ave. G • Ft. Madison
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