



# Pen City Current

Thursday, Dec. 29, 2016 | 4 pages | Volume 1 • Issue 12

## Incoming sheriff to use GPS on offenders

BY CHUCK  
VANDENBERG  
PCC EDITOR

FORT MADISON - Inmates at the Lee County Correctional Center may be wearing monitoring devices on authorized leaves starting in January.

Lee County Sheriff-elect Stacy Weber said Wednesday morning that he wants to implement the plan when he takes office the morning of Jan. 3. Weber said one of the benefits of the program is that taxpayers won't

shoulder the cost. "As we speak right now my jail administrator and one of the Captains are meeting with a GPS monitoring company," Weber said. "Any inmate that leaves our jail whether it be for a work release or furloughed inmate for medical, funeral services will be required to wear an ankle monitoring bracelet to track their



WEBER

whereabouts at all time."

Weber said if an inmate wants to leave they have to pay for the monitor. He said the GPS company would charge six dollars a day for the monitoring service and his plan is to charge inmates \$10/day and put extra the four in the pool to help indigent inmates who are eligible for house arrest or are deemed to be a no-flight risk.

Weber said he doesn't think the move will need approval from the Lee

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Photo by Chuck Vandenberg/PCC

### Ankle bracelets

Sheriff-elect Stacy Weber, who will be sworn into office on Tuesday, is planning on bringing a program to the department that would put GPS trackers on offenders that are granted work, medical or other releases from the jail.

## Zoning board looks at vehicle codes

BY CHUCK  
VANDENBERG  
PCC EDITOR

FORT MADISON - A Fort Madison commission is recommending several changes to city code that further defines what constitutes a commercial vehicle for purposes of parking and moving on city streets.

Current code defines a commercial vehicle as a vehicle used for transportation of passengers for hire and those constructed or used for transportation of merchandise.

New recommended code would include dimensions of 10 feet high, 8 feet wide and 22 feet long. Anything beyond any of those dimensions would be considered a commercial vehicle. The code also addresses vehicles of business

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## IFC president says production set for 1st quarter

*Last week's frigid wind chills froze up some pipes*

BY CHUCK  
VANDENBERG  
PCC EDITOR

WEVER - On the heels of the announcement Monday indicating the Iowa Fertilizer Company's Wever, Iowa facility is 98% complete, the company's president said Wednesday this month's deep freeze about two weeks ago did point out a few issues, but nothing has derailed the plant's progress and full production should begin in the first quarter.

"If you look back we had a -8 degree night a week and half a back, said Larry Holley, president of Iowa Fertilizer Co. "We had frozen up in some of the minimal water lines for the most part. We had to go back and do some corrections on those lines. It was because our insulation and our heat tracing was not complete to 100%. When you have

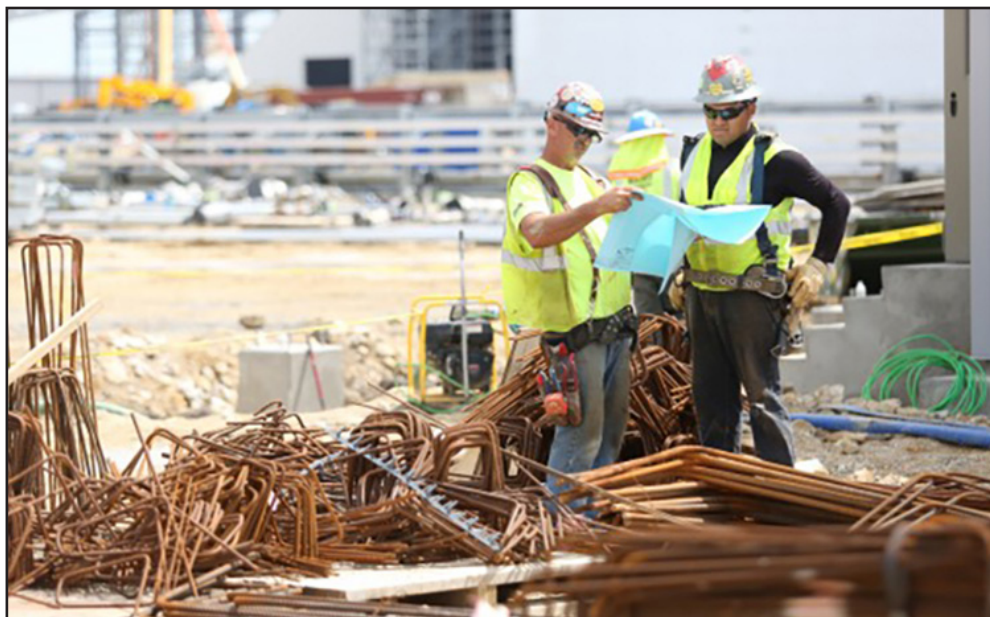


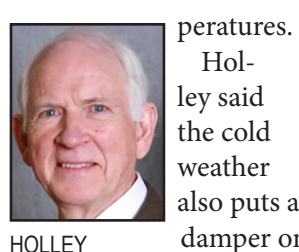
Photo courtesy of IFC website

### Getting closer

Several contractors look at blueprints during the construction phase of the Iowa Fertilizer plant in Wever, Iowa in a file photo. Officials say the plant is scheduled to come online in the first quarter of 2017.

that kind of wind on that cold of a night it points those out to you. Those lines will readily freeze if you don't have them insulated and heat traced. It took us a couple of days to make those repairs, but it was nothing serious."

Tracing is the process of either using steam tracing or electrical heating to supply heat to keep the pipes and tubing from freezing, and then insulate over that to make them efficient in the cold tem-



HOLLEY

peratures. Holley said the cold weather also puts a damper on production efficiency, but the winter weather a couple years ago was even worse and the construction workers who aren't from Iowa have a more difficult time in the cold temps and wind.

"Well, of course if you live in Iowa you get used

to functioning in cold temperatures, but if you are not from here you don't do very well. Any time you have that kind of wind chill it costs us efficiency. You don't get as much done as on a nice evening because you have to take care of those employees," Holley said.

With more than 200 full-time employees already in the field at the facility working hand-in-hand with the construction teams to keep up to

speed with operations, the plans are for the plant to fully come on line in the first quarter of the year.

IFC is a subsidiary of OCI N.V. a global fertilizer company that can produce nearly 8.4 million metric tons of nitrogen fertilizers and industrial chemicals at production facilities in the Netherlands, the United States, Egypt and Algeria. According to the company's website, expectations for total production in 2017 is set to exceed 12.5 million metric tons.

"The construction of this facility is a critical milestone in the agriculture sector. But it's a milestone we wouldn't have been able to reach without the extra support we've received from the state," said Holley. "That starts with Governor (Terry) Branstad, (Lt. Gov.) Kim Reynolds and Debi Durham (Director of the Iowa Economic Development Authority) and the locals in Lee County, the Lee County Economic Development Group, Fort Madison Partners, Board of Supervisors. This would not have been possible without all the

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# From the Front Weber looks to put full-time jail administrator on payroll

## For the Record

### Fort Madison Police Report

12/27/2016 - 9:10 a.m. - Fort Madison Police responded to a report of larceny/theft in the 3000 block of Avenue H.  
 12/27/2016 - 9:16 a.m. - Fort Madison Police responded to a report of personal injury accident in the 1200 block of 36th Street.  
 12/27/2016 - 11:53 a.m. - Fort Madison Police responded to a report of vandalism in the 1200 block of Avenue H.  
 12/27/2016 - 11:55 a.m. - Fort Madison Police responded to a report of vandalism in the 3400 block of Avenue N  
 12/27/2016 - 1:00 p.m. - Fort Madison Police responded to a report of larceny/theft in the 1600 block of Avenue H.  
 12/27/2016 - 3:51 p.m. - Fort Madison police responded to a property damage accident in the 2600 block of Avenue L.  
 12/27/2016 - 10:31 p.m. - Fort Madison police arrested William Kenneth Lloyd King, 23 of Fort Madison in the 1600 block of 37th Street on a charge of Disorderly conduct. He was taken to the Lee County Correctional Center.  
 12/28/2016 - 5:09 a.m. - Fort Madison police arrested Michael Vincent Onofrietti, 35, of Keokuk at the intersection of 15th Street and

Avenue D on a charge of driving while suspended. He was cited and released.

### Lee County Sheriff's Report

12/27/2016 - 11:06 a.m. - Lee County Sheriff's deputies arrested Randall Gray, 60, of Keokuk, on a charge of disorderly conduct. He was taken the Lee County Correctional Center and jailed.  
 12/27/2016 - 11:07 a.m. - Lee County Sheriff's deputies arrested Ehren David Schneider, 36, of Brighton, Iowa, on a charge of disorderly conduct. He was taken Lee County Correctional Center and jailed.  
 12/28/2016 - 1:30 a.m. - Lee County Sheriff's deputies arrested Leanna May Baker, 38 of Keokuk in the 5100 block of Avenue O, on a charge of fifth degree theft. She posted bond and was released.  
 12/28/2016 - 6:59 a.m. - Lee County Sheriff's deputies arrested Richard David Greenwald, 40, of Burlington on a charge of voluntary absence. He was taken to the Lee County Correctional Center and jailed.  
 A criminal charge is merely an accusation and the defendants above are presumed innocent until and unless proven guilty in a court of law.

## GPS - Continued from Page 1

County Board of Supervisors because no contract would exist with the GPS company.

Immediately if they cut them off, it sends us an immediate notification of where their last location was.

"This is great way to monitor them. The tech is available and we're going to use it and I think it's only fair the inmates pay for it. They got themselves into the jail if they want to leave they should pay for that," he said.

He also pointed to additional savings to taxpayers that could be realized figuring in meals at about \$9.75 per day. If inmates were released on a home-monitor basis the Sheriff's department would still know where they are, the offender is at home for meals. If the monitors are disabled or cut off, the sheriff's department would get an immediate notification as to the offender's last location at the point of disruption.

Weber said this also helps reduce the amount

of release abuses that have occurred in the past.

"Work releases have been abused. I've actually had to go get them when they were supposed to be on work release and they were just lounging. That's not going to happen with me. We can now make sure they truly have a job if they are a flight risk. And that work release is a privilege not a right. If he/she wants to keep a job they're gonna have to pay for that bracelet.

Weber said the monitors will also help keep deputies out on the road where they can respond to incidents in minutes not 20 minutes.

"Trying to spread it out as far as I can. Implement something like this now and protect our citizens and allow inmates to keep their jobs and the funds don't come from taxpayers."

Weber also pointed to several changes in the department he will be implementing when he takes office. The department will have a paid civilian jail administrator for the

first time in more than 20 years. He said he wanted to try the change to encourage upward mobility in the corrections staff and show some structure at the same time. John Canida will serve as the administrator and he will report to Capt. Craig Burch, who was promoted by current Lee County Sheriff Jim Sholl.

Weber said he sees Burch splitting his time 50/50 with jail duties and serving as a deputy.

"Primarily I see him 50/50 walking the walk in the jail and handling processes. I want there to be some checks and balances here and that's what were going to provide with that layer of supervision.

"It's something that I wanted to try and we've got some good people in our jail department and I wanted to provide them some structure. Someone could come in here and work for 30 years doing the same thing and retire at the same level. There's nothing wrong with that, but there's nothing to move up for. If they want

to stay in corrections they look to the Iowa State Penitentiary for better pay. We train them and they move on. What I wanted to do was work on providing structure for some movement."

The sheriff-elect said he has found a few ways to help pay for the position in the current budget including changing phone systems at the department which could save about \$1,000 a month. The current budget was submitted by Sholl and Weber said he's gone through the budget and found some places to change some systems. In six months he will be able to build his own budget and include the position.

He also named Deputy Sheriff Will Conlee to be his Chief Deputy.

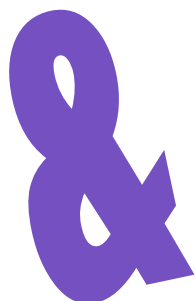
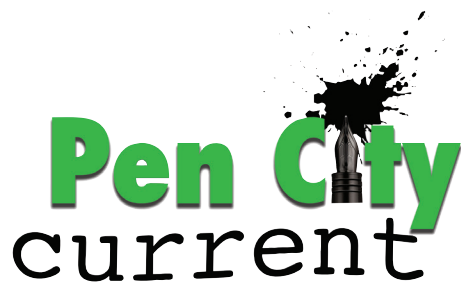
"Will's a natural leader and comes from good people," Weber said. "His dad, Bob, retired as a deputy right when I came on, and Will's been in the military so he brings a lot to the table."

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**For the Record/Local News**

# Commercial trucks, parking prompt code revisions

**CODE** - Continued from Page 1

ownership taken home at night that are within those guidelines provided they are parked completely on the owner's private property.

Any food trucks would be considered commercial vehicles. Trailers not self-propelled, but those designed to be coupled or pulled by another vehicle and recreational vehicles that are over the limits are both considered commercial vehicles under the new code. One exception on the food trucks is that the food trucks may be stored on residential property if the vehicle is under the dimensions.

Current city code reads that anything over 10,000 pounds, whether empty or loaded having no fixed terminal within the city can only travel on certain streets. An exception is being proposed for allowing recreational vehicles to move on residential streets for purpose of storing on private property.

"That weight restriction in our code, that 10,000 pounds, it's in virtually every city I checked because of the DOT," said City Planning and Zoning Director Doug Krogmeier.

"That's probably where everybody got it from. Many cities define different sizes. What I'm proposing is actually much larger than what most cities have. I can go out and buy a truck that is over 7 or 8 foot tall."

Parking was also an issue. Proposed code would make it unlawful to park a trailer, uncoupled on a city street except if the trailer is there for less than 8 hours as it is being unloaded or less than 30 days for construction purposes provided there is active construction going on during the 30 days.

Several residents approached the commission about the parking ordinances and the inconvenience of not being allowed to park their vehicles near their homes.

"We live down on Avenue L. My husband parked a truck there every time he'd come home. We had a neighbor who started a fight because he didn't like the truck being parked there. Now it's to the point where the police department would allow us to drive it down our street to get his stuff out and then move it down to park it at Dollar General," said Roberta McGhghy.

Commissioner Larry Wright said it was a delicate balance of expectations of homeowners and efficiency of people with the commercial vehicles.

"We just haven't addressed the root cause of parking in those places and that is the fact that in a lot of subdivisions or home areas people don't want to see these vehicles. The reason I raise this is, as a homeowners' association president and townhome association president, we had code that was far more severe than this. If we're to talk about resale value and why people buy houses the way they do, I wonder what they would say to this," Wright said.

"We have to address why this is here and what's that delicate balance of the two. People buy homes with expectations and that's why codes are there."

Darryl Yeargin addressed the commission and asked that if the city create an new ordinance for vehicles and parking that they enforce for it everyone, not just a select few.

"If you want to follow ordinances let's follow all of them. That's all I'm asking. If you say I can't park in front of my house that's fine, but let's make sure no commercial vehicles can park in front of their houses,"



Photo by Chuck Vandenberg/PCC

## Hy-Vee supports Crime Stoppers

From left to right in the check presentation are: Bryor McMillen, committee member; Lisa Nafziger, LCCS chairman; Kim Jaber, Hy-Vee store director; Lexi Knox (granddaughter of Sholl); Sholl; Scott Bonar, Lee County Sheriff chief deputy; and Jim Henshaw, retired deputy and committee member.

## Crime Stoppers gets \$2,500 from area Hy-Vees

PEN CITY CURRENT

FORT MADISON - The Fort Madison Hy-Vee donated \$700 to the Lee County Crime Stoppers Wednesday morning. The funds were part of a chili supper held at Hy-Vee on Dec. 8th. Customers paid \$5 for a bowl of chili and garlic bread served by local law enforcement officers from the Lee County Sheriff's Department and Fort Madison Police Departments. The officers also brought out seconds and cleared tables during the

event.

"It was an amazing event and I'm so proud to have been a part of it," Lisa Nafziger, Chairman of Lee County Crime Stoppers said.

The event was also held at the Keokuk Hy-Vee location and a grand total of just over \$2,500 total was raised for the group.

"Lee County certainly has embraced this program and I'm proud to have gotten it off the ground before my retirement," said Lee County Sheriff Jim Sholl.

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**From the Front**

**Holley credits state, local officials with shepherding project into Lee County**

**GPS** - Continued from Page 1

*Annual payroll and maintenance could top \$50M*

great support and commitment we've had across the board to construct there in Lee County. I was with (Gov. Terry Branstad) about three weeks ago and I told him this, 'We're going to have safe operations, and we're going to be environmentally sound, and we're gonna be a good neighbor. And then after that, we're gonna make some fertilizer... but in that order. And as we get ready for the planting in the spring, I just couldn't be more excited.'

The \$2 billion project, which was hampered in the spring by lawsuits, liens and talk of investigations and defective work, is so close to complete, Holley said it's difficult to define.

"We're moving rapidly toward an operating facility and we'll see that take place in the first quarter of the coming year," he said. We're continuing to say were 98% complete, but were so close to complete its hard to measure at this point. We're deeply into pre-commission and commission phases of the production process and looking at full ammonia

production in the first quarter and then downstream production after that."

By downstream Holley said the plant will be able to see other products as part of the process of creating the nitrogen based fertilizer. Those products include gases produced and captured during the fertilizer processes, but he said thoughts of those products will begin after the plant has been up and running full scale for several weeks.

Regarding the early spring setbacks, Holley said nothing was out of the ordinary considering the scope of the project.

"When you're building a facility of this size and involving 5,000 people on site from time to time, and you have complexity that reaches several continents and the design and engineering of a facility like this, it involves a lot of people. What we've seen is not unusual for this size of a project. I've been in the nitrogen business for 40 years. We're in a very good position to move forward. We've spent \$2 billion plus and

nothing is stopping this facility from coming on line.

"The annual payroll projections are at \$25 million, maintenance budget is at \$25 million and those expenditures are going to go on forever. We're the most efficient nitrogen fertilizer plant in the U.S. In Iowa alone we farm 30 million acres and this country still imports about 1/3 of its nitrogen fertilizer. We're going to be backing out imports. We're in the best location in the corn belt and the part that uses the most fertilizer. It's an obvious win-win for this facility and the community."

Staffing levels currently sit right at 200, he said, but in the end the facility will probably have 210 full time employees as a handful of interviews are still underway. At one point there were more than 3,500 construction contractors on the site, but Holley said that number has dwindled to about 1,200 to 1,400 as of today and that number keeps falling.

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