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THE DAILY

NONPAREIL

Thursday, June 27, 2024

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‘TOTAL SILENCE’

NEIGHBORHOOD HIT WITH FLOODWATER

Holly Davis-Schoville looks out at the flooded street from her home on Wednesday, June 26, 2024.

ANDREW SMITH PHOTOS, THE NONPAREIL

River continues to swell as some residents face floods

HAILEY PECK AND ANDREW SMITH
Council Bluffs Nonpareil

An eerie silence fell over the neighborhood bordering the Dodge Riverside Golf Club, as residents took in the scene before them.

The neighborhood found itself faced with serious flooding that started on Tuesday morning and worsened overnight, leaving some parts of the neighborhood with nearly 3 feet of water.

With basements flooded, residents forced to leave, submerged backyards and flowing water through the neighborhood, residents expressed their frustrations.

“I mean it’s been total silence,” Holly Davis-Schoville said. “Nobody has said anything, nothing.”

Residents in the area expressed that they had yet to see anyone from the city government since about 12:30 a.m. when a city truck came and immediately turned around and left.

“I went out and asked them what they

■ **More Coverage:** Find additional photos from flooding in Council Bluffs on Wednesday on Page A3.

were going to do about it, and they said, ‘I don’t know,’” Davis-Schoville told The Nonpareil.

Davis-Schoville said residents had no heads up, no recommendation for evacuation and the extent of the flooding came as a complete surprise.

“I’m just so overwhelmed, I’m just trying to hold it together,” Davis-Schoville said. “I’m so tired. I’m so tired of people coming down and gawking — like you people don’t understand what we’re going through.”

Peterson Bros. Realty, which acts as third-party maintenance provider for Davis-Schoville, was on site and working to eliminate water in the house as well as getting sandbags set up in preparation for more flooding expected as the nearby Missouri

Please see **FLOODS**, Page A2

Tye Leslie and Todd Schuetz, workers for Peterson Bros Realty, help evacuate water from Holly Davis-Schoville’s home on the morning of Wednesday, June 26, 2024, which they manage.

Regulators sign off on pipeline to move CO2

CALEB MCCULLOUGH
Lee-Gazette Des Moines Bureau

Iowa regulators approved an application from Summit Carbon Solutions to build a carbon dioxide capture pipeline across the state on Tuesday, capping three years of proceedings and debate and marking the first major approval for the five-state project.

The Iowa Utilities Board, in a 507-page order approving the project, found that the pipeline will “promote the public convenience and necessity” and found Summit could be granted the right of eminent domain to involuntarily take land — with compensation — for the project. There are 859 remaining parcels of land along the route where owners have not signed voluntary easements with the company, according to the order.

“The momentum will continue as we prepare to file our South Dakota permit application in early July,” said Summit Carbon Solutions CEO Lee Blank in a statement. “We look forward to engaging with the state throughout this process and are confident in a successful outcome.”

Opponents of the pipeline, who have resisted the use of eminent domain for its construction, said Tuesday they would appeal the decision to a court.

The proposed pipeline would cover more than 680 miles in 29 Iowa counties. Summit plans to connect to 57 ethanol plants in Iowa to capture CO2 emissions and shuttle them to an underground reservoir in North Dakota.

The pipeline will have the capacity to move 18 million metric tons of carbon dioxide every year, Summit has said.

Iowa corn growers and ethanol producers have backed the project, saying it will be a boon to the corn market by taking advantage of tax credits and allowing ethanol to be sold in low-carbon fuel markets. Advocates also say decarbonization could allow ethanol to be used in sustainable aviation fuel.

“Today’s decision creates monumental opportunities for Iowa farmers faced with falling prices and growing stockpiles,” said Iowa Renewable Fuels Association Executive Director Monte Shaw in a statement. “Whether you think it’s smart or silly, the world’s largest airlines want to decarbonize their fuel. Carbon capture and sequestration gets Iowa ethanol into that market, potentially providing a generational boost to Iowa’s economy. This is just one of several potential new markets.”

While the order grants approval of Summit’s application, it did not immediately grant a permit to the company. The board asked that Summit refile and revise a number of documents before receiving the permit.

The order also requires that Summit receive approval in South Dakota and North Dakota before beginning construction on any part of the project.

Pipeline opponents promise appeal

The project has encountered stark resistance from environmentalists, who argue it will not seriously address greenhouse gas emissions, and from landowners opposed to the use of eminent domain to involuntarily take land for easements. Opponents argue the project does not “promote the public convenience and necessity,” and therefore should not be granted eminent domain authority.

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Treynor Days introduces foam party

TIM ROHWER
Council Bluffs Nonpareil

Take a drive to Treynor this weekend if you’re looking for fun.

The annual Treynor Days celebration offers lots to do for all ages.

“We have events on Friday, Saturday and Sunday,” said Rachel Richardson, deputy city clerk. “This is our celebration of the summer.”

Events get going at 5 p.m. Friday with the Treynor Faith and Family Night at Zion Church featuring a cookout, yard games, and a country gospel concert starting at 7 p.m., Richardson said. A sand volleyball tournament starts at 6 at the Treynor Recreation Area.

Saturday is filled with activities, including something new, Richardson said.

“It’s a foam party at the Treynor Community Center from 3:30 p.m. to 4:30 p.m.,” she said. “It is sponsored by three organizations and features machines that blow out big foam for the kids to run through like bubbles, but a little different.”

The area around the community center on Main Street will host most of Saturday’s activities.

Carnival games will kick off Saturday’s fun at 10 a.m. on the center’s green space. Inside the center, a silent auction will be held from 10 a.m. to 1 p.m. with the winners being announced at 1:45 p.m.

A tractor show will be held from



JOE SHEARER, THE NONPAREIL

Ryker Keiner, 6, tries his luck at a game of Plinko during the Treynor Days community celebration on Saturday, June 24, 2023.

11 a.m. to 3 p.m. at the Treynor Fire Department, adjacent to the center.

Here are the other activities Saturday, plus Sunday’s schedule:

11 a.m. to 4 p.m. — Occasional Collective Main Street Market at Occasional Collective

11 a.m. — Lunch begins in the center (cost is \$5)

1 p.m. — Variety show and cake walk begin in the center

2:15 p.m. — Bingo begins in the center

5 p.m. — Barbecue contest begins in Silos’ parking lot across from the center, with meat will be available to the public, along with house pork sandwiches, all with sides (freewill donation)

7 p.m. — Gwen and Scott Band

concert at Silos

8 to 10 a.m. Sunday — Pancake breakfast by the Pancake Man in the center

10:30 a.m. — Community church service in the center noon — Golf tournament at the Treynor Rec Area.

Proceeds from the events will go toward a splash pad, playground and Tristan’s Trail, all under construction this year at the Vision Treynor grounds, Richardson said.

“It’s a chance for everyone in the community to get together,” Richardson said of Treynor Days. “We also get a lot of visitors, including those who grew up here and come back for reunions during this time.”

Floods

From A1

River continues to rise.

“I just can’t believe they haven’t evacuated,” said Todd Schuetz with Peterson Bros. Realty.

Other areas in Pottawattamie County have been issued voluntary evacuation orders by the Pottawattamie County Emergency Management. However, this Council Bluffs neighborhood was not included in the recommendation.

Pottawattamie County Emergency Management said that, as of 2 p.m. Wednesday, it had not received flooding reports from neighborhood residents.

The neighborhood is next to a water pump station, which was not working at full capacity. The pump began to drain around 10:15 a.m. when water began to recede. However, up until that point, water levels continued to increase causing damage to properties in the area.

Forecast remains crucial

The next few days will be crucial to determining where rising river levels will land. The amount of rain could have an impact on flooding in the area.

Council Bluffs is forecasted to have more thunderstorms roll through Thursday night into Friday morning, with an 80% chance of precipitation, according to the National Weather Service.

The Omaha metropolitan area could see storms that produce

hail and strong winds. However, it’s expected to clear up by the weekend with temperatures in the 80s.

The Missouri River is at 30.8 feet as of Monday afternoon, and it’s now projected to crest at 1 p.m. Friday at 34.9 feet, according to a Pottawattamie County news release.

Officials anticipate the river will quickly recede — even faster than initially thought — with it dropping below flood stage on Tuesday, July 2.

Voluntary evacuations were announced for two areas in Pottawattamie County and Council Bluffs on Monday.

Several area state and local parks have been temporarily closed, along with roadways to include Interstate 29 from 25th Street in north Council Bluffs to the I-29/I-880 interchange near Loveland, as well as I-680 west of I-29.

Big Lake Road was closed Wednesday afternoon from Joslin Avenue to North Eighth Street.

Recovering from disasters

In addition to the ongoing floods, area residents are recovering from tornadoes on April 26, May 6 and May 20-24.

Iowa Gov. Kim Reynolds visited Minden on Wednesday to discuss long-term recovery, according to county officials. The meeting included officials from the State of Iowa, Iowa Department of Homeland Security, City of Minden, Pottawattamie County

Board of Supervisors and Pottawattamie County Emergency Management.

An ongoing community needs assessment will be announced in the coming day to help organize and develop supplemental assistance programs to disaster survivors.

Tuesday’s severe weather also produced 15 separate severe thunderstorm warnings in Pottawattamie County, with heavy rain, hail and winds up to 90 mphs reported.

Thousands of county residents were without power. As of 4 p.m., more than 1,000 customers of MidAmerican Energy remained without power.

Storm debris cleanup

After storms ripped through the region Tuesday night and with more expected Thursday, Council Bluffs Public Works has released information regarding tree debris cleanup.

Crews will begin picking up curbside debris at 7 a.m. Friday, June 28. They will also pick up on Monday, July 1, and Tuesday, July 2. Those dates are subject to change.

The crews will make one pass through each neighborhood according to a news release. After that, debris removal is up to the resident.

Crews are not able to go onto private property for debris and are not able to accept individual requests for debris removal.

Scott Stewart contributed to this report.

Pipeline

From A1

Opponents said they would appeal the board’s decision, vowing to continue fighting the pipeline in court. Iowa law allows parties to ask the IUB for a rehearing after a final order is granted. If the rehearing is denied, a party can appeal the decision to a district court.

Wally Taylor, a lawyer for the Sierra Club and Brian Jorde, a lawyer representing landowners, said they would follow that route and expected the case to end up in court. If the case reaches the Iowa Supreme Court, it could take two years or more, Jorde said.

“We will take this to district court,” Taylor said. “We think we made an excellent record, with a lot of evidence, and the board simply conducted a completely unfair proceeding, and the record will show that.”

Jorde said there are many more regulatory obstacles for Summit before it receives full approval for the project, and the opponents would continue to oppose it at each one.

“It’s just one small thing in a maze, in a track and field event full of hurdles that they have to get over,” he said. “So we’re just going to keep our heads down and move forward as we always planned.”

In a statement, Food and Water Watch Policy Director Jim Walsh said the pipeline is “nothing but a gift to Big Ag” and would do little to reduce climate pollution.

“While Summit stands to make billions, it is our climate and communities that lose out,” he said. “While the company has won this round in Iowa, this is not the end of the line. There are still decisions at the federal and state levels that will determine whether this dangerous pipeline is ever built.”

Iowa House leader floats eminent domain changes

Responding to landowner concerns, state lawmakers have attempted to curtail the eminent domain authority of the projects. Over the last three years, the Iowa House passed three largely bipartisan measures to limit or regulate eminent domain for the projects, but the bills died in the Senate.

In a statement, Iowa House Speaker Pat Grassley, a Republican from New Hartford, said landowner rights are a top priority of House Republicans and said the Legislature would review Iowa’s eminent domain laws.

This just further confirms what we already knew — that the Legislature must conduct a comprehensive review and update the state’s eminent domain laws. We will seek feedback from Iowans on the best way forward and in the meantime, I stand ready to assist my constituents however I can,” Grassley said.

Senate Republican leaders have said their members are split on proposed regulations of carbon pipelines. Some see them as necessary infrastructure to support Iowa’s agriculture industry, while others want to regulate eminent domain for the projects.

A spokesperson for Iowa Gov. Kim Reynolds, a Republican, did not respond to a request for comment. Reynolds has previously expressed support for carbon capture’s benefits

to Iowa agriculture and said it should be balanced with landowner rights.

Summit must meet conditions

The Iowa permit marks the first state-level approval of the project, which is proposed to cross Iowa, Minnesota, Nebraska, South Dakota and North Dakota.

The order states Summit must receive approval in South Dakota and North Dakota before beginning construction in Iowa. For portions of the pipeline that connect to Minnesota and Nebraska, the company must receive permits there before construction.

The IUB also said Summit must obtain \$100 million in insurance for the project, and that it must provide construction updates every 30 days.

For landowners who have refused to sign easements to allow the pipeline to cross their properties, Summit will need to make another offer, at the same rate it’s offered to other landowners, to purchase easements.

Responding to safety concerns over the potential for a CO2 leak along the route, the board directed summit to purchase CO2 monitors for all emergency response vehicles in affected communities and to provide grants for cities to purchase equipment for emergency response.

While all three members of the Iowa Utilities Board agreed on the broad points of the order, two members dissented on certain points.

Board chair Erik Helland disagreed with the portion requiring Summit to receive approval from other states before beginning construction.

“I believe an agency should both stay within its jurisdiction and exercise such authority as it is instructed to exercise by law,” Helland wrote. “When an agency makes an approval or disapproval contingent upon decisions made by another agency or another state, it gives away duties that have been assigned to it by the Iowa Legislature.”

Board member Joshua Byrnes opposed the approval of one segment of the proposed footprint that connects an ethanol plant in Fremont County to a plant in Ida County. Byrnes said the 123 miles of pipe, impacting more than 100 properties, to connect one plant to the rest of the line was not “just and proper.”

Second pipeline project under consideration

Wolf Carbon Solutions, which in 2022 proposed building a carbon dioxide pipeline from ADM plants in Cedar Rapids and Clinton to a site in Illinois, has not refilled with the Illinois Commerce Commission after withdrawing its earlier permit application in November.

At that time, Wolf leaders said they planned to file a new application in “early 2024,” but a search of the ICC website Tuesday showed just the closed application. Wolf’s application with the Iowa Utilities Board is still open.

When Wolf applied for the Iowa permit in February 2023, the company said it would not use eminent domain to acquire easements to build 95 miles of pipeline in Iowa. The plan called for sequestering the gas at ADM’s underground site near Decatur, Illinois.

Erin Jordan of The Gazette contributed to this report.

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