



# Pen City Current

Thursday, April 20, 2017 | 8 pages | Volume 1 • Issue 102

## It's go time!

### *Iowa Fertilizer Company welcomes local, state officials to ribbon-cutting ceremony*

**BY CHUCK VANDENBERG**  
PCC EDITOR

WEVER - After close to five years and \$3 billion, the Iowa Fertilizer Company is now producing nitrogen fertilizer.

On Wednesday, more than 300 dignitaries, IFC and parent company OCI N.V. officials were on hand as Iowa Governor Terry Branstad and Nassef Sawiris, CEO of OCI, cut a large blue ribbon with the backdrop of steel tubing, tanks, and a resolution of a highly controversial dream turned reality.

"The start of production at Iowa Fertilizer Company plant in Wever is a transformative moment for the agricultural industry," Sawiris said.

"As one of the most innovative and efficient manufacturing plants in the nation, Iowa Fertilizer is leading the way in providing American farmers a stable, high-quality, and domestic source of nitrogen fertilizer products. Given its location among the highest nitrogen-consuming acres globally, on the border between Iowa and Illinois, the number one and two corn-producing states in the nation, the site houses not only a premier production facility, but also an industry-leading distribution centre."

The fertilizer facility commenced production of sellable ammonia several days ago and is in the final stage of start-up for downstream products - urea ammonium nitrate, granular urea, and diesel exhaust fluid. The plant will produce approximately 1.5 to 2 million metric tons of nitrogen fertilizer products annually and can alternate between products at short notice, depending



Photos by Chuck Vandenberg/PCC

From left to right, Nassef Sawiris, Iowa Gov. Terry Branstad, and Lt. Gov. Kim Reynolds prepare to give remarks at the inauguration celebration of the Iowa Fertilizer Company going into production. The event was attended by more than 300 local, state, and company officials. Below, Sawiris cuts the ribbon commemorating the event.

on market demand.

Branstad, who was joined by Lt. Gov. Kim Reynolds and several state directors including Bill Northey, Iowa's Secretary of Agriculture, said the project has helped Lee County and the state improve unemployment numbers and has had an impact on area families.

"In Iowa, we have created a road map that attracts new businesses and supports key industries that drive long-term economic growth," Branstad said. "At the outset of the Iowa Fertilizer project, the unemployment rate in Lee County was the highest in the state at 8.0%. That is why we fought so hard to encourage the company to locate its new fertilizer plant in this great community. Today, the county's unemployment rate is down nearly three points to 5.3%, providing a positive and meaningful impact on working families in the area."

The facility is one of the largest private sector construction projects in Iowa's history and the first world-scale, greenfield nitrogen fertilizer facility built in the United States in more than 25 years.

Larry Holley, President of Iowa Fertilizer Company, said the plant will generate \$25 million in payroll

annually and an additional \$25 million in maintenance contracts per year.

Lee County Economic Development Corporation CEO Joe Steil said it's a true victory for the county.

"Today is a tremendous victory for Lee County and Des Moines County as well, having this \$3 billion investment that we can work on now and going forward, and bringing in other industry," Steil said.

"I've seen this in my lifetime in another area of Iowa with a fertilizer plant that did much of the same thing.

See IFC, page 8



“  
*Today is a tremendous victory for Lee County and Des Moines County, as well, having this \$3 billion investment that we can work on now and going forward, and bringing in other industry.*”



-Joe Steil  
CEO, LCEDG

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# Sports

## Howardson takes 2nd, 3rd at Panther Relays

### Schneider continues to dominate in 800-meter run

BY PCC STAFF

MT. PLEASANT - The Fort Madison girls track squad continues to win where they've been winning.

The Lady Hounds' Brett Schneider has taken first-place in the 800 meter run in every outdoor event this spring and did so

again Tuesday night at the Mount Pleasant Panther Relays in high school girls track action.

Schneider's time of 2:20.47 was a full five seconds ahead of the pack and garnered the Hounds 10 points. Fort Madison finished in 12th place out of 19 teams at the meet.

The Hounds long-dis-

tance guru Sierra Howardson took second place in the 3000-meter run with a time of 11:20.14. FMHS' distance medley team of Brynn Schroeder, Maddy McVey, Schneider and Howardson also took second with a 4:35.86 mark.

Howardson got Fort Madison more points when she placed third in the 1500-meter run, while the 4x400-meter team of Claire Mendez,

McVey, Howardson and Schneider took 4th for the Hounds' other points with a time of 4:27.53.

The Lady Hounds travel to Washington Thursday for the Washington Invite.

Complete results (top 5 finishes in bold)  
 800-meter sprint Medley  
 FM - Brynn Schroeder, Daylyn Wondra, Brittney Sanford and Alaina Gilpin - 2:16.21 (8th)  
 3000-meter run  
**FM - Sierra Howardson, 11:20.14 (2nd)**  
 4x800-meter relay  
**FM - Kamryn Bailey, Lexi Miller, Claire Mendez and Maddy**

**McVey - 10:54.32 (4th)**  
 100-meter dash  
 FM - Brittney Harris - 14.31 (12th), Brittney Sanford - 15.24 (14th)  
 Distance Medley  
**FM - Schroeder, McVey, Brett Schneider and Howardson - 4:35.86 (2nd)**  
 400-meter dash  
 FM - Alaina Gilpin - 1:12.22 (7th), Paige Munson - 1:16.89 (11th)  
 4x200-meter relay  
 FM - Miller, Bailey, Sanford and Gilpin 2:04.31 (8th)  
 100-meter hurdles  
 FM - Elizabeth Miller - 20.84 (14th)  
 800-meter run  
**FM - Schneider - 2:20.47 (1st)**, Anna Kester 2:54.14 (10th)  
 200-meter dash  
 FM - Bailey - 30.44 (10th), Mendez 31.04 (14th)  
 400-meter hurdles

FM - Miller - 1:19.42 (8th)  
 1500-meter run  
**FM - Howardson 5:14.04 (3rd)**, Claire Hellman - 6:19.25 (10th)  
 4x100-meter relay  
 FM - Sanford, Ellie Baxter, Wondra, Elizabeth Fincher - 1:02.51 (8th)  
 4x400-meter relay  
**FM - Mendez, McVey, Howardson and Schneider - 4:27.53 (4th)**  
 Long Jump  
 FM - Paige Munson - 11-10 (10th), Ellie Baxter - 10-11 (11th)  
 Shot put  
 FM - Harris - 31-07 (6th), Fincher - 23.09.5 (16th)  
 Discus throw  
 FM - Harris - 64-02 (15th), Fincher - 46-00 (16th)  
 Team finish  
 FM Total points - 45 (12th place overall)

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 \* while supplies last.

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**RAIN OR SHINE** **FREE FAMILY FUN!** **BEVERAGES**

**Community CLEAN UP EVENT**  
 Sat., April 22, 2017  
 Beginning at 9:00 a.m. • Central Park, Fort Madison

**Drawing for fitbit.**

Gloves, trash bags, & maps provided  
 Free lunch to follow  
 Call Fort Madison Chamber for details & to register  
**319-372-5471**

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## Local News/For the Record

# City sets swimming pool programming, rates

BY PCC STAFF

FORT MADISON - The Fort Madison Parks office has released 2017 swimming program information.

Season pool passes will be available for purchase beginning on May 2. An individual pass will be \$75. Discounts are offered for family passes with a two-person pass selling for \$115, a three-person pass goes for \$140, 4-person family passes will cost \$154 and a five-person family pass will cost \$179. For families with more than five members, defined by family members in the same household that live at the same address, special pricing is available by calling the parks department at 372-7700 ext 201. Identification may be required for family passes.

The pool will also be selling 10-day punch card for \$30 and a 20-day punch card for \$60. To purchase passes visit the Fort Madison Parks & Recreation Office at 811 Avenue E from 8 a.m. to 4 p.m. Monday through Friday.

Pool staff will also be offering swimming lessons with registrations beginning May 2. The classes are American Red Cross Learn-to-Swim lessons. Ages 6 and up are \$25 for residents and \$30 for non-city residents.

IPAP (Toddler & Preschool) Class for ages 3 - 5 are also being offered with a cost of \$30 for Fort Madison residents and \$35 for non residents.,

Each session offers classes at 9, 10 and 11 a.m. Monday through Friday with one rain makeup day on Saturday.

Session 1 runs from June 12 to June 23 with signup deadline Thursday, June 8. Session II runs from June 26-July 7 with a June 22 signup deadline and the final Session III will run from July 10 to July 22 with a signup deadline of July 6.

A \$2 change fee will be applied to any and all class changes. Private swim lessons are also offered on a first-come, first-served. Interested parties should contact the Municipal Swimming Pool at 372-3473 beginning June 12 to schedule a lesson. Cost is \$18/half-hour.

## For the Record

### Fort Madison Police Department report

04/17/17 - 3:07 a.m. - Fort Madison police responded to a report of larceny/theft in the 300 block of Third Street.  
 04/17/17 - 4:35 a.m. - Fort Madison police responded to a report of a stolen vehicle in the 1700 block of Avenue E.  
 04/17/17 - 2:13 p.m. - Fort Madison police responded to a report of a burglary in the 2100 block of Avenue D.  
 04/17/17 - 2:49 p.m. - Fort Madison police responded to a report of stolen vehicle in the 500 block of Second Street.  
 04/17/17 - 5:15 p.m. - Fort Madison police responded to a report of a burglary in the 2900 block of avenue J.  
 04/17/17 - 6:51 p.m. - Fort Madison police responded to a report of a property damage accident in the 900 block of Second Street.  
 04/17/17 - 8:19 p.m. - Fort Madison police responded to a report of vandalism in the 1700 block of Avenue G.  
 04/17/17 - 10:54 p.m. - Fort Madison police responded to a report of a burglary in progress on Country Club Road.  
 04/18/17 - 1:13 p.m. - Fort Madison police responded to a report of a stolen bicycle in the 700 block of Avenue G.  
 04/18/17 - 1:20 p.m. - Fort Madison police arrested Nicholas William Kamp, 24, of Fort Madison, in the 1300 block of Avenue F, on warrants for probation violation, voluntary absence from

custody, operation without owners consent, and fraudulent use of credit cards. He was taken to the Lee County Correctional Center and jailed.  
 04/18/17 - 1:47 p.m. - Fort Madison police responded to a report of a burglary in the 5200 block of River Valley Road.  
 04/18/17 - 6:19 p.m. - Fort Madison police responded to a report of larceny / theft in the 200 block of 26th Street.  
 04/18/17 - 10:39 p.m. - Fort Madison police responded to a report of vandalism in the alley of the 700 block of 14th Street.  
 04/19/17 - 6:27 a.m. - Fort Madison police responded to a report of a burglary in the 1500 block of Avenue I.

### Lee County Sheriff's Department report

04/17/17 - 1:28 p.m. - Lee County Sheriff's deputies responded to a two-vehicle accident on Hwy. 61 near mile marker 22 southbound. A vehicle driven by John Ronald Keller, 86 of Donnellson, collided with a vehicle driven by Robert Todd Farris, 51, of Burlington. According to the report, Keller was trying to make a U-turn at a posted No U-turn crossover. Keller was in the right lane and changed to the left lane to make the turn and did not see Farris' vehicle next to him. Keller was cited for unsafe turn or failure to give signal. No injuries were reported at the scene.  
 04/18/17 - 2:58 a.m. - Lee County Sheriff's deputies ar-

rested Timothy Aaron Williams, 34, of West Burlington, at Weaver Junction on charge of violation of probation. He was taken to the Lee County Jail and held.  
 04/18/17 - 11:55 a.m. - Lee County Sheriff's deputies arrested John Steven Value, 53, of Donnellson, at the Burlington Men's Residential, Burlington, on 2 warrants for probation violation. He was taken to the Lee County Correctional Center and jailed.  
 04/18/17 - 5:05 p.m. - Lee County Sheriff's deputies arrested Stanley Joe Davis, 27, of Montrose, at the Sheriff's office, on a warrant for probation violation. He was taken to the Lee County Correctional Center and jailed.  
 04/18/17 - 5:11 p.m. - Lee County Sheriff's deputies arrested William Kenneth Lloyd King, 24, of Fort Madison, at the Sheriff's office, on 2 warrants for probation violation. He was taken to the Lee County Correctional Center and jailed.

### Fort Madison Fire Department report

04/17/17 - Fort Madison Fire and Rescue responded to five medical calls, one assist and one burn permit  
 04/18/17 - Fort Madison Fire and Rescue responded to one garbage fire and one medical call.

*The individuals listed above are presumed innocent unless and until proven guilty in a court of law.*

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 Friday: 7:30am - 5:00pm

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**Health News/Classifieds**

**Health Care University returns in June for FMCH**

BY PCC STAFF



Fort Madison Community Hospital is excited to once again offer a program for high school students interested in the health care field, FMCH Health Care University.

This program is designed to educate and expose students to the different career opportunities available. Benefits of the program include developing new skills, gaining valuable education, and giving back to the community through hands-on learning.

There will be five educational sessions and students will hear from several different entities at the hospital. FMCH Health Care University will also give students the opportunity to go through an abbreviated orientation that every new hospital employee completes prior

to starting.

The program will run Monday, June 19- Friday, June 23, 2017 in the morning. Monday, June 19th the program will run from 8:00 am to 11:00 am and Tuesday-Friday sessions will be two hours in length; 9:00 am to 11:00 am.

Each session of the program is limited to 10 high school students that have completed the 8th grade. Students are accepted on a first come, first serve basis. There is no cost to participate in the program.

Strong candidates for the program should display the following characteristics: compassion, reliability,

honesty, professionalism and enthusiasm. We look for students who honor the commitments they make and who will treat FMCH and patient information with the highest confidentiality. All Health Care University students are accountable for and subject to the same policies that apply to FMCH employees. Participation in all five days is required.

To participate in the program, please either complete the attached application or visit [www.fmchosp.com/fmchu](http://www.fmchosp.com/fmchu). Upon completion of the application and parental consent form, submit by Friday, May 19, 2017 to:

Fort Madison Community Hospital  
Attention: Education  
5445 Avenue O, Fort Madison, IA 52627

For more information please contact, Michele Hell-ing at 319-376-2459 or Katelin Essing at 319-376-2751.

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Learn more about your local YMCA at [www.fortmadisonymca.org](http://www.fortmadisonymca.org)



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- Observe machines on trial runs or conduct computer simulations to ensure that programs and machinery will function properly and produce items that meet specifications.
- Modify existing programs to enhance efficiency.
- Sort shop orders into groups to maximize materials utilization and minimize machine setup time.
- Compare computer printouts with original part specifications to verify accuracy of instructions.
- Perform preventative maintenance or minor repairs on machines.
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**Required Skills:**

- Computers and Electronics— Knowledge of computer hardware and software, including applications and programming.
- Mechanical— Knowledge of machines and tools, including their designs, uses, repair, and maintenance.
- Mathematics— Knowledge of arithmetic, geometry, and their applications.
- Production and Processing— Knowledge of raw materials, production processes, quality control, costs, and other techniques for maximizing the effective manufacture and distribution of goods.
- English Language— Knowledge of the structure and content of the English language including the meaning and spelling of words, rules of composition, and grammar.
- Education and Training— Associates Degree or equivalent experience.
- Customer and Personal Service— Knowledge of principles and processes for providing customer and personal services. This includes customer needs assessment, meeting quality standards for services, and evaluation of customer satisfaction.

**Hours:** 2nd Shift M-F 3:00 p.m. to 12:00

**Pay Rate:** Depending on experience

**Company Benefit Package:** Health, Vision, Life and Dental Insurance, Long Term and Short Term Disability, 401K, Profit Sharing, Flexible Spending Account, Paid Holidays, and Company paid Uniforms.

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Contact Information: Kevin Mehaffy, 1311 Pilot Grove Road, Pilot Grove, Iowa, 52648, 319-469-3961

**Application Deadline: April 28th, 2016**



**Steffensmeier Welding & Mfg., Inc.**





# OPEN HOUSES

## THURSDAY 4:30-6PM



### 1712 Avenue E

4BR • 1.50BA

1,706 sq. ft. • 7,250 sq. ft. lot

This spacious home has it all, the character of a turn of the century home; beautiful woodwork, beamed ceilings, window seat, columns, and large covered front porch, yet also includes MANY updates. Call today for your private viewing!

Listing #20164725 • \$92,000

*Hostess: Bette Muerhoff*



### 2602 Avenue H

5BR • 1.75BA • 1 car garage

1,904 sq. ft. • 1,903 sq. ft. lot

Great family home on large corner lot in the middle of Ft. Madison. Large living / dining area with original craftsman woodwork and built-ins, 14 x 22 garage on the alley with 2 additional storage sheds. Nice front porch, rear deck, and a great sunroom on the East.

Listing #20162346 • \$86,950

*Hostess: Linda Reding*



### 4911 Bluff Road

3BR • 1.75BA • 2 car garage

1,772 sq. ft. • 0.57 acres

Great family home with LOTS OF NEW! New kitchen, bathroom, windows, most flooring, wrap around deck, ceiling fans, light fixtures, furnace and central air! Beautiful neutral decor and window treatments make this a must see! All this and a 2 car heated garage.

Listing #20164861 • \$157,500

*Hostess: Tammy Rea*



### 3098 County Road 103

2BR • 2BA • 3 car garage

1,404 sq. ft. • 1.42 acres

Upgrades, improvements, updates...call it what you like, this home has had MANY in the last 2 plus years. This seller has completely refurbished the hill to the north of the home with new landscaping finishes. This is a must see property!!! It has enough room for your family and then some!!!

Listing #20164991 • \$129,900

*Hostess: Karen Hope*



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# Classifieds

## NEW CONSTRUCTION



**26 Green Oak Court, Fort Madison Iowa**  
New Construction Built in 2017

- Spacious Lot and a Half Yard
- 3 Car Garage
- Fire Place
- Granite Counter Tops
- 4 Bedrooms w/ Master Suite
- 3 Full Baths
- 9 ft. Finished Basement
- Modern Open Floor Plan
- Covered Rear Porch
- New Family Friendly Neighborhood
- Great Central Location
- Upgraded Flooring
- Upgraded Kitchen with High End Cabinetry

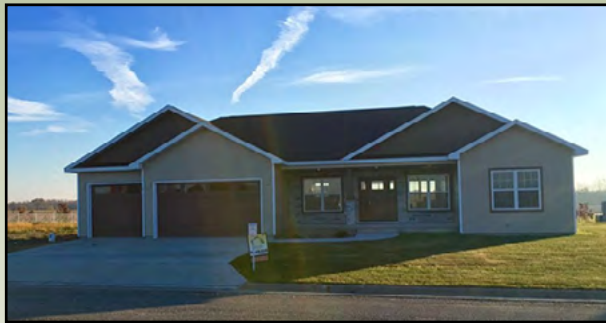
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- New Construction completed in 2017
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- 3 Full Baths
- 9 ft. Finished Basement
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- New Family Friendly Neighborhood
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All Green Oak Homes come with warranties and low utility bills!

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Thursday  
4:30-6pm

Open Houses



**3124 Avenue E**  
Beautiful newly constructed home  
\$234,900  
Hosted by Judy Holterhaus  
Listing #20164614



**35 Oak Drive**  
Nice 3 bedroom 2 bath home  
\$105,000  
Hosted by Jill Kruse  
Listing #20163626



**11 Harmony Court**  
3-4 bedroom 3 bath home  
\$209,900  
Hosted by Cynthia Otte  
Listing #20162034

Visit our website to view all the listings in the area!  
[www.keepinglivesmoving.com](http://www.keepinglivesmoving.com)



610 Avenue G, Fort Madison, IA  
**319-372-1919**



## OPEN HOUSE APRIL 27 • 4:30-7PM



**25 Green Oak Court, Fort Madison Iowa**  
New Construction Built in 2017

- Spacious Lot and a Half Yard
- 3 Car Garage
- Granite Counter Tops
- 4 Bedrooms w/ Master Suite
- 3 Full Baths
- 9 ft. Finished Basement
- Modern Open Floor Plan
- New Family Friendly Neighborhood
- Great Central Location
- Upgraded Kitchen with Upper Glass Cabinetry

All Green Oak Homes come with warranties and low utility bills!

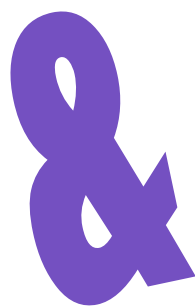
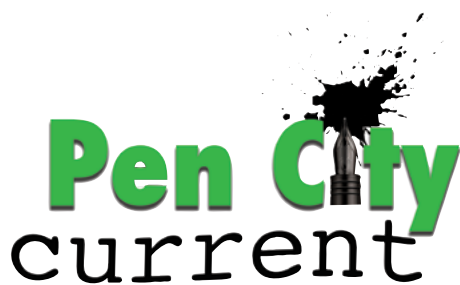
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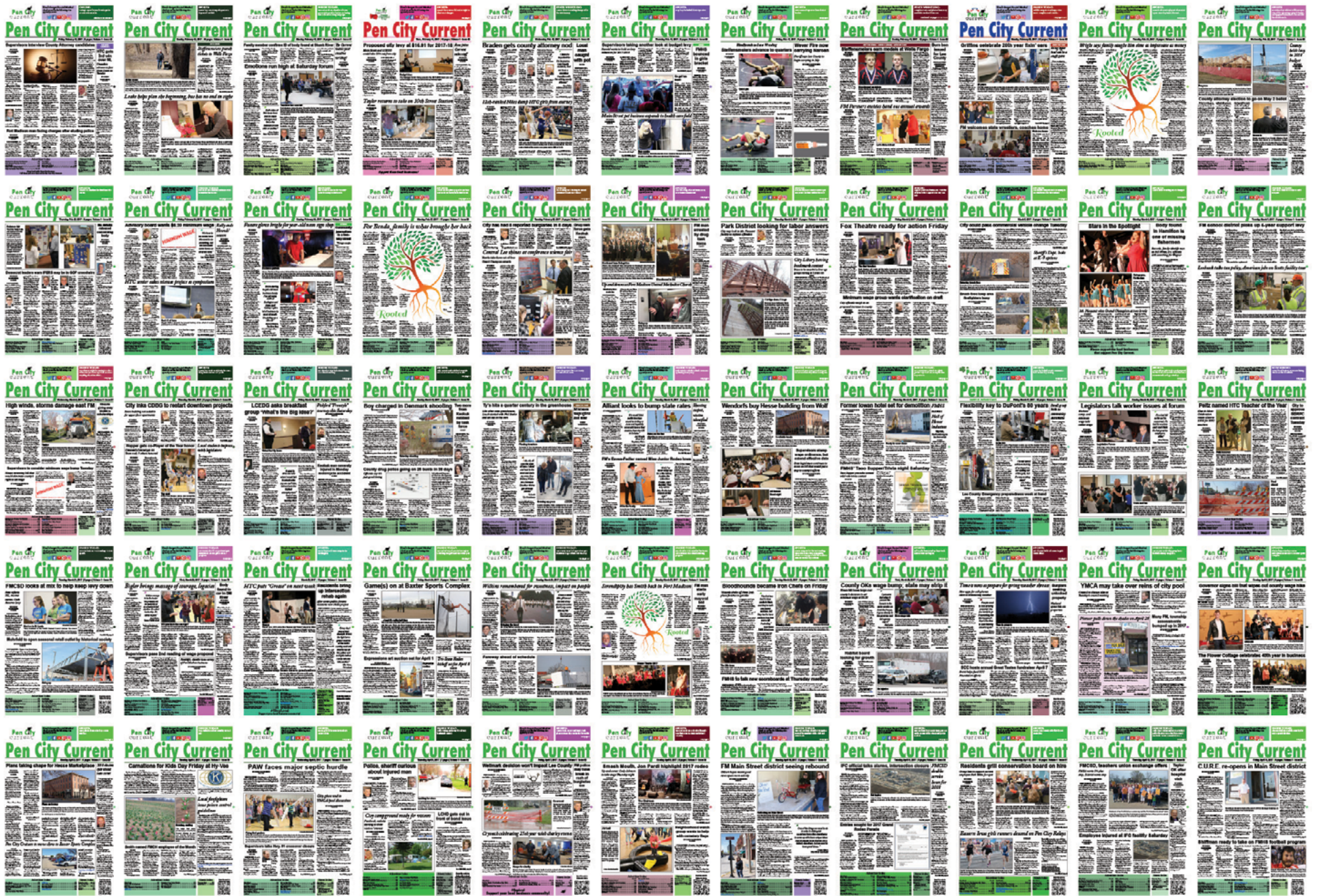


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**From the Front**

**IFC will funnel \$16.3M to county over next 20 years**

**IFC** - Continued from Page 1

Now that was many years ago, but this is the first facility of this type in 25 years. We can see the vision that other industries will look at this for. You hope it creates a cluster effect of who they will be buying their products from."

Economic officials had hoped that Siemens would see the same type of clustering but that only happened sparingly.

"There is land that is owned by the Fort Madison Economic Development group that is available and spade ready. We're just waiting for the right opportunity."

Steil also said that the facility is planning on 200 full-time employees with some indirect employees as well. It's not close to the 3,500 working on the facility during the construction phase, but the distribution phase will bring additional employee resources.

"What the speakers didn't talk about today was, yes, we're in a phase

down of construction with the contractors being gone. But that's a transition and now what will happen is they will be replaced with distribution folks. At peak they should be rolling 300 trucks per day and rail could be 5,000 to 6,000 rail cars per year. When you start looking at those jobs that's more payroll dollars that will roll over here."

The facility is currently under a 20-year tax abatement, however Teresa Murray, Lee County Assessor said the IFC is making payments to the county on several levels in lieu of the abatement.

Murray said corporations like IFC get a 10% rollback on their assessment so they are assessed at 90% of value. As of Jan. 1, 2017, the assessed valuation at the facility was \$49,240,480 on improvements including paving,



MURRAY

*"They created what's called a 'development agreement' and they told the fertilizer company that they couldn't just not pay anything."*

**-Teresa Murray  
Lee County Assessor**

fencing, lighting etc. She said the state changed tax codes 10 to 15 years ago that exempted machinery and equipment from taxation. However, IFC has been paying tax on the land as that is not included in the abatement and Murray said the land is assessed at \$7,264,410 annually.

She said the Lee County



Photo by Chuck Vandenberg/PCC

A labyrinth of steel tubing was the backdrop for Wednesday's festivities at the Iowa Fertilizer Company. The facility is now producing nitrogen fertilizer for market.

Board of Supervisors also negotiated a payment in lieu of taxes for the first 20 years.

"They created what's called a "development agreement" and they told the fertilizer company that they couldn't just not pay anything," Murray said.

"So IFC is paying what are called pilot payments per an agreement that was signed on Sept. 5, 2012 and those are exact amounts of money each year."

The payment schedule

yields, per year, \$370,000 for the first five years,, then \$600,000 for years 6-10. The payment moves to \$1 million for years 11 through 15 and from years 16-20 IFC will pay \$1.3 million, for a total of \$16,350,000 over the 20-year span that began Jan. 1, 2014. In 2034 the facility would be scheduled to go on the tax rolls. The pilot payments are dispersed according to county levies.

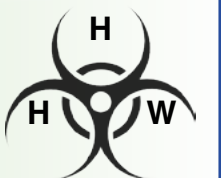
Murray said it's important to note that the 20-year abatement is already

in year three.

"I started assessing them Jan. 1, 2014. Work started before that in 2013, but by law I couldn't assess them until Jan. 1," Murray said.

The county will also benefit from a tax on the natural gas that is used in the production process. Murray said the Iowa Department of Revenue sets the assessment on that tax and the funds are paid to Lee County, but she said she hadn't been informed of what those revenues would be yet.

**Great River Regional Waste Authority's  
Earth Day Household Hazardous Waste Collection Event  
Saturday April 22nd, 2017 ~ 9:00am to 12:00pm  
Located in Central Park**



**Fort Madison Residents Only, No Businesses Please**



Great River Regional Waste Authority will be accepting the following Household Hazardous Waste items during the Annual Community Clean Up Event. We encourage you to call ahead and make an appointment for the collection.

- Fertilizers, Herbicides, Insecticides, Pesticides
- Oil Based Paints, Paint Thinners & Solvents
- Household & Auto Cleaning Products
- Car Batteries, Motor Oil, Antifreeze
- Car Batteries and Rechargeable Batteries
- Swimming Pool Chemicals
- Propane Tanks
- AND MORE!

**\*No Latex Paints Please**

**Call 319-372-6140 to schedule your appointed time or to check to see if your items qualify for this event.**

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