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 center."

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 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."

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.

**See IFC, page 8**
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 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-distance guru Sierra Howardson took second place in the 3000-meter run with a time of 11:20.14. Howardson got Fort Madison more points when she placed third in the 1500-meter run, while the 4x400-meter team of Claire Mendez, McVey, 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)

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Price valid through April 30, 2017 while supplies last.

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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

Event Sponsored By

Scotts Miracle-Gro

Great River Regional Waste Authority will be on-site for disposal of hazardous waste.

Please call 319-372-6140 for a complete list of accepted items.
City sets swimming pool programming, rates

BY PCC STAFF

FORT MADISON - The Fort Madison Parks office has released 2017 swimming pool 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 park office at 372-7700 ext. 330.

Identification may be required for family passes.

The pool will also be selling 10-day punch passes for $30 and a 20-day punch card for $60. To purchase passes, go to 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 I runs from June 12 to June 23 with signup deadline Thursday, June 8. Session II runs from June 27-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 basis. Interested parties should contact the Municipal Swimming Pool at 372-3473 beginning June 12 to schedule a lesson. Cost is $18/half-hour.
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 healthcare 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.

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. 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 Helling at 319-376-2459 or Katelin Essing at 319-376-2751.
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

There are hundreds of great listings in the area and we can show all of them to you. Give us a call today or click here to search them!

(319) 372-4040 • 903 Avenue G • Fort Madison • www.seia.rapmls.com
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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- 9 ft. Finished Basement
- Spacious Yard
- New Family Friendly Neighborhood
- Upgraded Kitchen includes Walnut Counter Tops & Upper Glass Cabinetry

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http://www.greenoakdevelopment-ia.com/

#### Thursday

**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

#### 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
- Covered Rear Porch
- New Family Friendly Neighborhood
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IFC will funnel $16.3M to county over next 20 years

From the Front

“We 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

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.

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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