

Rails-to-Trails seeks expansion

Conservancy group looks to connect to Great American Rail-Trail LOCAL, A3



Martin cleared to play

Hawkeye receiver receives NCAA OK just days before opener SPORTS, D1

Nursing home fined

EM care center cited for neglect A3



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GREEN BUSINESS PARK IN Q-C AREA



KEVIN E. SCHMIDT PHOTOS, KSCHMIDT@QCTIMES.COM

Iowa Gov. Kim Reynolds and other dignitaries turn the first shovels of soil during the Anderson 400 Site Certification ceremony overlooking the Mississippi River just off Highway 67 south of Princeton on Wednesday.

Anderson 400 earns Iowa's green park certification

Princeton farm becomes state's second green park

JENNIFER DEWITT
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PRINCETON — With the Mississippi River valley and acres of rolling Scott County farmland as a backdrop, Iowa Gov. Kim Reynolds announced the certification of the Anderson 400 as a green business park.

Nearly 150 people gathered on the windy hillside to celebrate the long-awaited designation, which was formally presented to the Anderson family by Reynolds and Iowa Economic Development Authority Director Debi Durham. The IEDA certification tells developers that a site is “shovel-ready” and ensures its future development will be adhere to environmentally friendly principles.



Scott County Board Chair Tony Knobbe drives a tractor pulling a wagon load of guests to the Anderson 400 Site Certification ceremony overlooking the Mississippi River on Wednesday.

The Anderson 400, owned by Paul and Marijo Anderson and the Anderson Trust, became the second site in Iowa to earn the green park certification and the first privately-owned property. The first was the Woodward Eco Business Park in Woodward.

“We are so excited for what the green business park will do to the local economy, to the enrollment of our schools and to the tax base of our awesome state of Iowa,” said Marijo Anderson, who has been the project manager, working in collaboration with

the Quad-City architecture engineering firm of Shive-Hattery.

She said the certification “allowed us to see our vision through, and we’re not done yet.”

With the designation in hand, she said “now the heavy lifting will begin to market the site.”

Nearly 285 of the park’s more than 400 acres now are available for a business, such as a corporate headquarters, to build outside Princeton. The remainder of the site will maintain the natural rolling hills, wetlands and woodlands — features that might have been considered obstacles.

Iowa’s certified site program began in 2012 when the state partnered with site selection firm McCallum Sweeney Consulting (now Quest Site Solutions) to develop a program to help address the state’s lack of project-ready industrial sites. To date, a total of 26 sites have been certified and

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Bettendorf considers downtown's future plan

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Bettendorf staffers and local stakeholders on Wednesday discussed possible business use restrictions and broader development goals for the growing downtown, continuing a long-standing conversation around how the city that bills itself as a premier place to live can become better.

City leaders held the public meeting in City Hall to seek input from the business community as proposed changes to Bettendorf’s Downtown Master Plan move through the pipeline. On the table is a revision that would restrict certain business types from setting up shop downtown.

The broadly outlined goal is to encourage a more walkable, thriving district complete with elements typical of a downtown — such as more retail shops and places to dine. Economic Development Director Jeff Reiter said the city has received requests to evaluate the future of undeveloped downtown land and is thinking about the revision to the master plan as a way to achieve that goal.

“We do have the capacity to control or limit certain things if it makes sense for urban revitalization and it helps with economic growth and development,” Reiter said, adding: “As we look at this we’re not suggesting it’s going to happen, but we do want to consider it because we’ve been asked to look at this.”

Possible business types identified for restriction include gas stations, adult entertainment, liquor stores, tattoo parlors, vape shops, firearms dealers, pawn shops, car dealerships and storage facilities. Those proposed restrictions would only apply to future uses, meaning the existing downtown businesses that fit such a description would be unaffected if any changes to the master plan are made.

About 20 people showed up to Wednesday’s meeting, including area business owners and local real estate developers. Among those sharing ideas was Bobby Bunch, who recently moved to

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Farmers' loyalty to Trump faces test

STEVE KARNOWSKI, SCOTT MCFETRIDGE AND JULIE PACE
Associated Press

LACONA, Iowa — When President Donald Trump levied tariffs on China that scrambled global markets, farmer Randy Miller was willing to absorb the financial hit. Even as the soybeans in his fields about an hour south of Des Moines became less valuable, Miller saw long-term promise in Trump’s efforts to rebalance America’s trade relationship with Beijing.

“The farmer plays the long game,” said Miller, who grows soybeans and corn and raises pigs in Lacona. “I look at my job through my son, my grandkids. So am I willing to suffer today to

get this done to where I think it will be better for them? Yes.”

But the patience of Miller and many other Midwest farmers with a president they mostly supported in 2016 is being put sorely to the test.

The trigger wasn’t Trump’s China tariffs, but the waivers the administration granted this month to 31 oil refineries so they don’t have to blend ethanol into their gasoline. Since roughly 40% of the U.S. corn crop is turned into ethanol, it was a fresh blow to corn producers already struggling with five years of low commodity prices and the threat of mediocre harvests this fall after some of the worst weather in years.

“That flashpoint was reached and the frustration boiled over, and this was the straw that broke the camel’s back,” said Lynn Chrisp, who grows corn and soybeans near Hastings, Nebraska, and is president of the National Corn Growers Association.

“I’ve never seen farmers so tired, so frustrated, and they’re to the point of anger,” says Kelly Nieuwenhuis, a farmer from Primghar in northwest Iowa who said the waivers were a hot topic at a recent meeting of the Iowa Corn Growers Association. Nieuwenhuis said he voted for Trump in 2016, but now he’s not sure who he’ll support in 2020.

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Randy Miller, who grows corn and soybeans on his farm in Lacona, Iowa, is among the farmers unhappy with President Donald Trump over waivers granted to oil refineries that have sharply reduced demand for corn-based ethanol. Miller called it “our own country stabbing us in the back.”

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Perdue says Trump to soften ethanol-waiver impact

JOHN O'CONNOR
AP Political Writer

DECATUR, Ill. — U.S. Agriculture Secretary Sonny Perdue said Wednesday that President Donald Trump plans to soften the blow to farmers after his administration allowed some small oil refineries to avoid ethanol requirements.

Speaking to farmers and agribusiness leaders in Decatur, Perdue declined to say what actions Trump plans but said the president thought the waivers were "way overdone."

U.S. farmers have been suffering from wet spring weather and Trump's escalating trade war with China. Corn producers were heartened earlier this summer when Trump announced he would allow year-round sales of a 15% blend of ethanol in motor fuel, up from the more-common 10% blend, ending a summertime ban on sales of the 15% fuel because of smog concerns.

But Trump's Environmental Protection Agency, led by Andrew Wheeler, granted waivers to 31 oil refineries for blending 1.4 billion gallons (5.3 billion liters) of ethanol and biodiesel into their fuel. Corn and soybean farmers contend the move wipes out the benefit of the higher

ethanol blend.

Perdue, speaking at a town hall before visiting the Farm Progress Show, called it "very disappointing."

"Administrator Wheeler took some comments from the president over a particular refinery and kind of ran through the hole like a running back and issued these and president understood that was way overdone," Perdue said. "And we're meeting furiously to try to recover some of that demand destruction that the small refinery waivers did."

Mark Marquis, CEO of Marquis Energy, which has ethanol plants in Hennepin, Illinois, and Necehdah, Wisconsin, said the biggest problem is that the program historically has required that the ethanol not produced because of waivers — in this case, 1.4 billion gallons — be reallocated to larger refineries, so that the total amount of ethanol produced remains steady. That's not happening with the recent waivers, Marquis said.

Marquis believes that Trump will announce alternatives such as ordering increased production of flex-fuel vehicles or subsidies to help gas stations install pumps to handle higher ethanol blends.

Northey calls USMCA deal a 'clear win'

THOMAS NELSON
Waterloo Courier

CEDAR FALLS — Stagnant trade agreements have created concerns all around the country.

Bill Northey, U.S. Department of Agriculture Undersecretary and former Iowa Secretary of Agriculture, was touring Iowa Wednesday through Thursday and hearing the concerns of Iowans about the trade negotiations.

A lot of Iowans are wondering whether the United States-Mexico-Canada Agreement or USMCA is close to being passed.

"There's a lot of support of that in agriculture," Northey said. "A desire to get that passed sooner



Northey

rather than later."

Northey called the USMCA deal a "clear win" and a modernized NAFTA.

During Northey's visit he had a chance to meet with Rep. Abby Finkenauer in La Porte City and visit County Line Feed Mill.

"She seemed very interested in it," Northey said. "I think she's actively engaged and looking at it and trying to understand it."

Finkenauer sits on the U.S. House of Representatives Agricultural Committee. The USMCA has

not been voted on in the House yet.

"I think it will have support, but we need to get it done and buttoned up," Northey said.

Residents also talked to Northey about signing up for market facilitation payments, he said. The payments provides support to farmers and ranchers with commodities directly impacted by foreign retaliatory tariffs caused by ongoing trade conflicts.

"For the most part I hear that people are happy with the way sign up is going," Northey said.

The payments are offered through the Farm Service Agency offices.

A little less than \$1 billion in market facilitation payments last year, Northey said. "Overall the program is about 50% bigger this year than what it was a year ago."

About 250,000 farmers overall have signed up for payments in the last month, he said.

"We started sending checks last week," Northey said. "We have about \$1.5 billion worth of checks have gone across the country."

Farmers are able to apply for the program through December.

"It's designed to facilitate marketing for folks, not just replace prices," Northey said.

Bettendorf

From A1

Bettendorf from LeClaire. Bunch, an area entertainer and event planner, said the downtown district presents opportunities for the city to define itself as unique among the Quad-Cities. He compared Bettendorf to LeClaire and Davenport, saying those downtowns have seen success over the years thanks in part to a wide variety of options within walking distance.

"This is an opportunity to create that identity so that we're not just different pockets of things to do in Bettendorf — where there is one central hub that brings people down here," Bunch said.

Other general thoughts floated by the group included increased parking availability downtown, capturing commuters from the ongoing I-74 project and the use of tax incentives for economic development downtown.

Recommendations and insights offered by the

group during Wednesday's meeting are to be passed on to the Planning and Zoning Commission in September. From there, Reiter said the commission could recommend a change to the city's master plan for council to consider, seek additional input from the community or drop the whole thing.

The proposed revision to the Downtown Master Plan comes as Bettendorf leaders have sought for years to spur economic development in the down-

town corridor similar to the way that other local cities have done. And recent policies put in place in City Hall are aimed toward that end.

In August, for example, the city created a special taxing district for commercial property owners. Money collected will be managed by the Downtown Bettendorf Organization, a division of the Quad-Cities Chamber of Commerce, for investments aimed toward sprucing up the defined downtown area.

BIRTHDAYS

Actress **Betty Lynn** ("The Andy Griffith Show") is 93. Movie director **William Friedkin** is 84. Actor **Elliott Gould** is 81. Director **Joel Schumacher** is 80. Actress **Deborah Van Valkenburgh** ("Too Close for Comfort") is 67. Keyboardist **Dan Truman** of Diamond Rio is 63. Actress **Rebecca DeMornay** is 60. Bassist-singer **Me'Shell NdegeOcello** is 51. Singer **Carl Martin** of Shai is 49. Actress **Carla Gugino**

is 48. Guitarist **Kyle Cook** of Matchbox Twenty is 44. Actor **John Hensley** ("Nip/Tuck") is 42. Actress **Kate Simses** ("Dr. Ken") is 40. Bassist **David Desrosiers** of Simple Plan is 39. Actress **Jennifer Landon** ("As the World Turns") is 36. Actress **Lea Michele** ("Glee") is 33. Actress **Charlotte Ritchie** ("Call the Midwife") is 30. Singer **Liam Payne** of One Direction is 26.

— Associated Press

CORRECTIONS

The Quad-City Times strives for accuracy and regrets all errors. If you notice inaccurate information, please call 563-383-2375 and ask for the section where the error occurred. All corrections will appear here.

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Green

From A1

six are in progress. The green park certification was introduced three years later.

"Today, we not only celebrate the Anderson family commitment to supporting Iowa's economic growth, but also their belief in preserving our beautiful landscape," Reynolds said. "This green site is another great example of how our state is leading on issues, like conservation, which matter to our residents and the future workforce who will be based here."

Durham, who worked closely with Marijo Anderson over the three-year process, said what she quickly learned is that Anderson is a "woman with a vision and you are a woman to be reckoned with. When you set your mind to something, you make it happen."

The ceremony had all the pomp and circumstance — Iowa style — worthy of an achievement years in the making. Guests were transported to the ceremony site by a pair of wagons pulled by John Deere tractors — one driven by Scott County Board Chairman Tony

Knobbe. North Scott High School's Future Farmers of America chapter and North Scott Singers participated leading the Pledge of Allegiance and the Star Spangled Banner. They also were treated to cookies, shaped like the state of Iowa, with one word in frosting — Certified.

Marijo Anderson recounted the rigorous certification process including the political steps and governmental approvals beginning at the Scott County Board to first rezone 350 acres from Ag Preservation to Ag General.

She said there were 85 elements involved in the certification process. They ranged from archaeological and historical studies to a wetlands inventory, soil surveys, endangered species reports, other environmental studies, land covenants and more.

In a certified green business park, the end users must adhere to this criteria: due diligence requirements; preservation of natural features on the site; and adoption of covenants that recognize the importance of environmentally sensitive design.

"This category is de-

signed for companies committed to reducing the environmental impact of their development activity," Durham said.

With the certification complete, the state also will join in marketing efforts of the Anderson 400. The site already is listed through the Quad-City First website on LOIS, a national online location-analysis tool, and being marketed by Dan Schneckloth, a Realtor with Mel Foster Co.

Anderson said her vision has always been for a single corporate company, such as a Fortune 500, to make the Anderson 400 its new home. But as part of the documentation and planning, there are site plans to include options for multiple buyers and developments.

The farm was purchased in the 1960s and 1970s by Paul Anderson's parents, Harold and Margaret Anderson, who died in November 2014 and March 2013, respectively. Today, the front 50 acres of the Anderson 400 are owned by Paul and Marijo Anderson, of Solon, Iowa. The remaining 350 acres are owned by the Anderson Family Trust, which represents Paul An-

derson and his five sisters, who all grew up on the site.

The Anderson couple, his sisters as well as many of their children joined dignitaries, other relatives and friends for the event. The crowd also included Quad-Cities Chamber of Commerce leaders as well as city leaders from Princeton, LeClaire and Bettendorf, Scott County and area state legislators and federal delegation representatives.

Chamber CEO Paul Rumler applauded the Andersons for having a vision "and to take a role in making something happen. Today is a great example of what it takes to be successful as a region. Marijo and the Anderson family really shaped a vision from the early '90s... to what happened here today."

He said this marks the second certified site for the Quad-Cities, joining the Eastern Iowa Industrial Park in northwest Davenport.

"That first site is full," he said, citing the fact that the site was certified to landing companies such as Kraft Heinz and Sterilite. "We can't wait to have a similar result on this property."

Farmers

From A1

While Iowa farmer Miller saw Trump's brinkmanship with China as a necessary gamble to help American workers, the ethanol waivers smacked to him of favoritism for a wealthy and powerful industry — Big Oil.

"That's our own country stabbing us in the back," Miller said. "That's the president going, the oil companies need to make more than the American farmer. ... That was just, 'I like the oil company better or I'm friends with the oil company more than I'm friends with the farmer.'"

The Environmental Protection Agency last month kept its annual target for the level of corn ethanol that must be blended into the nation's gasoline supply under the Renewable Fuel Standard at 15 billion gallons for 2020. That was a deep disappointment to an ethanol industry that wanted a higher target to offset exemptions granted

to smaller refiners. Those waivers have cut demand by an estimated 2.6 billion gallons since Trump took office.

At least 15 ethanol plants already have been shut down or idled since the EPA increased waivers under Trump, and a 16th casualty came Wednesday at the Corn Plus ethanol plant in the south-central Minnesota town of Winnebago. The Renewable Fuels Association said the closures have affected more than 2,500 jobs.

The 31 new waivers issued this month came on top of 54 granted since early 2018, according to the association. While the waivers are intended to reduce hardships on small oil refiners, some beneficiaries include smaller refineries owned by big oil companies.

The administration knows it has a problem. U.S. Agriculture Secretary Sonny Perdue said at a farm policy summit in Decatur, Illinois, on Wednesday that Trump will take action to soften the effects. He would

not say what the president might do or when, but said that Trump believes the waivers by his EPA were "way overdone."

Geoff Cooper, head of the Renewable Fuels Association, said the heads of the EPA and Agriculture Department and key White House officials have been discussing relief, and that his group has been talking with officials involved in those conversations. He said they've heard the plan may include reallocating the ethanol demand lost from the exempted smaller refiners to larger refiners that would pick up the slack, but many key details remain unclear, including whether the reallocation would apply in 2020 or be delayed until 2021.

"Anything short of that redistribution or reallocation is not going to be well received by farmers, I'll tell you that," Cooper said.

The White House referred questions to the EPA, where spokesman Michael Abboud said only that the agency would "continue to consult" on the best path forward.

Another example of the tensions came last week when the U.S. Agriculture Department pulled its staffers out of the Pro-Farmer Crop Tour, an annual assessment of Midwest crop yields, in response to an unspecified threat.

Despite farmers' mounting frustrations, there's little evidence so far that many farmers who backed Trump in 2016 will desert him in 2020. Many are still pleased with his rollbacks in other regulations. Cultural issues such as abortion or gun rights are important to many of them. And many are wary of a Democratic Party they see as growing more liberal.

Miller, too, says he's still inclined to support Trump in the next election.

Though Trump has inserted new uncertainty into Miller's own financial situation, he believes the president has been good for the economy as a whole. And as a staunch opponent of abortion, he sees no viable alternatives in the Democratic presidential field.