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SPORTS, 1B

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Corteva to split its businesses

Chemical, seed operations to become 2 publicly traded companies

Donnelle Eller
Des Moines Register
USA TODAY NETWORK

Johnston could again become the headquarters of a global seed giant, experts say, with Corteva Agriscience’s newly announced decision to split its chemical and seed businesses into two publicly traded companies.

Corteva said Oct. 1 that its board unani-

mously approved the plan, with the crop protection business called New Corteva and its seed business, SpinCo.

The Indianapolis-based company said both operations will benefit from the split, giving them a “stronger strategic and operational focus.” Corteva said the split is expected to be completed in the second half of 2026, pending board approval and other conditions.

It has not said where the companies

will have their headquarters. But Paul Schickler, who was president of the seed operation before it became part of Corteva in 2018, said Wednesday it would make sense for a new seed business to be based in Johnston.

The city was the headquarters for predecessor Pioneer Hi-Bred International until 1999, when chemical giant DuPont purchased it. Corteva retained its labs and production facilities there,

naming Johnston one of its two global business centers.

Future U.S. Vice President and Secretary of Agriculture Henry A. Wallace founded Pioneer Hi-Bred Corn Co. in Des Moines nearly 100 years ago, employing 40 acres near Johnston to grow the company’s revolutionary hybrid seed. “It would bring us full circle,” Schickler said. “Pioneer’s plant genetics and everything associated with it is located” in Johnston.

See CORTEVA, Page 2A



Boone FLEX co-owners Evan and Emilee Jorgensen give a tour Sept. 11 of the former YMCA building they’re renovating in Boone. NIRMALENDU MAJUMDAR/AMES TRIBUNE

Boone is getting new indoor recreation center next year

Celia Brocker
Ames Tribune
USA TODAY NETWORK

An indoor recreation center is coming to Boone next year with a multipurpose gymnasium, workout equipment and eventually a pool.

The city has been without an indoor recreation facility since the YMCA closed in September 2019. Boone residents Evan and Emilee Jorgensen intend to change that by establishing Boone FLEX, “a community-focused recreation center.”

The Jorgensens purchased the former YMCA building at 608 Carrol St. in late 2023, and have spent the last six months rehabilitating the space.

With dedicated spaces for child care, teen hangouts, sports and other workout activities, the Boone FLEX can serve all ages and abilities, Evan Jorgensen said.

“We see this space being able to fit needs that nobody else is offering in the community,” Evan Jorgensen said. “There’s other gyms, but nobody has drop-off child care or the open gym. There’s a lot of unique features here.”

The Boone FLEX will open in 2026, though an exact opening date is still unknown.

Home purchase leads to buying former YMCA

The Jorgensens purchased a lot for their home in Boone in the spring of 2023. As they prepared to move, they learned the community had a “pretty big gap” of things to do when the weather turns bad.

See REC CENTER, Page 2A

Survey of top Iowa executives shows good outlook

Kevin Baskins
Des Moines Register
USA TODAY NETWORK

Despite a decline in expected sales over the next six months, executives at Iowa’s largest employers still have increasing expectations when it comes to capital investment and employment, according to the latest Economic Outlook Survey of the Iowa Business Council.

The quarterly economic survey measures the expectations of decision-makers at 21 of Iowa’s largest employers for sales, capital spending and employment for the next six months.

While the latest survey shows some uncertainty by survey participants on the sales side, the rise in sentiment regarding capital expenditure indicate Iowa’s executives are optimistic about Iowa’s future and its economic outlook, said council President Joe Murphy.

“I think the capital expenditures part could also show they are optimistic about actions that will be taken at the Federal Reserve,” Murphy said pointing to the Fed’s cut in interest rates in September and further expected cuts in upcoming months.

“A lot of the capital that has been on the sidelines in general in this state and in this country because of the lack of action at the Federal Reserve level, I think that’s kind of what that’s showing, as well,” Murphy said.

Supporting the somewhat bearish outlook on sales was the latest report from the Creighton University Mid-America Business Conditions Index,

See SURVEY, Page 2A

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