



## U.S. SAYS IT CAPTURED VENEZUELA'S MADURO

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# Ames Tribune

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## DEVELOPING SITUATION



A rendering of the planned CyTown district in Ames. PROVIDED BY IOWA BOARD OF REGENTS

### Which projects should residents be watching in 2026?

**Celia Brocker and Ronna Faaborg** Ames Tribune | USA TODAY NETWORK

Several major developments and projects in Ames should see progress in 2026. • From the Fitch Family Indoor Aquatic Center to the highly-anticipated Olive Garden opening, the Ames Tribune has compiled a list of projects to watch in the next year.

#### Daisy plant in Boone

Dairy Brand is building a \$1.2 billion dairy processing facility in Boone and broke ground on the project in May. Although this project is not technically in Ames, the Ames Regional Economic Alliance – in collaboration with the City of Boone, Boone County Economic Growth Corporation and Iowa Economic Development Authority – was instrumental in bringing Daisy to central Iowa.

The plant will be a positive impact for Boone and Story counties as Daisy expects to offer 255 jobs with an average hourly wage of \$34.75. Daisy Brand, which produces sour cream and cottage cheese as well as several other dairy-based products, expects to open its 1-million-square-foot facility in 2028, and local residents will see progress throughout 2026.

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Daisy Brand president Ben Sokolsky is greeted by Boone Mayor Elijah Stines, Gov. Kim Reynolds, Iowa Secretary of Agriculture Mike Naig, and CEO of the Ames Regional Economic Alliance Dan Culhane during a groundbreaking ceremony on May 20, 2025, in Boone.

NIRMALENDU MAJUMDAR/AMES TRIBUNE

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