

## Industrial park gearing up in Harrisburg

Contributed by Randy Hascall  
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HARRISBURG — As the weather warms up, so does development at the Harrisburg Industrial Park.

Two projects have begun, and another is awaiting approval from Lincoln County officials.

Sweetman Construction is building a ready-mix concrete plant, Harrisburg Materials, at the park's east edge. A second company, Winter Inc., also is planning a ready-mix plant.

In the Showplace Plaza strip mall at the park's entrance, interior construction has begun on a child-care center, Snicklefritz.

The three projects come six months into construction of a Monsanto soybean research facility. That project is to be completed within 90 days.

"There are still some lots left, but the park is filling up," said Craig Hagen of Hagen Commercial Real Estate, which handles tenant recruitment for the park on the north edge of Harrisburg.

Hagen said he's also working with Tony Bour and other Showplace Plaza owners on a plan to install storage units that people could own rather than rent.

The Harrisburg Materials plant will be operating by April 20, said Mark Thompson, who will manage the plant as well as the Brandon Materials Co. plant north of Brandon.

The ready-mix plant is a quick-moving project. Crews began pouring the concrete foundation in late March and started installing the bins and equipment April 5. It will have a state-of-art dust collector, Thompson said.

The plant will be shared by Brandon Materials and Concrete Materials, two companies owned by Sweetman Construction. Concrete Materials also has a block plant next to this ready-mix site.

Thompson said the Harrisburg industrial park location will allow the companies to provide better service for their customers. It's close to Harrisburg, southern Sioux Falls and Tea — hot areas for construction.

"It's a matter of efficiency," Thompson said. "We can be more efficient. It will mean more timely deliveries for contractors."

A truck can haul 10.5 cubic yards of concrete — about 20 tons worth. Thompson said 250 cubic yards is used in the foundations of some of the bigger houses that are being built.

Trucks won't be stationed here; they'll come from Brandon Materials' and Concrete Materials' main locations. The plant will operate only in the summer. Thompson said it probably will become a year-round facility at some point.

The facility has bins for six types of aggregate. Pat Sweetman, chief operating manager for Sweetman Construction, said the plant will be able to make various mixtures of concrete. The company is talking with other ready-mix suppliers about making the plant available for their use, too.

The 15.5-acre site has room for expansion.

Winter Inc. plans to begin dirt work May 22 for its ready-mix plant in the northeast part of the industrial park, said Bob Winter, the company's president. The plant should be operating by early June.

The company has plants at Brookings, Madison and the Renner exit off Interstate 29. It chose the Harrisburg site because of the convenient location.

"The city seems to be growing that direction," Winter said.

With the Renner plant more than 20 miles away and fuel prices high, the location made sense because the company has a good number of residential and commercial jobs in the area, he said.

The Winter plant will have eight to 10 trucks at the Harrisburg location, which occupies 3.8 acres.

The child-care center will be the second location for owner Tyfany

McKnelly, who opened a Snicklefritz at 49th Street and Southeastern Avenue in Sioux Falls last August.

The new center will open about June 1 and have a capacity of 60 children.

"Several families from Harrisburg encouraged us. There's such a need in Harrisburg," McKnelly said. "Everyone is so welcoming. We're excited to be there."

McKnelly said Snicklefritz is a name her dad called her when she was young. It's a German term that means little chatterbox or little clown, she said.

"We want our center to be different, so we gave it a name that's different, too," she said.

The center will have a fenced-in yard. Although the business won't open for nearly two months, all positions in the infant room are reserved, McKnelly said. There also will be separate rooms for children ages 1 to 2, 2 to 3, and 3 through 5. Those rooms are half-filled.

The center will have a preschool and offer after-school care and weekend hours.

The \$1.9 million Monsanto soybean facility is in its late stages of construction east of the company's corn research station.

The facility will do research and testing throughout areas of South Dakota where soybeans are grown. The company plans to develop higher-yielding soybean varieties with the traits South Dakota growers want.

L.G. Everist Inc. started the industrial park, a 155-acre development, in 1998.