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# Cherokee Chronicle Times

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## NEW CASEY’S PLANNED AT FORMER BOMGAARS SITE

CHEROKEE COUNCIL APPROVES SITE PLANS FOR 4,200-SQUARE-FOOT STORE

**AIMING TO OPEN BY 2026**  
**BY ALLISON MOORE**  
Cherokee is poised to have a second Casey’s store by next year. The convenience store and gas station chain has already retained an engineering firm that designed a new

4,200-square-foot store to be erected in the now-empty lot that housed Bomgaars for 50 years. On Tuesday, the Cherokee City Council approved site plans from Pelds Design Services of Des Moines. Wally Pelds, principal engineer and president, presented designs for the

approximately 1.5-acre lot. The building will be situated at the intersection of North Second Street and West Bow Drive. “I’m happy to represent an opportunity to build a new Casey’s,” Pelds said. “Cherokee is a great place to build.”

Pelds said construction is slated to start this fall, pending a few more discussions with the Iowa Department of Transportation and the Cherokee Planning and Zoning Commission. Assuming the site plans are approved without a hitch, the new Casey’s aims  
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## AgState: Ramos ‘voluntarily quit’

Company denies discrimination claims in court

**HR SUPERVISOR CLAIMS RAMOS HAD ‘DEFICIENT COMMUNICATION’**

**BY ALLISON MOORE**  
AgState repudiated a slate of discrimination claims Maria Ramos leveled against the regional ag cooperative, instead alleging Ramos was incompetent and that she “voluntarily quit.” AgState asserted Ramos resigned from her role as HR business partner within the cooperative’s Albert City office. Joni Ploeger, a West Des Moines attorney representing AgState, argued in a 39-page court filing this week that all actions AgState officials made regarding Ramos’s employ-  
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## CITIZENS BANK TAKES BACK HOLZHAUER FORD DEALERSHIPS

Storm Lake bank secures Cherokee, SL buildings for \$1.5 million

No other bidders

**BY ALLISON MOORE AND TOM CULLEN**  
Citizens First National Bank offered the only bids for the vacant Holzhauser Ford buildings in Cherokee and Storm Lake. At a sheriff’s sale at the Cherokee County Law Enforcement Center on Thursday morning, the bank purchased the dealership building at 1600 N. Second St. for \$500,000. No other bids were made during the auction, which lasted five minutes. The following Tuesday, Citizens again lodged the only bid for the Storm Lake dealership at a sheriff’s sale at the Buena Vista County Sheriff’s Office. After less than 60 seconds, the bank secured the dealership at 1620 Lake Avenue for \$1 million. No one else attending the auction  
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Restoration efforts aim to refurbish the windows as close to original condition as possible. CHRONICLE TIMES photos by ADAM DUBLINSKE

## Window wonders at the Brummer

HISTORIC RESTORATION PROJECT MOVES UP A FLOOR

**BY ALLISON MOORE**  
The exterior of Cherokee’s historic downtown Brummer building is getting a makeover. The Brummer Legacy Foundation, a non-profit formed in 2021, has been fundraising for the restoration of the three-story building’s windows. The foundation aims to restore all

48 windows with as much original material as possible. Trained by Terry Philips of TK Enterprises in Riverside, local workers have for the past week been helping revitalize the Brummer’s exterior. In addition to mentoring Cherokee workers, Philips has also transported some  
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## AgState closing Cherokee elevator

**CLOSURE EFFECTIVE SEPT. 1**  
**BY MADELINE COMBS**  
AgState announced earlier this month that it will be ceasing operation of its Cherokee grain facility come

September. In a letter issued on June 2, no exact reason for the closure was stated. AgState CEO Troy Upah did not respond to a request for comment. “As the agricultural industry evolves, we must adapt to ensure that AgState remains sustainable and effective for our members,” the letter stated. According to the release, the decision “was not made lightly” and was

largely influenced by what AgState’s views as their “long-term strategy for success.” Some key factors they noted included market dynamics such as increased competition from nearby ethanol plants, grain facilities and feed mills, economic pressures like rising costs and member equity protection. “We recognize that Cherokee has a long history with AgState, and this decision may feel personal,” the letter

reads. “Please know that our commitment to supporting agriculture in this area remains strong.” The company vows to continue to invest in the region through partnering with local school districts, FFA and 4-H programs, sponsorships and community enrichment initiatives and ongoing communication with members.  
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## You can still see ‘The Producers’

**BY DOLORES CULLEN**  
The opening weekend performances of Cherokee Community Theater’s “The Producers” last Friday, Saturday and Sunday “went extremely well,” reports Dave Zelle, president of CCT. “The audiences have been very engaged and receptive. They have laughed throughout the show, and offered lots of positive feedback afterwards.”  
*The edgy, irreverent Mel Brooks comedy is under the direction of Ben Mauritz with the cast as follows:*  
Max Bialystock – Tim Hess  
Leo Bloom – Aaron Waples  
Franz Liebkind – Gable Sohm  
Roger Debris – Michael Noltner  
Carmen Ghia – Brady Meyer  
Ulla – Jade Oswald  
Ensemble: Jackie Courtright, Deb Hankens, Kaylene Klein, Megan Mauritz, Zoe Meadows, Natalie Peterson, Lisa Yeske-Livermore, Julian Huglin, Evan Mattioda, Jaron Wood and Dave Zelle.

**COME SEE THE MUSICAL THIS WEEKEND:**  
• Friday, June 27 – 7 p.m.  
• Saturday, June 28 – 7 p.m.  
• Sunday, June 29 – 2 p.m.

Tickets can be reserved by calling the general box office at 712-225-4440 or online at [www.onthestage.tickets/cherokee-community-theater](http://www.onthestage.tickets/cherokee-community-theater).  
**Content warning:** This production contains adult language and themes and ribald humor that might make you blush, so viewer discretion is advised — but laughter is guaranteed!



“I Wanna be a Producer,” headlined by Aaron Waples as Leo Bloom. CHRONICLE TIMES photo by DOLORES CULLEN