

June named CMS September Reader of the Month

The CMS September Reader of the month is Bersaless June. Mrs. Cook nominated Bersaless for showing a strong interest in reading.

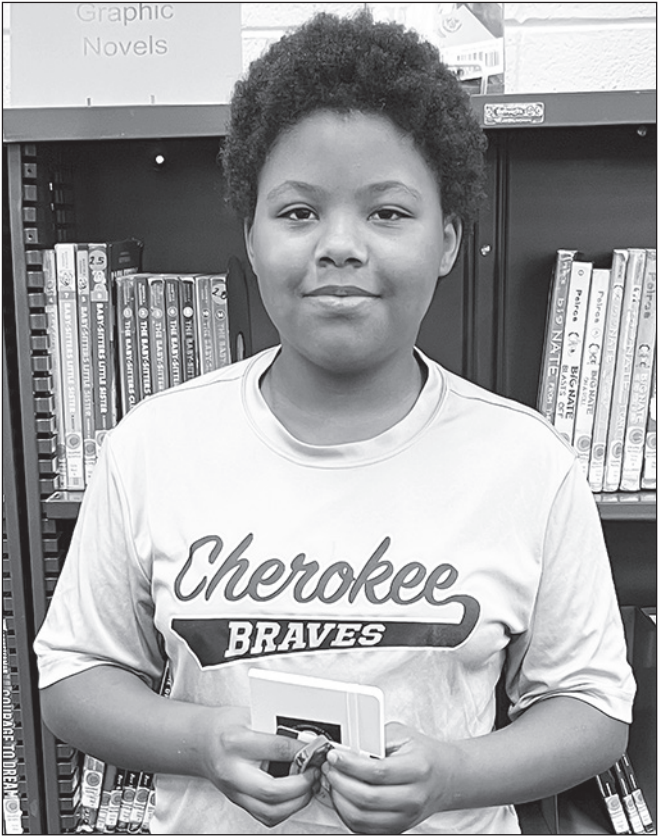
She enjoys exploring books that capture her curiosity. She is thoughtful in selecting titles that match her interests and keeps herself engaged through her choices.

Her love of reading helps her grow as a learner and inspires those around her. Bersaless loves reading books about the Holocaust and World War II.

Her favorite book is “Out of Hiding” by Ruth Gruener.

The Reader of the Month is a joint collaboration between the Middle School Library and the Cherokee Public Library.

Bersaless will receive a gift card to the Book Vine (courtesy of the Friends of the Library) as well as a journal to keep track of the books she has read. Congratulations Bersaless!



MMCRU SPOTLIGHTS

These MMCRU Spotlights are written and submitted by the MMCRU Communications class. Thank you to the class members and their teacher for sharing!

Teacher Spotlights

Sarah Bottjen

Sarah Bottjen is a teacher at MMCRU High School. Bottjen’s favorite class to teach is Shakespeare because “It is fun to teach shocking things about Shakespeare.” This is Bottjen’s 14th year of teaching. In Bottjen’s free time she likes to read and sit outside. Bottjen plans to retire when teaching isn’t fun anymore, and after she retires she plans to substitute. Bottjen’s go-to coffee order is peppermint mocha.

Kelly Peters

Kelly Peters is a teacher at MMCRU High School. Peter’s favorite class to teach is geometry. She explained, “Math is where you can visually see why answers are answers.” In her free time, she enjoys reading and spending time with her family. Peter’s is the senior class sponsor, and her favorite part about the yearly senior trip is watching the students’ faces light up while having fun.

Teacher Question of the Week

“What is your favorite thing to do outside of school?”

Mrs. Sarah Brady enjoys spending time with her children. She also enjoys spend-

ing time on the farm. That includes taking care of the animals and occasionally driving the tractor. Driving the tractor is her favorite thing to do on the farm.

Mr. Mark Shuttler enjoys golfing in his free time. He also enjoys spending time with his grandkids, who are sometimes a handful! Shuttler also explained that he likes to relax in his garden.

School Lunches

This week we asked students from every grade what their top 4 favorite lunches were, including their least favorite.

The most popular answer throughout high school was orange chicken, for second place we had a tie between the crispy chicken wrap and the pizza. The other answers were crisпитos, cheeseburgers, Mr. Rib, spaghetti, chicken and waffles, as well as the chicken patty sandwiches which was a popular answer.

The worst rated lunches served at MMCRU high school were the cavatini baked pasta dish, salisbury steak, and overall the hotdogs as the worst rated meal.

Hotdogs are a very popular meal served quite often in our school even though it’s the worst rated meal, if the school served hotdogs less frequently they might get a higher rating!

Homecoming Week

2025 Homecoming is beginning next week. Students begin Sunday with decorating the school based on the theme, “Decades”.

That leads into Monday with dressing up in the chosen decade. Following school, there will be a JV football game at Akron-Westfield.

Tuesday’s dress-up day is “Sporting through the Decades,” meaning students will need to wear their favorite sports team. Following school, Cross Country will be running at Sibley, and there is a high school Volleyball game at South O’Brien.

Wednesday’s dress up day is TieDye Day. With the 2-hour early out, students will be competing with their classes in Powderbuff Volleyball and Powderpuff Football.

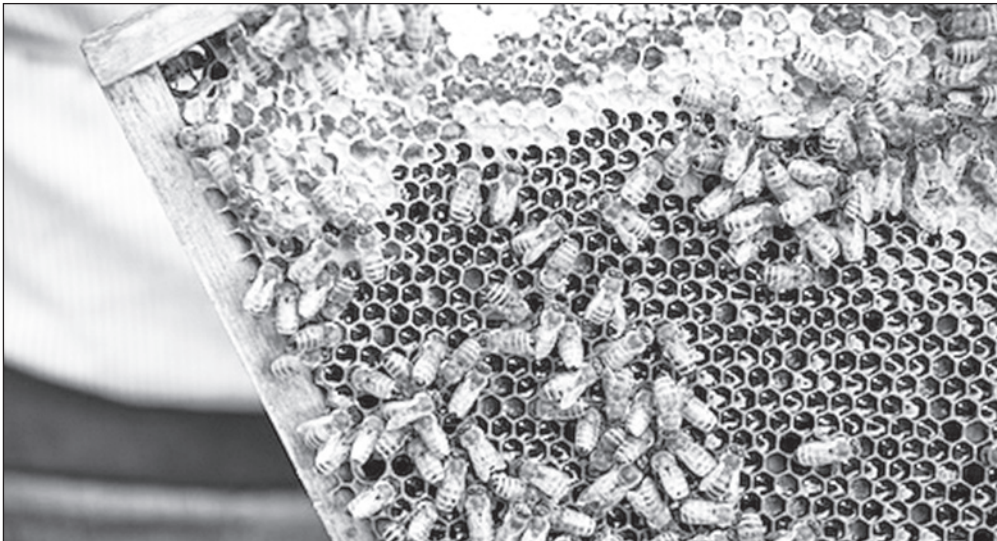
Thursday’s dress up day is Country VS Country Club. Coronation will take place at 7:00 PM at the High School Gym. Classes will perform lipsyncs, and the crowning of the homecoming King and Queen will also take place.

This leads to Friday being our big game day. We will celebrate with a parade and pep rally for our students, staff, and community.

Come and support our Royals as we take on South O’Brien at 7:00 on Friday night.

AGRI BRIEFS

Here’s the buzz for beginners and experts, rural and urban



Free webinar will share “Beekeeping Strategies for Beginners”

AMES, IA – An upcoming webinar from the Urban Agriculture Program with Iowa State University Extension and Outreach will address common questions for aspiring and experienced beekeepers. The webinar, “Beekeeping Strategies for Beginners,” will be led by beekeeper and educator Julia McGuire and is set for Oct. 9 from 1 to 2 p.m. McGuire will cover bee-

keeping strategies, including phenological planning and ecological thinking. She has also created new resources for beginning producers which she will discuss. Participants are asked to bring their questions and concerns for a live 20-minute Q&A session following the webinar. Other questions to be addressed include: How do I start beekeeping?

How do I keep a hive healthy? What do bees need throughout the year? This webinar is available at no cost. Those who wish to participate must register online at https://iastate.zoom.us/webinar/register/WN_95e1w4YXSKyPUKMWV_eELHw#/registration For more information, contact Graham Sandersfeld at grsfeld@iastate.edu.

Small farms can access new resources with online courses

AMES, IA – Small-scale producers, homesteaders, hobby and beginning farmers can access new resources available through Iowa State University Extension and Outreach.

The Homegrown Lifestyle series, developed by the Farm, Food and Enterprise Development Program, offers three online courses designed to help small farm owners grow their own food, raise livestock and preserve their land.

Each course, Acreage Management, Fruits and Vegetables, and Livestock, provides flexible, research-based learning tailored to the needs and interests of beginning producers, retirees and families focused on self-sufficiency.

“It can be challenging to manage all the aspects of a property, no matter the size,” said Christa Hartsook, small farms program coordinator with ISU Extension and Outreach. “Producers are learning soil types and water management methods, growing fruit and vegetable crops, establishing pastures and getting started with livestock.”

What to Expect

Each course is available for purchase through the ISU Extension Store, with participants receiving:

- Flexible format. Access the courses at any time and complete them on your time.
- Research-backed information. Learn from subject matter experts in each course topic.
- Engaging, practical lessons. Follow easy-to-understand course modules with ready-to-implement insights.
- Post-completion credentials. Obtain a certificate for completing training requirements and enhancing personal growth.

Course Overviews

Acreage Management

The Acreage Management course contains information related to responsibly caring for the land and water resources while growing food. Select course topics include:

- Soil management and sampling
- Water conservation techniques
- Incorporating trees and windbreaks
- Supporting wildlife and conserving land quality

Fruits and Vegetables

Those eager to grow their own produce can learn best practices from the Fruits and Vegetables course. Select course topics include:

- Vegetable families and crop planning
- Recommended fruit cultivars for Midwest climates
- Harvesting and storing crops

Livestock

Raising livestock is a rewarding experience, and the Homegrown Lifestyle’s Livestock course offers a practical guide to getting started. Select course topics include:

- Raising chickens, sheep and goats
- Composting manure
- Renovating pastures
- Sustainable and ethical livestock care

“All the course options start from a beginner perspective,” said Hartsook. “They’re not only beneficial if you’re just starting out — they’re also a great resource if you are considering adding an enterprise to your acreage.”

For more information on the Homegrown Lifestyle series, visit Homegrown Lifestyle on the ISU Extension Store or contact Christa Hartsook at hartc@iastate.edu.

Mediacom offers scholarships

Mediacom offers \$60,000 in scholarships to high school seniors.

Online applications are now available for students in all Mediacom areas

Interested students are encouraged to apply by the January 5, 2026, deadline.

Information for the online application can be found at schools in eligible communities.

Mediacom Communications is offering \$60,000 in scholarship support for high school seniors planning to obtain further education. The scholarship program is in its 25th consecutive year, and Mediacom’s investment will award \$1,000 World Class Scholarships to 60 high school seniors.

Starting in the fall of 2026, scholarship recipients have the flexibility to use the financial awards to support post-secondary college costs or vocational training from an accredited institution.

Award selection is based on academic achievement and leadership accomplishments.

Mediacom’s World Class Scholarship application process is hosted online: mediacomworldclass.com.

Applications, including let-

ters of recommendation and high school transcripts, must be submitted online. Information has been sent to high schools in areas where Mediacom delivers its high-speed internet services.

High school officials are asked to encourage seniors to submit online applications before the January 5, 2026, deadline.

“Our mission is rooted in connection – not only through broadband, but by helping young minds reach their full potential. Supporting students in their academic journey is not just an investment in their future, but in the shared future of every community we serve,” said Tapan Dandnaik, Mediacom’s SVP of Operations, Product Strategy and Consumer Experience.

World Class Scholarship applicants do not have to be Mediacom customers but must live in the 22-state area served by Mediacom’s fiber-rich broadband network.

A complete list of communities in Mediacom’s service areas is available on the World Class Scholarship website. Inquiries about the scholarship may be sent to: scholarship@mediacomcc.com.

LEGAL NOTICE

STATE OF IOWA 2025 FINANCIAL REPORT FISCAL YEAR ENDED JUNE 30, 2025 CITY OF CHEROKEE, IOWA DUE: December 1, 2025		1620180020000		
		CITY OF CHEROKEE		
		416 W Main St.		
		CHEROKEE IA 51012 POPULATION: 5199		
NOTE - The information supplied in this report will be shared by the Iowa State Auditor's Office, the U.S. Census Bureau, various public interest groups, and State and federal agencies.				
ALL FUNDS				
	Governmental (a)	Proprietary (b)	Total Actual (c)	Budget (d)
Revenues and Other Financing Sources				
Taxes Levied on Property	2771237		2,771,237	3,071,173
Less: Uncollected Property Taxes-Levy Year	0		0	0
Net Current Property Taxes	2,771,237		2,771,237	3,071,173
Delinquent Property Taxes	0		0	0
TIF Revenues	124,042		124,042	123,024
Other City Taxes	1,443,556	0	1,443,556	1,298,556
Licenses and Permits	41,299	1,600	42,899	40,475
Use of Money and Property	167,767	45,983	213,750	124,604
Intergovernmental	1,891,420	266,488	2,157,908	2,337,012
Charges for Fees and Service	120,901	3,345,254	3,466,155	3,380,016
Special Assessments	29,539	1,106	30,645	22,160
Miscellaneous	345,026	23,044	368,070	308,233
Other Financing Sources, Including Transfers in	1,054,668	152,831	1,207,499	1,213,877
Total Revenues and Other Sources	7,989,455	3,836,306	11,825,761	11,919,130
Expenditures and Other Financing Uses				
Public Safety	4,728,007		4,728,007	1,981,053
Public Works	1,674,109		1,674,109	1,894,417
Health and Social Services	0		0	0
Culture and Recreation	1,105,868		1,105,868	1,394,560
Community and Economic Development	123,082		123,082	169,024
General Government	493,293		493,293	637,747
Debt Service	393,050		393,050	393,050
Capital Projects	0		0	3,570,779
Total Governmental Activities Expenditures	8,517,409	0	8,517,409	10,040,630
Business type activities		2,694,572	2,694,572	3,385,908
Total All Expenditures	8,517,409	2,694,572	11,211,981	13,426,538
Other Financing Uses, Including Transfers Out	976,098	231,401	1,207,499	1,213,877
Total All Expenditures/and Other Financing Uses	9,493,507	2,925,973	12,419,480	14,640,415
Excess Revenues and Other Sources Over (Under) Expenditures/and Other Financing Uses	-1,504,052	910,333	-593,719	-2,721,285
Beginning Fund Balance July 1, 2024	4,396,658	1,429,574	5,826,232	4,412,136
Ending Fund Balance June 30, 2025	2,892,606	2,339,907	5,232,513	1,690,851
NOTE - These balances do not include the following, which were not budgeted and are not available for city operations:				
Non-budgeted Internal Service Funds		Pension Trust Funds		
Private Purpose Trust Funds		Agency Funds		
Indebtedness at June 30, 2025		Amount	Indebtedness at June 30, 2025	Amount
General Obligation Debt		3,215,000	Other Long-Term Debt	0
Revenue Debt		1,344,000	Short-Term Debt	0
TIF Revenue Debt		0		
			General Obligation Debt Limit	17,288,877