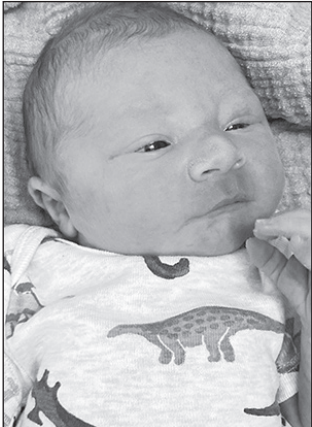


Birth Announcements

Samuel Gene Anderson



Nicole and Joshua Anderson are happy to announce the birth of their son, Samuel Gene Anderson.

He was born on Monday, September 8, at 8:17 am. Samuel weighed 6 pounds, 13 ounces and was 19 inches long.

Samuel's grandparents are Duane and Sara Anderson of Cherokee, and John and Donna Beier of Cherokee.

Della Fae Ann Mugge

Macenzie and Dillon Mugge are happy to announce the birth of their daughter, Della Fae Ann Mugge. She was born on Wednesday, September 10, at 7:46 am.

Della weighed 7 pounds, 2 ounces and was 19.25 inches long. She is welcomed home by her big brother Max, and big sister Piper.

Della's grandparents are Mike and Amy Brunsting of Cherokee, Brian and Carol Mugge of Cherokee, and Jason Wood of Cherokee.



These birth announcements are sponsored by

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Cherokee School Board cont. from Front

foot,” she explained.
The total cost of the project is yet to be determined.
Ashland further explained that Beck would not be working too far ahead in the planning and design process as the district’s Secure an Advance Vision for Education funds will be on the ballot in November.
Following the results of the vote, the project will likely get the green light to move forward and will prompt another proposal to finish design drawings before the project is put out to bid.
Should the process move forward with limited disruptions, bid letting could begin in the winter and conclude by early spring with construction starting as early as next summer.

Cherokee Enrollment cont. from Front

kindergarten classes and families moving out of the district.
He assured the board that the decrease in students this year was a result of similar actions.
“The kids who did not return, it’s for family reasons,” Ryherd said. “Their parents got a different job in a different community, moved to that community, bought a house in a neighboring community because they found one that they liked and could afford. I mean they’re legitimate reasons.”
But with the loss of students, the district stands to lose tens of thousands of dollars in per-pupil funding from the state.
“When your funding is tied to enrollment, it hurts,” Ryherd said.
In April, the Republicans in Iowa’s House of Representatives approved a 2% increase in State Supplemental Aid for schools, including per-pupil funding for grades K-12. As a result, the per-pupil rate increased about \$160 for the 2025-26 school year meaning public schools would receive nearly \$8,000 per student enrolled in the district.
With that figure and the district’s initial enrollment numbers, CCSD would receive about \$9.36 million in SSA funds for the 2025-26 school year.
“There’s always a concern anytime your enrollment is declining,” Ryherd told the Cherokee Chronicle Times following Monday’s meeting. “There’s always a concern in regard to how that impacts funding and what you’re able to do as a school district.”
During their spring debates in the State Senate, democrats argued that the 2% increase would not be sufficient and could put over 150 Iowa districts on the budget guarantee process, likely resulting in increased property taxes to help districts meet their funding needs not covered by SSA.
For the 2025-26 school year, CCSD has imposed a very small increase to their property tax rate — less than a percent — while neighboring districts such as Alta-Aurelia and Storm Lake have seen rates increase more significantly.
“We’ll have to see where we come in on Oct. 1 and see where we’re at as far as the official count and figure out our funding based on that,” Ryherd said. “I mean, I’m not going to say ‘the house is burning down’ until we have official numbers, but it’s something we’re all keeping track of and I know neighboring districts — I’ve talked to other superintendents — they’re tracking theirs as well.”
But Ryherd sees potential for future enrollment growth as the Cherokee community is growing due to new housing developments and potential business expansions in the area.
“You hope that this is not a continuing trend, but you plan accordingly as if it could be,” he said of the declining enrollment. “It’s one of those things where you don’t have control over it, so you just have to watch it and see where you end up.”

LEGAL NOTICE

The Aurelia Electric Board of Trustees met in regular session on Tuesday, September 16, 2025 at Aurelia City Hall. The meeting was called to order by Chairman Redig at 4:00 p.m. with roll call as follows:
Present: Redig, Johnson, Ballantyne, Weathers, Langschwager
Absent: None
Also, Present: Cedar, Kai
Motion to approve consent agenda and bills was made by Redig, second by Ballantyne. All members present voting “aye”, motion carried. Approved by consent: minutes of previous meetings, financial reports, August receipts of \$81,377.16 and August monthly disbursements of \$98,662.24 and bills payable as follows:
AT&T Firstnet cell phone – Cedar 50.00
AgState diesel – gas 499.70
Aurelia Electric August utilities 266.12
Cherokee Chronicle Times publish meeting minutes-rate increase scheduled 354.20
Cherokee County Solid Waste commercial garbage landfill charges 594.90
City of Aurelia August billing (water/sewer/sanitation) 51,453.68
Document Depot & Destruction shredding 24.50
Elan Financial stamps 78.00
FP Mailing Solutions postage meter maintenance fees 55.43
Great Lowa Treasure Hunt unclaimed refund checks 8.77
Iowa Department of Revenue August

Farm Bureau helps shape 2025-26 policies

The Iowa Farm Bureau voting delegates gathered in West Des Moines recently for the Summer Policy Conference. For our Voting Delegates to be prepared for this conference, the annual policy development process needs to be a priority for Farm Bureau members. Each spring when the policy development process starts all Farm Bureau members are encouraged to evaluate and complete the Opinionnaire, to provide your local Farm Bureau board with a broader statewide view on the policies members feel are most important. The Cherokee County Farm Bureau board valves the completion of the Opinionnaire’s as feedback that provides valuable information for the voting delegates to better understand and represent our county at the Summer Policy Conference.
Keeping farmers profitable is agriculture’s most pressing issue among ongoing uncertainty with farm bill negotiations, trade and other policy challenges, Iowa Farm Bureau President Brent Johnson said in his annual speech to voting delegates at the Farm Bureau’s Summer Policy Conference recently in West Des Moines.
State policies regarding the exploration and extraction of Iowa’s underground natural resources-including property interests, surface use agreements, compensation, and cost-sharing gathered significant discussion and final adoption from Farm Bureau County voting delegates.
Farm Bureau policies aim to provide a framework as natural resource exploration grows, addressing property interests, negotiated agreements, land restoration requirements, compensation

for damages, royalty payments, and who bears development and operating costs.
“This is a whole new subject in the state of Iowa,” per Brain Feldpausch, Iowa Farm Bureau vice president, who oversaw the resolutions process. “We are the first farmers, and we’re the first...citizens in Iowa discussing this outside the Legislature and some of those decision-makers.”
The following new state policy resolutions were adopted by the voting delegate body last week at the 2025 Iowa Farm Bureau Federation Summer Policy Conference in West Des Moines. The national policy proposals will be considered further during the American Farm Bureau Federation (AFBF) policy development process. They are not final Farm Bureau policy and do not guide any Farm Bureau policy implementation efforts unless adopted in final form at the AFBF annual meeting in January 2026.
State Policy Statements:
Income Tax Exemption Parity
•All retired farmers, regardless of how their operation is organized for tax purposes, should receive equal treatment to exclude their farm rental income from state income tax.
Rural Roundabouts and Rollover Prevention
•Newly constructed and renovated roundabouts and medians should be planned, designed, and built to accommodate modern agricultural equipment and transport trailers.
Underground Natural Resources
•A property interest in underground natural resources should be merged with the surface ownership when the

interest has been abandoned, or the property tax is unpaid for a period of time.
•Underground natural resource developers are responsible for closing an exploration or production area and restoring the land and improvements. Underground natural resource developers should have a bond to ensure funds are available for land restoration.
•Landowners and farm tenants should be compensated for damages to crops, water quality, land and improvements impacted by natural resource exploration, construction, extraction, and de-commissioning.
•When natural resource owners want to benefit from extraction and other owners do not consent, a minimum percentage of acres owned by consenting owners should be reached before the resource can be extracted.
•Iowa should establish a minimum royalty payment based on gross production for nonconsenting landowners.
•Nonconsenting owners should be responsible for their share of the extraction well development and operating cost but should not pay a risk penalty.
Veterinarian Incentives
•All monetary awards for repayment of rural veterinarian student loans should be exempt from state income taxes.
Wind and Solar Projects
•The state should set minimum standards but not preempt county ordinances governing siting or setbacks for utility-scale wind or solar projects.
National Policy Proposals:
Payments for Carbon Intensity of Crops
•Credits for low carbon in-



Elizabeth Johnson was the voting delegate for the Cherokee Farm Bureau.

tensity production practices should be allowed to be sold separate from crop sales.
•Farmers should have the option to calculate intensity score at the field or farm operation level.
It was stated that everyone farms several types of grounds...everyone might utilize different practices on different fields, different farms, and so it is about giving the farmer as much latitude and options out there as possible.
Iowa Farm Bureau President Brent Johnson, a Calhoun County farmer, praised members and delegates for forming policy to guide Iowa’s largest agricultural organization.
“The grassroots policy development process is an extremely important element of the Iowa Farm Bureau and is pivotal to our success,” Johnson said.
“What you folks are doing here today matters. I am honored to see the passion of our members and appreciate our entire group effort. Your role is vital in creating and shaping the policy that will guide our organization over the next year and beyond.”

Police & Court Reports

Cherokee man arrested for assault with knife against girlfriend

A Cherokee man was arrested and charged with two felonies in connection with an alleged violent assault against his girlfriend involving choking and threats with a knife.
Daniel Jenkins, 34, was arrested Sept. 13 and charged with intimidation with a dangerous weapon with intent to injure or provoke fear and domestic abuse assault impeding airflow and causing bodily injury, both felonies, according to records filed in Cherokee County District Court.
On Sept. 13, Jenkins allegedly engaged in an argument with his live-in girlfriend at a residence on Sequoia Drive during which he “grabbed a knife” in an attempt to “provoke fear” while “telling her he was going to kill her,” according to an affidavit filed by Cherokee police. During the domestic assault, Jenkins allegedly “applied pressure to the victim’s throat with his hands” and used a “rear naked choke hold” causing the victim injury, according to the affidavit.
District Associate Judge Shawna Ditsworth ordered Jenkins and the female victim refrain from all contact with each other. She scheduled a preliminary court hearing for Sept. 24.

Marcus woman popped for felony burglary

A Marcus woman was arrested and charged with felony burglary and assault for allegedly entering a residence and shoving a man inside while attempting to retrieve her children, for whom she has no custody rights.
Reann Jackson, 36, was arrested Sept. 3 and transported to

West Bluff cont. from Page 6

of the project.
In the past, the project has generated concerns about the considerable inconvenience it will pose to the area’s residents between street access and parking locations.
“There’s never absolutely an ideal time to do this,” Pudenz said. “The only thing you can say is that you’re not going to do it in the middle of winter.”
During Tuesday night’s meeting, council members also noted that a number of elderly residents live in the proposed construction zone and will likely need accommodations to access their homes.
Pudenz said the city would work with those residents to establish accommodations.
As for those with cars that typically park on W. Bluff St., Pudenz said they will have to look for alternate parking arrangements.
“With enough notification, they’re just going to have to find alternate places to park,” she said.
Councilman Tony Puffett echoed Pudenz, saying that the road has to be fixed one way or another and disturbances to residents are unavoidable.
“There’s no way around it, the road needs to be fixed. It’s not going to be fun for them,” he said.

jail on charges of second-degree burglary resulting in bodily injury and assault while participating in a felony, both felonies, according to Cherokee County District Court records.
On Sept. 3, Jackson allegedly entered a residence in the 100 block of South Ash Street in Marcus “with no right to do so,” according to an affidavit filed by Aurelia police two weeks later. Law enforcement reported that the home belonged to Jackson’s parents and two juveniles were present.
Jackson allegedly told police she entered the residence to retrieve her children, “despite her rights being terminated and children being adopted,” according to the affidavit.
Jackson allegedly “pushed” the male adult in the residence as he was ordering her to leave.
Magistrate Lisa Mazurek issued a no-contact order between Jackson and the family and scheduled a preliminary court hearing for Monday.

Cherokee police seize marijuana, dozens of pipes from local residence

For the second time in two years, Cherokee police conducted a drug search at a Hyland Avenue residence and arrested at least one resident on a misdemeanor marijuana charge.
Cherokee police charged Jonathan Seng, 32, with gathering where marijuana is used, a serious misdemeanor, and seized dozens of items of drug paraphernalia from his residence, according to district court records filed this month.
“This is the second time this house has been searched for illegal drugs,” Chief Nate James wrote in an affidavit filed Sept. 4.
James applied for a search warrant at the Hyland Avenue residence and Magistrate Lisa Mazurek authorized it the same day. James claimed that in the morning on Aug. 28, he was attempting to serve Seng a civil paper regarding an overgrown backyard lawn and detected the odor of marijuana on Seng’s person, according to the search warrant application. When asked about marijuana inside the residence, Seng allegedly told James he had “not that much” and told him to leave his property before reentering the residence.
During a search of the property and people inside conducted on Aug. 29, James alleged, “there was marijuana and drug paraphernalia all around the house.”
“Every person living in this house has knowledge of the illegal drug activity at this residence,” James wrote in an affidavit filed Sept. 4.
Police seized dozens of marijuana, pipes, grinders and bongs, THC and nicotine vapes and other paraphernalia, according to search warrant records. It’s unclear if other members of the Hyland Avenue residence were arrested and charged in connection with the seized items.
Mazurek scheduled Seng’s preliminary court hearing for Sept. 25.

Washta man facing probation revocation

A Washta man was charged with misdemeanor theft and faces the possible revocation of his two-year probation sentence connected to methamphetamine possession.
Cody Ray, 40, was accused of violating his probation over a year ago but hadn’t yet appeared in court. On Sept. 15, the Iowa Department of Corrections filed an additional report alleging Ray violated his probation again after he was arrested this summer in Woodbury County on a misdemeanor theft charge. A probation revocation hearing for the matter has yet to be scheduled.
The Cherokee County Sheriff’s Office executed a warrant for Ray’s arrest on July 7 after he allegedly failed to appear at multiple court hearings concerning the possible probation revocation. District Court Judge Carl Petersen issued the warrant last August. Assistant County Attorney Ryan Kolpin filed an application for probation revocation, alleging Ray tested positive for methamphetamine at probation check-ins, according to district court records. Ray also allegedly failed to appear at multiple probation hearings and his whereabouts were unknown, according to the application.
Ray was charged with driving while barred as a habitual offender, an aggravated misdemeanor, in December, 2022, according to court records. He pleaded guilty the next month and was sentenced to two years probation, according to an order from District Court Judge John Sandy.