



## On to State!



Page 10

## Dylan Chandler gets 100th career win at SCC Tournament



Page 11

## Lucas County Republican Caucus held at Cornerstone Community Church

Sharon Wilhite  
Correspondent

The Lucas County Republican Caucus was held at the Cornerstone Community Church building on Monday, Feb. 2, at 7 p.m.

A big turnout wasn't expected, but about 50 persons representing the

seven precincts attended.

Lucas County Republican Central Committee Chair, Bill Vaughn, gave the call to order and welcomed all the attendees.

Pastor Terry Wilhite gave the

**CAUCUS**  
Continued to page 6

## Lucas County Democrat Party Caucus held at Chariton Senior Center

Bill Howes  
Associate Editor

The Lucas County Democrat Party Caucus was held at the Chariton Senior Center Monday evening, Feb. 2. About 20 people were present and took part in the caucus, which lasted roughly an hour.

Randy Tucker was elected to be the chair and Pam Burlin was elected to be secretary of the Democratic caucus. Tucker began the event with a short speech to the audience.

"I'd like to welcome you all and

thank you for supporting our local and state democrats. The primary purpose of our Caucus this evening is to: Strategize on how we will move forward in 2026, elect leadership for the precinct to represent us on the county central committee, and to elect delegates to the county convention," Tucker said.

Tucker then read a letter from Iowa Democratic Party Chair Rita Hart. Some of the keys points that Hart stated in the

**PARTY**  
Continued to page 6



Bill Vaughn, Lucas County Republican Central Committee Chairman (center), presented certificates of appreciation during the Republican Caucus to Dee Rich (left) and Carolyn Sealine (right) for their campaign efforts in the November 2025 school board election. The certificates acknowledged their commitment to a high quality of education, student achievement, and a safe school environment for the Chariton school district. Ben Johnston was also honored in absentia. The certificates were signed by the Republican Central Committee officers.

(Sharon Wilhite photo)



Husband and wife Gene and Marilyn Marsh and husband and wife Dale and Linda O'Connell of the Cities of Lucas and Derby Precinct work on electing their precinct chair and precinct secretary at the Democrat Party Caucus at the Chariton Senior Center Monday, Feb. 2.

(Bill Howes photo)

## 2026-27 County Hospital Budget hearing date, preliminary mill levy to be set at February board meeting

Bill Howes  
Associate Editor

The Lucas County Health Center Hospital Board of Trustees decided to delay the setting of the time and date for the 2026-27 Fiscal Year County Hospital Budget hearing and the preliminary mill levy for FY 2026-27 at their regular monthly meeting Tuesday, Jan. 27.

The public hearing date for the upcoming

fiscal year's county hospital budget is usually set at the Hospital Board meeting in late January. The public hearing is usually set for the February board meeting but the board decided to table the setting of the public hearing and the preliminary mill levy for one month.

LCHC CEO Jay Christensen explained why the

**BUDGET**  
Continued to page 6

## Chariton High School Choir to perform at the Vredenburg Performing Arts Series

The Chariton High School Choir will be singing a selection of songs with the Empire Trio, which is the upcoming Vredenburg Performing Arts Series on Thursday, February 12th - 7:00pm at Johnson Auditorium. The Empire Trio's show,

Bravissimo Broadway combines classic show tunes from the most beloved Broadway Musicals, with their own breathtaking and unique arrangements.

**CHOIR**  
Continued to page 2

## Meg Prange honored to exhibit at Indian Hills Art Gallery

Sharon Wilhite  
Correspondent

Lucas County artist, Meg Prange, just finished up a two-month exhibit of her fabric art in the Indian Hills Community College's art gallery in Ottumwa. The exhibit contained 56 of her pieces from her earliest creations until the present. A handout was provided



Meg's quirky makeover from men's ties to colorful fish.

**EXHIBIT**  
Continued to page 3

(Sharon Wilhite photo)



The Meg Prange exhibit was housed in the beautiful art gallery at the Ottumwa Indian Hills campus.

(Sharon Wilhite photo)

## Index

- 2.....News
- 3.....News/Records/Sports
- 4.....Opinion
- 5.....Religion
- 6...Class/Pub Not/News/Sports
- 7.....Classifieds/Ads
- 8.....Entertainment
- 9-12 .... Sports/Honors Pages



**Friday**  
Partly Cloudy/Wind  
**43°22°**  
6 percent chance of precip  
Extended Forecast..Page 2



charitonleader.com