

Chariton Leader



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FRIDAY, FEBRUARY 27, 2026

One Section

Chariton archery teams shoot more personal best scores at Moravia and Murray Tournaments
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Band Extravaganza doesn't disappoint
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Iowa Secretary of Agriculture tours Piper's

Bill Howes
Associate Editor

Iowa Secretary of Agriculture Mike Naig, a Republican, was in Chariton to tour Piper's on the northeast corner of the square Friday morning, Feb. 20.

Secretary Naig was at Piper's for about an hour. During that time he went through and learned about the different parts of the business including how different candy is made and he met and talked with different Piper's employees.

The visit to Piper's was part of Secretary Naig's annual visit to all 99 counties in Iowa. Secretary

Naig also said that he wanted to see Piper's and learn the history of it and that he knows it's a famous business.

"I have not been to Piper's before, but I have been gifted candy from here before at different times," Secretary Naig said.

After arriving, Secretary Naig met Piper's owner Jill Kerns and she told him about the history of Piper's.

"Piper's was built in 1888 as a grocery store and Mr. Stanley was the first owner. In 1903 Joe L. Piper bought it and it's been Piper's on this corner ever since," Kerns said.

Joe's son, Bob Piper, took over the business in the 1930s. Piper's started making candy in 1947.

Kerns showed Secretary Naig the candy that is sold towards the front of the store including turtles, toffee, caramels, fudges, etc. She then took him back to the deli where there are a wide assortment of meats and cheeses along with soups and salads and made-to-order sandwiches that are made daily. He also spoke with the woman making sandwiches, Abby Bates.

Kerns then took Secretary Naig



Iowa Secretary of Agriculture Mike Naig (left) talks to Piper's owner Jill Kerns (right) during his tour of Piper's Friday morning, Feb. 20. (Bill Howes photo)

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Iowa Secretary of Agriculture Mike Naig (left) talks to Piper's employee Abby Bates (right) while she makes a sandwich in the deli at Piper's Friday morning, Feb. 20. (Bill Howes photo)



Piper's employee Sonya Shelton (right) explains how caramel is made in the cooking room at Piper's to Iowa Secretary of Agriculture Mike Naig (left) during his tour of Piper's Friday, Feb. 20. (Bill Howes photo)

FY 2026-27 County Hospital budget hearing set for March 31

Bill Howes
Associate Editor

The Lucas County Health Center Hospital Board of Trustees set the time and date for the public hearing for the proposed Lucas County Hospital budget for the 2026-27 Fiscal Year at their monthly meeting

Tuesday night, Feb. 24. The FY 2026-27 County Hospital Budget hearing was set for Tuesday, March 31, 2026, at 6:30 p.m. in the Education Room at LCHC. The public budget hearing

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Firm selected for treatment plant project

Bill Howes
Associate Editor

The Chariton City Council approved to select Veenstra & Kimm, Inc. as the engineer-

ing firm for the wastewater treatment plant project at their regular meeting Tuesday, Feb. 17.

Variety of topics reported on during Hospital Quality Report

Bill Howes
Associate Editor

Lucas County Health Center Chief Operations Officer Lori Johnson gave the Quality Report for January for the hospital at the monthly Hospital Board meeting Tuesday, Feb. 24.

Johnson reported that there

was one medication error that occurred at the hospital in January and one that occurred at the LCHC Medical Clinic. She also said that it has been 32 days since the last medication error occurred at the hospital and 33 days since the

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Canada Geese enjoy a day at the beach



These Canada Geese are shown enjoying a day at the beach in the sand at Red Haw State Park east of Chariton and the water of Lake Red Haw on a sunny day Monday afternoon, Feb. 23. (Bill Howes photo)

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Sunny
69°31°

3 percent chance of precip
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