

DEMOCRAT

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CONNECTING OUR COMMUNITY

Thursday, March 2, 2023

Palo hired as victim coordinator in Bremer County

Retired Chickasaw chief deputy looks forward to new role

BY ANELIA K. DIMITROVA
editorcft@gmail.com

The Bremer County Attorney's Office is now fully staffed.

Since he took office in January, County Attorney Darius Robinson has hired Dave Thompson as the first assistant county attorney, and now with the hiring of a former deputy, he has also filled the victim coordinator vacancy in his office.

Reed Palo, 57, a retired chief deputy from the Chickasaw County Sheriff's Office, started at the county attorney's office on Feb. 28 as the victim witness coordinator.

Palo had left the sheriff's office in 2021, and when he learned of the opening at the Bremer County Attorney's Office, he believed it would be a good fit.

"I wanted to be of service in a meaningful

See PALO, A2



ANELIA K. DIMITROVA PHOTO

Reed Palo, 57, a retired chief deputy from the Chickasaw County Sheriff's Office, just started on Feb. 28 as the victim witness coordinator at the Bremer County Attorney's Office.

A SPECIAL PAST, A NEW BEGINNING:

Shell Rock Music Association to present musical March 26, honor Spring Swing Show's legacy



COURTESY PHOTO

At the musical this year, a live stage will be playing music and is comprised of 12 members.

BY ANELIA DIMITROVA
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special past and a new beginning.

This is the theme of the upcoming musical of the Shell Rock Music Association at the Everson Auditorium at the Boyd Building in Shell Rock.

Two performances on Sunday, March 26, from 1 p.m. and 3 p.m., will kick off a new chapter in the history of the association. Just as importantly, they will continue the legacy of the Shell Rock Spring Swing Show started by Dr. Dale Everson and his wife Bev in 1965.

The show was discontinued in 2020 when the pandemic struck and ticket sales and stage construction had to be halted on short notice. The show had run almost continuously since its inception but the health emergency changed every-

thing, including the show's course, said Darrel Steege, who has been a part of the show since 1987.

He said the nine-member association board continued to deliberate about the show's future throughout the pandemic and ultimately determined in November to move forward with a new version.

What's new in the show

Show fans are going to see familiar faces and new cast members on stage in March.

Larry Young, the Shell Rock mayor who has been associated with the show since its beginning, is likely to make a cameo appearance, but Steege will be doing the emcee work.

Ellen Day, the choral director, is now retired and Waterloo high school choral director Julie Anderson will be directing

See MUSIC, A2

Waverly Council moves budget hearing following passage of rollback bill

BY ROBERT LYNCH
news@waverlynewspapers.com

The Waverly City Council voted 6-0, with Heather Beaufore absent, to move the hearing for the 2023-2024 fiscal year budget from their meeting on March 6 to March 20 during their study session on Monday.

The change comes following Gov. Kim Reynolds signing a bill on Feb. 20 that would reset the rollback from a mistake made in November, City Administrator James Bronner told the council.

The rollback reset will provide a couple of days for the state to get information out to county auditors, who then have up to March 9 to go back and recertify rollback figures and evaluations.

"In theory, we may not have had the correct information while we were having our budget hearing itself on the sixth," Bronner said. "So we felt it was better that we push it till the 20th."

The council will officially set March 20 as the date for the public hearing during their meeting on March 6.

The Iowa Legislature currently has two other proposed bills that could potentially impact future budgets by limiting the General Corporate Purpose category for what a city can do with bonds or by removing local option sales taxes in the state and moving instead to a statewide model where communities would

See COUNCIL, A2

House pipeline restrictions clear committee as deadline nears



PHOTO BY JARED STRONG/IOWA CAPITAL DISPATCH

Landowners who oppose eminent domain for carbon dioxide pipelines worry about property damage and safety.

BY JARED STRONG
Iowa Capital Dispatch

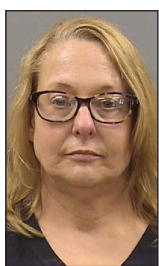
A bill that would require carbon dioxide pipeline companies to get voluntary easements for at least 90% of their routes — among other new requirements — was approved 12-7 by the House Judiciary Committee on Tuesday and will be eligible for consideration beyond this week.

"For me, the right and wrong here could not be more clear," said Rep. Steven Holt, R-Denison, who has been the leading voice for the bill in the House. "Our constitutional protections are not for sale to the highest bidder."

House File 368 would prevent the companies from using eminent domain to force easements from landowners until they eclipse the 90% threshold for voluntary agreements. It would also give counties new authority to restrict carbon dioxide pipeline

See HOUSE, A2

North Carolina woman charged in theft case



GLORIA JEAN PANTELIS

A North Carolina woman is facing multiple felony charges in Bremer County.

Gloria Jean Pantelis, 49, of Thomasville, has been arrested for allegedly using fraudulent identification to perpetuate thefts from local banks, according to a press release from Capt. Jason Leonard of the Waverly Police Department.

Pantelis is being held in the Bremer County Jail on multiple charges of theft, identity theft,

and forgery — all felonies.

Reports were taken at First Bank branches of Waverly, Plainfield, and Cedar Falls on Feb. 27 of a female using a social security card and driver's license information to cash checks at each of the branches. The identification was reported stolen from a vehicle parked in George Wyth State Park (Waterloo) in October of 2022. On Feb. 28, Pantelis was apprehended for using the false identification

at the Plainfield branch of First Bank.

The investigation is ongoing and includes several agencies. Additional charges are pending against Pantelis in Bremer County as well as Black Hawk County. Multiple agencies assisted in the initial investigation including Cedar Falls Police, Black Hawk County Sheriff's Office, Waterloo Police, and the State Division of Criminal Investigation.

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Waverly Council moves budget hearing following passage of rollback bill

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receive a percentage of the state's total sales tax, according to previous reporting by Waverly Newspapers.

Bronner told the council on Monday that while these proposed bills could impact future fiscal years, the rollback bill is the most significant change for the upcoming budget.

"Right now, what we do know is that the rollback correction bill has gone through, been signed, it's done," Bronner said. "We'll look at the effects of that. It'll be substantial. It's going to be \$100,000 plus for us. The other two, we're just going to wait and see what does come out of it."

Bronner told the council that the \$100,000 that the city is anticipating as a result of the rollback bill is likely going to come out of the fund balance.

"Unless we go forward with another round of cuts, or another thing we talk about with staff, whatever it may be, we take that hit in our fund balance and that's all you can do," he said. "Or again, you try to cut back and even it out."

One of the difficulties in projecting how the change will impact budgeting is the uncertainty of what the actual figure will be, Bronner added.

"A lot of my peers already have their fees and they're much worse than they even anticipated," Bronner said. "Some of the hits were a lot bigger than they were thinking it was going to be because it's kind of a calculation of, you know, the multi residential property class going away. Now, a lot of the homes that are in a trailer park, etc., are not included in the calculation. So it's a whole different calculation in general that occurs not just 'we take this piece out.'"

Bronner said that the current estimate is \$123,000, but reiterated that the actual numbers could change.

"So far the cities that I know of, it's been worse," he said. "So we're going to kind of see what this ends up being."

House pipeline restrictions clear committee as deadline nears

CONTINUED FROM A1

routes and delay permits for them until new federal safety guidelines are finalized, which will likely happen next year.

The bill would also give landowners more avenues for compensation for damage to their land from pipeline construction.

The committee's vote came a day after an Iowa Senate subcommittee failed to advance a competing proposal that would only require two-thirds voluntary easements and wouldn't apply to three current pipeline proposals.

The companies want to build more than 1,500 miles of pipeline in the state to transport captured carbon dioxide away from ethanol plants for out-of-state sequestration or other purposes.

There are lucrative federal incentives for ethanol plants to sequester their carbon that would otherwise be emitted into the atmosphere, and industry officials have said Iowa's plants would be at a competitive disadvantage to those in other states if they are unable to take advantage of the incentives.

Opponents of the pipelines worry about damage to farmland and the safety risks posed by pipeline leaks. They further argue that it's wrong for eminent domain to be used to benefit private companies.

"I believe eminent domain should only be used for essential government services — public use — and the CO2 pipeline does not meet that definition," Holt said.

The bill faced an early challenge Tuesday from Rep. Jon Dunwell, R-Newton. He proposed an amendment that would have stripped the bill of its major components and replaced them with limited provisions to help compensate people for land damage and shield them from potential harassment by the companies. He said the use of eminent domain deserves further consideration beyond its use by carbon dioxide pipeline companies.

"I believe we need to have that larger discussion," Dunwell said, "because we have wind towers, we have solar arrays, we have more transmission lines coming down the road and a host of other areas that will involve eminent domain. And we need to be having that discussion, putting together a long-term policy that addresses all of our future needs in this area."

The amendment failed 11-8.

Rep. Brian Lohse, R-Bondurant, introduced three amendments that also failed. They would have: increased the voluntary easement requirement to 100%; changed the effective date of the bill so that it doesn't impact existing pipeline proposals, and make the proposed new requirements applicable to all pipelines.

Lohse said shifting the rules that govern the pipelines after the companies have already filed for permits might open the state and counties to litigation.

"I don't want the state or the county be on the hook for that particular bill," he said.

Under legislative rules, most policy bills that don't include tax or spending provisions must clear a full committee in the House or Senate this week to remain eligible for debate. House File 368 moves next to debate by the full House.

Senior reporter Jared Strong has written about Iowans and the important issues that affect them for more than 15 years, previously for the Carroll Times Herald and the Des Moines Register. This article appeared on Feb. 28 on the Iowa Capital Dispatch website and is being used under Creative Commons license.

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A SPECIAL PAST, A NEW BEGINNING:

Shell Rock Music Association to present musical March 26, honor Spring Swing Show's legacy



COURTESY PHOTO

The musical will feature over 30 members and a live stage band will have 12 members.

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the show chorus during the performances. Les Aldrich, the saxophone band member, will now be directing the band in place of longtime director Randall Winkey, of Parkersburg.

The show, which had been produced for decades by Young, will now have two co-producers, Jim Gates and Steege.

The chorus will feature over 30 members and the live stage band will have 12 musicians.

Another change will be that the shows will be shorter than the 90-plus-minute format of the past and will now last an hour.

The special acts have been reduced to six but the band and the chorus musical pieces have increased.

Costume changes will not be as elaborate as fans may remember them, but the band will be in their traditional tuxes.

The ticket prices have been adjusted accordingly, to \$10 for adults and children under 12 can attend for free to encourage families to enjoy the show.

"One of the ways to make that more inviting is we spread out our seating, so we can seat a maximum of 225 for each show," Steege said. "Sales are already approaching 200 and that includes 20 kids, so that's working. We hope to sell those out."

"This is a new beginning, we are testing the waters here, we want to see what the future holds for us."

"The enthusiasm continues to deliver this entertainment. We are testing the water whether the public's interest is there to receive it. This is a heritage we need to continue, but we are not saying anything about 2024 just yet. Who knows, maybe we will have four shows then."

For tickets call (319) 885-6510 from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. weekdays.



COURTESY PHOTO

The choir for this year's show will be comprised of over 30 members.



COURTESY PHOTO

The spring fling swing show has a long history of local participants.

HISTORY OF THE SHELL ROCK MUSIC ASSOCIATION

Reprinted from the Association's About page

In the fall of 1964, Iowa's Governor Hughes suggested that each Iowa community make an effort to welcome its teachers with a special program. Organized to provide the entertainment for Shell Rock's program, the vocal and instrumental group formed at that time became the Shell Rock Music Association.

Over the course of 50+ years, the Shell Rock Spring Swing (the Swing Show) grew into a spring tradition, expanding to 14 show times at its peak. The basic show format has remained consistent. A stage band and a mixed chorus, all composed entirely of volunteers, support a series of center stage acts drawn from band and chorus members. A variety of musical styles include popular tunes of the day, golden oldies, and comedy acts. Funds raised from the annual swing show supported a variety of community projects and activities, as well as helping with the cost of the next year's show.

Shell Rock's Boyd Building has been the "theater" since the beginning. Despite the limitations, the auditorium helps bring a Broadway feel to Main Street USA. The auditorium has been named "The Everson Auditorium" in recognition of Dale and Bev Everson's contributions to the Music Association and the community.

In 2020, the show was canceled due to the pandemic, and there were no shows in 2021 or 2022 for the same reason. For the 2023 show, we are returning to our roots with a spring concert, and we are excited to once again be making music for your enjoyment!



FROM SHELL ROCK MUSIC ASSOCIATION FACEBOOK

The 2023 Spring Swing Show will make its comeback with a musical titled "A Special Past...A New Beginning."

Palo hired as victim coordinator in Bremer County

CONTINUED FROM A1

way," he said.

Prior to Palo's hiring, Randy Van Gent worked in that capacity.

Robinson, the county attorney, said that he has been familiar with Palo's work for years and found his handling of criminal cases in Chickasaw County to be commendable.

Palo said that in his years in law enforcement he had developed a deep understanding of the court process, which he believes will serve him well in the new position.

"You have to have a human element," he said of the coordinator's role.

During his law enforcement career, Palo worked with multiple agencies and taught DARE at Cresco, where he began in the police department in 1997. He also served on the boards of many area non-profit organizations, including Big Brothers Big Sisters and the Chickasaw County Child Abuse Prevention Council and Pathways.

In his spare time, he enjoys hunting, fishing and running.

In his job in Bremer County, he said he is looking forward to working with the attorneys in the office and law enforcement to serve victims.

Robinson said the position is funded through the Iowa Attorney General's Office.

Robinson added that his predecessor, Kasey Wadding, had created the position.

Recently, Palo attended one of the round tables hosted by AG Brenna Bird, who has made a priority of re-envisioning victim services in the state, and staff members from Bird's office will be training Palo, Robinson said.

"He is just absolutely fantastic," Robinson said. "Just with his background in victim services and law enforcement, he is a real force multiplier for the office and prosecution. A lot of people—judges, law enforcement and advocates — are excited about Reed starting here, that he will be back in the criminal justice mix and working with victims."