



Much has changed in Palser's first year

By EDDIE HIBBS III
Record Publisher & Owner

USD #101 Superintendent Scott Palser celebrated one-year on the job at the July 1 Board of Education meeting.

The district has undergone a lot of changes during those 365 days.

Palser admitted he didn't plan on making much, if any, changes during his first year at the helm of the local school district. Palser changed his mind during the first six months on the job, and some of those changes were necessarily by choice.

For instance, the Highway 59 bridge closing just south of Erie forced the district to make changes. In January, Galesburg Middle School seventh and eighth grade students started their school days at Erie High as a result. This involved dedication of staff to provide the best possible scenario for all parties involved.

Two of the possibly biggest changes for the

district, however, involved the district moving to a four-day school week and the transfer of the fifth grade class from Erie Elementary School to Galesburg Middle School. While both motions passed the school board, neither was passed unanimously.

Moving to the four-day school week doesn't entirely mean three-day weekends every week for students and staff. The traditional five-day weeks will be used at both the beginning and end of the year in order to make the numbers (class time) work. The board also approved the switch for a one-year trial basis.

Tied to the four-day school week, students will also have eight periods per day at both the high school and middle school, creating additional opportunities for students.

Those opportunities include both for additional electives as well as additional learning experiences or assistance for students struggling in classes.

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Local school district hires new principal for Erie High

By EDDIE HIBBS III
Record Publisher & Owner

With two hires at the July 1 meeting of the USD #101 Board of Education, all positions are filled, according to Superintendent Scott Palser.

And in a way, the district was very fortunate.

At the June board meeting, the board accepted the resignation of Erie High School Principal Jamie Carlisle. Carlisle was well liked by the community and replacing someone with his talents that late in the game would normally be difficult.

Palser placed the opening on-

line, and narrowed the list down to two to interview. The list was then narrowed to four candidates, which was then narrowed to two for interviews. The candidates were qualified, according to Palser, but in the end, the district selected Robert Schneeberger to be the new principal at Erie High.

Schneeberger has spent the last seven years as a principal at Oswego and has 17 years experience as a high school principal.

"We are very fortunate because of his experience," Palser shared. "He knows the area. He's going to bring his own

style to the position."

Palser added that he was "very grateful" for the job Carlisle did at Erie High School.

The Record hopes to interview Schneeberger for next week's edition.

The new principal was one of two hirings announced at the meeting. The other was Jennifer Hartman as a fifth grade teacher for Galesburg Middle School. Starting with the upcoming school year, fifth grade classes will be taught at Galesburg. Previously, fifth grade students attended class at Erie Elementary.

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Resident requests assistance, options for city electric issues

By EDDIE HIBBS III
Record Publisher & Owner

A recent power outage to a vast area in south-east Kansas, including Erie, has one family seeking assistance from the city.

During Monday's meeting of the Erie City Council, City Treasurer Cindy Schoenhofer requested to be added to the "Public Comment" section. She explained to the council when the city lost power, her house was without power for

more than six hours.

She first asked the council if the city had any plans in the future to address the power needs for the northern section of the city.

The City of Erie has two sources of electrical generation. Primarily, the Erie Energy Center provided electricity to Evergy, when needed. The city also owns a much smaller electrical generation plant, which is used when power goes off.

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Publishing date for The Erie Record changing the fourth week of July

By EDDIE HIBBS III
Record Publisher & Owner

The Erie Record was notified late Monday afternoon that starting the week of July 22, The Record will be printed on a different day. The Record had a choice of printing Monday evening or Thursday evening moving forward.

With city council meetings and the local school district meeting Monday evenings, it wasn't hard to distinguish which day The Record would be printing.

The biggest impact, of course, will be subscribers getting their copy of The Record a day later than they are currently accustomed. This could also impact legal notices, also known as public notices, as some legal notices (budget hearings and bid notices, for example) require a certain amount of days between the publication date and the corresponding meetings and/or action.

The Record will maintain the "Thursday" publication date for the month of July, but starting in

August, The Record will have a Friday publication date each week.

Currently, The Record is printed in Independence and labels are then attached to The Record in Parsons. Starting the week July 22, The Record will be both printed and labeled in Independence.

For the time being, editorial and advertising deadlines are going to remain the same, though both may be extended this fall to reflect the new printing times.

REUNION WEEK HONOR



McGowens lead parade for Old Soldiers & Sailors Reunion Week

Richard "Jack" McGowen has been selected by the American Legion Post #102 to be the Grand Marshall of this year's parade as part of the 151st Old Soldiers and Sailors Reunion.

McGowen lives in Erie and has been a member of Post 102 for 58 years. He has served as Adjutant, 1st Vice, Assistant Commander and Commander six times. He earned his Legion membership by serving in the US Navy as a "plank owner," being part of the original crew of the USS Hunley (AS-31) in Holy Loch Scotland.

He moved up the ranks to a 2nd Class E-5 and had Top Security clearance. At one point, McGowen and his buddy Sweet Pea were quarantined to the ship for 30 days to practice cutting into live nuclear reactors. Upon doing so successfully, McGowen's unit received a Unit Citation Award and McGowen an individual Presidential Citation Award for being the first ever to cut into live nuclear reactors on a submarine.

When McGowen's duty was over, he returned to the states with a Good Conduct medal and a Vietnam Medal. His work continued in machinery through his employment with a tool company for more than 20 years.

McGowen is known for his work as part of the "bean feed," the rodeo and the parade announcer. Riding with McGowen in Saturday's parade will be his loyal wife of 52 years, Carolyn. Their son Levi is driving the vehicle and walking in support of him are his daughter Becky, their spouses, and his grandchildren. They are all proud of the history that most likely will carry the tradition of being the "oldest continuous reunion" of its kind.

Estrada, candidate for C'ville Twp. treasurer

Editor's Note: Candidates are allowed one "press release" when seeking political office. The following is submitted from current Centerville Township Treasurer Shirley Estrada, seeking re-election.



ESTRADA

Centerville Township Treasurer Shirley Estrada, announces her filing for re-election. Estrada assumed the position of treasurer for Centerville Township upon the retirement of Carol Clevenger in July 2022.

While the name Estrada may be unfamiliar to some, she may be more familiar to others as Shirley Dillinger while growing up and attending schools in Erie. Upon high school graduation she attended Neosho County Community College transferring to University of Central Missouri receiving a B.A. degree in Accounting.

After marrying, raising a family, and living mostly in Texas, Estrada and her husband chose to move back to Neosho

County in 2018 upon retirement, where she quickly became involved in local and county accountability.

As Centerville Township treasurer, Estrada has been diligent in the organization of township financial records and researching the statutory authorities of a township regarding fire protection.

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Still waiting: Newspaper police raid nears 1-year anniversary

By EDDIE HIBBS III
Record Publisher & Owner

A former reporter for the Marion County Record is out of the journalism business, but was back in the news recently.

On Aug. 11, 2023, Marion Police Chief Gideon Cody led a law enforcement raid on the newspaper's office, the home of the publisher and owner (Eric Meyer) and a council member who had been critical of the mayor at the time.

Former Marion County reporter Deb Gruver filed lawsuits against Cody, the Marion County sheriff and the county's prosecutor. In the June 25th agreement, Gruver accepted a \$235,000 settlement as part of her federal lawsuit. The settlement only removed the former police chief from the lawsuit.

Gruver's lawsuit is among five federal lawsuits filed over the raid against the city, the county and eight current or former elected officials. Additional lawsuits are pending.

At the time of the raid, Cody said he had evidence that the newspaper and one of the council members had committed identity theft or other computer crimes in obtaining information about a local business owner's driving record. According to reports, the business owner had a "Driving Under the Influence" conviction, yet was still driving in the city and trying to obtain a liquor license.

No charges were filed against the newspaper staff or the council member, but the outcry of the raid on the newspaper made not only national news, but reached across the globe.

Most of the lawsuits against the officials involved pertain to violations of the First and Fourth Amendments (freedom of the press and unreasonable search and seizures) and Privacy Protection Act violations.

A federal lawsuit was also filed by Meyer and the newspaper alleges that the raid caused the death the next day of his 98-year-old mother, who lived with him and still worked one day a week at the newspaper. Meyer's mother was alone when law enforcement raided her house for 2 1/2 hours.

Meyers shared in an interview with Mark Caro of Poynter.org:

"They had seven cops standing in her home for two-and-a-half hours. It was such overkill, literally. She warned them (about having a fatal heart attack). They just stood there. Even afterward, the guy who's not the interim police chief wanted to have her arrested for resisting, for interfering with law enforcement, because she was dangerous to them with her walker. You take a 98-year-old person who's lived in a house for 70 years, and you stand there for two-and-a-half hours and rifle through their stuff and don't let them go anywhere near it or see what you're doing, it's going to upset them. And it did upset her.

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