

# As first ‘outstate’ governor in 30 years, Walz could help balance rural-urban interests

We had to stop and think about it for a minute, but it was a bit of a revelation to be reminded that Gov. Tim Walz is the first “out state” governor we’ve had since Rudy Perpich in the 1980s.

Walz, the Democrat who took office in January, is a Mankato area resident—via Nebraska, his home state.

After hearing him speak at the recent Minnesota Newspaper Association convention recently, it was refreshing to listen to a guy who seemed to have a grasp of rural issues.

Granted, a city like Mankato is not Erhard or Pelican Rapids—in terms of its “rural” character.

But the fact is, our recent governors—Arne Carlson, Jesse Ventura, Tim Pawlenty and Mark Dayton were undeniably metro, suburban political figures. It has been three decades since we’ve had a governor from outside the Metro Area.

In a few of his statements, Walz really seemed to have a genuine, common sense approach to governing. He also seemed to have the right idea of how—and when—government and the public sector can work effectively with business and the private sector.

An example: His comments on rural broadband and access to high speed internet in rural areas.

Paraphrasing his comments, Walz said the private sector can economically build the main “highways” but government needs to step in to financially assist with the “on and off ramps” that bring technology to outlying rural areas—off the main road.

He likened it to the federal government’s “Manhattan Project,” where the public sector worked hand-in-hand on the atom bomb to win World War II. You could add NASA to the discussion, which was a unique pub-

## From My VIEW POINT

by Louis Hoglund,  
Managing Editor



**Private sector should drive Minnesota’s economy, but Gov. Walz appears to have right idea on wise collaboration between government and business**

lic-private partnership. It was a collaboration that put a man on the moon, and indirectly spawned most of the technology we have today.

Another example: Agriculture. Government, through funding of scientific research and other programs, has helped family farms sustain as “small businesses.”

Politically, we hear too much rhetoric from conservatives to rely on private business to drive innovation and advancements. But there are many goals that can—and should—be achieved through balanced government-industry collaboration.

“Free markets will expand broadband access...to a point,” said Walz. He understands that the private sector can’t afford to run access to all the sparsely populated. That’s when government steps in to assist with the “final mile,” said Walz.

Among his other thoughts about government and the free markets, Walz acknowledged that government is in a sense, a “monopoly.”



Gov. Tim Walz, speaking at the recent Minnesota Newspaper Association convention.

If that’s the case, Walz said the state of Minnesota must strive to be “the best monopoly it can be” in terms of cost effective governing and efficient delivery of services.

Walz is still in the “honeymoon” phase of his governorship, so time will tell.

But we certainly agree with Walz that future progress and economic vitality should be the goals of both the private and public sectors.

# Impact of local newspaper, community journalism on voting studied

By Jim Smoger, guest columnist  
Wheaton Gazette

The steady loss of local newspapers and journalists across the country contributes to the nation’s political polarization, according to research published recently in the Journal of Communication.

With fewer opportunities to find out about local politicians, citizens are more likely to turn to national sources like cable news and apply their feelings about national politics to people running for the town council or state legislature.

The result is much less “split ticket” voting, or people whose ballot includes votes for people of different parties. In 1992, 37 percent of states with Senate races elected a senator from a different party than the presidential candidate the state supported. In 2016, for the first time in a century, no state did that, the study found.

“The voting behavior was more polarized, less likely to include split ticket voting, if a newspaper had died in the community,” said Johanna Dunaway, a communications professor at Texas A&M University, who conducted the research with colleagues from Colorado State and Louisiana State universities.

The decline among newspaper and other sources of print journalism is well documented. What is less clear is the impact that has had on politics and voting on the local level. We’ve already seen from time to time the trends mentioned in the report emerging in Minnesota.

For example, Traverse County voted strongly Republican in 2018, except for the U.S. Senate and District 7 Congressional election. Twin Cities districts voted strongly DFLers, except in a handful of cases. It is hard for us to swallow that there is so little middle ground of support among the candidates from either party.

In another impact, a separate study suggested a link to increased government spending in communities where reporters who ask questions and stories about taxes and government programs have disappeared.

Community newspapers can be a force for moderation in politics. It shouldn’t at all be surprising that as they disappear, the results of elections and the actions of candidates on both sides are growing more extreme.



# Taking care of people, protecting taxpayers Republicans set ‘budget principles’ for 2019 session

A set of budget principles Senate Republicans will use when putting together the 2019 state budget has been established.

The principles were announced in advance of the February 19 deadline for Gov. Tim Walz to submit his budget to the Minnesota Legislature.

“Today, we unveiled a set of budget proposals that will focus on the people of Minnesota and our taxpayers,” said Senator Bill Ingbrigtson (R-Alexandria). “These principles represent

the core values of our caucus, and will serve as our guide as we work to protect the residents of the state from rampant government growth and spending.”

**Take care of people:** Senate Republicans care about people, and it will be our first principle in putting together the 2019 budget. That includes kids in childcare, students, veterans, seniors in the nursing home – and everyone in between.

**Protect the taxpayer by living within our**

**means:** We have a healthy surplus and the most robust rainy-day fund in the history of the state. There is no need to ask Minnesotans for any more tax revenue. We can take care of people without renewing the sick tax. We can make roads and bridges a priority without raising the gas tax.

**Control spending and hold government accountable:** State government should not grow at an unsustainable, unreasonable rate like we have the last eight years (39%

growth in the general fund). Our job is to set priorities and make the tough choices to fund them.

**Be transparent and get done on time:** Senate Republicans will move the budget through the process in a timely and transparent manner. We will introduce separate bills for each part of the budget, hold open hearings for bills so the public can keep track, and negotiate in good faith before final adjournment.

# Carlson family presented medals son William earned before killed in Vietnam

By Brenda Brand

100 years ago  
February 27, 1919

## • Will Move Hardware Store

**Ole Maland** has bought the **Andrew Peterson** business block just south of **Carr & Poss store** and will move his hardware store into it this spring. Mr. Peterson, took in the deal, seven acres of land in the southwest part of town.

## • New Garage

There is to be a new garage erected here in the spring on the lots across from **Ole Maland’s** hardware store, formerly occupied by a lumber yard. The building is to be erected by **H.J. Sheldrup and Carl Olson**, who have formed a partnership and are now doing business in the old **Andrew Peterson building**. The new structure will be 50 x 100 ft. with basement under a part of it and it will be a substantial building and situated in a fine location.

75 years ago  
February 24, 1944

## • Meets With Accident

**Svare Bjornson**, a son of the late **Rev. H. Bjornson**, returned to Rothsay Tuesday from the Army, having been honorably discharged. Sometime around midnight or shortly after of the same day, Svare slipped and fell at the corner near the **Bjoren Grocery** store breaking one of his ankles, or the bone just above the ankle. Then he crawled along, and up a long flight of stairs to notify **Lawrence Lien**, who called **Dr. Serkland** for first aid. An ambulance was called from Fergus Falls, and we understand Svare has been suffering considerably with the injury.

## • Fine Winter Concert

The Girls Chorus and Octette, led by **Miss Jean Stevens** and the Mixed Chorus, Clarinet Quartette and First and Second Bands, under the direction of **Miss Jean Erickson**, gave an especially fine winter concert in the high school auditorium last week Wednesday night.

All the numbers were splendid and the large audience deeply appreciated the evening’s entertainment.

50 years ago  
February 13, 1969

## • Medals Presented to Carlson Family

The parents of **William E. Carlson** have been presented with medals and awards their son **earned in Vietnam** before being killed in combat.

**Mr. and Mrs. Eugene Carlson** were given the awards by Major John Anderson of the U.S. Army Reserve unit at Moorhead at a visit to the Carlson home.

Among the awards earned by the young serviceman was the Bronze Star with presidential citation, the citation presented with the medal praised Carlson’s meritorious service to his country during the short time he served in Vietnam. At the time of his death, Carlson had been in the combat zone for only three weeks, arriving in October and dying in an enemy mortar barrage of his camp on November 14.

Other medals and awards were: the Purple Heart, Combat Infantryman’s Badge, Good Conduct Medal, Vietnam Service Award, National Defense medal and Ribbon, Expert Rifleman Medal, Automatic Rifle Marksman Award and the Machine Gun Sharpshooter Award.

The medals and ribbons will be displayed at the **Norgren Jewelry Store** window, Mrs. Carlson said.

## • Arraigned on Burglary Charges

Three young men arrested in **Barnesville** Saturday night were arraigned in Clay County Justice Court in Moorhead on charges of possession of stolen property from two Minnesota burglaries.

In addition, burglary charges are being prepared against the trio by Clay County authorities and burglary and theft charges by Otter Tail County officials.

Bond was set at \$1,000 each for **Richard Lohse**, **Gary Billie** and **James Prosser** from Barnesville.

Currency and coins totalling \$326 were found in three bank bags labeled with the name of the **J.P. Wallace State Bank** in Pelican Rapids and various school funds were in Prosser’s car.

The three were arrested after burglaries were discovered at the Galaxie Supper Club in Barnesville and at the Pelican Rapids High School.

## • Firemen Called for Two Fires

# Looking BACK

by Brenda Brand,  
Columnist



Pelican Rapids Volunteer firemen responded to two calls for assistance in the past week, dousing a burning snowmobile and a chimney fire.

Thursday afternoon, the fire department was called to the **Everett Johnson** home in the southeast part of the village when a snowmobile exploded and burned. Johnson’s son, **Jeff** had been using the vehicle and stopped near the garage to refill the gas tank. After filling it, he and his companion went into the house. While there, they heard an explosion and saw the machine burning.

Firemen were called to the **Carroll Dalluge** farm home west of Pelican Rapids. A chimney fire was already under control when the department arrived.

25 years ago  
February 23, 1994

## • Rudie participates in Habitat for Humanity project

**Teresa Rudie**, a senior at Concordia College, will travel to Louisiana the week of Feb. 20-27, as part of a Habitat for Humanity volunteer project.

Rudie, an elementary education major, is the daughter of **Orlean and Patricia Rudie**, Pelican Rapids.

About 120 student volunteers will travel to one of four destination sites: New Iberia, LA, Homestead, Fla, Circleville, WV, and Tampa, Fla. Students will provide manual labor to build and reconstruct homes for low-income people in flood and hurricane-damaged areas and other urban neighborhoods.

## • Celebrating the New Year

A variety of foods was served when **Elaine Johnson’s English as a Second Language class** at the high school celebrated the Chinese New Year.

The luncheon featured both **Vietnamese and Mexican foods** and local class members shared it with the ESL class from Detroit Lakes.

Participating from Pelican Rapids were: **Elaine Johnson, Ricardo Perez, Maria Perez, Chanh Kim, Thanh Kim, Thanh Kim with daughter Amy, Khanh Truong, Sarah Huynh and Eric Huynh.**

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