

# Coronavirus voting

## Area cities, townships gear up for one of most unusual elections on record

Election season is upon us, and city and township officials everywhere are gearing up for the Primary Election Day, Tuesday, August 11 and general election November 3. COVID-19 issues are also a factor as voting precincts prepare.

Election judges are needed at the precincts. Some precincts, like Pelican Rapids, have needed to recruit for judges. Meanwhile, the townships generally appear to have enough.

"We could still use more judges," said **Pelican Rapids City Clerk Danielle Harthun** recently. She explained that there needs to be "party balance" between judges who identify as Republican and Democrat. However, there is no limit on the number of judges who identify as politically independent.

Last week, two more Pelican city judges were added: Andrew Bradrick and Jim Hoffe. Also on the roster:

**Danielle Harthun, Dawn Lysaker, Kathryn Andrews, Babara Ripley, Julie Tunheim, Joyce Burnham, and Onnalee Miller-Krump.**

This should be sufficient for the primary, but Harthun said the city still may need to recruit a few for the November general election.

### "Election fraud" not a concern in Star Lake

In **Star Lake Township**, "we're in good shape. We've never had any problem with election judges in Star Lake," said Town Board **Chairman Lee Mindemann**.

Election judges from across the county were in Fergus Falls this week for training, with Wayne Stein and the Otter Tail auditor's office.

A little known fact, noted Mindemann, is that judges are not required to residents of the jurisdiction in order to be an election judge.

In fact, Star Lake has actually had extra judges—which were then freed up to serve at another precinct, he noted.

"Election fraud," has been tossed around in the media lately, but it appears to be an overblown issue, as far as Mindemann is concerned.

## From My VIEW POINT

by *Louis Hoglund,*  
*Managing Editor*



"When I hear people complain about election fraud—I can guarantee: There is no election fraud in Star Lake Township," said Mindemann. "Or anywhere else that I know of. People shouldn't say election fraud unless they have proof."

### Scambler will set up with COVID precautions

On the northwest corner of Otter Tail County, the election stage is set—mostly—at **Scambler Township**.

Masks, disinfectant, and other public health features are expected to be in place for the primary and general election. Scambler has also considered plexiglass shields for election day.

"Otter Tail County received money through the CARES Act, and we can turn in COVID-related expenses to be reimbursed," said **Clerk Sandy Tingelstad**, Scambler Township.

The township will need to limit the number in the building at any given time. Scambler has the benefit of having a second door, so voters can enter the front, and leave by the side door.

"It is the world we live in today," said Tingelstad. "People can come in one door, register at the tables, then go out the second door—so we don't have people meeting in the doorway."

Voter turnout is expected to be brisk for the November presidential election. Scambler had a record voter turnout in 2016. In addition to the heightened interest in the na-

## Candidate filings open July 28 for Dunn, Pelican townships; Pelican, Erhard city offices

### Three seats on Pelican school ballot

Filings for office at the township, school and city levels begin July 28—and close August 11.

Watch the Pelican Rapids Press public notice section each week for election information from area governments. This week, Otter Tail County publishes the notice of the primary election, which is August 11.

Dunn and Pelican Townships are among the relatively few that now elect town officers with November general elections—rather than the traditional March township elections.

**• See public notice section of the Pelican Rapids Press, this week and every week, for election notices from area governments.**

Three seats are on the **Dunn Township** ballot: Two supervisors and the treasurer's office. All three are four-year terms. Interested candidates may obtain candidate forms at Dunn Town Hall Mondays, from 9:30 am to 5 p.m.

**Pelican Township** has one supervisor, for a six-year term, and the clerk (four-year term) on the ballot.

**City of Erhard** has two, four-year council seats on the ballot, and the two-year mayor's seat. Candidates must file at city hall by August 11.

The seats of Kevin Ballard and Steve Foster are on the ballot for **Pelican city**. The mayor's seat, held by Brent Frazier, is also on the ballot.

Three four-year seats are on the ballot for the **Pelican Rapids school board**.

tion election, year-round population of the township is on a steady rise. Scambler's population is at 476—which rivals the population in many small cities.

"We had a record turnout four years ago, with 85 percent of our voting residents," said Tingelstad. "The presidential election is really going to be busy."

Thankfully, Scambler has a great team of election judges. "We've haven't had an issue with election judges for a long time," she noted. "I'm glad we have people that step up to the plate."

Scambler's roster of election officials include: **Peg Gilbertson, Judy Hoadley, Tingelstad, Christie Shulstad, LouAnn Zurn, Dave Peterson, and Karen Hart.**

## From the pen of the mayor...

### 'Smart911' replaces 'CodeRED,' residents urged to sign up at Pelican city web page

By *Brent Frazier, mayor*  
*City of Pelican Rapids*

Out with the old and in with the new! That's the way it is with a lot of things in life and especially in the field of technology as we have recently witnessed here in Otter Tail County with their new and improved emergency notification system.

Throughout the last few years, many of us locally in the City of Pelican Rapids and surrounding area have become accustomed to the CodeRED alert system that would advise us of severe thunderstorms, weather warnings, and possible tornados in our immediate area.

We had the choice to sign up to receive these alerts on our cellphones, landlines, and computers. These alert calls were then sent to us by the Otter Tail County dispatch system to give us ample time to seek shelter, before we would be in possible danger

from these weather situations, anytime during the day or night time.

CodeRED gave us some security knowing that in our busy lives, we didn't have to keep our eyes glued to the sky or our ears tuned in to the radio and television broadcast when something was brewing in the atmosphere. A technology system was there to do the sky watching for us.

Recently on July 01, 2020, this CodeRED was replaced with the new and improved Smart911 emergency notification system. This system is also a free, country-wide service to those that sign up to receive it.

The CodeRED system doesn't automatically transfer you to the Smart911 system.

In order to receive the new Smart911 emergency notification system, you have to manually subscribe with your appropriate contact information.

A simple method to receive the Smart911 emergency notifications is to click the link on to the City of Pelican Rapids website. Click on the upper left-hand side of the page to a category named "Emergency Notification Self-Registra-

tion-RaveAlert-Smart911."

You will then be instructed to list as little information as you would like or as much information as they ask of you, which all is of your choice.

The optional information, if you choose to answer, is a tool for you to communicate

your personal health circumstances and needs to emergency responders through a safety profile. Thus if you should ever need to call 9-1-1, your individual, household, property, vehicle, and animal/pet information will enable responders to assess your situation much quicker and more accurately before arriving at your residence.

Currently, not many residents of Pelican Rapids or our surrounding area have signed up for the Smart911 emergency notifications.

Please do not delay, but do so immediately whereas you can receive the new Smart911 emergency notifications.

Your action today will give you ample time to respond to a possible tornado warning tomorrow, and to also give first responders ample information if they should have to respond to an emergency at your home.

Please sign up today to receive your Smart911 emergency notifications.



# 1920 was historic year for women in Pelican area

100 years ago July 22, 1920

#### • School Election

The school election Saturday night drew out a large vote there being 110 votes cast. **Mrs. W.K. Frazee and G.H. Frazee** were elected to the office for the three year term and **O. Sanstad** for one year. Mr. Langlie succeeds himself and the other two are new members. **This is the first time in the history of the school that a woman has been a member of the school board.**

#### • Free Air

**Logan Brothers** have installed a free air service along the street by the bandstand. It is arranged so two autos can be served at the same time and will prove a great convenience to tourists. The public will certainly appreciate the service.

75 years ago July 19, 1945

#### • Pansy Grows From Brick Wall

A curious freak of nature, hardly believable, is a well developed pansy plant in bloom growing from the solid brick, was about seven feet from the ground at the rear of the **Gamble Store** building.

How the seed got lodged there and where the plant gets its nourishment is hard to figure out, but there it is. If you question the truth of this story go and see it for yourself.

#### • Rationing of Butter and Meat

Starting last Sunday ration points on creamery butter dropped from 24 points to 16. The reason given for the reduction was that the military requirements will be ten million pounds less in August.

Now if something can be done to increase the supply of meat the people of this section would be happy to see more of it.

It seems hardly fair to have to be deprived of meat when the country around here has an abundance of hogs and cattle.

## Just as women earned their right to vote a century ago, Pelican Rapids elected its first woman to serve on the school board: Mrs. W.K. Frazee

Truckloads are shipped out every week but practically none of it comes back for home consumption.

50 years ago July 23, 1970

#### • Firemen have busy week

Three fire calls in three days have kept volunteer firemen busy this week.

The first call came Sunday afternoon when a **U.S. Army bus** traveling north on County Road 9 caught fire. The bus stopped about three miles north of the village, and firemen doused a blaze in the engine compartment at the rear of the vehicle.

Personnel on the bus had a several hour wait while other arrangements for transportation were completed.

At about 6:00 pm Monday, the volunteers were called to the **Gail Heusser** farm southwest of the village where fire destroyed an old unused barn. A trash fire apparently spread to the empty barn, setting it ablaze. With the fire in an advanced stage, firemen stood by controlling the flames as the structure burned to the ground.

Serious damage was averted Tuesday night at about 10:30 when a gasoline pump caught fire at **Loghaven Resort on Lake Lida**. The pump, located behind the store building and used for boats, was destroyed by fire, but nearby buildings were not damaged.

**Fire Chief Rex Crews** said that an overheated motor proba-

bly caused the fire and that a gasoline shut-off averted more serious damage.

25 years ago July 19, 1995

#### • Tractor accident injures Erhard man

An Erhard man was hospitalized Thursday following an accident on his farm.

**Howard Motz** was working on a farm tractor and when he reached over to start it, the tractor was in gear and the rear wheel passed over his mid-section.

The tractor traveled a short distance before running into a building, where it stopped. Motz was found a short time later and taken by ambulance to **Lake Region Hospital** in Fergus Falls.

Motz reportedly suffered a broken pelvis, internal injuries, and lacerations on his arms.

In another accident late Thursday afternoon, a Pelican Rapids woman escaped serious injury when her van flipped end over end.

**Kathy Arntson** was northbound on Highway 59, about a mile north of Erhard. The van struck an approach, flipped end for end, landing on its top, and then back on its wheels.

**• Loud music brings complaint**  
 A teen dance held in conjunction with the **Turkey Days celebration** resulted in a complaint to the police department.

Police reported that a caller complained music being played for an outdoor dance at **Viking Elementary School** was too loud.

On Saturday night, a couple of people were involved in an altercation at the street dance downtown, police said. After the dance, about a **half dozen persons** were involved in a fight at **Viking Apartments**. A window was broken during the disturbance, according to the police report.

## Looking BACK

by *Brenda Brand,*  
*Columnist*



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