

Eyes on the voting polls

Otter Tail County received one report of irregularity at township precinct, underscoring importance of election judge training

Many eyes will be focused on the voting booths in 2022, or so it seems.

In the wake of the allegations of 2020 voting improprieties, almost universally unproven and unsubstantiated, election officials are on high alert across the nation—including Otter Tail County.

One election-related concern has been reviewed in Otter Tail, reported County Auditor Wayne Stein, who spoke at the March 24 West Otter Tail County Township Association meeting.

“There will be more scrutiny this year,” acknowledged Stein in an interview.

Without disclosing many details, Stein said there was a report about a voter casting a ballot in the March 8 township elections—who may not have been voting in the correct precinct. He did not disclose the specific township or other facts. Further, there has been no formal challenge or complaint on the matter, said Stein.

An isolated and unusual case, which evidently occurred during township voting March 2022, the incident nonetheless illustrated the accountability that local election judges may be faced with in the 2022 election year.

“I mainly brought it up (at the regional township meeting) from an election judge training standpoint...if you’re

serving as an election judge, you need to be prepared to address issues like this,” said Stein.



Wayne Stein

The truth is, some voters simply do not know where they should vote. They don’t know where the township line starts and stops, and go to the wrong town hall, said Stein. In the Otter Tail lakes area, there is also confusion as to whether the lake home is a voter’s primary residence, he added.

As county auditor, Stein oversees election implementation and logistics throughout Otter Tail County.

A series of election judge training will be held prior to the 2022 primary and general elections, announced Stein. He encouraged township officials to promote the training sessions and prepare for the primary and general elections.

“I always encourage people: if they’re concerned about the election process, volunteer to serve—whether as an election judge or on the absentee ballot board,” said Stein.

“If you’re not a judge, but are curious to see how elections work, let me know,” said Stein. “The best way to resolve a lot of issues is to get involved, and see what is going on.”

—Louis Hoglund, managing editor

From My VIEW POINT



by Louis Hoglund,
Managing Editor

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Wayne Stein, auditor
Otter Tail County

Election 2022 notes

- There are usually **91 voting precincts** in Otter Tail County
- 8 of those precincts are in Fergus Falls
- Some pricincts share a location. **Erhard** city and Erhards Grove share a voting site, but with separate sets of ballots and reporting documents. **Elizabeth** city and township also share a voting precinct.
- Election **judge training** is planned in early July.
- Voting **equipment testing**, which is open to the public but advanced contact is encouraged, will be end of July or early August.
- **Legislative State Senate and State House District 9 maps featured on page 13**



Seeking permanent, meaningful tax relief

From State Rep. Jordan Rasmusson
R-Fergus Falls

Minnesota has a massive state government surplus of approximately \$10 billion and our state’s citizens are among the nation’s highest taxed at a time we’re all looking for some relief.

Republicans in the Legislature propose providing immediate and permanent tax relief to help ease the burden. Meanwhile, House Democrats and the governor are seeking more short-term gimmicks along with significant government expansion.

The Senate Republican proposal would provide more than \$8.43 billion in tax relief over the next three years, which would be the biggest tax cut in Minnesota history. This includes eliminating the Social Security income tax. The average relief would be \$1,313 for the 410,900 Minnesotans who pay this tax. Senate Republicans also propose providing a rate cut on income taxes, which would improve Minnesota’s ranking as the ninth-highest state and local individual income tax collections per capita.

The average tax relief per filer would be \$759, with a family making \$100,000 per year receiving a tax break of \$1,066 every year.

These proposals represent meaningful, overarching tax reductions that would benefit all Minnesotans year after year.

House Democrats are taking a different approach by proposing to spend more on various forms of aid and picking winners and losers by isolating certain groups of people. For example, their proposal only includes a partial Social Security tax reduction instead of the full repeal Republicans in the House and Senate support. And, interestingly, House Democrats did not include the governor’s checks in their plan.

MPR appearance to discuss Paid Family Leave

I recently participated in a Minnesota Public Radio show which delved into Paid Family Leave proposals. It was an opportunity to highlight the differences between Democrat legislation and a bill I authored that is flexible, and helps private businesses

do what they do best without yet another government mandate. We don’t need a new government bureaucracy financed by a large tax increase accompanied with stringent mandates and penalties to provide paid leave.

California fuel regs in Minn.?

House Democrats and the Walz administration recently held a hearing and released a report pushing controversial California-style regulations that would increase pain at the pump even more.

Research indicates the California Fuel Standards proposal would cause the cost of gasoline and diesel fuel to increase by 20 cents per gallon in the near term and up to 54 cents per gallon by 2035. The CFS would force the average Minnesota household to spend an additional \$210 to \$570 per year, every single year at the pump. The Star Tribune recently ran a front-page story “High fuel costs threaten Minnesota economy” highlighting the pain it’s causing to Minnesotans and our economy.

Placing new fuel mandates on our state would only make things worse.

Pelican was ‘ground zero’ for bringing ground turkey to the market in 1972

Looking BACK



by Paul Gubrud,
Columnist

100 years ago, April 13, 1922

• *Community Building, Does Pelican Rapids Need One?* (E. L. Peterson editorial)

For the past number of years, the question of a community building has been discussed pro and con by the residents of the village as well as the rural population. All have come to the conclusion that such a building is just what is needed, as there is none sufficiently large to accommodate the crowds for ordinary public gatherings.

In discussing this problem the other day with a prominent businessman of the village, he told the editor that he would donate a lot for such a building, and he thought there would be no trouble in raising the money with which to erect the building.

• *Carload of Eggs*

The local creamery shipped a carload of eggs to the eastern market a few days ago, this being the first time that this has occurred in the history of the town. The creamery is doing a fine egg business and endeavoring in every way to make the poultry industry second to none in the state.

Mr. Sorensen, manager of the creamery, is now planning on going into the baby chick industry for next year. This feature of the poultry industry is an important one. He believes that if the standard bred chicks were hatched in a big hatchery that there would be a brisk demand for them, and even the bulk of the farmers would prefer buying the baby chicks rather than to hatch them on the farm. It looks like there are big possibilities along this line.

75 years ago, April 10, 1947

• *Miserable Weather, Rain, and Snow*

April has brought no spring weather but has given us anything but. It was expected that farmers would be busy in the fields by this time, but from all appearances, it will be a couple of weeks before the fields will be in condition to receive the seed.

The snow and ice have been slow melting, and what is there has caused mud, slush, and rough roads. But to top it all off, Friday night and all day Saturday, there was more rain and snow, which brought the April moisture up to 2.03 inches, according to the Frazee office gauge.

Saturday evening and Sunday, the roads were impassable in many places, and buses, cars, and trucks were stuck in the mud and snowdrifts.

• *John Deere Day Attracts Good Crowd*

The John Deere Day given by Ebersviller’s Implement dealers on Monday was very successful in spite of the almost impassable roads following in the wake of the rain and snowstorms of last week.

The morning and afternoon sessions were held in the high school auditorium, where moving pictures were shown of the John Deere implements, soil erosion, and a Bob Burns movie. The forenoon session was not so well attended, but after lunch, a fair-sized crowd was in attendance. Door prizes were given, the grand prize of a seven-quart pressure canner going to Ed. Olson.

At noon lunch was served to about 800 in the K. P. Hall, and the crowd disposed of some 1200 hot dog buns, cookies, doughnuts, and gallons of coffee.

Ebersviller’s were well satisfied and feel that the day was a fine success in spite of the various handicaps that they had to encounter.

50 years ago, April 13, 1972

• *Shoppers Trying Ground Turkey*

Ground turkey, the latest product to be offered by West Central Turkeys at Pelican Rapids, is rapidly gaining with grocery shoppers.

West Central manager Howard Carlson said this week that production now is up to two tons daily, and he expects to double or triple as sales increase rapidly.

The new product was developed in Norbest’s research laboratory at Modesto, California, Carlson said, and was placed on the California market in January. One of the food chains there sold 400,000 pounds in one week, Carlson noted. The product generally retails at from 69c to 89c a pound.

The ground turkey is much higher in protein and lower in fat than ground beef, according to Carlson. Fat content ranges from 6 to 10% in ground turkey, while ground beef in its various forms ranges from 16 to 30% fat.

Norbest standards set for the new product call for grind-

ing only drum and thigh meat with the natural proportion of skin. The turkeys are de-boned as they come through the line in the further processing section, with drum and thigh meat going into the grinder and the rest marketed as turkey parts, bulk breasts, de-boned white meat, white meat rolls, etc.

The ground turkey can be prepared in the same manner as ground beef, Carlson said. Folders containing recipe and cooking suggestions are available now in local grocery stores.

Ground turkey produced here is presently being marketed in many areas, including the Twin Cities, Memphis, Chicago, Detroit, Cleveland, and Omaha. It is packaged in 10-pound bags in either coarse or fine grind and frozen before shipment.

25 years ago, April 16, 1997

• *Efforts Underway to Aid Victims of Spring Floods*

A group effort among Pelican Rapids and Erhard businessmen has a fund drive underway to help flood victims in the Ada, Perley, Georgetown, and Hendrum area.

Erhard businessman Ken Scheman, who owns Minnesota Warehouse Furniture in Erhard, got a drive going in his community last week for victims of flooding in Ada. Most of the displaced had taken refuge in the school building in Borup but were in need of food, clothing, blankets, etc.

UPS driver Bob Berg decided to get a drive going in Pelican Rapids on Thursday. By Friday noon, cash, a pickup, and trailer load of blankets, food, clothes, and toys had been assembled at Northern National Bank, Rick’s Super Valu, Larry’s Super Market, and Lakeland General Store. A load of items from the Erhard community was included.

"It’s unbelievable what you can do in Pelican Rapids in 24 hours," Berg said.

Berg, whose parents are Hendrum residents, and Jerry Poss delivered the donations to the school in Borup and returned tired from sandbagging.

"Everyone is really tired up there," he said. "If anyone wants to come up and sandbag, they sure need lots of volunteers!"