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DAILY GLOBE

WORTHINGTON, MN  
DAILY 13,000

THURSDAY  
MAY 16 2002

MINNESOTA CLIPPING SERVICE

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**Four area legislators vote in favor**

(22B) DAILY GLOBE

WORTHINGTON — Four of five southwest Minnesota legislators voted in favor of the budget-balancing plan that passed the House and Senate Wednesday.

In the House, Republicans Elaine Harder of Jackson and Richard Mulder of Ivanhoe supported the plan, while Rep. Ted Winter, DFL-Fulda, voted

A See **VOTE**, Page A5

**VOTE:** Winter doesn't like school aid delay

from Page A1 A

against it.

Senators Jim Vickerman, DFL-Tracy, and Arlene Lesewski, R-Marshall, both voted for the plan.

Harder said the compromise agreement won't raise or create any new taxes or reduce funding to nursing homes, local government aid or classrooms. She said the plan rebuilds the state's budget reserve account and safeguards the current \$245 million allocated for road and bridge construction.

Most of the \$2.4 billion budget shortfall will be offset by spending cuts, the restructuring of financing of some state govern-

ment payments and the use of budget reserves, she said.

"I had hoped we could reduce more long-term spending in case the economy remains flat," Harder said in a press release Wednesday afternoon. "Unfortunately that didn't happen, and I'm afraid that could present new challenges in the coming years."

Winter criticized the measure, saying it delays state payments of school aid and county human services aid, which creates an artificial savings by pushing the spending from this year's budget into the next.

"All we've done is put pressure on schools to raise local property taxes, put pressure on

colleges to raise tuition and spend down just about everything we had in reserves," Winter said in a press release. "So next year, we'll face another deficit — estimated at \$2 billion — with almost no reserves and almost no one-time money left to fix it. We have very little to show for the big surpluses of the 1990s."

Winter also expressed disappointment that negotiations on a transportation finance bill fell through due to opposition to a gas-tax increase. He said it means there is little hope of reversing the state Department of Transportation's decision to delay improvements to Minnesota 60.

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DAILY GLOBE

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WEDNESDAY  
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12-20-02  
*Area districts*  
*change shape*

**(22B)** DAILY GLOBE  
WORTHINGTON

Under Tuesday's court-released redistricting plan, Worthington will become part of District 22B, currently held by Rep. Elaine Harder, R-Jackson. District 22B will contain all of Cottonwood and Jackson counties, and the townships of Worthington, Lorain, Bigelow and Indian Lake in the southwest corner of Nobles County.

House District 22A, currently held by Ted Winter, DFL-Fulda, will shift to the west and contain all of Rock, Pipestone and Murray counties, and the other 16 townships in Nobles County.

House District 21B, which used to cover Rock, Pipestone and Lincoln counties, will now encompass Brown County, five townships in northern Watonwan County and eight townships in southwest Redwood County. That means that current

**See AREA, Page A5**

**AREA: New assignments**

from Page **A1**

District 21B Rep. Richard Mulder, R-Ivanhoe, will now be in District 20A, which is held by incumbent Rep. Doug Peterson, DFL-Madison.

The redistricting makes Senate District 22 contain all six counties in the *Daily Globe* coverage area: Cottonwood, Jackson, Murray, Nobles, Pipestone and Rock. Current District 22 Sen. Jim Vickerman, DFL-Tracy, lives outside the new boundaries, leaving the district with no incumbent senator.

At the same time, District 21 Sen. Arlene Lesewski, R-Marshall, is now in the same district as Sen. Dennis Frederickson, R-New Ulm, as that district took an east-west shape, as well.

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FRONT PAGE

12-24 DV  
**Harder leads opponent  
Rubis in District 22B**

**22B** BY DOUG WOLTER  
DAILY GLOBE

WORTHINGTON — Republican incumbent Elaine Harder, seeking to extend eight years in the Minnesota House of Representatives, held a solid lead over DFL opponent Craig Rubis early this morning in District 22B.

With 61 of 75 precincts reporting, Harder had 4,268 votes, or 59.4 percent, compared with Rubis' 2,905, or 40.5 percent.

"The trend is going in the right direction," said Harder shortly before 2 a.m. today. Still not ready to declare victory, her optimism held steady since shortly after midnight when she explained, "Every time I've run for re-election it's a referendum on my service. This, I

think, means I've been doing all right."



**Harder**

cumbent. "That's how I reach out to the voters — making personal contact with them," she said.

The self-described "fiscal conservative" is House chair of the Sales and Income Tax Division and also serves on the Agriculture and Rural Development Finance Committee.

Harder, 54, has served four terms and was first elected in 1994. She credited her personal, a door-to-door campaign with her success as an in-

**22B:** Harder takes early lead

from Page A1

During the campaign, she stressed the importance of fiscal restraint in state spending and listed her priorities for the next legislative session as: working for permanent tax relief, economic support for farm families, rural retention and growth, and equitable funding for rural school districts.



**Rubis**

The Republican from Jackson, who is married with two children, said this morning that if returned to the House she

will consider the state budget shortfall No. 1 on her agenda.

Her opponent Tuesday, Craig Rubis has farmed in the Lakefield area for 28 years. He is a member of the Minnesota Soybean Growers Association, the Minnesota Corn Growers Association and the Southwest Minnesota Farm Management Business Association.

Rubis and the incumbent Harder vied in a redrawn District 22B. Harder previously served portions of six counties, but the 2002 district comprises of Cottonwood and Jackson counties and four Nobles County townships, including the cities of Worthington, Bigelow and Round Lake.

See 22B, Page A3

# Harder, Rubis are looking to help solve problems **22B**

BY DOUG WOLTER  
DAILY GLOBE

WORTHINGTON — When District 22B was redrawn, Republican incumbent Elaine Harder praised the new boundaries.

"I think it'll give me an opportunity to be more focused, in that it'll be a more compact district," she said.

Her opponent for the District 22B State Representative seat, Democrat Craig Rubis, also likes the new plan, noting that much of the new area is new to his Jackson-based opponent — conceivably opening up the district to a challenger like himself.

Rubis, Lakefield, believes that voters are responding to his message. But, he added, "You don't know until the cur-

tain's pulled."

The district comprises Cottonwood and Jackson counties and four Nobles County townships, including the cities of Worthington, Bigelow and Round Lake. Harder, first elected in 1994, previously served portions of six counties.

Married, with two children, Harder, 54, is House chair of the Sales and Income Tax Division and also serves on the Agriculture and Rural Development Finance Committee. Proud of her fight for fiscal restraint in state tax spending, she lists her priorities for the next legislative session to be permanent tax relief, economic support for farm families, rural retention and growth, and equitable funding for rural school districts.



Harder



Rubis

Harder hasn't signed a no-tax pledge this year, but she points to her record as a fiscal conservative.

"I'm trying to assure that all issues are on the table," Harder said. "But I think voters have every right to know my philosophical orientation."

Rural economic development is seen as a priority. Under Gov. Jesse Ventura, Harder said, there seemed to be a belief that problems could be solved by throwing money into regional centers. But there's more to

See 22B, Page A5

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WORTHINGTON, MN  
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OCT 25 2002

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## 22B: Harder, Rubis look forward to tackling tough issues

from Page A1 I  
rural Minnesota than regional centers, and smaller communities need help, Harder insists.

There is a misconception in education funding, she said. In the last four years, the state has introduced "record-setting dollars" to the per-pupil formula, increasing it \$104 per pupil with property tax reform over the last two years. Harder admits that many districts are needing to re-think their financial futures, but there now is less of a disconnect between state and local funding priorities.

Harder is also focused on state transportation issues, saying she's open to a 3-cent tax on gas provided distribution concerns are adequately addressed. The Metro area has legitimate interests in combating high-density traffic. "It's congestion we're

talking about. We need more lane miles."

Rubis, who has farmed in the area for 28 years, is married, with four children. He is a member of the Minnesota Soybean Growers Association, the Minnesota Corn Growers Association and the Southwest Minnesota Farm Management Business Association. He has worked on the Jackson County Central School Expansion Task Force and has been a Jackson County Commissioner since 1992. He has served as chairman of the Southwest Regional Development Commission, the District 7 Area Transportation Partnership and the Minnesota Regional Development Organization.

Rubis sees himself as a "moderate Democrat" and someone unafraid to tackle issues for the

benefit of area citizens.

"To me, I've always felt I've been able to be a problem-solver. I've listened, and I'm always willing to listen," he said.

Transportation issues, Rubis says, are what tipped the scales in favor of him getting into the District 22B race. The House missed the opportunity to provide adequate state funding in the last session, he said, and because he has expertise on transportation issues, Rubis wishes to get his voice heard on another level. He supports a gas tax if fairly distributed to rural Minnesota, though he cautions, "I don't like taxes, just like the next guy. But when there is a problem, I believe you have to keep your options open."

Rubis charges that Harder has, at times, too readily followed the House leadership, and

the House leadership hasn't always benefited rural Minnesota. He vows that he will be an independent voice attuned to the will of his constituents.

"Their voice, to me, their voice means something," he said.

Harder says she seeks a return to office because she understands the state agencies and enjoys working with constituents on a one-to-one basis.

Says the fourth-term legislator, "I can't say that I have any one burning issue, except legislatively doing my best ... I have a burning desire to make a difference for rural Minnesota."

**On the Web:** Learn more about Craig Rubis at [craigrubis.homestead.com](http://craigrubis.homestead.com). Learn more about Elaine Harder at [www.elaineharder.com](http://www.elaineharder.com).

# Expect conflict on roads

By Don Davis and Linda Vanderwerf  
Staff Writers

ST. PAUL — Legislators came to St. Paul early this year determined to inject money into transportation.

Long-delayed highway construction projects were to get millions of dollars so they finally could get off the drawing board.

But the plan ran into a snag — politics. The Senate, dominated by Democrats, passed a \$5 billion package including a 6-cent-a-gallon gasoline tax increase. The Republican-controlled House refused to raise taxes, proposing instead to shift \$750,000 from other funds into road construction.

The House and Senate never did agree on a package, and the 2003 legislative session, which starts Jan. 7, looks to take up where

lawmakers left off in 2002 — with disagreement.

Democrats like last session's Senate measure and Senate Transportation Chairman Dean Johnson, DFL-Willmar, said he expects his colleagues to pass something similar in 2003.

Over in the House, Republicans, with even more votes than last session, appear more likely to back Gov.-elect Tim Pawlenty's plan to borrow money for road construction.

While most transportation money is dedicated and cannot be shuffled to other uses, legislators have appropriated some from the general fund.

Sen. Keith Langseth said he fears Republicans will try to use that general-fund money

to help balance a nearly \$4.6 billion deficit, making the transportation situation even worse than it is today.

The DFLer from Glyndon, a longtime transportation committee member, said lawmakers could increase license tab fees. However, he quickly added, they would not return to the levels of three years ago.

During the campaign, Pawlenty called for the state to borrow \$2 billion for highway construction. But after state officials announced the deficit on Dec. 4, he said he would have to scale back that plan.

Langseth doesn't like borrowing money for all the construction work. He calls it "a cheap way to make people feel good for now." When Pawlenty's term as governor ends, Langseth said, the money would have to be repaid.



Johnson

Roads/ Page A12

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WEST CENTRAL TRIBUNE

WILLMAR, MN

DAILY 16,927

TUESDAY

DEC 31 2002

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## Roads

Continued from A1

Sen. Steve Dille, R-Dassel, said he would rather see a gas tax increase than bonding, which would add to the state's future obligations. "It seems better to pay as we go if we can," he said.

While running for governor, Pawlenty said the state is 30 years behind in funding road construction. Others agree.

"We have collectively neglected our transportation infrastructure for so long, we may never actually catch up — at least not in my lifetime," said Jack Geller, president of the Minnesota Center for

Rural Policy and Development.

House Republicans generally don't say they support a gasoline tax increase — and

Pawlenty vows to veto one — but Langseth said there is more support in the House for an increase than members let on.

"He is going to have to be flexible,"

Langseth said of Pawlenty.

Rep. Al Juhnke, a transportation committee member, said transportation is a priority issue and Pawlenty needs to look at things differently.

"You have to get around the fact that the gas tax is not a tax but a user fee," the Willmar Democrat said.

Rep. Paul Marquart, DFL-Dilworth, said he is leery of

raising the gasoline tax because about 90 miles of his legislative district borders North Dakota and South Dakota, and he fears Minnesotans

could cross the line to buy gasoline — and other items — if the gas tax increases.

Rep. Elaine Harder, R-Jackson, predicted there is a better chance this

session to pass a gasoline tax increase because highways need work.

"It is a high priority," Harder said. "We are remote in rural Minnesota. ... Shipping is absolutely vital to keeping rural Minnesota in the ballgame."

"I think we will definitely see a gas tax increase," said Rep.-elect Bud Heidgerken, R-

Freeport. "I'm a Republican, and I'm an advocate of it. We need roads out here, and that's one way of taking care of it."

While transportation funding long has been a legislative issue, it has been 15 years since it received a full debate, political observer D.J. Leary said.

"That is a long time," the co-editor of the Politics in Minnesota newsletter said. "There needs to be an updated debate in articulating the needs of the metro area in terms of transit ... and congestion along with the traditional arguments that now have only been heightened: (our need for) good farm-to-market roads."

Leary's read is that rural leaders lean toward supporting the Pawlenty approach, fearing a gasoline tax increase could somehow lead to a higher percentage of transportation money going to the Twin Cities.



Dille



Juhnke



Heidgerken

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FRIDAY  
DEC 27 2002

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● **Briefs**

**MCA earns award for commitment**

ST. PAUL — Minnesota Citizens for the Arts will be presented with a Sally Ordway Irvine Award for Commitment on Jan. 6 at the Ordway Center for the Performing Arts in St. Paul.

Two area residents, Rallah Madison of Lismore and Margaret Vosburgh of Worthington, serve on the MCA Board of Directors. Madison is a former president of the Nobles County Art Center. Vosburgh is the Executive Director of Memorial Auditorium.

Minnesota Citizens for the Arts is a statewide arts advocacy organization.

**Legislative breakfast in Worthington**

WORTHINGTON — The Governmental Affairs Committee of the Worthington Area Chamber of Commerce will host a Legislative Breakfast at 8 a.m. on Jan. 4 at TraveLodge Hotel in Worthington. Cost of attending is \$6.

- Attending the breakfast will be Sen. Jim Vickerman (DFL-Tracy), Representative Elaine Harder (R-Jackson) and Representative Doug Magnus (R-Slayton).

The 2003 legislative session will be discussed, and a question-and-answer period will follow.

DAILY GLOBE

WORTHINGTON, MN  
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WEDNESDAY  
OCT 23 2002

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Candidates  
FRONT PAGE  
spar over  
state issues

BY JUAN MONTOYA  
DAILY GLOBE

WORTHINGTON — Eleven candidates for legislative positions in southwest Minnesota tangled Tuesday with what they will have to live with once in St. Paul — budget deficits and scarce transportation dollars.

Incumbents and challengers alike met at the League of Minnesota Cities (LMC) forum on the state budget, transportation

F See FORUM, Page A5

**FORUM:** Transportation, aid to cities discussed Tuesday

from Page A1

and land use during an afternoon session Tuesday evening at the TraveLodge, in Worthington.

There, in a free-ranging encounter moderated by LMC's Kevin Frazell, they wrestled with cuts in services, tax increases and possible hikes in gas taxes to fund transportation needs.

One after the other, they sparred with the issues as Frazell sought to pin them down on whether they would cut education, raise gas taxes, or cut local government aid (LGA).

"We're looking on how to make up a projected \$3.2 billion deficit for next year," said Ted Winter, DFL District 22A incumbent. "You're not going to make that up with cuts alone. And you have to think about the fact that there's no inflation built in for the projections on schools and services."

His challenger, Republican Doug Magnus, of Slayton, said Winter was not including the \$400 to \$500 million shortfall already accrued for this budget year.

"I've attended four or five forums, and we've told everybody in each one that we didn't want to cut them, just like we're telling you," he said. "We have to sit down and get some sense into this budget."

Lavonne Bowman, DFL candidate for District 24A, said it was futile to argue about cuts since no one knew how large the budget would be.

"If we cut out LGA, we'd be cutting our noses out of our faces," she said. "And I'm going to protect education."

Her opponent, Republican Bob Gunther, said while he favored helping the cities, "We're spending more money than what we are taking in."

DFL candidate Craig Rubis, challenging Republican Elaine Harder for the District 22B leg-

islative seat, said the differences between the rural and metro areas must be paved over.

"The metros have to understand what the rural areas have to offer," he said, adding that he would favor a tax on gasoline as a partial solution.

Harder also favored a gas tax and said that setting aside bonding dollars for acquisition of right-of-way would help in road construction for the state.

"Up front we need to look at the leakage that is happening to the transportation fund. Rural Minnesota needs more than it's getting."

District 22 DFL Senator Jim Vickerman said the relationships between the legislators must be exploited.

"Everyone of the vice-chairmen that I had on my committee has a tie in rural Minnesota, just like I have family in the metro," he said. "It's all our problem."

Challenger Alex Frick said of

ficeholders must learn how to deal with "buckets of red ink.

"Local government is an extension of state government," he said. "To take away from one department doesn't make sense. The overall problem is large government."

Republican candidate Julie Rosen, who is running against DFLer Chuck Fowler for the Senate in District 24, said there is a need for bipartisan effort in the Legislature that will be used specifically for transportation.

"I would vote for a gas tax as long as it's earmarked for roads and bridges," she said. "Personally, I'd like to leave the LGA alone."

Fowler said efficiency should be the goal of government.

"We'll have to look at raising some sales taxes on services provided by the state," he said. "If we have to have a gas tax, we must make sure it goes to roads and bridges and to ease congestion."

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DAILY GLOBE

WORTHINGTON, MN  
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TUESDAY  
OCT 29 2002

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12-07-02 (E)  
● Daily Globe editorial

Editorial

# State legislature

The following are the *Daily Globe* endorsements for the state legislature.

**SENATE DISTRICT:** Incumbent DFL Senator Jim Vickerman, Tracy, is challenged by Alex Frick, Republican businessman from Luverne.

Frick is passionate in his convictions and has some experience in local government serving the Luverne City Council.

However, he's going against one of the best, most proven and most respected members of the Senate in Vickerman. His seniority, experience and know-how put Vickerman in a great position to push and affect legislation in a positive way for those in rural Minnesota. He has, in our opinion, earned the chance to represent the district again.

**HOUSE DISTRICT 22A:** Ted Winter, DFL, Fulda, is being challenged by Republican Doug Magnus, Slayton, in a race with two quality candidates.

Magnus has impressive credentials, especially in agriculture and business, and, perhaps, is the strongest candidate Winter has faced. We believe he would make an excellent representative.

However, he is going against a longtime incumbent in Winter, who, we believe, still has the passion for helping people of his district in particular and anyone in the agricul-

ture community in general. With many long-term House members retiring, Winter, if re-elected, likely will be able to assume key leadership positions this session. Winter doesn't always get his due credit, but we believe he works hard to represent the people of his district, is accessible and has the knowledge and experience to warrant an endorsement for two more years in the House.

**HOUSE DISTRICT 22B:** Four-term incumbent Elaine Harder, R-Jackson, is being challenged by Craig Rubis, DFL-Lakefield. Harder has dutifully represented her district, but it is time for a change.

Rubis, a Jackson County Board of Supervisor member and a longtime member of the Southwest Regional Development Corp. board of directors, has fresh and timely ideas and is a proven problem solver. He also doesn't back down from a challenge, even in dealing with controversial issues.

Rubis understands how state government affects regional, county and local entities. With his farming background, he will be a good agriculture advocate. And we believe he'll be someone who can work with people from all political ideologies to help create common-sense solutions for the people of the district.



WEST CENTRAL TRIBUNE

WILLMAR, MN  
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SATURDAY  
OCT 5 2002

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Pioneer TV

## to televise series of debates

APPLETON — Pioneer Public TV will televise a series of live legislative debates on Sunday afternoons, beginning this Sunday and continuing through Nov. 3.

In addition, the station will air two gubernatorial debates. The first will be live from Duluth from 7 to 8:30 p.m. Oct. 20. The second will be broadcast in a special Almanac broadcast at 9 p.m. Nov. 1.

Election Day is Nov. 5.

All candidates for all seats were offered the free debates. Some candidates agreed to debate, but their opponents declined, so a debate could not take place for that seat.

"We are thankful for those who agreed to participate in these free debates. This reflects the enormous interest in these local races," said Jon Panzer, executive producer and station manager.

The Willmar Area League of Women Voters is assisting in the debates.

The viewers will decide what issues will be discussed by calling in or e-mailing their questions. The call-in phone number is (800) 726-3178 or use [debates@pioneer.org](mailto:debates@pioneer.org).

Candidates debating from Pioneer's viewing area are as follows:

22B

### Oct. 6

1 p.m. Senate District 9: Dan Stewart, Ind., Wolverton; Bradley Monson, R, Detroit Lakes; Keith Langseth, DFL, Glyndon

2 p.m. House District 9B: David Sohl, R, Detroit Lakes; Paul Marquart, DFL, Dilworth

4 p.m. Senate District 13: Joe Gimse, R, Willmar; Dean E. Johnson, DFL, Willmar

### Oct. 20

1 p.m. Senate District 20: Erick Harper, R, Tyler; Gary W. Kubly, DFL, Granite Falls

2 p.m. House District 20A: Jeff Moen, R, Hendricks; Aaron Peterson, DFL, Madison

3 p.m. House District 20B: Colin Berg, R, Olivia; Lyle J. Koenen, DFL, Maynard

### Oct. 27

1 p.m. House District 21A: Marty Seifert, R, Marshall; Deb Hess, DFL, Redwood Falls

2 p.m. House District 21B: Brad Finstad, R, New Ulm; Mark Wiger, DFL, New Ulm

3 p.m. House District 11A: Torrey Westrom, R, Elbow Lake; Ryan P. Berg, DFL, Ashby

4 p.m. House District 13A: Paul Ellering, Ind., Grey Eagle; Bud Heidgerken, R, Freeport; Bruce Shuck, DFL, Sunburg

### Nov. 3

1 p.m. Senate District 22: Alex Frick, R, Luverne; Jim Vickerman, DFL, Tracy

2 p.m. House District 22A: Doug Magnus, R, Slayton; Ted Winter, DFL, Fulda

3 p.m. House District 22B: Elaine Harder, R, Jackson; Craig Rubis, DFL, Lakefield

1200DU(H) 22B

# Pawlenty makes stop in Worthington

FRONT PAGE BY DOUG WOLTER  
DAILY GLOBE

WORTHINGTON — Just minutes after Republican candidate for governor Tim Pawlenty called for a new direction in Minnesota government, his would-be rival announced that he will not seek a second term. “As to Ventura,” said Pawlenty, responding to a reporter’s question following a morning appearance in Worthington, “he

was elected at a different time. We were at peace, we were in prosperity. There wasn’t a consequence for having our entertainment. Now we have to have a leader.”

Ventura, the Independence Party governor whose term was marked with



Pawlenty

Independence Party whose term was marked with controversial

statements and feuds with the media, as well as with high-profile policy clashes with both Republicans and Democrats, announced Tuesday that he will not seek a second term. That would leave Pawlenty with one less obstacle to the governor’s mansion, though it still leaves Sen. Roger Moe, the 32-year Democratic legislator from Erskine, in Pawlenty’s way.

Pawlenty, a fifth-term representative from Eagan and

House Majority Leader since 1998, also drew a comparison with Moe as he walked to the “GOP Express” bus to take him and his entourage to their next stop in Marshall.

“He’s been in the Legislature 32 years. He’s got the ideas and the vision of the past. I’ve been in the Legislature long enough to know what I’m doing, but not

See PAWLENTY, Page A3

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WEDNESDAY  
JUN 19 2002

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DOUG WOLTER/DAILY GLOBE

The Minnesota Republican 2002 ticket headed by Rep. Tim Pawlenty (center, speaking) met in front of the Nobles County Courthouse in Worthington Tuesday morning during a four-day tour of the state. Joining Pawlenty are (from left) District 22B Rep. Elaine Harder, Minnesota Secretary of State Mary Kiffmeyer, Pawlenty’s running mate Rep. Carol Molnau, Attorney General candidate Tom Kelly,

## PAWLENTY: Education and infrastructure stressed in speech

from Page A1

too long to be entrenched,” Pawlenty said.

Earlier, while addressing a small crowd on the north lawn of the Nobles County Courthouse in Worthington, Pawlenty articulated his message.

“We know that Minnesotans are sick of bickering. They’re sick of being stuck in neutral,” he said.

He was joined by other newly-endorsed Republican candidates for statewide office, including his running mate, Rep. Carol Molnau, Secretary of State Mary Kiffmeyer, state auditor candidate Pat Awada and state attorney general candidate Tom Kelly. District 22B Rep. Elaine Harder and District 22A candidate Doug Magnus also appeared to show support.

Pawlenty stressed education and infrastructure in his appeal to Worthington-area voters, and he proposed implementing tax-

lation and economic declines are evident, “to ignite job growth and economic development,” he said.

Tuesday’s appearance was an introduction of sorts for Kelly and Awada. Kelly, making his first run for state attorney general, promised to make the legal system more legal-friendly for citizens.

“I have two things in common with the former manager of the Minnesota Twins,” he told the crowd. “The first thing is the name. The other is a belief that if you get the basics right, the rest will follow.”

Awada, mayor of Eagan and a successful business owner, said education funding is the biggest issue facing the auditor. She also made an appeal to basics.

“Five of the six of us have started out in local government,” she said. “We have an incredibly balanced ticket this year, and we understand local

INDEPENDENT  
MARSHALL, MN  
DAILY 8,506

SATURDAY  
MAY 25 2002

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22B

## Magnus will face incumbent Winter in Dist. 22 race

BY LARRY P. MAGRATH  
Independent Staff Writer

SLAYTON — Doug Magnus of Slayton was endorsed Thursday by District 22 Republicans to face eight-term incumbent Ted Winter, DFL-Fulda, in November's general election.

Magnus, a farmer with experience with the state and national soybean boards, beat out Luverne mayor and businessman Glen Gust for the endorsement. Magnus hopes his agricultural experience will help him gain support in the rural District 22A race.

Sixty-six percent of the district is new since it was redrawn for redistricting, Magnus said. The largest towns in the district are Slayton, Luverne and

Pipestone.

The district includes all of Pipestone, Murray and Rock counties. It also includes all but the four southeast townships in Nobles County.

Magnus operates a grain and livestock farm near Slayton. Locally, he serves on the board of directors for the Lyon County Co-op.

He served three terms as chairman of the Minnesota Soybean Research Promotion Council, and he was appointed to the United Soybean Board.

While on the United Soybean Board, he led trade missions to more than 30 countries and has also been involved in hosting trade missions from 20 countries visiting Slayton.

"I've had an awful lot of international and national experience

that I hope to put to good use up there," Magnus said. "Being on the Prairie Pride board for a long time, that's been very helpful in the business sense."

Former Gov. Arne Carlson appointed Magnus to serve two three-year terms on the Environmental Quality Board. While on the board, he served on the Wind Energy Task Force.

In District 22B, Republicans endorsed four-term incumbent Elaine Harder of Jackson. Harder was first elected in 1994.

In the District 22 senate race, Republicans did not endorse a candidate to face five-term incumbent Jim Vickerman, DFL-Tracy. The Republican slot remains open.

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DAILY GLOBE

WORTHINGTON, MN  
DAILY 13,000

THURSDAY  
MAY 16 2002

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*MINNESOTA CLIPPING SERVICE*

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● **QuickInfo**

**STATE BUDGET  
BALANCING BILL**

**House vote**

**THE MINNESOTA HOUSE**, on a 88-44 vote, passed a budget-balancing plan Wednesday. A yes vote was to approve the bill.

**LOCAL** representatives  
• voting yes: Richard Mulder (R-Ivanhoe); Elaine Harder (R-Jackson).

**LOCAL** representatives voting  
• no: Ted Winter (D-Fulda)

**Senate vote**

**THE MINNESOTA SENATE**, on a 51-14 vote, passed a budget-balancing plan Wednesday. A yes vote was to approve the bill. Voting yes were 24 Republicans and 27 Democrats. Voting no were 1 Republican, 12 Democrats and 1 independent.

**LOCAL** representatives  
• voting yes: Arlene Lesewski (R-Marshall); Jim Vickerman (D-Tracy).

**LOCAL** representatives  
voting no: None.

228

SENTINEL

FAIRMONT, MN  
DAILY 8,500

WEDNESDAY  
MAR 20 2002

MINNESOTA CLIPPING SERVICE

Area state legislators generally pleased

By BILL CAHALAN  
Sentinel Staff Writer

FAIRMONT

Incumbent legislators were nervous Tuesday when they went to state Web sites to find out how the boundaries of legislative districts had been changed by a panel of judges.

In each Minnesota Senate and House district in the redistricting process, several cities and townships were added and removed by the judges to reflect population changes. The redistricting changes, which go into effect in January 2003, form districts for candidates who will be on the ballot this November.

• State Sen. Chuck Fowler, DFL-Fairmont, was worried when he learned that redistricting put him in the same district as Assistant Senate Majority Leader John Hottinger. Hottinger is a Democrat from rural Mankato and one of the most powerful members of the Democratic-con-

REACTION

Continued on Page 10

REACTION

Continued from Page 1

trolled Senate. Hottinger lives two miles south of Mankato.

"I would not like the thought of running against John Hottinger," Fowler said. "He's done a great job being an assistant majority leader."

Fowler's worries were relieved, however, when Hottinger announced at a Tuesday afternoon press conference that he plans to move into Mankato and run in a different Senate district than Fowler's. The new district, Senate District 23, will not have an incumbent Senator running against Hottinger. That district will represent Mankato and an area northwest of Mankato.

"John Hottinger is a better fit to represent Mankato because that is the territory he has represented in the Legislature for years," Fowler said.

Hottinger announced at the press conference that he is endorsing Fowler's candidacy for the Senate District 24 election. The other announced candidate for that seat is Republican Julie Rosen of Fairmont.

Senate District 24 is larger than the district Fowler represents. The new district will include more townships from Blue Earth and Waseca counties. The new district will include all of Martin and Faribault counties and portions of Watonwan, Blue Earth and Waseca counties.

"The new district is quite similar to the present Senate district (District 26), which I like," Fowler said. "Overall in Minnesota, I think the court did a good job in redistricting."

• State Rep. Bob Gunther, R-Fairmont, was pleased with the redistricting results in the district he represents.

"With this district I'm certainly pleased," Gunther said. "It's more compact than the current district and I'm in the middle of it, being in Fairmont."

The new House district, District 24A, includes all of Martin County, the western half of Faribault County and the southern half of Watonwan County. Communities new to the district that Gunther represents include Blue Earth, Elmore, Winnebago, Sherburn,

Welcome, Trimont, Ceylon and Ormsby.

In recent years, Rep. Elaine Harder, R-Jackson, has represented the western portion of Martin County. Those communities have included Trimont, Sherburn, Welcome Ceylon and Ormsby.

Communities and townships that Gunther represents in southern Blue Earth County will not be included in District 24A.

The other announced candidate for District 24A is Democrat Todd Koskovich from St. James.

• State Rep. Henry Kalis, DFL-Wells, said he is satisfied with redistricting results in the district he plans to seek election in this fall. The new district is House District 24B. It includes the eastern half of Faribault County, most of Blue Earth County and much of Waseca County.

"The new district would be a good mix of small towns and agriculture," Kalis said. "I'm pleased with it, although I'm disappointed that I lose Blue Earth, Elmore and Winnebago in the new district."

"I think the judges did a good job in redistricting Minnesota," Kalis said. "They did as good a job as they could do."

22B

# Prairie Expo tax bill should advance to Senate conference committee

Bill would allow SRDC

to raise taxes to

pay off debts

BY MIKE NOWATZKI

DAILY GLOBE

WORTHINGTON — A provision that would allow the South-west Regional Development Commission to raise taxes to pay off debt related to Prairie

FRONT PAGE

Expo cleared the House floor Wednesday.

The provision, part of the omnibus public finance bill, is expected to pass in the Senate this week and will be forwarded to a conference committee.

The provision would allow the SRDC to tax its nine member counties an additional \$232,000 — more than double this year's levy — annually

from 2008 to 2010. The money would be used to pay off debt related to Prairie Expo, the failed tourism center in Worthington.

There is a catch: If the bill passes, all nine counties must pass resolutions of support. Only Pipestone and Rook counties have not passed resolutions in favor of the effort. "What it says is that all nine counties have to support the

local tax effort to fund the RDC's financial problems," said Rep. Ted Winter, D-Fl. Fulda, who has carried the bill with Rep. Elaine Harder, R-Jackson.

The House passed the public finance bill 115-15 Wednesday, Winter said. Sen. Jim Vicker-man, D-Tracy, is carrying the bill in the Senate. Figures submitted to the Legislature by the SRDC show its

outstanding debt at slightly more than \$1.6 million, which includes a \$741,125 bond held by the city of Worthington. Public entities owed money for Expo-related loans include the Prairieland Economic Development Corp., \$113,803; Slayton Economic Development Authority, \$24,063; and Southwest Minnesota Housing Partner-

## EXPO: If bill fails, SRDC may have to file Chapter 9

from Page A1

Pope is owed \$12,478. As of January, the SRDC also had \$20,370 in unpaid 2001 property taxes to Nobles County.

The additional tax authority would allow the SRDC to recoup \$305,796 spent from its operating reserve to keep Expo open; \$34,518 in Project 318 administration/finance/committee funds; \$22,000 in principal payments on loans prior to June 30 of this year; and \$35,626 in unemployment payments to former Expo staff.

Winter said that without the additional taxing authority, the SRDC may be forced to file Chapter 9 bankruptcy. A majority of House members support the provision because it will maintain the credibility of regional units of government like the SRDC and sustain the long-term viability of rural communities, he said.

"It includes all the communities and their bonding and their organizational strength," he said.

House members thwarted an effort by Rep. Richard Mulder to delete the SRDC provision from the public finance bill.

"I think that Rep. Winter and Sen. Vickerman have voiced their cruel hopes on the taxpayers of southwest Minnesota with their Prairie Expo pork-barrel boondoggle project," said Mulder, R-Ivanhoe.

There are other options to free the SRDC of debt that haven't been explored, Mulder said. He said the SRDC could reorganize under Chapter 9 bankruptcy and still remain open. He said there is sympathy among legislators who supported the \$5.5 million in state bonds for Expo, and that they could have pursued a state appropriation to cover the \$1.6 million.

"We don't need to raise taxes every time Winter makes a miscalculation on a project," he said.

But Winter said the SRDC provision would raise taxes just 40 to 60 cents per year on a typical home or \$2 to \$4 on a quarter-section farm. He noted that Mulder has been against Prairie Expo since its inception.

"Hindsight is 20-20," Winter

said. "But the alternative — letting the regional commission go broke and shutting down senior services, regional tourism promotion, local sewer and water projects and more — will cost our region more in lost jobs and lost income than the recovery plan."

Mulder said he had another amendment that would have allowed residents in the SRDC area to vote on the tax increase. Although his actions have been unsuccessful, he noted that counties have the authority to veto the tax increase if it's approved by Gov. Ventura.

"The most important thing now is to have people understand the issue and the pros and cons and let them know what alternatives there are," he said.

Mulder said he expects the conference committee to begin work on the tax bill Tuesday.

SRDC executive director Jay Trusty said he has discussed the tax provision with officials in Rock and Pipestone counties and will revisit them after the bill has passed.

While legislators attempt to correct Expo's failings, a newly formed corporation called Prairie Discovery Inc. is eventually going to tackle the issue of what to do with the building.

"We're still in the process of getting the first board lined up," said Steve Perkins, one of the incorporators.

The nonprofit corporation will consist of nine volunteer members: three area businesspeople, three representatives of the region's tourism and economic development organizations, and three members of the SRDC who are not Executive Committee members. Seven members have risen to the task so far, Perkins said.

As far as possible uses for Prairie Expo, he said the future is wide open.

"I don't think we want to close the door on anything," he said. "Obviously there are certain limitations ... with the state bonds and things. But I think we want to start out kind of broad and narrow it down to what is the best feasible use for the facility — something that can be economically viable and provide service to the district."

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ALBERT LEA TRIBUNE

ALBERT LEA, MN  
DAILY & SUNDAY 7,240

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# FFA students visit St. Paul for day at the Capitol

*For the Tribune*

FFA students from across Minnesota visited with Minnesota legislators and agricultural education leaders during FFA Day at the Capitol Thursday, Feb. 21. Speaker of the House Steve Sviggum, Sen. Dallas Sams, Rep. Bob Ness and Rep. Elaine Harder were among the key legislators briefing the FFA delegation. Officials of the University of Minnesota College of Agricultural, Food and Environmental Sciences also announced new scholarship opportunities for agricultural education students as part of a comprehensive effort to enhance agricultural education

programming. Barrett Keene, National FFA Vice President (Southern Region) from Florida, was also on hand to interact with Minnesota's FFA delegation at the Capitol.

"This was a great opportunity for FFA students from across Minnesota to visit with key legislators, FFA leaders, University of Minnesota officials, and policy-makers on some of the important agricultural education public policy issues currently being discussed at the Minnesota Legislature," said Patrick Plonski, Executive Director of the Minnesota Agricultural Education Leadership Council (MAELC). Agricultural education issues under consideration

currently include funding for high school agricultural education programs and their FFA chapters, funding for a new Agricultural and Food Sciences Academy facility to be located on the Minnesota State Fairgrounds, and key agricultural bonding requests for the University of Minnesota.

The University of Minnesota College of Agricultural, Food and Environmental Sciences also announced that it will offer new scholarships to agriculture education students who enroll in the college. In addition, the college plans to build on its long-term commitment to providing scholarships to FFA

leaders who enroll in a variety of majors including food science, environmental science and animal production systems. The college, in collaboration with MAELC, recently increased Agricultural Education Scholarships by \$18,000.

Minnesota currently has over 190 agricultural education programs and over 8,000 FFA student members. FFA is a career and technical education youth leadership organization dedicated to making a positive difference in the lives of young people by developing their potential for premier leadership, personal growth, and career success through agricultural education.

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DAILY GLOBE

WORTHINGTON, MN  
TUESDAY 13,000  
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Winter: Something must be done to halt the spending of reserves

Southwest Minnesota legislators focusing on a variety of priorities

BY DOUG WOLTER  
DAILY GLOBE

WORTHINGTON — District 22A Rep. Ted Winter is often a vocal critic of Gov. Jesse Ventura, but on Monday he agreed with the governor on at least one issue.

"I kind of agree with the governor. You need to have some cash flow on hand," said Winter (DFL-Fulda), whose colleagues on Monday discussed Democratic solutions in front of the full Senate for fixing a \$1.95 billion state budget shortfall. Ventura has demanded that the Legislature move swiftly to eliminate the deficit in the 2002-03 budget, also asking that it balance the budget through 2005.

On Friday, Ventura criticized House and Senate leaders for favoring quick fixes that could jeopardize the state's credit rating and leave future budget decisions hanging. Winter said Ventura is correct to want to protect the state's bond rating, and he favors making major structural changes.

Something needs to be done to halt the spending of reserves, Winter said.

"The House and Senate leadership are going the other way, spending down the reserves because they want to get this thing over quick," Winter said.

Southwest Minnesota legislators are focusing on a variety of priorities for the Legislative session, District 22 Sen. Jim Vickerman (DFL-Tracy) has said recently that ensuring stable funding for K-12 schools and senior health care, mandating use



Winter



Vickerman

of biodiesel fuel, and improving homeland security are among his priorities.

"I have always been a strong supporter of K-12 schools," Vickerman said. "I will continue to work to create and preserve a source of stable school funding, especially for schools in rural communities."

He added, "Those caring for our seniors must be able to find a keep qualified staff. The need to keep capable staff in nursing homes is especially critical in the areas I serve, where access

to health care services is often a problem for folks choosing to stay in their rural communities."

On Monday, Winter said that he, Vickerman and District 22B Rep. Elaine Harder (R-Jackson) will push hard to get a hearing in front of the Higher Education Committee for recommending that a \$6.3 million renovation project at Minnesota Community and Technical College be approved. The Minnesota State College Board of Trustees recommended the project last summer, but the governor did not include it in his own bond project recommendations.

Winter said he and Vickerman also remain committed to passing transit-aid legislation that would give \$40,000 to Prairie Land Transit Joint Powers Authority in Worthington to support the taxi and bus-based

service in 2002-03. Worthington should be granted equal treatment as the Metro Transit Bus System, which is paid by state general fund tax revenues, Winter said.

The Nobles County Heartland Express was excluded from a database of transit services whose funding would be transferred from local to state sources as part of last year's property tax reform.

"They weren't given the same treatment," Winter said, "so we're trying to get them the same treatment as everyone else."

A bill in committee would place local service in the same package that the metro service enjoys.

"It's always a challenge to get everyone on board, especially when you're \$1.9 billion short right now," Winter said.



# Metro area dominates Legislature

By Don Davis  
Capitol Correspondent

FRONT PAGE

ST. PAUL — The year was 1963. An assassin killed President Kennedy. The Rev. Martin Luther King Jr. delivered his "I have a dream" speech. There were 15,000 American advisers in Vietnam.

And rural legislators controlled the Minnesota Legislature. Only eight committee chairmen, out of 56, were from the Twin Cities.

In 2003, the second President Bush will begin the second half of his term. The war on terrorism will continue. American troops will serve in Afghanistan and may invade Iraq. And the Twin Cities will control the Legislature with 23 of 40 committee chairmen.

As Minnesotans

moved to the metropolitan area, so did the political power. After new districts were drawn last March, rural Minnesotans lost at least half a dozen seats to the suburbs. Rural residents have lost power in redistricting every 10 years since the 1960s U.S. Supreme Court requirement that each legislator represent about the same number of people.

Jack Geller, president of Minnesota's Center for Rural Policy and Development, said 36 of 67 legislative districts are in the seven-county Twin Cities metropolitan area.

"This translates into seating 108 metro-area legislators, more than twice the 51 metro-area legislators that were seated in the 1961 session," Geller said.

The consequences of that change could be serious for Minnesotans living outside the Twin Cities. Suburban needs may become more of a priority, since that is where the population is growing.

Legislative leaders and Gov.-elect Tim Pawlenty promise to treat rural Minnesota fairly. They often say Minnesota is one state and everyone should be treated the same.

But that is what Gov. Jesse Ventura says, too, and rural leaders say he usually ignores their needs.

The 2003 Legislature, which opens at noon Jan. 7, will be the state's most urban ever. And it comes at a time when money will be more scarce than ever, with lawmakers looking at ways to balance a nearly \$4.6 billion deficit over the next 2½ years.

Rural leaders will watch the 2003 Legislature closely to see how they are treated.

One longtime political observer said the changes will be gradual. D.J. Leary, an editor of the Politics in Minnesota newsletter, said an urban-dominated Legislature slowly will eat away at rural issues.

"What were traditional sacred cows in taxation (like keeping taxes low on lower-valued rural homes) may not be quite as sacred as we move forward," Leary said.

A Bemidji State University political science professor said today's larger rural districts are more difficult to represent.

"It is a really stark change..." said Patrick Donnay, who has studied differences between rural and metropolitan lawmakers.

"The size of the districts up here has nearly quadrupled. That has all kinds of ramifications."

"The size of the districts... has nearly quadrupled. That has all kinds of ramifications."

— Patrick Donnay  
Bemidji State University

WEST CENTRAL TRIBUNE  
WILLMAR, MN  
DAILY 16,927  
SATURDAY  
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MINNESOTA CLIPPING SERVICE

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## Rural

Continued from A1

"... There are a lot of distinct interests in that geographic space," he said. "It is hard to represent the diversity of concerns."

A representative of 50,000 people in a suburb, Donnay said, represents constituents with much more homogeneous concerns than those in rural areas. A single rural district, for instance, may have citizens with priorities ranging from agriculture to colleges to logging to tourism.

Legislators from outside the Twin Cities understand difficulties they will face when the Legislature convenes. In 2003, those difficulties will involve more than just a movement to the suburbs. Rural Minnesota lost some powerful allies to retirement, defeat and death.

Senate Majority Leader Roger Moe and Sen. Doug Johnson, both retiring, were "two of the best legislators in

the last many, many, many years," Sen. LeRoy Stumpf, DFL-Thief River Falls, said.

Moe, especially, had the opportunity to influence most legislation as majority leader the past 22 years. Johnson, who like Moe lives on a northern Minnesota lake, was in charge of tax or finance committees in recent years.

"Rural areas did take a hit," Stumpf said.

Leary said suburbanites often objected to giving tax breaks to towns outside of the Twin Cities, but committee leaders such as Johnson were "able to protect the northern tier of homeowners with some pretty favorable property tax rates." Suburban and urban lawmakers now are in charge of most committees.

"It is going to be an interesting type of test when you have to start cutting here in the next few months," Leary said.

One of the Senate's key rural chairmen, DFLer Steve Murphy of Red Wing, said he feels an urban-rural balance will remain.

"I still think there are enough people with a well-rounded information base ... that understand the need for a balance between the environment and agriculture and not go full-blown one way or the other," the agriculture committee chairman said. "I would expect agriculture will have a favorable light shown on it again this year."

In the House, where budget cutting will be more of a priority than in the Senate, a committee chairwoman sees a tough task.

"I see my role as Agriculture and Rural Development Finance (Committee) chair as doing all I can to preserve the funding that we have," Rep. Elaine Harder, R-Jackson, said.

Her predecessor, Rep. Bob Ness of Dassel, got into hot water with Republican leaders last session when he fought — and lost — for more ag money. He didn't seek re-election.

Donnay had a suggestion for rural lawmakers: Work together.

"Maybe we should think of a new constellation of rural interests that have not acted as a rural voice before," he said. "Maybe the rural legislators should act as a caucus."

Donnay also suggested that groups such as outstate United Way-type organizations or farmers work closely together to prove their needs.

"The answer to weaker legislative clout is efforts to get strong group clout."

A Donnay study showed the distance between the Capitol and rural legislators' homes makes a difference. Rural lawmakers often miss St. Paul meetings, and thus lose opportunities to fight for rural issues.

On the other hand, small news media outlets in rural Minnesota help lawmakers there reach people easier.

"One of the upsides to being an outstate legislator is you become more of an instant celebrity," Donnay said. "You are in there as long as you want to be. You are always getting news stories."

12 DU FRONT PAGE

# Effort grows to dump Profile

By Don Davis  
Capitol Correspondent

ST. PAUL — Goodbye, Profile of Learning.

"You will see them repealed in the House," House Speaker Steve Sviggum said about Minnesota's show-what-you-know graduation standards.



Harder

"I would hope so," added Sen. Keith Langseth, DFL-Glyndon. "I think it is time we throw it out."

The House long has favored getting rid of the Profile. The Senate has been close in the past, and with more conservatives — who are more likely to oppose the Profile — the betting is that senators this year will follow the House's lead.

Once a bill eliminating the Profile lands on Gov. Tim Pawlenty's desk, he won't hesitate signing it. He has been a Profile critic. ♦ Rep. Elaine Harder, R-Jackson, agreed the Profile will be eliminated.

"What are we going to replace it with is the big question," she said.

"We have to have some standards, but I would hope it would not be as complicated and convoluted as the Profile of Learning," Harder said.

The Profile of Learning is one of the few education-related topics other than school funding expected to be high profile when legislators convene Jan. 7 for 2003.

Minnesota students are introduced to the profile concept in elementary school. It requires them to complete projects to demonstrate they can apply what they've learned in school.

Lawmakers in 2000 eased the requirement that all Minnesota high school students finish 24 tasks, called content standards, before graduation. Now, local districts have more say in implementing the Profile.

Many teachers say they must teach to the Profile instead of just teaching subjects. They are very critical of the paperwork involved.

Like nearly every other issue this year, education debate will center on money and the nearly \$4.6 billion deficit for the next 2½ years.

Langseth said that since K-12 spending is nearly 40 percent of the state budget, it must be considered when budget-balancing options are weighed.

"It's the big elephant in the budget," Sen. LeRoy Stumpf, DFL-Thief River Falls, said.

"I think we will be lucky to hang on," said Stumpf, chairman of the Senate Education Budget Division. "There are programs that won't be funded that we would like to fund."

Gov.-elect Tim Pawlenty promises to do what he can "to hold education harmless" as state leaders try to balance the budget deficit. He said he hopes any education cuts can come from administration costs, not the classroom. But his budget is a month and a half away from completion and those decisions have not been made.

Profile/ Page A12

WEST CENTRAL TRIBUNE

WILLMAR, MN  
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## Profile

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Schools should not even expect a 3 percent inflation increase, which would cost \$400 million, Stumpf said. If that increase does not come, he predicted schools would increase fees and institute new ones, such as charging for bus rides.

One possibility Langseth expects to be discussed would allow local school boards to increase property taxes to make up for any cuts made in state payments.

Jack Geller, president of the Minnesota Center for Rural Policy and Development, said rural education needs to be remembered this year, especially in getting schools connected to the Internet.

"Many do not realize that the costs of access vary widely across the state," Geller said. "The consequence is that in some districts, mostly rural, where access is less affordable, school officials must weigh the cost of high-speed Internet against the cost of an entry-level teacher."

Legislators appear to agree Minnesota's colleges and universities will have to raise tuition.

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DAILY GLOBE

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## Vickerman not surprised by Ventura's decision

**BY DOUG WOLTER**  
DAILY GLOBE

WORTHINGTON — Gov. Jesse Ventura's surprise announcement Tuesday that he would not seek a second term didn't take Sen. Jim Vickerman, DFL-Tracy, by surprise.

"I said all along that he wasn't going to run, because he can't win. And he didn't want to go out a loser," said Vickerman.

Vickerman said Ventura's administration will be remembered as marked by contention.

"I had hopes that we could work with him. But it just stopped. It was his way or no way ... I think he did a lot of damage to the state because he showed no leadership," Vickerman said.

Ventura, a former professional wrestler who stunned everyone by winning a longshot bid for the statehouse in 1998 while running on the Reform Party ticket (he later left for the Independence Party), made his statement Tuesday morning broadcasting live on Minnesota Public Radio.

District 22B Rep. Elaine Harder, R-Jackson, said Ventura's biggest negative as governor may have been his willingness to increase taxes in response to a hefty state budget shortfall.

"That stunned me, for someone who portrays himself as a fiscal conservative," Harder said.

Ventura managed throughout most of his term to maintain a high job approval rating despite carrying on running feuds with Republicans, Democrats and the media. He was criticized this week for allowing his son, Tyrel, to use the official governor's residence for weekend parties.

"I just didn't see a way out for him, to come out smelling like a rose, after showing such disregard for the governor's residence," Harder said.

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WORTHINGTON, MN  
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THURSDAY  
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# Local legislators pleased with redistricting

New district has six counties instead of nine

BY MIKE NOWATZKI  
DAILY GLOBE

WORTHINGTON — District 22 legislators say they are pleased with the redistricting plan issued Wednesday by a panel of five judges.

"I love it," Sen. Jim Vickerman, DFL-Fulda said Thursday. "Six counties, it's kind of in the

middle, and I've always worked in all those counties anyway."

The six counties — Cottonwood, Jackson, Murray, Nobles, Pipestone and Rock — form a nearly perfect rectangle and the most geographically plain district in the state. District 22 previously comprised parts of nine counties.

"And it's hard to do justice to get to all of those," Vickerman said, adding that the new district will allow him to focus

more on his counties.

The only sad note, he said, is that he lost his hometown of Tracy in the redistricting. Tracy lies in Lyon County and is now part of District 21.

Vickerman lives two miles south of the border between Murray and Lyon counties, which will make him the incumbent when he runs for the District 22 seat this fall.

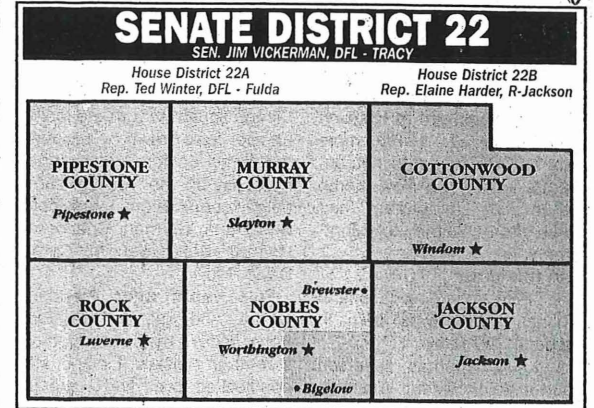
"I've got tremendous seniority, and why not use it for my dis-

trict and this area?" he said.

District 22A Rep. Ted Winter said he, too, believed the judges did a good job of grouping the counties in southwest Minnesota. His new area includes all of Murray, Pipestone, and Rock counties and 16 of the 20 townships in Nobles County.

"I think District 22A will be a good district to work in, to run in — very homogeneous people

See REDISTRICTING, Page A2



## REDISTRICTING: Winter runs for Farmers Union president

from Page A1

in occupations and lifestyles and cultural values, I think," Winter said.

The Fulda Democrat is currently running for the Minnesota Farmers Union presidency against Rep. Doug Peterson, DFL-Madison, and former state Farm Service Agency director Tracy Beckman. Winter said he has been calling county leaders to gauge support for his candidacy.

"I would be very happy to work closely with farms and families and the Farmers Union and their policies that have



Vickerman



Harder



Winter

been organized and brought forward to the state," he said.

The MFU presidency will be decided April 13. If Winter doesn't win, he said he will continue to actively campaign for the District 22A seat.

Winter's new area includes

Rock and Pipestone counties, which previously were served by two GOP legislators, District 21 Sen. Arlene Lesewski of Marshall and Rep. Richard Mulder of Ivanhoe.

District 22B Rep. Elaine Harder, R-Jackson, said she is pleased with her new district, which is comprised of Cottonwood and Jackson counties and four Nobles County townships — including the cities of Wor-

thington, Bigelow and Round Lake.

Under her old district boundaries, Harder served portions of six counties. She said she has developed relationships throughout the area — including in Worthington — during her eight years in office.

"I think it'll give me an opportunity to be more focused, in that it'll be a more compact district," she said.

Harder hasn't officially announced her re-election bid, but she hinted strongly at it Wednesday, saying she looks forward to "the potential to serve the Worthington area."



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1/20/04

# Deal may be put in jeopardy

► House may put up opposition to same-sex item in union agreement

By Mark Fischenich  
Free Press Staff Writer

The settlements negotiated by state employees' unions and the Ventura administration to end a strike last fall may be in jeopardy because of opposition in the Minnesota House of Representatives.

The House and Senate must ratify the agreements, which include a provision allowing insurance benefits for the gay and lesbian partners of state employees. Ratification of the contracts has been essentially a formality for nearly three decades, but the Republican-controlled House is threatening to derail the settlements.

On a 75-54 vote, the House passed a non-binding resolution Wednesday opposing the agreements reached with the American Federation of State,

County and Municipal Employees, the Minnesota Association of Public Employees and other smaller employee unions.

Rep. Dennis Ozment, R-Rosemount, told his colleagues the Ventura administration showed disrespect for the House when it included the same-sex-partner benefits in the contracts even though the House had voted 78-54 last year to oppose those sorts of benefits in an amendment to a bill financing state government.

"Now it's our fault that we're not going to put up with it," Ozment said in a speech on the House floor. "That's a flawed process."

The resolution isn't the same as an outright rejection of the contracts, but it signals that the House may refuse to sign off on the settlements that ended the two-week strike by about 30,000 state employees in October.

"Even though it's a resolution, I think it's very serious," said Rep. John Dorn, DFL-Mankato. "And it does put us in unknown waters."

Dorn, a member of the Rules and Administration Committee, was on the losing side in an 11-9 vote in that committee to send the resolution to the entire House.

Opposing it again on the House floor, Dorn noted that the DFL-dominated Senate didn't join the House in opposing the expanded benefits, so the House amendment never became state law.

Dorn said earlier if the new contracts aren't ratified by the Legislature, state employees may or may not have access to health-care benefits. That's because without the new agreement, the old contract would take effect but the previous health-care plan no longer exists.

He also worries that if negotiations between the state and

the unions are reopened, the dispute may expand beyond same-sex partner benefits.

"It puts people back at the bargaining table, and all of the pieces are in play..." he said. "It all can unravel."

In addition, Dorn said it's a dangerous precedent for the Legislature to inject itself into the negotiations rather than following the tradition of delegating the job to the administration. The bargaining process would become extremely complicated if the views of 201 lawmakers need to be calculated.

"How does a union or how does the administration interpret the multitude of contradictory signals that we send?" Dorn said. "I think that it's just unreasonable."

Minnesota State University employee Gary McKinley, president of a MAPE unit representing 75 workers throughout south-central Minnesota, said his colleagues will be

frustrated if the House follows through on the threat. And McKinley doesn't rule out a return to the picket lines.

"If you're not going to ratify the contract we negotiated, you wonder why we go through all this," McKinley said.

For the state employees, the benefits for gay and lesbian partners weren't a key part of the negotiations, he said.

"That wasn't a major item for us," McKinley said. "That was basically an item the administration brought in."

Nevertheless, fewer than 100 of more than 50,000 state employees covered by the new benefits have actually applied for the partner benefits, making McKinley wonder if the issue is really worth jeopardizing the hard-fought agreements. The Legislature needs to be willing to delegate negotiating authority and then accept they won't like every provision of the final settlement.

## How they voted

Votes Wednesday as the House, on a 75-54 vote, approved a resolution that objects to state employee contracts that provide benefits to same-sex partners of state workers. A yes vote was a vote against the same-sex benefits. Voting yes were 65 Republicans and 10 Democrats. Voting no were 3 Republicans and 51 Democrats.

### REPUBLICANS VOTING YES

- Boudreau (R-Faribault);
- Buesgens (R-Jordan); Clark, J. (R-New Ulm); Gunther (R-Fairmont); Harder (R-Jackson); Ruth (R-Owatonna);
- Seifert, M. (R-Marshall); Swenson (R-Nicollet); Tuma (R-Northfield).

### DEMOCRATS VOTING NO

- Dorn (D-Mankato); Johnson, R. (D-St. Peter); Kalis (D-Wells).

\* Elaine Harder

# Pawlenty pushes for development in Worthington

Worthington Daily Globe

BY RYAN MCGAUGHEY

DAILY GLOBE

12-14-02

WORTHINGTON — It's probable Gov.-elect Tim Pawlenty had a good idea what to expect when he paid a visit to Newport Laboratories Friday morning.

Near the conclusion of a power-point presentation given by Wayne Freese, the company's president and chief executive officer, and Randy Simonson, general manager and chief operating officer, a list of the company's chief matters of concern for Pawlenty and his administration were posted on the screen.

Pawlenty was asked to encourage entrepreneurship in rural Minnesota. He should keep Minnesota friendly to agriculture. Health care costs need to remain affordable. Tax incentives should be given to small businesses, thereby creating new jobs. The governor-elect should offer support to the University of Minnesota, while making it both more accountable and accessible. He should work to avoid the over-regula-

tion of small businesses.

None of those issues were foreign to Pawlenty, and he was well-prepared to address each one.

*'Job growth, particularly in southwest Minnesota, is something we're going to be very interested in.'*

**Tim Pawlenty**  
Minnesota Gov.-elect

"Job growth, particularly in southwest Minnesota, is something we're going to be very interested in," Pawlenty said during the presentation. "We're particularly interested in agricultural-related businesses and their growth potential. We want

See PAWLENTY, Page A2



RYAN MCGAUGHEY/DAILY GLOBE

**Gov.-elect Tim Pawlenty (right), speaks with Newport Laboratories general manager and chief operating officer Randy Simonson (left) while research associate Deb Wieneke looks on during Pawlenty's visit to the Worthington company Friday morning. Pawlenty also traveled to Marshall, New Ulm and Mankato after his Worthington visit.**

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WORTHINGTON, MN  
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SATURDAY  
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# PAWLENTY: Tax-free zones on the agenda

from Page A1 A

to make sure the first opportunities (for growth) are going to Minnesota-based companies."

Pawlenty also cited genomic research at Rochester's Mayo Clinic and suggested the state team with the clinic on the project. In a visit to Mayo Thursday, Pawlenty said the clinic contributes \$3.97 billion annually to the state's economy.

"I'm really interested in this business (Newport Laboratories) for a variety of reasons," Pawlenty said. "We want to explore the opportunity for partnership with the research being done with the University of Minnesota and other places to help us grow even further."

Besides viewing the powerpoint presentation, Pawlenty toured the company's Circle Drive laboratory facility, donning a pair of blue slippers in the process to walk through the areas where vaccines are created and stored.

Later, he discussed the primary concerns he faces as he prepares to take command next month.

"One thing I'm hearing over and over again is, 'Boy, health

care costs are really putting a lot of pressure on us," said Pawlenty, who favors a change in the rate the state is reimbursed for Medicare and Medicaid and plans to explore alternative health-care systems.

Pawlenty also addressed the estimated \$4.6 billion deficit the state faces and reiterated his past promise to not raise taxes.

"The major budget deficit we're facing is incredibly large," Pawlenty said. "It's the largest budget deficit in state history, and I think it's the largest budget deficit in the nation per capita.

"We're not going to cut taxes, but we're not going to make things worse ... by raising them."

Pawlenty hopes to provide tax incentives for new businesses, and plans to urge state colleges and universities to advance new technologies into the marketplace.

Tax-free zones, designed as a means of luring businesses to economically-hurting areas by exempting them from state and local taxes, are also on Pawlenty's agenda.

"We're interested in economic development for greater Min-

nesota, we're trying to bring tax-free zones into greater Minnesota and we're making sure we have ag-friendly policies and leaders."

On hand for the visit was District 22B State Rep. Elaine Harder (R-Jackson), who was recently appointed chair of the Agriculture and Rural Development Finance Committee. She, the governor-elect and others attending the tour were led through Newport Laboratories' biologic production facility by Deb Weineke, a research associate.

Newport Laboratories, which also has a vaccine production facility in Sibley, Iowa, produces system specific (autogenous) swine and bovine vaccines and bacterins. The company provides practicing veterinarians with autogenous porcine bacterins, killed viral vaccines, a line of commercial-licensed swine biologics and autogenous bovine bacterins. Newport Laboratories operates a diagnostic facility providing essential, as well as specialized, diagnostics.

Since 1997, the company has created five businesses and has added 113 of its 150 total employees.

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# PM Windom plans major expansion

FRONT PAGE

## Beef producers to benefit from \$18 million project

BY JUAN MONTOYA  
DAILY GLOBE

WINDOM — At heart, Robert Curry has always had a soft spot for the country and rural life.

On Tuesday, Curry, president of PM Beef Holdings, announced that the PM plant in Windom has started an \$18 million expansion and planned to spend more than \$200 million to buy beef from area cattlegrowers.

"All of us have a love and an affection for rural America," Curry told a gathering of dignitaries and industry representatives. "We feel fortunate when we can follow our own passions and our own loves in making this announcement.

"We're excited about our expansion and the potential spin-offs to the local agricultural economy in the form of feed and forage that growers need to raise their cattle," he said.

"Instead of farmers exporting their cattle, they're able to walk them off the farm," he said. "With the demand for our products, we're able to keep the cattle home."

Curry made the announcement Tuesday inside the meeting room of the new Minnesota Department of Natural Resources building in Windom.

On hand to witness the announcement was Cheryl Heidi,



BRIAN KORTHALS/DAILY GLOBE

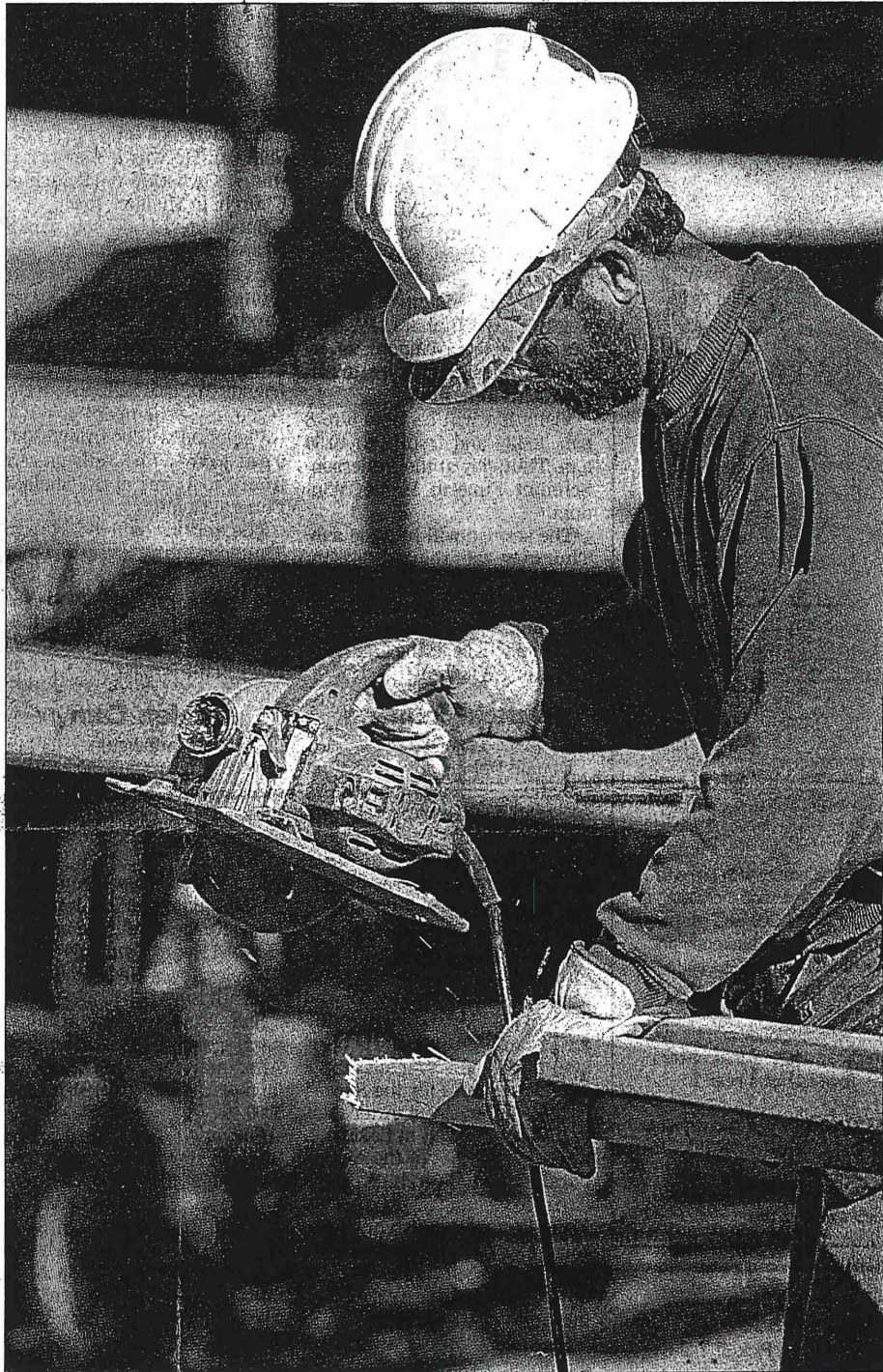
**Robert Curry, president of PM Beef Holdings LLC of Windom, speaks during the expansion announcement ceremony Tuesday at the DNR headquarters in Windom.**

Minnesota DNR regional director, who said the building was constructed in Windom to serve purposes just like these.

"We not only wanted more office space, but also a place the community could use as a meeting place," she said.

Curry, a graduate of a land-grant college (the University of West Virginia), said the new expansion would result in the addition of 400 new jobs at the plant at the end of the second phase of the expansion.

Leann Mayfield Saunders, director of marketing and communications, said 200 jobs exist at the Windom plant now



BRIAN KORTHALS/DAILY GLOBE

**Sussner Construction employee Steve Vickerman, Tracy, cuts through a board on site at the PM Windom beef-processing facility Tuesday. The plant is undergoing an \$18 million addition.**

See EXPAND, Page A5

( Back )



## EXPAND: Beef producers will have local place to sell their animals

from Page A1

and that another 400 workers would be needed when construction was complete.

The current expansion will increase the size of the beef harvest and fabrication operation from 84,000 to 179,000 square feet, Curry said.

Mayfield-Saunders indicated the target date for completion was fall or winter of 2002.

"We're shooting for September right now," she said.

The first phase of the expansion started in 1997 with the addition of a cooler facility at a cost of \$2.5 million. Additional phases are scheduled to take place over the next few years, Curry said, including an expansion in Hartley, Iowa, where another of PM Beef Group's plants will undergo expansion and modernization.

Curry praised the support of local business leaders and political representatives who he said have supported PM Beef in all its endeavors. He said state legislators had pushed for the Minnesota Investment Fund to kick in 52 percent of the money for the expansion.



BRIAN KORTHALS/DAILY GLOBE

**Rebecca Yanisch, Minnesota Department of Trade and Economic Development commissioner, expressed her pleasure at the expansion and congratulated those involved.**

"That allowed us to increase our workforce by 400 jobs and increase our payroll from \$4 (million) to \$13 million, which to a poor boy from Virginia adds up to some real money," he said.

Rebecca Yanisch, Minnesota Commissioner for Trade and Economic Development, said

the story of the PM Beef project showed what a united community could achieve in partnership with industry.

"A heartfelt congratulations to the city of Windom," she said. "I'm a fifth-generation farmer's daughter from northwestern Minnesota, and I had to move to the big city to find work. We need to keep our young people in our rural towns to continue the traditions of your community," she said.

"This is a wonderful success story," said Yanisch.

State Sen. Jim Vickerman also praised the teamwork that led to the Tuesday announcement. He said the fight to keep the plant in Windom was not easy, but one that will result in positive offshoots for the region.

"This plant could move," he said. "This plant could have shut down and moved on. One thing that we were asked was if we could provide the people to work."

Vickerman pointed out that the last census showed that the number of minorities in southwest Minnesota was increasing and would assure industry of a

workforce.

"They will bring families which will benefit our schools, our stores and our business places," he said. "We have to get people, and they have to have a place to live. Once you sell them a home, they're here to stay. And, of course, we need a four-lane Highway 60 to bring the cattle in here. It just goes on and on."

State Rep. Elaine Harder said she was born in 1947, a year after the original Caldwell Packing Co. was established. The expansion of the new plant meant local feed growers and beef producers could now add the value to their product here instead of exporting it outside the area.

"Hopefully, this will mean good things for the people of rural Minnesota," she said. "Instead of having the value added elsewhere, we need to do it here so we can hold people here in the state."

For Steve Brake, of Wilmont, president of the Minnesota Cattleman's Association, the expansion of the plant means that cattle growers won't have to haul cattle to distant markets and bear that cost.

"It used to be we had many places where to take our cattle," he said. "That's changed. To have the plant stay here is very exciting."

Brake said six counties in southwest Minnesota lead the state in the number of cattle produced, but that many growers had been challenged to stay.

"It's important to send a message that the livestock industry is the backbone of the rural economy," he said. "Without it, you'd have empty farms. We'll be here as long as we have farmers producing livestock feed. It's very important."

Meat packing was started in Windom in 1947 by John Caldwell, said Windom Mayor Coralee Krueger. At that time, six people dressed 15 head a week. By the end of 2001, PM Beef, who bought out the Caldwell Packing Co. in 1993, employed 200 people and processed 155,000 cattle.

"Today is a red-letter day," she said. "We appreciate the confidence PM Beef has in the people and the employees, and in the City of Windom. Thank you for the opportunity."

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WORTHINGTON, MN  
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TUESDAY  
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● Letters to the editor

<sup>1200DA</sup>  
**Compassionate  
conservative**

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When you go to the polls Nov. 5, you should not be misled. You should have a choice and have the opportunity to learn both sides of the issues.

If Mr. Larson would have done his research, he would have discovered that the great state of Minnesota offers several loan forgiveness (repayment) programs to rural primary care physician residents, dental students and students in RN, LPN, NP, PA, CNM, nurse anesthetist and advanced clinical nurse educational programs.

Rep. Harder advocates progress and fiscal responsibility and works to improve the quality of life for families. During her history of public service, she has revamped long-term care, consistently voted to support nurse's aides in facilities and in their communities, expanded the existing prescription drug program, supported a new discounted prescription drug program, increased funding for mental health treatment, protected the health care access fund for low income individuals, defended rural pharmacies and proven her ability to be proactive with efforts to defend bioterrorism threats.

Hard work, integrity and accountability. These words reflect Elaine Harder's character and define her candidacy. She understands our district and shares our concerns about family, prescription drug affordability and accessibility to health care. Elaine is a

leader not afraid to tackle tough policy challenges and whose track record defines responsible public service.

We have the choice to send to St. Paul a voice that will work to support and empower all the people she serves. Don't be misled.

Re-elect Rep. Elaine Harder.

**Albert Henning  
Lakefield**

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OCT 24 2002

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**She supports  
22B incumbent**

**22B**

Election time is drawing near. I would like to take this opportunity to applaud our state representative from our House District 22B, Elaine Harder.

Back in 1994, I was very happy that Elaine Harder had decided to run against Katie Olson. I felt Katie was one who followed the crowd when it came to voting in St. Paul. We in southwest Minnesota needed someone better than that.

So a lot of us in this district went to bat for Elaine Harder. We knew her to be a fine, upstanding Christian lady. Our kids were in 4-H together. We rejoiced with her when she won the election.

Soon, Harder was appointed to committees in the House of Representatives, especially the Agriculture Committee. She supported the Child Protec-

tion Act and others pertaining to the Right to Life and family values. She has taken a firm stand against abortion.

Elaine Harder has a 100 percent voting record with the MCCL (Minnesota Citizens Concerned for Life). After serving four terms in the state house, she has an opponent for that office — Craig Rubis. We do not know where Rubis stands on the abortion issues. When MCCL questioned him, his answer was NR (no reply).

I am a senior citizen, and I am going to vote for candidates who respect life, young or old. We do not need thousands of babies killed in Minnesota, or millions throughout our great land of America, this coming year. How about you?

**Lolna Smith  
Jackson**

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IVANHOE, MN  
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Dear Editor:

The Board of Directors of the Southwest Regional Development Commission (SRDC) would like to express its appreciation to all of those who have assisted the Commission during the struggles of the past few years. Much has been done, but much work remains, as the SRDC moves forward with a renewed focus and sense of purpose to provide services to the governments and residents of Southwest Minnesota. There are many individuals and groups who have helped the SRDC on the road to recovery from the closure of the Prairie Expo.

Thanks to Representatives Elaine Harder and Ted Winter, who co-authored and shepherded in the House of Representatives the legislation that allowed the SRDC to survive, and to Senators Jim Vickerman and Arlene Lesewski for all of their hard work on our behalf in the Senate.

Thanks to all of our supporters on county boards, city councils, and town boards around the region who have continued to support the mission of the SRDC, and to all of the other

area agencies represented on the commission who have continued to work with us to improve the region.

Thanks to members of the Blue Ribbon Task Force for all of their time and ideas and to the volunteer members of Prairie Discovery, Inc., who continue to donate their time and energy to the often thankless job of finding a viable purpose for the Prairie Expo building.

Thanks also to the SRDC staff who have stayed with the commission through hard times not of their making in hopes of better times to come. Without their determination and willingness to take on additional workload, the Commission would not have been able to endure.

And a special thanks to the residents of Cottonwood, Jackson, Lincoln, Lyon, Murray, Nobles, Pipestone, Redwood and Rock Counties for their patience and support.

Sincerely,  
Board of Directors,  
Southwest Regional  
Development Commission

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● **Letters to the editor**

*1200 DU*  
**Harder reiterates support for schools**

**22B**

Statements made in a recent letter to the editor by Mr. Zuehlke and information in my opponent's ads give a false impression of my attitude toward declining enrollment aid for local districts. As a rural legislator, I know that declining enrollment aid helps districts with decreasing enrollment to fund ongoing programs and more gradually decreases state funding when there are fewer students in the school.

I gladly supported the improvement of the current law by providing heavier weighting given to the previous year's student count. Declining enrollment aid computed currently using 23 percent recognition of last year's enrollment was improved by more than doubling it to 50 percent factor being used to carry forward half of the enrollment count into the current year's computation for state per pupil aid.

However great in theory the Skoe 100/100 amendment was, it's feasibility comes into question. You need to know that the DFL Senate was unwilling to make the moderate improvement by the House's 50 percent/50 percent proposal that I supported, keeping us at the old law of 77 percent (this year's pupil count)/23 percent (last year's pupil count).

As for the fuel issue, should the state have rewarded those school districts that weren't prepared for price spikes

● **Write to us**

The Daily Globe invites letters from readers that express a point of view or an opinion.

Letters should be brief, less than 500 words. Thank you letters and articles from other publications cannot be considered for publication. Those who wish to submit longer opinion pieces may do so. However, they will be published as guest opinions as space permits.

You may drop letters off at the Daily Globe or mail them to us at P.O. Box 639, Worthington, Minn. 56187. Letters may also be sent via e-mail to: dgopinion@dglobe.com.

at the expense of the districts that were prepared? Many districts through local decision making were using energy conservation, insulation and providing for alternative fuels. They were better prepared for the cold and higher energy prices. For the districts that weren't prepared, I offered a low interest loan plan as help but to not disregard the efforts of those districts that had prioritized preparedness.

As for special education funding, I proudly point to the prioritization of this area by the new House Republican leadership. In fiscal year 1999, DFL leadership budgeted \$434 million whereas, the new Republican leader-

ship in response to the need, has increased state special ed funding by 50 percent in the last 4 years to \$637 million in fiscal year 2003. I have supported more funding for our special education students in Minnesota.

It's pretty obvious that I support education funding needs and have been fair-minded in making the decisions necessary.

• **Rep. Elaine Harder Jackson**

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Maria Sommis, secretary

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**Facts distorted  
in letter to editor**

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It's a sad day when a campaign attempts to win by hurling last minute attacks distorting my record and smearing my name and work. This is not the America our ancestors had in mind. Mr. Johnson falsely claims that I've accepted money from organizations that exceed the limits for this

election year.

The \$9,600 is a distortion and reflects the total contributions by Political Action Committees (PACS) to my committee since 1996. He would have you believe I received that sum in one year. I am proud of the fact that my campaign is largely funded by individual contributors.

Less than 10 percent comes from PACs. By making this distortion, he is criticizing the hard-working people who belong to these organizations. An

example: The Minnesota Wheat organization is made up of farmers across the state of Minnesota. Their goal, like mine, is to protect and promote rural Minnesota.

The hypocrisy is the fact that my opponent has accepted PAC money. Before he or his supporters criticize me on this issue, they had best look in their own back yard first

The voters in this district can count on me to continue to fight for rural Minnesota. I'm a leading member on the House Agriculture Committee and a leading member in the Legislature. I offer you experience and complete dedication to your concerns.

Thanks again to the people in this district for their support and encouragement. I will continue to work for our rural values and concerns.

**Elaine Harder  
Jackson**

# House sets up 'leaner' committee structure in cost-cutting move

With 5 fewer panels, 9 staff jobs also cut

By Dane Smith  
Star Tribune Staff Writer

To save money and send a signal that it's serious about budget-cutting, the Minnesota House will have five fewer committees and committee divisions when it convenes in January, House Speaker Steve Sviggum announced Wednesday.

"We're going to be leaner," said Sviggum, R-Kenyon, adding that the House has saved \$3 million since 2000 by cutting staff, encouraging unpaid leaves and virtually eliminating out-of-state travel. The House's average annual budget is around \$25 million.

Sviggum also named the chairs of the 25 remaining committees and divisions. The structure has been also been altered by retirements.

Among the changes: the Crime Prevention and Judiciary Finance committees have been combined into Judiciary Policy and Finance. Family and Early Childhood Education Finance and K-12 Education Finance are now combined into Education Finance. The Property Tax Division and Sales and Income Tax Divisions are eliminated as subcommittees, and their work will be done by the larger Taxes Committee.

Among the more significant personnel changes is the appointment of Rep. Jim Knoblach, St. Cloud, as chairman of the Ways and Means Committee, which oversees overall budget and spending decisions. He replaces the retiring Rep. Dave Bishop, of Rochester. Rep. Phil Krinkie, of Shoreview, will take over for Knoblach as chairman of the Capital Investment Committee, which oversees borrowing for state building construction and public works projects.

Many committee chairs retain their current positions. Sviggum acknowledged there were some ruffled feathers in the 82-member GOP majority as a result of fewer committees and fewer senior members holding gavels. But, he said, "they know we have to lead by example."

Sviggum said he did not know how much money the changes would save. But he said the reduction in com-

mittees will allow the House staff to be reduced from 162 to 153. Following is a list of House committees and their chairpersons:

- Agriculture Policy, Howard Swenson, Nicollet.
- Agriculture and Rural Development Finance, Elaine Harder, Jackson.
- Capital Investment, Phil Krinkie, Shoreview.
- Civil Law, Steve Smith, Mound.
- Commerce, Jobs and Economic Development, Greg Davids, Preston.
- Claims, Bruce Anderson, Buffalo Township.
- Economic Development and Tourism (division of Commerce), Arlon Lindner, Corcoran.
- Education Finance, Alice Seagren, Bloomington.
- Education Policy, Barb Sykora, Excelsior.
- Environment and Natural Resources Finance, Dennis Ozment, Rosemount.
- Environment and Natural Resources Policy, Tom Hackbarth, Cedar.
- Ethics, Sondra Erickson, Princeton.
- Governmental Operations and Veterans Affairs Policy, Jim Rhodes, St. Louis Park.
- Health and Human Services Finance, Fran Bradley, Rochester.
- Health and Human Services Policy, Lynda Boudreau, Faribault.
- Higher Education Finance, Doug Stang, Cold Spring.
- Jobs and State Government Finance, Bob Gunther, Fairmont.
- Judiciary Policy and Finance, Rich Stanek, Maple Grove.
- Local Government and Metropolitan Affairs, Jerry Dempsey, Hastings.
- Regulated Industries, Mark Holsten, Stillwater.
- Rules and Legislative Administration, Erik Paulsen, Eden Prairie.
- Taxes, Ron Abrams, Minnetonka.
- Transportation Finance, Bill Kuisle, Rochester.
- Transportation Policy, Ron Erhardt, Edina.
- Ways and Means, Jim Knoblach, St. Cloud.

— Dane Smith is at [rdsmith@startribune.com](mailto:rdsmith@startribune.com).

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**Candidate forum  
set for Oct. 30**

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WORTHINGTON —

State Congressional hopefuls Alex Frick, Elaine Harder, Craig Rubis and Jim Vickerman will participate in a candidate forum Oct. 30 at the Worthington High School cafeteria.

Incumbent Harder is trying to return to office as District 22B Representative and is being challenged by Rubis. Vickerman, the incumbent in District 22, is being challenged by Frick for the Senate.

The forum will begin at 7 p.m. Each candidate will have a three-minute introduction, followed by a question-and-answer period.



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*Rubis announces  
candidacy for (22B)  
District 22B House*

DAILY GLOBE cratic nomination.

WORTHINGTON — Craig Rubis, rural Lakefield, has officially announced his candidacy for the Minnesota House of Representatives from District 22B. Rubis will seek the DFL nomination at the party's convention on June 6.



Rubis

"I have decided to run for the Minnesota Legislature because I believe that more needs to be done to represent the interests of southwest Minnesota families and businesses," said Rubis. "If elected, I would make the issues most important to our kids, our seniors and our working families, such as education, health care, transportation and economic development, my top priorities."

Elaine Harder, R-Jackson, is currently the District 22B representative. The district comprises all of Jackson County, Cottonwood County and part of Nobles County, including the communities of Bigelow, Round Lake and Worthington. The June 6 endorsing process will take place in Fulda. Rubis and Mary Pigman of rural Worthington will seek the demo-

Rubis has been active in public service for more than 20 years as a township supervisor and Jackson County commissioner. He is currently chairman of the Southwest Regional Development Commission and the District 7 Area Transportation Partnership.

"My experience in these positions has been helpful in learning the needs of southwest Minnesota. I will use these real life experiences to bring a new perspective to the challenges we face. I look forward to taking on these issues and finding long-term solutions for our state. It would be an honor to serve District 22B as your state representative," Rubis said in a press release.

Rubis, 48, is a graduate of Lakefield High School and attended Worthington Junior College. He and his wife, Karen, are the parents of three grown children. Rubis owns and operates a third-generation grain farm in Jackson County and is a member of the Minnesota Corn Growers Association, Jackson County Crop Improvement Association and Southwest Minnesota Farm Business Management Association. He is a member and past director of the Minnesota Soybean Growers Association.

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Harder announces plans  
to run for re-election

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DAILY GLOBE

ST. PAUL — Rep. Elaine Harder, R-Jackson, announced Thursday that she will seek re-election to the Minnesota House of Representatives. Harder is



Harder

now serving her fourth term in District 22B. Harder will be running in a changed district, as the portions of six counties that currently make up 22B will be reduced to three. This includes all of Cottonwood and Jackson counties, as well as four townships in Nobles County, including the communities of Worthington, Round Lake and Bigelow.

The new district drops eight western townships in Martin County, six western townships in Watonwan County, four

southwestern townships in Brown County and the community of Comfrey, plus one township in Redwood County along with the community of Lamber-ton.

"I have enjoyed working with my constituents for the past eight years, and now I look forward to the challenge of working with my new neighbors and fighting for their interests," Harder said. "The people of southwest Minnesota need strong support at the Capitol, and I strive to understand and communicate their interests and concerns at the state level. I look forward to returning to the House to serve my district for another two years."

Harder chairs the Sales and Income Tax Division. She also chaired the Ethics committee and currently serves on the Agriculture Policy, Agriculture and Rural Development Finance, and Taxes committees.

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**Candidates stop at Corn Cob Open**

by RYAN McGAUGHEY  
Managing Editor

A host of politicians took the opportunity to meet and greet constituents at Thursday's Corn Cob Open.

Individuals running for both national and state offices showed up at the 20<sup>th</sup> annual event, which drew more than 500 golfers and 700 fans of ribeye steak. One of the candidates making an appearance was Norm Coleman, a Republican who is running for U.S. Senate against incumbent Paul Wellstone.

Coleman, a former mayor of St. Paul, called economic development and trade two of the primary issues in this year's election.

"For this kind of community, economic development is about growth and value-added," Coleman said. "It's about ethanol, it's about biodiesel.

"The second big issue is trade ... I support fair trade. Ninety-six percent of the world's population lives outside the U.S., and one in four rows of corn is grown for export and one in every three rows of soybean is grown for export. We haven't had open trade opportunities."

Coleman also spoke against excessive agriculture-related regulations.

"I'm running against a guy who's probably voted for more regulations than anyone in the Senate," Coleman said. "He's got a 100 percent Sierra Club rating. I think we need little more balance, with regulations based on sound science.

"I believe our state's farmers to be good stewards of their land. If there's a problem, deal with it, but let's not start with the presumption



U.S. Senate candidate Norm Coleman, left, shares a light moment with state Rep. Elaine Harder at the Corn Cob Open.

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Also stopping by the Corn Cob Open were both the candidates for the District 22B seat in the state House of Representatives, Craig Rubis and Elaine Harder.

Rubis, a DFL candidate and a Lakefield native and resident, is presently chairman of the Jackson County Board of Commissioners and the Southwest Regional Development Commission. He also chairs the Minnesota Regional Development Organization as well as the Minnesota Department of Transportation's District 7 Area Transportation Partnership.

"Transportation is one area that really interests me," Rubis said. "I want to make sure rural Minnesota is treated fairly. I think transportation is being shorted right now ... of course, with the deficit it's going to be difficult to deal with those issues, as well as all the other issues."

Rubis explained his activity with economic development has encompassed extensive work with revolving loan funds that has benefited new and developing busi-

nesses in the region. He also has an interest in senior issues, and is active with the Southwest Area Agency on Aging.

"That agency deals with issues such as transportation, volunteer drivers, insurance counseling for seniors and work with senior dining," Rubis said.

"Another big issue for me is affordable health care, and accessible health coverage for farmers and small businesses," Rubis added.

Harder, a Republican from Jackson, is after her fifth two-year term as a state representative.

"Things like this (Corn Cob Open) are what energize me. It's the agriculture community, and it's filled with such good people," Harder said. "I've enjoyed serving on the agriculture committee since I've been in the House, and these people are very dear to me."

Harder called agriculture initiatives such as ethanol and biodiesel "very important to the community and its producers" and noted she serves on the Agricultural Utilization Research Institute, an organization that does research on

ways to add value to communities. She cited a Brewster soybean processing plant in the midst of a bid process as an example of positive ag-industry development.

"These make up important markets for commodities, and benefit value-added to those who are involved in the plant and job opportunities to our area," said Harder, who is also working to help bring an ethanol plant to Jackson County.

Also visiting the Corn Cob Open was Doug Magnus of Slayton, a Republican who is seeking the District 22A state House seat. He is running against Ted Winter, who is presently serving in the House.

Magnus was chairman of the Minnesota Soybean Council "in the early '90s," and was chairman of the United Soybean Board last year. He has also served as the international marketing chairman for the United Soybean Board.

"I've got a lot of experience in agriculture being on state and national boards," Magnus said. "I just think that with redistricting, those are the kind of people that think like I do ... or I think like they do.

"I'm not running as a farmer, but as a farmer-businessman," added Magnus, who grows corn and soybeans and raises feed cattle. "I understand the challenge that businesses face. I've got kind of a unique perspective ... I've led trade missions to over 30 countries ... and I'm hosting 10 countries from Southeast Asia next week in Minneapolis. It's kind of a unique perspective that I don't think they have now in the state legislature."

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# Politicians take to the greens at last week's Corn Cob Open

LAKEFIELD STANDARD

LAKEFIELD, MN  
WEEKLY 1,600

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MINNESOTA CLIPPING SERVICE

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Ryan McGaughey

Editor

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