

## MIDWEST DIGEST

### Herseth Sandlin Urges Ethanol Blends Move

PIERRE (AP) — U.S. Rep. Stephanie Herseth Sandlin of South Dakota says she and other members of Congress want to find out why federal officials have delayed a decision on allowing higher concentrations of ethanol in gasoline.

The Environmental Protection Agency recently announced it will wait until fall to decide whether to increase the maximum blend from 10 to 15 percent. The agency said the delay would allow more testing of the higher blend in vehicles.

Herseth Sandlin says the delay is inexcusable. The Democratic congresswoman says allowing a 15 percent ethanol blend would help reduce the nation's dependence on imported oil and boost the economy in rural areas where ethanol is made from corn and other plants.

### Neb. National Guard Soldiers To Deploy

LINCOLN, Neb. (AP) — About 400 Nebraska National Guard soldiers are getting ready to deploy to Iraq this summer.

Many of the soldiers in the 67th Battlefield Surveillance Brigade gathered with their families in Lincoln Sunday for a send-off picnic. Col. Philip Stemple says this deployment is the largest mobilization of a Nebraska Guard unit since the Sept. 11, 2001, terrorist attacks.

All of the soldiers will go to Fort Lewis, Wash., for about a month of training before deploying overseas.

About 60 members of the 67th Brigade will depart Tuesday. Another 340 soldiers will leave next month.

Gov. Dave Heineman told the soldiers that the war on terrorism isn't easy, but it is worth it.

### Fireworks Go On Sale In South Dakota

RAPID CITY (AP) — People in South Dakota can now buy fireworks.

Sunday was the first day that state residents could buy them. Sales are legal through July 5th, and fireworks can be set off during that period unless local laws prohibit them.

State Fire Marshal Al Christie is urging South Dakotans to use common sense, and to not use fireworks in places where fires could start.

### Scottsbluff Fixes Sewer Line, Stops Dumping

SCOTTSBLUFF, Neb. (AP) — Scottsbluff officials have replaced part of a sewer line, so the city is no longer dumping raw sewage into the North Platte River.

The sewer line became blocked by sand last week because of the high level of the North Platte River.

The Nebraska Department of Environment Quality allowed the city to pump sewage into the river while the line was blocked. The pumping began on Wednesday when sewage water started spewing out of a manhole.

Officials estimate that about 100 gallons of sewage a minute was flowing into the river while the sewer line was out of service.

City officials and a contractor began repair work Friday, and worked through the day and night to fix the problem by about 3 a.m. Saturday.

### Three Die In Canoe Accident In S.D.

BELLE FOURCHE (AP) — Three people from Rapid City died when their canoe capsized on the Belle Fourche River in northwest South Dakota. An 8-year-old girl who survived the accident walked two miles looking for help.

The canoe went over a dam and was sucked into the turbulent waters below late Sunday morning, Butte County Sheriff Fred Lamphere said. Dozens of searchers recovered the bodies of Jeremy Rogers, 38, his 11-year-old daughter Sierra Rogers, and family friend Andrew Korth, 26, over the next several hours.

"It's been a very tragic day," Deputy Doug Parrow said. "My heart goes out to the families."

Another daughter, 8-year-old Isabella Rogers, survived the upset, walked to U.S. Highway 212 and flagged down a motorist, who called for help. Parrow called her "a very brave and courageous young lady."

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## Govs Consider Alternative Energy, Climate Change

BY MATT GOURAS  
Associated Press Writer

WHITEFISH, Mont. (AP) — New transmission lines are critical to developing the alternative electricity production needed to meet demand in the coming years, governors of states in the West said Monday.

The need for new energy development and dangers of climate change topped the agenda at the annual meeting of the Western Governors Association, where participants recognized that more renewable energy is a priority that will require considerable private investment.

About half of the governors in the West are participating in the event.

The governors want to find a way to fast-track the construction of expensive, lengthy transmis-

sion lines to carry wind and solar power from rural to large urban areas.

But a conflict exists over the placement of such lines. Environmentalists don't want the lines dissecting national forests, and many private landowners are also resistant.

Montana Gov. Brian Schweitzer, who chairs the association, said without new lines there won't be much more new energy development. The lines must be placed on federal public land that dominates much of the region, and traditional delays in permits and other disputes must end, he said.

Schweitzer said a new transmission line is needed to connect wind power fields on the Montana plains with those near the Columbia River in Washington. The wind usually is blowing in at

least one of the places, creating what could be an unusually steady source of wind power, he said.

Such a line could lead to investments in wind-heavy places where new projects face challenges getting their energy to market, officials said.

A panel of experts advised the governors to set low carbon standards for electricity as a way to spur technology development, rather than simply increasing the cost of traditional energy in hopes of making green power competitive.

Vinod Khosla, a businessman involved in alternative energy investment, said the markets will find solutions to produce cheaper, greener energy without government mandates.

"Environmentalists are pretty good at finding problems, but they are pretty terrible at funding solu-

tions," he said.

Schweitzer resisted the notion that agencies could reduce regulation but said there could be smarter ways to set rules that don't impede energy develop-

A consensus report from the bipartisan governors group said climate change poses many problems for the region, including a degradation in air and water quality along with a reduction in plant and animal species that could hurt industries such as tourism and agriculture.

A separate report by the group charted a "roadmap" to help energy developers navigate local, state, regional and federal issues.

The association also elected Idaho Gov. Butch Otter, a Republican, as its new chairman. Gregoire takes over from Otter as vice-chair.

## Sanford Plans Fargo, Chamberlain Projects

FARGO, N.D. (AP) — Sanford Health plans a center in southwest Fargo dedicated to helping athletes boost performance, and a digital mammography center in southwest Fargo.

Sanford Health-MeritCare formed last year when Sanford Health of Sioux Falls, S.D., and Fargo-based MeritCare merged. Starting in July it will drop "MeritCare" from its name.

The athletics center will be modeled on one built two years ago in Sioux Falls that cost \$2.5 million. Sanford also expects soon to have an agreement to provide sports medicine services for North Dakota State University in Fargo.

The performance athletics center is separate from the recently announced \$12 million

fitness and wellness center Sanford plans to build in partnership with the Fargo YMCA, though it also will be located at the Urban Plains development in southwest Fargo.

Sanford vice president Kevin Lampe said the health system is working to develop an orthopedics and sports medicine program with a reputation that will attract athletes from around the country.

Sanford said the Chamberlain mammography center will help underserved women in central South Dakota. It is being funded with a \$489,300 grant over three years from the charitable trust established by the late hotel and real estate baroness Leona Helmsley.

The Sanford Health Network also will provide about \$372,000

for a 16-passenger van that will travel to American Indian reservations and communities in remote areas in a three-county area, providing transportation for women to and from the digital mammography facility.

"We want to build awareness of the importance of cancer

screening and debunk myths and misconceptions about cancer and cancer treatment," said Maureen Cadwell, chief executive of Sanford Mid-Dakota Medical Center in Chamberlain. "The center will be created for women, rather than a one-size-fits-all clinic waiting room."

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