

## Weather Service To Keep 'Extreme Cold'

BISMARCK, N.D. (AP) — The National Weather Service in the Dakotas and Minnesota will not be issuing wind chill warnings this winter, opting instead for the "extreme cold" statements that debuted last winter.

Wind chill is the measure of how cold it feels once the wind is factored in with the air temperature. The new warning emphasizes that dangerous cold does not necessarily depend on the wind, forecasters said.

"When it gets really darn cold out there, it gets really darn cold," Greg Gust, a meteorologist in Grand Forks, told the *Grand Forks Herald*.

"Extreme cold" warnings are issued when it feels like minus-30 degrees or colder across a wide area for several hours. Extreme cold watches are issued a day or two before the conditions are expected. The weather service began using the statements midway through last winter to supplement wind chill advisories and warnings. This year, the agency is dropping wind chill warnings.

"I don't think people, especially those folks who ... have not been through a North Dakota winter, know the kind of cold we can get here," John Paul Martin, a meteorologist in Bismarck, told the *Minot Daily News*. "We are so focused on the wind chill but, hey, it can be downright cold out. It could be 30 below and we're asking, 'what's the wind chill?' Wait a minute. Thirty below is deadly."

The change is an experiment and the agency is monitoring public feedback, meteorologist Harlyn Wetzel told *The Bismarck Tribune*.

## Tuberculosis Found In South Dakota Cattle Herd

PIERRE (AP) — State Veterinarian Dustin Oedekoven says bovine tuberculosis has been found in a South Dakota cattle herd.

Oedekoven says the herd in Hutchinson County is under quarantine, and an investigation is being conducted to determine if other herds are affected. Additional testing will be conducted in herds associated with the infected herd.

Bovine tuberculosis is a slowly progressing disease. Cattle with advanced stages may show difficulty in breathing or may cough.

Oedekoven says the infection of the Hutchinson County herd poses no threat to food safety.

The U.S. Agriculture Department has recognized South Dakota as a tuberculosis-accredited-free state since 1982. South Dakota kept that status despite finding two affected herds in 2010.

## Man Dies After Falling From Minn. Party Bus

FERGUS FALLS, Minn. (AP) — A Pelican Rapids man has died from injuries suffered when he fell off a party bus over Halloween weekend.

The Otter Tail County coroner's office says 24-year-old Raul Patino died Saturday at a Fargo, N.D., hospital.

According to *The Daily Journal* of Fergus Falls, Coroner Gregory Smith says Patino died from a traumatic brain injury suffered in the fall. His death was ruled accidental.

The Otter Tail County sheriff's office says alcohol is believed to be a factor in the accident, which happened early on Oct. 30 near Erhard.

KBRF-AM reports the driver and most people on the bus did not know that Patino fell out the back door of the converted school bus.

MnDOT was called in to investigate whether the bus was operating legally.

## Emergency Alert Tests Not Received In Fargo

FARGO, N.D. (AP) — A nationwide test of the Emergency Alert System did not work as planned in the Fargo area because of a malfunctioning receiver at one station.

The alert system works like a phone tree, with the stations monitoring other stations for the warning tones to trigger the alert system.

KVLY reports that a receiver at KSJB did not pick up the tone from a Bismarck station to trigger the alert at 1 p.m. Wednesday because of a faulty receiver at the station. This in turn caused KFGO-AM to not receive the warning tones because that station monitors KSJB for a signal.

KFGO-AM is designated as the originating station for the alerts tones that trigger alerts for radio stations and television stations in the Fargo-Moorhead, Minn. area.

## Neb. Man Charged After Gator Found In House

OMAHA, Neb. (AP) — Authorities say an Omaha man was arrested after dozens of reptiles, including an alligator, were seized from his house and police discovered a marijuana growing operation.

Thirty-year-old David Randall was arrested after police and the Nebraska Humane Society served a search warrant on Tuesday and seized a 2-foot-alligator, a rat snake and 33 tortoises and turtles. The Humane Society says the animals were living in filthy conditions.

Randall is charged with harboring a non-domestic animal and numerous counts of animal cruelty.

Police say they also found a marijuana growing operation with over 75 plants.

Randall's case is not yet listed on the state's online court system and it's not known if he has an attorney.

## S.D. Soldier Receives Medals 30 Years Later

FAIRBURN (AP) — A Fairburn man who served in the U.S. Army more than three decades ago has been awarded all of his service medals.

KOTA reports that Sen. John Thune presented the nine medals to the family of Staff Sgt. Robert Smith last week after the Army approved them recently. Smith died of cancer last year before receiving all of the medals he'd earned during his nearly 30 years of service.

Smith's daughter Crystal Hunsaker said her father loved the Army, but also loved his family. She says her parents adopted several children, including a child her father met while serving in Korea.

Hunsaker says she is appreciative of Thune's effort to get her father the medals he deserved.

# Neb. Legislation 'Fundamentally Unfair' Says TransCanada V.P.

BY GRANT SCHULTE  
Associated Press

LINCOLN, Neb. — The executive in charge of a proposed transnational oil pipeline told Nebraska lawmakers Thursday that attempts to block the project with legislation are "fundamentally unfair," given his company's cooperation with state and federal authorities.

Robert Jones, TransCanada's vice president for pipelines, said a measure to ban large oil pipelines from the Nebraska Sandhills would jeopardize the entire 1,700-mile crude oil pipeline that would run through six states.

"The Keystone XL process has been under way for more than three years," Jones told the Legislature's Natural Resources Committee. "We have properly submitted to every federal and state process that was in effect. For Nebraska in the 11th hour to impose new exclusion zones is fundamentally unfair and jeopardizes the viability of the project."

Nebraska lawmakers have attempted to regulate pipelines in past sessions, but pipeline critics in the one-house Legislature say they've been stonewalled by industry lobbyists.

Jones made his comments in testimony against a bill that would force the project away from the Nebraska Sandhills.

The bill by state Sen. Ken Haar of Malcolm would create so-called "exclusion zones" where pipes larger than 8 inches in diameter could not run. If approved, the measure would prevent the 1,700-mile Keystone XL from running through Sandhills, certain cold water streams, or other regions where groundwater is near the surface.

Pipeline opponents said Haar's bill would help protect the state's natural resources, including economic and agricultural interests. They also have said TransCanada should not have proceeded as they have without federal approval. Asked about Jones' statement outside the hearing room, Haar wiped an imaginary tear from eye.

"I call those crocodile tears," he said. "We don't owe them that. Nebraskans shouldn't have to make their business plan work."

Jones' testimony came on the third day of an emotionally charged debate over the proposed route. The pipeline would snake through part of the Nebraska Sandhills, a grass-strewn expanse of loose-soil hills, and the Ogallala aquifer, a drinking and irrigation water supply that lies beneath parts of eight states. A coalition of environmentalists, landowners, and state lawmakers fear the pipeline could leak and contaminate the Ogallala aquifer.

The testimony came as U.S. officials confirmed that the State Department is considering a plan that would reroute the Keystone XL away from the environmentally sensitive area in Nebraska. The action could delay a final decision on the project until after the 2012 election.

The Nebraska Legislature opened a special session this week to consider changing the law to give the state more control over the Keystone XL and other major oil lines. TransCanada has promised to file court challenges if Nebraska tries to intervene, saying the decision is a federal issue.

Susan Luebbe, a fourth-generation rancher from Stewart, said the proposed route would run less than 200 yards past her home. Luebbe said she was worried that a pipeline leak would

foul her family's water supply and spread to their cattle, which are sold to grocers and restaurants.

Calgary-based TransCanada Corp. is seeking to build the \$7 billion pipeline to carry oil derived from tar sands in Alberta, Canada, to refineries on the Texas Gulf Coast. The pipeline, which would travel through Montana, South Dakota, Kansas, Nebraska and Oklahoma before reaching Texas, would double the capacity of an existing pipeline that opened last year.

Nebraska Gov. Dave Heineman has said he wants a legal and constitutional solution to address the controversial Keystone XL route. The Republican governor has declined to comment since he announced the special session last month. Lawmakers have introduced five bills, three of which could lead to a pipeline rerouting.

Pipeline supporters say the project would create U.S. construction jobs, help lower gas prices and reduce dependence on Middle East oil. The company also says it would lose millions of dollars if opponents delay or derail the project.

Brigham McCown, a Texas attorney and former administrator for the federal Pipeline and Hazardous Materials Safety Administration under the Bush administration, told lawmakers that TransCanada has taken steps far beyond what other pipeline operators would traditionally do.

"This pipeline meets and exceeds the most stringent safety mandates conceived by our nation's legislature," McCown said. "Frankly, TransCanada should be commended for going the extra mile when not every pipeline operator would make the same concession when they're not required to do so by law."

## Keystone Restarts After 'Mechanical Issues' Force Temp. Shut Down

BY JAMES MACPHERSON  
Associated Press

BISMARCK, N.D. — A pipeline that carries tar sands oil from Canada through seven states was temporarily shut down for "mechanical issues," the pipeline's owner said Wednesday.

TransCanada Corp.'s Keystone pipeline, which brings oil from Canada's Alberta province to refineries in Illinois and Oklahoma, was shut down following a power outage Tuesday, spokesman Terry Cunha said. The pipeline was restarted Wednesday morning and company officials were working to find the cause of the problem, he said.

"There was no spill — none," Cunha said in an email.

Crude began flowing through the 2,148-mile-long, \$5.2 billion pipeline last year. It's designed to carry crude oil across Saskatchewan and Manitoba, and through North Dakota, South Dakota, Nebraska, Kansas and Missouri on the way to refineries in Patoka, Ill. and Cushing, Okla. The line is capable of handling 591,000 barrels a day.

The shutdown came as the Calgary-based company seeks to build the \$7 billion Keystone XL pipeline that would carry tar sands oil from Alberta, Canada, to refineries in Texas. The proposed 1,700-mile Keystone XL pipeline has drawn opposition from people who fear it will harm the environment.

## Event Center Supporters: Real Work Begins Now

BY KRISTI EATON  
Associated Press

SIoux FALLS — Now that voters in South Dakota's largest city narrowly approved a plan to build a new \$115 million events center, supporters of the measure say they will take a brief moment to celebrate before continuing with design and construction plans.

Sioux Falls Mayor Mike Huether, who was scrutinized for his outspoken support of the measure, said the city should take a moment to reflect on what it was able to accomplish with the passage of the plan, which will use money from an existing city sales tax to build the events center. According to the count posted on the city's website, 58 percent of the 40,198 people who voted in the special election supported the measure.

"Too often we immediately just move on to the next big deal," he said. "This time I think we deserve some celebrating and reflection time, but it will be short lived. Come Monday, we'll be rocking and rolling again."

The next focus of the project will be finishing the design, which is about 1/3 completed, Huether said. Mortenson Construction will also be starting preliminary site work with a goal of breaking ground in August 2012. Officials hope to host the first event at the 12,000 seat center in the fall of 2014.

City Finance Director Tracy Turbak will also be working with the City Council on the financing of the center, which will be funded with sales tax revenue bonds and repaid with the city's existing second penny sales tax.

City councilman Jim Entenman supported the measure from the beginning and promised residents he would make sure the events center is successful.

"This has been a journey of over 10 years for me. It's been exciting, it's been frustrating, and now we're looking to the future," he said Tuesday night.

Supporters of the project said it would energize the economy and draw more sports and entertainment events to the city. Opponents said the city should be focusing on areas other than entertainment and were disappointed that the center wouldn't be downtown.

The proposal has been contentious because of its price tag and because Huether showed his support by passing out fliers created with city money. One resident filed an ethics complaint, claiming Huether violated state law and a city charter by using public money for presentations favoring the center.

The issue seemed to drive people to the polls. City Clerk Sue Roust said 41 percent of registered voters cast their ballot, the highest percent turnout since 1994. The number of voters — more than 40,000 — shattered the previous record of 32,000 set last year.

Bob Barclay, who led an effort against the events center, said opponents must accept the fact that a majority of voters support the events center.

"I wish the city of Sioux falls the best," he said. "I want the best for the city of Sioux Falls as we move forward. I hope the city will come together."

## Iowa Governor Wants Efficiency Before Tax Hike

BY MIKE GLOVER  
Associated Press

DES MOINES, Iowa — Gov. Terry Branstad said he's taking proposals to increase in the state's gasoline tax off the table, rejecting a recommendation made by a commission he appointed.

"These are trying economic times for many Iowans," said a statement issued by Branstad's office. "Before we ask for an increase in the fuel tax, we must find ways to more effectively utilize current revenue in the road use tax fund."

Branstad said in a statement released Wednesday that he will press state transportation officials to find administrative savings of nearly \$50 million over the next year. He says that those savings must be found before any increase is proposed in the gasoline tax. Branstad's plans were first reported by *The Gazette* newspaper based off comments the governor made during a WHO-AM radio call-in show.

"We must spend dollars we receive more efficiently and streamline operations to maximize every dollar," said Branstad.

The governor acknowledges studies have shown that more money is needed for the state's highways, but he says that funding should come from increased efficiency in highway programs before the state increases taxes.

Legislative leaders say Branstad's position will make it difficult for lawmakers to consider increased gasoline taxes during the upcoming legislative session.

"I think we are certainly going to take a look at his language and his words and see what it means," said Senate Majority Leader Michael Gronstal, D-Council Bluffs. "It certainly makes it less likely."

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