



Partly Cloudy And Very Cold

9 a.m.: **5** | 3 p.m.: **13** | DETAILS: PAGE 2

**MONDAY** ■ November 17, 2014



**IUPUI Defeats Coyotes In Final Regular Season Game**

**PAGE 8**

# YANKTON DAILY PRESS & DAKOTAN



Volume 140  
Number 173

The Dakotas' Oldest Newspaper | **12 PAGES** | www.yankton.net

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## The Fate Of A Pipeline?

### Obscure Neb. Panel May Hold Sway Over Keystone Project

BY GRANT SCHULTE  
Associated Press

LINCOLN, Neb. — Congress is suddenly scrambling to vote on the Keystone XL oil pipeline, but the fate of the oft-delayed \$5.4 billion project could still wind up in the hands of an obscure commission in Nebraska that regulates telephones, taxi cabs and grain bins.

The Nebraska Supreme Court is expected to rule within weeks on whether the Nebraska Public Service Commission must review the pipeline before it can cross the state, one of six on the pipeline's route. Nebraska Gov. Dave Heineman gave the green light in January 2013 without the panel's involvement.

The commission's possible role is part of the tan-

**also**

■ Sen. Johnson To Vote No On Pipeline in Senate.  
**PAGE 11**

gled legal and political history of the pipeline and raises questions about whether it will continue to be snagged even if the Senate votes to approve it next week as expected. The House voted 252-161 Friday to move forward with the project. President Barack Obama, who has delayed a decision pending the resolution of the Nebraska issue, has not said whether he would sign the legislation.

The proposed crude-oil pipeline, which would run 1,179 miles from the Canadian tar sands to Gulf coast refineries, has been the subject of a fierce struggle

between environmentalists and energy advocates ever since Calgary-based TransCanada proposed it in 2008.

"I don't know if they think they can just override Nebraska," said Randy Thompson, one of three landowners who filed suit to challenge the state's approval process. "If we win our case, I assume TransCanada is going to have to go back to the drawing board."

A district court in February ruled that a law that gave Heineman the authority to approve the project ran afoul of Nebraska's constitution.

While there's no way to tell how the Nebraska



PIPELINE | PAGE 2

### Sports



**YHS Player Named To All-Conference Team ■ 8**

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## Knox County Road Is Named After Late Supervisor

BY RANDY DOCKENDORF  
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NIORARA, Neb. — Many public officials receive a plaque for their years of service.

The late Rayder Swanson had a road named for him.

The 58-year-old Niobrara man served as a Knox County supervisor (county commissioner) from Jan. 4, 2001, until his passing last Aug. 29 at the University of Nebraska Medical Center. He represented District 2, covering the northwestern part of the county including Niobrara.

In his honor, the Knox County Board of Supervisors recently renamed a portion of 518 Avenue as the "Rayder Swanson Road." The 1.6-mile stretch of road lies north of Nebraska Highway 12, in Swanson's district.

The road leads into the Lazy River Acres area west of Niobrara, including the Blue Moon Resort, said Knox County Clerk Joann Fischer.

The renaming carries a special meaning beyond respect for the late supervisor, she said.

Swanson helped Knox County win a \$10,049,868 judgment/settlement from the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers in 2008. The claim, filed in August 2002, was sought as reimbursement for damages to Knox County roads and bridges because of sedimentation problems in the Missouri River.

"Rayder was very instrumental in obtaining the Corps claim, and some of the money was used to pave this portion of (518 Avenue) road," Fischer said.

According to the resolution, the road leading to the river area was paved in 2009, and Swanson was instrumental in the claims process and the paving projection for the road.

Swanson's widow, Kim, said

SWANSON | PAGE 12

## Crofton Falls In Finals



Crofton players console each other after a 3-1 loss to Freeman in the Class C2 championship match of the Nebraska State Volleyball Tournament, held on Saturday at the Devaney Center in Lincoln, Nebraska. Crofton finished with a record of 29-1 on the season. For more on the match, see today's Sports section, Page 8.

JAMES D. CIMBUREK/P&D

## Randolph Achieves Blue Ribbon In Edu.

BY LINDA WUEBBEN  
P&D Correspondent

RANDOLPH, Neb. — Most school days are pretty run-of-the-mill for Randolph Elementary students but Tuesday afternoon, Gov. Dave Heinemann will be town to congratulate the students for a job well done.

Elementary school principal Mary Miller received word in September that Randolph Elementary was one of four top performing schools from across the state which had been nominated by the Nebraska Department of Education for the Blue Ribbon award given by the

Department of Education for the 2012-2013 school year. The successful testing completed by students in grades 3-6 qualified the school for the designation.

"We are so excited about Education in Randolph and it shows," said Miller. "We know it's all about the kids and motivating them." She credits a great group of elementary teachers who excel at bringing out the best of the young students.

The students complete Measures of Academic Performance (MAPS) testing pro-

EDUCATION | PAGE 3



COURTESY PHOTO

These Randolph Elementary School students demonstrate the teamwork approach used by the school, which will be honored Tuesday as a Blue Ribbon school. Gov. Dave Heinemann is scheduled to be in attendance for the program.

## ISIS Beheads US Aid Worker

BY DIAA HADID  
Associated Press

BEIRUT — The Islamic State group has beheaded Peter Kassig, releasing a video Sunday showing a masked militant standing over the severed head of a man it said was the former U.S. Army Ranger-turned-aid worker, who was seized while delivering relief supplies in Syria last year.

President Barack Obama confirmed Kassig's slaying after a U.S. review of the video, which also showed the mass beheadings of a dozen Syrian soldiers.

The 26-year-old Kassig, who founded an aid group to help Syrians caught in their country's brutal civil war, "was taken from us in an act of pure evil by a terrorist group that the world rightly associates with inhumanity," Obama said in a statement.

He denounced the extremist group, which he said "revels in the slaughter of innocents, including Muslims, and is bent only on sowing death and destruction."

The slain hostage's parents, Ed and Paula Kassig, said they were "heartbroken" by their son's killing, but "incredibly proud" of his humanitarian work. Kassig "lost his life as a result of his love for the Syrian people and his desire to ease their suffering," the parents said in a statement from Indianapolis.

With Kassig's death, the Islamic State group has killed five Westerners it was holding. American journalists James Foley and Steven Sotloff were beheaded, as were British aid workers David Haines and Alan Henning.

Unlike previous videos of slain Western hostages, the footage

ISIS | PAGE 2

## Winter Returns With Cold, Snow, Wind



RANDY DOCKENDORF/P&D

Jack Brandt of Yankton enjoys fishing any season, even during last weekend's snowfall and sub-zero wind chill temperatures. Brandt checks his line Sunday afternoon below Gavins Point Dam near Yankton.

From P&D Staff Reports

Having endured the first punch of winter — bitter cold — for most of last week, the region was hit by the other sure sign of winter's fury — snow — over the weekend.

The snowfall arrived in the Yankton area Saturday morning and persisted throughout much of the day. The city officially received 4.5 inches in what was the first event of measurable snow this season.

The weather complicated travel for a time Saturday afternoon, as light snow and moderate winds at times reduced visibility to less than a quarter-mile. Also, snow-covered and

slick roads were reported throughout the region.

Most of the heavier snow was reported in northeastern South Dakota into Minnesota. Lakefield, Minnesota, topped the region with 8.8 inches, while Herrick and Wall Lake topped South Dakota readings with 8 inches apiece.

Sioux Falls saw 6.5 inches of snow, which set a one-day record for that city on Nov. 15.

Nearer to Yankton, Pickstown recorded 6 inches of snow, with Tripp registering 5.1 inches. Other area readings included: Platte, 5 inches; Menno, 4.5; Tyndall, 4.0 to 4.4; Ponca, Nebraska,

WINTER | PAGE 3