

## Officials Issue Environmental Pipeline Report

LINCOLN, Neb. (AP) — Nebraska environmental regulators have released a preliminary 600-page report on the oil pipeline a Canadian company wants to build across the state.

The report released Tuesday doesn't include a recommendation about whether TransCanada should be allowed to build the Keystone XL pipeline to ship crude oil to Gulf Coast refineries.

The state report says TransCanada's new route avoids the environmental sensitive Sandhills region and addresses a number of concerns Nebraskans raised.

TransCanada spokesman Shawn Howard says the company appreciates the state's attention to detail and hopes the project will be approved.

A public hearing will be held in Albion Dec. 4.

Pipeline opponent Jane Kleeb of Bold Nebraska says she remains concerned, and she's disappointed the state won't require disclosure of exactly what chemicals will be carried in the pipeline.

## Daugaard To Appoint Sabers As Circuit Judge

PIERRE, S.D. (AP) — Gov. Dennis Daugaard announced Tuesday that he will appoint Susan Sabers as a circuit judge in South Dakota's Second Judicial Circuit.

Sabers will replace Judge Kathleen Caldwell, who is retiring at the end of the year. The Second Circuit includes Lincoln and Minnehaha counties.

Sabers is a native of Sioux Falls, where she has been in the private practice of law since 1997. She has been a partner in the law firm of Fuller & Sabers since 2006.

## Red Meat Production Up In South Dakota

SIOUX FALLS (AP) — The U.S. Department of Agriculture says commercial red meat production in South Dakota totaled 91.1 million pounds in September.

The agency says that's up 2 percent from a year ago and up 6 percent from August.

Commercial hog slaughter for South Dakota totaled 415,600 during September, compared to 404,300 head the year before. The average live weight was 266 pounds, up 2 pounds from a year earlier.

Commercial sheep and lamb slaughter for South Dakota totaled 300 during September. That was unchanged from a year earlier. The average live weight was 118 pounds, the same weight as the previous year.

## Nebraska Medical Center Announces Layoffs

OMAHA, Neb. (AP) — Nebraska Medical Center in Omaha will lay off 38 workers by the end of the year and won't fill vacant positions as it adjusts to health care reforms.

The hospital announced the decision Tuesday, citing reducing costs, changes in the marketplace and a reduction in the growth of Medicare spending.

The center has about 5,200 employees. Spokesman Paul Baltes says it's the first time in 10 years that it has cut jobs.

He says the hospital has been working for years to reduce costs. With a slowing of the increase in Medicare funding, the efforts are "being accelerated."

A few staff members will see their hours reduced. Hospital officials say they'll work to place workers in spots within the system and at partner organizations.

# GOP Groups Invest In Neb., N.M. Senate Races

BY DONNA CASSATA

Associated Press

WASHINGTON — A Republican-leaning outside group is investing in Nebraska's suddenly tighter Senate race, looking to shore up Republican Deb Fischer as she tries to turn back Democrat Bob Kerrey's bid to return to the Senate.

American Crossroads, the group organized by Republican operative Karl Rove, is spending \$420,000 on the race and will unveil an ad on Wednesday. Republicans and Democrats say the race has narrowed since recent polls showed Fischer with a double-digit lead in the GOP-leaning state.

"At the end of the day, the U.S. Senate can't afford people like Bob Kerrey," said

Nate Hodson, a spokesman for American Crossroads and Crossroads GPS.

Kerrey has been airing an ad that criticizes Fischer and her husband for suing an elderly couple and neighbors for land that the Fischers had used for their cattle. The ad focuses on the 1995 lawsuit and the 104 acres owned by the late Les and Betty Kime. It includes Nebraskans speaking out against Fischer and questioning her character.

Kerrey is a former governor, senator and one-time presidential candidate who was heavily recruited by top Democrats to seek the seat of retiring Democratic Sen. Ben Nelson.

American Crossroads' affiliate, Crossroads GPS, made a \$5.3 million ad buy on Tuesday, with new commercials to air in Nevada,

North Dakota, Ohio and Virginia — all competitive races — as well as Maine and New Mexico.

The National Republican Senatorial Committee has ended its spending in Maine, where independent and former Gov. Angus King is leading the polls. King is likely to caucus with the Democrats if he wins the election next week. Republican Sen. Olympia Snowe is retiring.

In New Mexico, Democrat Martin Heinrich has maintained a lead over former Republican Rep. Heather Wilson for the seat held by Democratic Sen. Jeff Bingaman, who decided not to seek another term.

Crossroads GPS is investing \$512,000 in New Mexico and will unveil its ad on Wednesday.

# Dead Family's Relatives Sue Trucker For Neb. Crash

BY GRANT SCHULTE

Associated Press

LINCOLN, Neb. — The parents of a couple who died with their children in a fiery chain-reaction accident in western Nebraska have filed a wrongful death lawsuit faulting three truck drivers and the transportation companies that employed them.

One of the drivers died in the September accident and another is facing manslaughter charges. The lawsuit alleges that truck driver, Josef Slezak, had been on the road for too long.

The lawsuit was filed late Monday in U.S. District Court of Nebraska by the parents of Christopher and Diana Schmidt, a Gaithersburg, Md., couple who were killed along with their two young children and unborn son.

The Schmidts were in separate cars, waiting in standstill traffic after a collision on Interstate 80 about 40 miles east of the Wyoming border, when authorities say Slezak struck Christopher Schmidt's car. The force of the crash pushed Schmidt's car into his wife's, which was rammed underneath another semi, and both of their cars exploded. The couple's two children were in the car with their mother, who was 7 1/2 months pregnant.

Slezak, 36, of River Grove, Ill., is charged with four counts of manslaughter, four counts of vehicular homicide, and one count of vehicle homicide of an unborn child. A phone message was left Tuesday with Slezak's criminal attorney, Kelly Breen.

A woman who answered the phone for Slezak's employer, AKI Trucking Inc., which is also named in the suit, declined to comment.

The lawsuit also targets truck driver Vladimir Zhukov and his employers, Swift-Truck Lines Ltd., and MTR Express Inc. The accident began Zhukov's semi suffered a mechanical failure and stopped on the interstate near the town of Potter. The lawsuit alleges Zhukov, of Oak Park, Ill., failed to move the truck out of the roadway when his air brakes stopped working, and that he or his employer neglected to keep up with the truck's maintenance. Zhukov pulled the tractor off the interstate, but the trailer remained in the road, according to the lawsuit.

MTR Express Inc. declined to comment Tuesday.

The lawsuit also names Long Haul Trucking Inc., the employer for trucker Keith Johnson, who died; and North Metro Truck Leasing LLC, which the lawsuit says provided him with the truck. Messages were left with the other companies.

Johnson's truck slammed into Zhukov's, triggering a fire that blocked traffic. The lawsuit alleges Johnson, 27, of Big Lake, Minn., failed to avoid the crash even though Zhukov's truck was flashing its emergency-warning lights.

James Chalot, a Denver attorney who is representing the relatives and the family's estate, said the defendants had not yet been served with the lawsuit.

## OBITUARIES

### Robert 'Spud' Grosshuesch

Robert "Spud" Grosshuesch, age 88, of Yankton, South Dakota, passed away gently surrounded by his family on Monday, October 29, 2012 at Avera Sister James Care Center in Yankton.

Funeral services are 10:30 A.m. on Thursday, November 1, 2012 at Trinity Lutheran Church in Yankton with Reverend David Lund officiating. Burial will be in the Garden of Memories Cemetery in Yankton with military honors provided by the Ernest-Bowyer VFW Post No. 791.

Visitation is from 3:00 to 8:00 p.m. on Wednesday, at the Wintz & Ray Funeral Home in Yankton with the family present from 5:00 to 8:00 p.m. Visitation resumes one hour prior the funeral service at the church.

Spud was born September 6, 1924 in Kaylor, South Dakota to Albert and Clara (Schnuelle) Grosshuesch. He grew up on a farm outside of Kaylor with his parents and 11 brothers and sisters. Spud often talked about the trying but wonderful times on the farm and about the strict German upbringing he had been given by his parents, which surely paid off because he could not have been a finer man. In 1946, he enlisted in the US Army and was a member of the military police in post war



Grosshuesch

Germany. Spud married the love of life, Norma Waliser, on November 22, 1950 and they were happily married for 54 years. They were blessed with five children who adored them both. His happiest moments were spending time with Norma and his family. He was the type of father who always took the time for family vacations, teaching his children his fishing skills, camping and love of nature. Spud was a mailman for nearly 40 years and often said how he loved that job. He was a member of Trinity Lutheran Church, the VFW, and did volunteer work after retirement. Spud was also very well known for his love of baseball and his amateur baseball career. He was inducted into the SD Amateur Baseball Hall of Fame twice, for his great pitching and for his umpiring. In 2011, Spud was the first baseball recipient to be inducted into Yankton's Baseball Association Hall of Fame, another proud honor. His family enjoyed going to all the games with him in Yankton and surrounding area and they were definitely some of their fondest memories. Spud was the kindest, sweetest, gentlest soul you could ever want to meet. All have

been truly blessed and grateful to call him Dad, Grandfather, family member and friend. His beloved Norma and son, Scott, along with all the angels in Heaven will welcome him home with open arms and smiles.

Spud is survived by his four children, Pam Heath of Yankton, Debra (Steve) Murray of Yankton, Kevin (Elaine) Grosshuesch of Yankton and Kim (John) Cordie of St. Cloud, MN; daughter-in-law, Julie Grosshuesch of Yankton; eight grandchildren; five great grandchildren; brother, Eldon (Leona) Grosse of Benson, MN; and many nieces and nephews.

Spud was preceded in death by his parents; wife, Norma on March 15, 2005; son, Scott on January 3, 2008; four brothers: Carl, Don, Paul and Vernon; and six sisters: Edna, Viola, Elsie, Hilda, Verna and Lydia.

To post an online sympathy message or to view his video tribute, please visit [www.wintzrayfuneralhome.com](http://www.wintzrayfuneralhome.com).

**Yankton Press & Dakotan**  
**October 31, 2012**



Online condolences at:  
[www.wintzrayfuneralhome.com](http://www.wintzrayfuneralhome.com)

### Robert 'Gilligan' Logan

Robert "Gilligan" Logan, age 65, of Yankton, died Saturday, October 27, 2012 at his residence.

Funeral services are 7 p.m., on Thursday, November 1, 2012, at the Wintz & Ray Funeral Home in Yankton with Pastor Bob Cappel officiating.

Visitation is two hours prior to the funeral service from 5-7 p.m., on Thursday, at the Wintz & Ray Funeral Home. Inurnment will be at the Aten Cemetery in Aten, Nebraska at a later date.

Honorary pallbearers are Mike Novak, Eddie "Sparrow" Novak, Bob Novak, Terry Novak, Terry Hackett and Rick Lien.

Robert was born December 28, 1946 in Yankton, South Dakota to Donald Logan and Virginia (Johnson) Szazama. He grew up in Yankton and graduated from Yankton High School. Robert lived in Yankton all of his life, working at many different places including Yaggie's, Gurney's Seed and Nursery and recently retired from the Walnut Tavern. Robert loved fishing, playing cards and pool, and his dogs. He enjoyed visiting with



Logan

his friends and was always there for them when they needed help.

Robert is survived by his three children: Nicci (Roy) Stiles, Josh Logan, and Deidra Losing, all of Yankton; six grandchildren: Andrew, Jared, Jason, Cassie and Eric Stiles and Jakob Learing; one great grandson, Brody Stiles; brother, Roger (Chris) Logan of LaPorte City, Iowa; and several nieces and nephews.

Robert was preceded in death by his parents and brother, Marvin Logan.

To post an online sympathy message, please visit [www.wintzrayfuneralhome.com](http://www.wintzrayfuneralhome.com).

**Yankton Press & Dakotan**  
**October 31, 2012**



Online condolences at:  
[www.wintzrayfuneralhome.com](http://www.wintzrayfuneralhome.com)

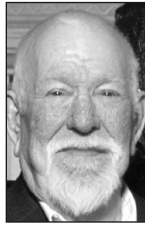
## Carl Gratzfeld

SIOUX FALLS — Carl William Gratzfeld, 71, of Sioux Falls, and formerly of Wakonda, passed away October 29, 2012 at Sanford Surgical Tower in Sioux Falls.

A Memorial visitation and Celebration of Life will be held from 4-7 p.m., Friday, November 2, 2012 at the Hansen Funeral Home in Irene.

Carl was born November 3, 1940 to Carl Gratzfeld, Sr. and Bertha (Voll) Gratzfeld. He attended school in Yankton. He married Donna Powell on November 7, 1959.

He worked various jobs before



Gratzfeld

joining the union and becoming a journeyman bricklayer. He was a true craftsman and received a craftsman of the year award for work on the Riggs High School in Pierre. Later he and Donna built, owned and operated the CD Stop in Wakonda. Before fully retiring he worked in motel management. During the winter months, he enjoyed many years of traveling to South Padre Island, Texas. He also enjoyed their trips to Mexico and Jamaica.

Carl is survived by his wife, Donna of Sioux Falls, his children, Cheryl (Tim) Vanderkooi of

Wakonda, Gari (Marlene) Gratzfeld of Vermillion, Carla (Clay) Amick of Letcher, five grandchildren; Jeff, Tyler and Christy Gratzfeld and Emma (Jacob) Klaas, Vern Amick, a great-granddaughter, Journey, and his two brothers; Joe (Sylvia) Gratzfeld and Ed (JoAnn) Gratzfeld.

He was preceded in death by his parents and one nephew.

For obituary and online condolences, visit [hansenfuneralhome.com](http://hansenfuneralhome.com)

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**WANTED**  
**A New Home for Ace.**  
 Ace is a 5 month old male black lab mix. This big boy is kennel trained and house trained. He is looking for an owner that will teach him tricks and keep him entertained.

Please visit [www.heartlandhumanesociety.net](http://www.heartlandhumanesociety.net) or call 605-664-4244 for more information.  
 Ad sponsored by Sally & Terry, Lewis & Clark Realty, Inc.

Letter to the Editor

Dear Editor:

There is a stark contrast between candidates in the race for the six-year term on the Public Utilities Commission. PUC candidate Matt McGovern believes Washington, DC "knows best" when it comes to regulations and mandates from the EPA and the FCC. PUC Commissioner Kristie Fiegen believes South Dakota residents know better than Washington bureaucrats, especially under the leadership of President Obama.

Kristie has gone to battle against the President's energy agenda because it is harmful to South Dakota families and she will continue fighting for consumer rights if elected. McGovern worked for Obama and Al Gore and will not be the strong advocate South Dakota needs to push back on the abusive mandates from Washington that hurt family budgets in South Dakota.

Commissioner Fiegen is a wife and mother who knows the harsh effect high utility rates have on a family budget. Knowing the needs of South Dakota families, she will continue to stand up to utilities and regulators in order to protect consumers.

Let's vote for commonsense and vote for Kristie Fiegen to continue as Public Utilities Commissioner.

**Roger Meyer,**  
 Yankton, SD

PAID ADVERTISEMENT

**IN REMEMBRANCE**

<b>Robert C. Grosshuesch</b> 10:30 AM, Thursday Trinity Lutheran Church Yankton	<b>Robert "Gilligan" Logan</b> 7:00 PM, Thursday Wintz & Ray Funeral Home Yankton
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FUNERAL HOME and Cremation Service, Inc.  
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FUNERAL HOME INC.  
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[www.wintzrayfuneralhome.com](http://www.wintzrayfuneralhome.com)

**Calling all Trick-or-Treaters!**

Join the fun at the annual **Halloween Trick or Treat**

There will be lots of games and plenty of treats!

**Wednesday, October 31**  
**6:30 - 7:30 p.m.**  
**1212 West 8<sup>th</sup> Street**

**Avera**  
 Yankton Care Center  
 (605) 668-8800

Trick-or-Treaters 5th grade and younger welcome.

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