

## NATION/WORLD DIGEST

### California Gas Pipeline Ranked High Risk

SAN BRUNO, Calif. (AP) — Federal and state investigators say the section of natural gas pipeline that ruptured and exploded in a deadly fireball near San Francisco had been categorized as high risk because it ran through a highly populated area.

Documents obtained by The Associated Press showed that Pacific Gas & Electric submitted paperwork to regulators that said a section of the same gas line — about two and half miles from the blast — was within "the top 100 highest risk line sections" in the utility's service territory.

A PG&E spokesman confirmed Sunday that the section of pipe mentioned in the documents was on the same line as the segment that ruptured and located several miles north of the explosion.

The federal Pipeline and Hazardous Materials Safety Administration said PG&E had classified the 30-inch diameter transmission line as a "high consequence area" requiring more stringent inspections called integrity assessments, agency spokeswoman Julia Valentine said.

Nationwide, only about 7 percent of gas lines have that classification, she said.

### Tea Partiers Seek To Spread Their Message

SACRAMENTO, Calif. (AP) — Tea party activists gathered in cities on each coast and in between Sunday to spread their message of smaller government and focus their political movement on the pivotal congressional elections in November.

Several thousand people marched along Pennsylvania Avenue from the Washington Monument to the Capitol, many carrying signs reading "Congress You're Fired" and "Let Failures Fail and Impeach Obama."

"It wouldn't bother me to make a clean sweep," said Michael Power of Decatur, Ala., endorsing term limits for members of Congress. "There are some good ones, but we can lose those."

In Sacramento, an estimated 4,000 people poured into the former McClellan Air Force Base site for the "United to the Finish" rally — far fewer than the 25,000 to 50,000 crowd organizers had predicted.

Leslie and Gary Morrison of Redding drove 150 south to Sacramento with their dog Phoebe, just two weeks after flying to Washington to attend a large rally hosted by conservative commentator Glenn Beck. They said they liked the feeling of solidarity at the tea party events.

### Iran: Woman Released On Bail, Trial Looms

TEHRAN, Iran (AP) — After a power struggle within Iran's conservative leadership put her freedom in doubt, an American woman arrested more than a year ago along the Iraq border is on the verge of heading home. Her two companions, however, could be on their way to spy trials.

Sarah Shourd could be released in the "next two or three days" — or even sooner — after \$500,000 bail is paid, said Masoud Shafiei, the Iranian lawyer for Shourd and the other detained Americans, Shane Bauer and Josh Fattal.

President Mahmoud Ahmadinejad had personally promised Shourd's release on Friday as a sign of Islamic compassion at the end of the holy month of Ramadan but was quickly slammed down by the judiciary — which turned around Sunday and set its own ground rules, including the bail amount. Swiss diplomats, who represent U.S. interests in Iran because the two countries do not have direct diplomatic relations, were making arrangements to post bail.

"Based on the judiciary decision, the lady will be released," Foreign Minister Manouchehr Mottaki said at a news conference.

But as Iranian authorities paved the way for Shourd's release on health grounds, they also appeared to be moving their espionage accusations into high gear. Tehran's chief prosecutor Abbas Jafari Dowlatabadi said indictments against the three Americans were issued Sunday and the prosecution's case is nearly complete.

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## Calif. Residents Return To Homes After Blast

BY TREVOR HUNNICUTT AND GARANCE BURKE  
Associated Press Writers

SAN BRUNO, Calif. — Residents returned Sunday to the ruined hillsides of their suburban San Francisco neighborhood, three days after a natural gas pipeline exploded into a deadly fireball.

A nearby risky segment of the gas line was due to be replaced, the utility responsible said, because it ran through a heavily urbanized area and the likelihood of failure was "unacceptably high." That 30-inch diameter pipe a few miles north was installed in 1948, and was slated to be swapped for new, smaller pipe.

California regulators ordered the utility, Pacific Gas and Electric, to survey all its natural gas lines in the state in hopes of heading off another disaster.

Investigators still don't know what caused Thursday night's blast, and even as dozens of people returned to their scorched homes — accompanied by gas workers to help restore pilot lights and make sure it is safe to turn power back on — officials tried to confirm just how many people died.

The remains of at least four people have been found, and authorities have said four are missing and at least 60 injured, some critically. Two people reported missing after blast were

located Sunday, city spokeswoman Robyn Thaw said.

San Mateo County Coroner Robert Foucault said they're still trying to confirm whether some of the remains they found are human and identify victims.

Streets were crowded Sunday with PG&E cars and trucks, and representatives were handing out gift certificates for grocery stores. Nearly 50 homes were destroyed and seven severely damaged in the blast, while dozens of other homes suffered less severe damage in the fire that sped across 15 acres.

Returning residents were wearing wristbands that show police they live in the area.

Pat and Roger Haro and their dog, Rosie, have been living in a hotel room since Thursday after fleeing their home with the clothes they were wearing, dog food, water and an iPad.

When they returned, their home was marked with a green tag — indicating less damage than others with yellow or red tags — and their electricity was still off.

"Once I saw the house was still there then I felt a whole lot better," Pat Haro said. "I think we'll be a tighter community."

Patrick Yu said he's had nightmares and headaches since the fireball caused his ceiling to crash next to him on the bed while he slept.

Yu crouched in the doorway after the blast, thinking he was in the middle of an earthquake. When the shaking subsided, he found that the heat had warped the door so much he had to pull with all his strength to get out of the bedroom.

On Sunday morning, the 62-year-old learned his house had been red-tagged, meaning it has extensive damage and will require closer inspection before authorities can declare it safe.

"I have lots of memories in that house," Yu said. "Lots of stuff you can't replace."

A few blocks away, houses have collapsed into black and white debris on ground, with a smell like charcoal in the air. All that remain standing is a row of brick chimneys, while across the street, some homes are undamaged.

Meanwhile, local and federal officials are probing the cause of the explosion that blew a segment of pipe 28 feet long onto the street some 100 feet away, creating a crater 167 feet long and 26 feet wide.

PG&E submitted paperwork to regulators for ongoing gas rate proceedings that said a section of the same gas line about two and a half miles away was within "the top 100 highest risk line sections" in the utility's service territory, the documents show.

## Fellow Americans' Suspicions Frustrate U.S. Muslims

BY RACHEL ZOLL  
AP Religion Writer

NEW YORK — Nine years of denouncing terrorism, of praying side-by-side with Jews and Christians, of insisting "I'm American, too." None of it could stop a season of hate against Muslims that made for an especially fraught Sept. 11. Now, Muslims are asking why their efforts to be accepted in the United States have been so easily thwarted.

"We have nothing to apologize for, we have nothing to fear, we have nothing to be ashamed of, we have nothing that we're guilty of — but we need to be out there and we need to express this," said Imam Mohammed Ibn Faqih in a sermon at the Islamic Institute of Orange County in Anaheim, Calif., the day before the 9/11 anniversary.

There is no simple way for American Muslims to move forward.

Images of violence overseas in the name of Islam have come to define the faith for many non-Muslims at home. The U.S. remains at war in Afghanistan, and although America has formally declared an end to its

combat operations in Iraq, U.S. troops there continue to fight alongside Iraqi forces.

Within the U.S., domestic terror has become a greater threat, while ignorance about what Islam teaches is widespread. More than half of respondents in a recent poll by the Pew Forum for Religion & Public Life said they knew little or nothing about the Muslim faith.

Some U.S. Muslims say their national organizations share the blame, for answering intricate questions about Islam with platitudes, and failing to fully examine the potential for extremism within their communities. Muslim leaders often respond when terrorists strike by saying Islam is a "religion of peace" that has no role in the violence instead of confronting the legitimate concerns of other Americans, these Muslim critics say.

"There's a quaintness and naivete or outright whitewashing of some very complex issues," said Saeed Khan, who teaches at Wayne State University in Detroit. "This has caused a lot of frustration for a lot of Muslim Americans, myself included."

The summer frenzy about Islam in America has revolved around Park51, a community center and mosque planned two

blocks from New York's ground zero. Opponents and supporters of the center converged on the area for protests and counter-protests Saturday after the opening memorial ceremony at the World Trade Center site.

In recent months, mosques in Tennessee, California, New York and elsewhere have been shot at and vandalized. Threatening messages were left at one mosque. A Florida pastor caused a global uproar with his ultimately unfulfilled threat to make a bonfire of Qurans on Sept. 11.

Islamic centers have become a focus of non-Muslim fears. Federal authorities have placed informants in mosques, saying doing so is a critical counterterrorism tool. Muslim groups have separately created national campaigns encouraging congregations to monitor for any sign of radicalization, but they have also complained bitterly about the use of informants, worried the innocent will be caught up in the net police have set for criminals.

Historians, and several Muslim leaders, see similarities to the prejudice Roman Catholics and Jews experienced as newcomers to America starting in the 19th century. The hierarchical Catholic church was denounced as a threat to the separation of church and state. Synagogues were banned in

many states, and Jews were viewed as undermining the nation's Christian character.

Mark Silk, director of the Greenberg Center for the Study of Religion in Public Life at Trinity College in Connecticut, said the experience of Japanese Americans in World War II more closely parallels the current plight of Muslims. After the Pearl Harbor bombing, Silk said Americans asked, "Are our Japanese different from those Japanese?"

"I don't think we're about to round up all the Muslims and put them in concentration camps," Silk said. "But I don't think we've ever seen the degree of legitimacy given by people in positions of authority to straight-up, anti-Islamic expression."

## OBITUARIES

### Eleanor Brandt

Eleanor Edith Brandt was born October 28, 1928 in rural Delmont, SD to Elmer C. and Maria (Pullman) Lauer. She died Saturday, September 11, 2010 at the Wagner Community Hospital after complications of Myelofibrosis, a rare blood disease, which she battled courageously for eighteen months. Eleanor attained the age of 81 years, 10 months, and 17 days.



Brandt

Eleanor was baptized at her home in Delmont by Rev. Charles Weiting on November 18, 1928, and was confirmed in the Christian faith by Rev. Otto A. Pinnat at Zion Lutheran Church in Avon, SD on March 29, 1942. Her confirmation verse was Psalm 37:4. "Delight thyself in the Lord and He shall give the desires of thine heart." She attended Belmont Country School in Douglas County near Delmont for six years. She then attended Avon Zion Lutheran Parochial School for two and a half years. She graduated from Avon High School in

1946. On June 3, 1948, she married Raymond Brandt at Zion Lutheran Church in Avon. Together, they had six children.

Eleanor was an active member in her church. She served on the church council and was a Sunday School teacher. Over the years Eleanor was employed by several businesses including S.B. Gelfand Grocery; F. Weidenbach Grocery; Ed Schuh Gamble Store; Gurney Seed & Nursery and the Avon Livestock Sale barn Cafe, where she was well known for her homemade pies. Eleanor also worked on the family dairy farm while raising their children. She sold Avon Products and had her own Lawn Ornament business. Eleanor was an active 4-H leader for many years and served as the 4-H County Board Secretary. She was very proud of her 100-year farm in Delmont. Known for her green thumb, she raised beautiful gardens and enjoyed being a member of the Avon Flower Club. Eleanor had a special knack for cooking and baking pies. Eleanor loved spending time with her entire family and enjoyed attending their activities. She had love and total commitment to her family, friends, and God. She always said, "I have the best family in the world."

Eleanor's memory will live forever in the hearts of her husband

of 62 years, Raymond, and their sons Dennis Brandt and wife Lyla; Roger Brandt and wife Sandy; Dwayne Brandt and wife Debbie all of Avon and daughter Norma Noller of Kearney, Ne, eleven grandchildren, and eight great-grandchildren and one on the way.

Eleanor was preceded in death by her parents, infant brother Theodore, infant sister Erna, infant son Luverne, daughter Judy Pullmann in 1976, son-in-law Art Pullmann in 1976, brother Paul in 1979, and son-in-law Pat Noller in 2008.

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### Marie Mittan

CROFTON, Neb. — Marie Mittan, 93 of Crofton, Neb., died Friday (Sept. 10, 2010) at Avera Sister James Care Center, Yankton.

Graveside services are at 10 a.m. Wednesday at the Hartington City Cemetery, Hartington, Neb. Visitation is 5-8 p.m. Tuesday at Wintz Funeral Home, Crofton. To send online condolences, visit www.wintzrayfuneralhome.com.

### Cal Stukel

GREGORY — Cal Stukel, 69, of Gregory, died unexpectedly Friday (Sept. 10, 2010) as the

result of acute leukemia.

Funeral services are at 10:30 a.m. Tuesday at St. Joseph Catholic Church, Gregory.

A wake service will be held at 7 p.m. tonight (Monday) at the church.

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*who passed away on*  
**September 14, 2009**

**Thomas Henry Pesicka**  
*who passed away on*  
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**Solitaires**

A social group of widows/widowers of all ages that meets the 3rd Wednesday of the month in the Hospitality Center on the grounds of Wintz & Ray Funeral Home.

**Wednesday, Sept. 15**  
**6pm Potluck Dinner • 7pm Speaker**  
Bill Showers, Bon Homme Yankton Electric, will be speaking about Personal Emergency Response Systems.

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