

### Operator Of Proposed Mine To Merge

SPEARFISH (AP) — The company that would operate a proposed uranium mine in southwest South Dakota has agreed to merge with a Hong Kong-based firm.

The *Black Hills Pioneer* reports that Powertech Uranium Corp. plans to merge with Azarga Resources Limited.

The newspaper reports the companies would create Azarga Uranium Corp., a Canada-based mining company with eight proposed uranium mine projects around the world.

Powertech has told American authorities it plans to use a method that would pump groundwater into the underground ore deposits to dissolve the uranium. The water would be pumped back out, where the uranium would be extracted and sold to nuclear power plants.

Azarga has been Powertech's largest shareholder since July 2013.

The U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission has found no environmental impacts that would preclude licensing the mine.

### Neb. Gets Nearly \$145K In Settlement

LINCOLN, Neb. (AP) — Nebraska Attorney General Jon Bruning says the state is getting more than \$144,000 as part of a national settlement with a Pennsylvania drug maker.

Endo Health will pay almost \$193 million to resolve claims that it improperly marketed the shingles treatment Lidoderm for unapproved uses such as treating lower back pain between 2002 and 2006.

The Malvern, Pennsylvania, drug maker will pay \$171.9 million in civil false claims settlements largely to the U.S. government, with \$34.2 million from that total going to 47 states and the District of Columbia. Endo also agreed to pay \$20.8 million as part of a deferred prosecution agreement.

Endo said it was pleased to resolve the issue and has programs in place to help it comply with the agreement.

### Appeals Court Sides With Cheerleader

OMAHA, Neb. (AP) — A federal appeals court has upheld judgment in favor of a former cheerleader paralyzed in a tumbling accident who sued Nebraska-based insurance company Mutual of Omaha for refusing to pay his claim.

The lawsuit focuses on an insurance policy bought by Prairie View A&M University in Texas to cover its athletes. Wesley Patterson, of Houston, was a cheerleader at the school in 2008 when he was injured.

Wesley's lawsuit says Mutual of Omaha reneged on a promise to cover serious injuries like his that result from the school's negligence. The insurer argued it shouldn't have to cover Wesley's injuries because they occurred in a gym class taught by the cheerleading coach, not at an official cheerleading practice session.

On Friday, the 8th U.S. Circuit Court of Appeals sided with Wesley.

### Pressler 'American Hustle' Ad To Air

SIoux FALLS (AP) — As "American Hustle" vies for a best picture Oscar Sunday night, former U.S. Senator Larry Pressler will pop into the Academy Awards broadcast to remind South Dakotans that he was the lone congressman to turn down a bribe in the real-life 1970s Abscam scandal.

The 71-year-old Pressler says he's bought two 30-second local spots to debut his ad during the awards show broadcast. Pressler is a three-term Republican hoping to win back his old seat as an independent.

"American Hustle" is a highly fictional tale of the scandal in which a con man and the FBI worked together to bribe politicians using two agents pretending to be Arab sheik investors.

Pressler makes his pitch to Oscar watchers and then airs a brief portion of the undercover tape.

### Science Center Closed Due To Mites

SIoux FALLS (AP) — The Kirby Science Discovery Center and Raven Children's Studio in Sioux Falls will be closed through Monday after mites were found on two turtles.

The *Argus Leader* reports the facility at the Washington Pavilion says the turtles have been treated by a veterinarian.

A professional crew will fumigate the area this week.

Michelle Wellman with Pavilion says some employees have reported being bitten by the mites. She says no visitors have reported being bitten.

The newspaper reports that any patrons who experience itchy skin or small red bumps should visit their physician.

Wellman says it is unclear how the mites got into the turtles' enclosure. She says the turtles will get a new one.

### Smoke-Free Campus Favored At UNK

LINCOLN, Neb. (AP) — Most of the students who responded to an email survey favored a smoke-free campus at the University of Nebraska at Kearney.

A university news release says nearly 1,400 favored the idea, versus 710 who opposed it. Nearly 2,100 of the nearly 7,100 students returned the surveys. The survey was conducted Wednesday and Thursday.

The results will be presented to Chancellor Doug Kristensen.

The Peer Health Education group began exploring the issue in 2012 after receiving Kearney student opinions from a national health survey. They indicated support for a tobacco-free campus.

UNK policy prohibits tobacco use in campus facilities and vehicles and within 10 feet of building entrances.

Similar policies are in place on the university's Omaha and Lincoln campuses. The University of Nebraska Medical Center has been tobacco-free since 2009.

# Relocated School Raises Questions

BY DIRK LAMMERS  
Associated Press

SIoux FALLS (AP) — Web-site photos showing off the University of Northern Virginia's new main campus certainly look inviting: plush green grass lines a modern two-story office building, a fountain pond bubbling outside as students attend class within.

But don't try jumping on the Washington Metro to get to class. The school was shut down by the state of Virginia for lacking accreditation, amid suspicions the school's primary function was to allow those enrolled to obtain visas.

The state found temporary shelter in South Dakota, which critics say lacks the kind of accreditation and rigorous regulatory hurdles used by other states to protect students and follow ethical and education standards.

"They must have been looking around for a soft place to land in terms of regulation, and they thought they found one," said David North, a fellow with the Washington, D.C.-based Center for Immigration Studies.

Roughly 1,300 miles from northern Virginia, the school's new South Dakota home is Suite 123, a vacant unmarked

Sioux Falls office inside a building also housing a dentist, insurance companies and the state soybean association. An Oct. 25 letter to students from Chancellor Ali Dastmalchi said the "main campus, offices and classrooms are ready to accept and service new and returning students. Please check the winter term 2014 courses schedule."

University of Northern Virginia's status is unclear, and it's not known if the school is offering any courses online or overseas. School officials could not be reached for comment at the Sioux Falls office. A woman who answered the phone at the school's listed number in Virginia said Dastmalchi was traveling out of the country. An email sent to Dastmalchi was not returned.

The university's website offers a winter class 2014 schedule, a 2014-2016 university catalog and links to photos from the school's 2013 graduation at its Annandale, Va., and Prague, Czech Republic, campuses, but the school's Twitter and Facebook accounts have been inactive since 2012.

South Dakota law allows an unaccredited school to do business as long as it has an affiliate agreement with an accredited institution, a clause North calls "a silly loophole."

The state requires no site visit, no appearance in front of a board, no surety bond and no annual check-ins — common requirements in other states, said Matt Gianneschi, with the Education Commission of the States, a Denver-based organization that tracks state policy trends.

"If they have a one-time authorization and it's just, you get in, you get out, you're authorized and it's a lifetime authorization, that's pretty attractive," Gianneschi said. "Once you get through that hoop, you can operate independently without any other oversight from the state."

Private universities used to not need a certificate to operate in South Dakota, but Gov. Dennis Daugaard's office in 2012 asked lawmakers to add the process to comply with new federal regulations related to student loans. Existing universities were automatically certified upon the law's passage, and new ones would have to apply.

Governor's spokesman Tony Venhuizen said the University of Northern Virginia received certification based on the paperwork it submitted, but questions have been raised about whether its affiliate agreement covered all of its programs. A complaint

came in to the South Dakota Attorney General's office, which is investigating.

Venhuizen said rather than duplicating regulatory efforts, South Dakota has always taken a less heavy-handed approach with private institutions and has relied on the existing accreditation process.

"Any system you set up depends on the validity of the records as filed," he said.

The University of Northern Virginia had operated in Annandale, Va., for about 15 years, once serving more than 1,000 students who were mostly from India. But U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement officials raided the offices in 2011 amid allegations that the school's primary function was to allow those enrolled to obtain a visa.

Virginia officials shut down the school in July 2013 after discovering it failed for the last five years to receive accreditation from any organization recognized by the U.S. Department of Education. ICE followed up in October by withdrawing the school's approval for attendance of non-immigrant students. No charges have been filed.

Rather than shut its doors completely, the school headed west.

## OBITUARIES

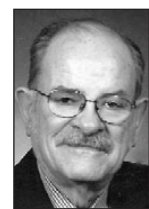
### Gene Burgess

Gene M. Burgess, age 85, of Yankton, SD passed away at his residence at Autumn Winds in Yankton, SD on Wednesday, February 26, 2014.

Funeral services will be 10:30 a.m. Monday, March 3, 2014 at St. John's Lutheran Church, Yankton with Rev. Dave Gunderson officiating. Burial will be in the Garden of Memories, Yankton, with Military graveside rites with the Ernest-Bowyer VFW Post #791 Honor Guard and SDARNG Honor Guard.

Visitations will begin at 7:00 p.m. on Sunday, March 2, 2014 at the Opsahl-Kostel Funeral Chapel, Yankton with family present. Visitations will resume one hour prior to the service at the church.

Gene Martin Burgess was born on January 22,



Burgess

1929, in Kansas City, Missouri, to William and Jesse Burgess where he lived and graduated from Paseo High School.

After graduation from high school, Gene entered the United States Army in November of 1946 and served in the occupation of Japan after World War II until November of 1949. After his honorable discharge, Gene worked as a nurse aide at the Fort Meade Veterans Hospital in Sturgis, South Dakota for a short time. He then enrolled at Black Hills State Teachers College in Spearfish, South Dakota, in 1950 in preparation for his teaching career. This is where he met his future wife, Beulah Jensen, at a

square dance.

Gene and Beulah were married on August 19, 1951, and from this union their only daughter, Deborah was born. Gene began teaching in McIntosh, South Dakota and taught at various rural schools until settling in Martin, South Dakota in 1966. Gene taught 8th Grade Science and English at the Bennett County Grade School until his retirement in 1988. Gene also served on the Martin City Volunteer Fire Department for 15 years. Gene and Beulah moved to Yankton in 1993 to be near their daughter and family.

Gene was a member of St. John's Lutheran Church and was a lifelong member of the American Legion.

Gene was a wonderful husband, father, grandpa and teacher. Whether it was a story about a Dodge auto-

mobile or how to spell a word, Gramps was the source!

Gene is survived by his daughter, Deborah and son in law, Robert of Yankton, SD; grandchildren, Bryan of Laredo, TX, Dean and Sarah Valentine of Sioux Falls, SD; three great grandchildren: Brianna of Columbus, GA, Kaitlyn and Danica of Sioux Falls, SD; a sister, Ramona Strandell of Spearfish, SD. He is also survived by many nieces and nephews.

Gene is preceded in death by his wife, Beulah, parents, William and Jesse, a sister, Carol, and a brother, William.

Yankton Press & Dakotan  
March 1, 2014

**PSAHL-KOSTEL**  
FUNERAL HOME & CREMATORY INC.  
Online condolences at:  
www.opsahl-kostelfuneralhome.com

### Richard Merchen

Richard D. Merchen, 88, of Bloomfield, Neb., died Monday, Feb. 24, 2014, at the Good Samaritan Society, Bloomfield.

Graveside services will be held at Beaver View Cemetery four miles west and one mile north of Crofton, Neb., on March 8 at 11 a.m.

A memorial will follow at the Crofton Senior Center, Crofton.

### Willard Tracy

Willard "Willie" Tracy, 77, of Sibley, Iowa, died Thurs-

day, Feb. 27, 2014 at Sibley Nursing & Rehabilitation Center in Sibley.

Funeral services are at 10:30 a.m. Monday, March 3, at the Trinity Lutheran Church in Sibley, with the Rev. Barb Kopperud officiating. Burial will follow the lunch in the Ocheyedan Township Cemetery in Ocheyedan, Iowa.

Visitation is 4-7 p.m. Sunday, March 2, with the family present from 5-7 p.m. at the Jurens Funeral Home in Sibley.

For a complete obituary and online registry, visit www.jurensfuneralhome.com/.

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Jennifer Powell  
After Care Support  
Group Leader

# Healthy Healing Begins Here...

Opsahl-Kostel Funeral Home & Crematory offers a program for those who have lost a loved one and are dealing with grief. Our goal is to assist people through this difficult time. Leading this after care program will be Jennifer Powell.

### Dates:

March 10th	March 31st
March 17th	April 7th
March 24th	April 14th

### Topics to be covered:

- The Meaning of Grief
- The Normal Experience & Features of Grief
- Constructive Ways of Handling Grief
- The Need To Reach Out and Set Goals
- Coping with Special Days
- Grief, the Latter Stages
- What does the Future Hold?

Jennifer attended Yankton College and University of South Dakota, receiving a Bachelor of Music Education from YC and a Master's in Educational Psychology and Counseling from USD. Jennifer and her husband Ted live in Yankton and have 4 children. Jennifer has 20 years' experience in the field of counseling.

Anyone who has suffered a loss is welcome to join in this program, which will meet on Monday evenings from 7:00-8:30 p.m. at the Opsahl-Kostel Funeral Home & Crematory in Yankton.

Refreshments will be served.

Guiding and serving families with compassion and trust.  
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## IN REMEMBRANCE

**Ruth M. Owens Walz** 10:30 AM, Saturday  
Holy Trinity Catholic Church  
Hartington

**Bonnie Rose Nielsen** 2:00 PM, Saturday  
First Congregational United  
Church of Christ  
Hartington

**Kenneth A. Petersen**  
2:00 PM, Saturday  
Gayville Lutheran Church  
Gayville

**WINTZ & RAY** FUNERAL HOME and Cremation Service, Inc. 605-665-3644  
**WINTZ** FUNERAL HOME INC. Hartington, Coleridge, Crofton 402-254-6547

Open To The Public  
**Pancake Breakfast**  
Pancakes, French Toast, Eggs, Bacon, Sausage, or Biscuits & Gravy  
**\$6.00 All You Can Eat**  
Children 4-10 \$3.00 • Under 3 free  
**Sunday, Mar. 2<sup>ND</sup> • 8-12:30**  
**VFW Post 791**  
209 Cedar, Yankton • 665-3562

*Thank You*  
The family of Steve Wilcox want to express our thanks and gratitude we received during the loss of our loved one. Thank you for all the cards, flowers, food and other acts of kindness. A special thank you to Avera Home Health and Hospice for their help so Steve was able to remain at home with love ones during his illness.  
A special thank you to Rev. Cynthia Stewart for the beautiful tribute and service and the Ladies Aide of Westridge United Methodist Church for providing lunch.  
You are all in our thoughts and prayers.  
*Linda Wilcox and family*