

### Water Board Delays RC Mine Hearing

PIERRE (AP) — A second state panel has delayed hearings on a proposed uranium mine in the Black Hills until two federal agencies decide on the project.

The South Dakota Water Management Board on Monday postponed its second week of hearings scheduled for the week of Dec. 9 in Rapid City.

The Board of Minerals and Environment earlier delayed its second round of hearings on Powertech Uranium Corp.'s application for a mine near Edgemont.

Both state boards say they'll reschedule after the Nuclear Regulatory Commission and Environmental Protection Agency rule on the project and establish financial surety.

The Water Management Board says the delay was in response to a request from Powertech and other parties.

The panel must decide whether to grant water rights permits and a groundwater discharge plan.

### Neb. Woman Arrested After State Audit

LINCOLN, Neb. (AP) — A Scottsbluff woman who served as a legal guardian to more than 600 people throughout Nebraska faces a felony theft charge after an audit found evidence that she misused state assistance payments to buy herself Christmas and birthday presents, Auditor Mike Foley said Monday.

The announcement came after Judith Widener, the president of the Safe Haven, Inc., was arrested and booked into the Scotts Bluff County Jail. She was being held Monday afternoon on a \$500,000 bond.

Widener is accused of collecting payments that were intended for the court-appointed wards, even though some were dead or no longer in her care, according to a sworn statement filed by the Nebraska State Patrol. The State Patrol and local law enforcement began investigating Widener after auditors discovered the questionable payments.

While the total amount misspent isn't yet known, state investigators subpoenaed Widener's bank records and found a complex array of credit cards and more than 40 bank accounts with more than \$600,000, Foley said. Auditors pulled a small sample of transactions from Widener's bank records and identified more than \$35,000 that she appeared to have taken, he said.

### Documentary Features 3 Young Lakota

SIOUX FALLS (AP) — A documentary debuted on PBS Monday night that followed three young Lakota tribal members and their political awakening as the Pine Ridge Indian Reservation gets caught in the political debate over abortion.

"Young Lakota" focused on Sunny Clifford, her twin sister, Serena, and friend and neighbor Brandon Ferguson. Although the abortion issue provides the backdrop, the one-hour documentary more broadly explores relationships, political activism, personal choice and discovering one's heritage.

Sunny Clifford was 21 when Marion Lipschutz and Rose Rosenblatt filmed the documentary. Now 28, Clifford says it helped her find her voice, and she is now more confident in her beliefs and values.

### Omaha

## Suspect In 4 Killings Tries To Plead Guilty

OMAHA, Neb. (AP) — A former prison inmate charged with killing four people in Omaha in August tried to plead guilty Monday, but the judge won't accept Nikko Jenkins' new plea until he is evaluated by psychiatrists.

Douglas County District Judge Peter Bataillon approved a request from Jenkins' lawyer to have the 27-year-old evaluated by state psychiatric experts in Lincoln.

A defense psychiatrist recently examined Jenkins and determined he is not competent to stand trial.

Jenkins told the judge he didn't want to wait for another psychiatric evaluation to change his plea.

"If I go to a (psychological evaluation) and then come back for trial, I am still going to plead guilty, guilty, guilty, and that would waste taxpayers' money," Jenkins said.

Jenkins pleaded not guilty in October to four counts of first-degree murder and 10 weapons counts in the killings that all happened within a month of his release from prison on July 30.

But Jenkins has said in recent letters to prosecutors and local media that he now wants to plead guilty to killing 29-year-old Jorge Cajiga-Ruiz and 26-year-old Juan Uribe-Pena on Aug. 11,

22-year-old Curtis Bradford on Aug. 19 and 33-year-old Andrea Kruger on Aug. 21.

Prosecutors have said they plan to seek the death penalty.

When Jenkins was in prison earlier this year, he had begged state corrections officials to commit him to a mental health institution. Now that Jenkins is being sent to such an institution he said Monday that he wants to be taken to a cell on death row.

Jenkins' attorney, public defender Thomas Riley, earlier hinted at an insanity defense during the Oct. 1 preliminary hearing when he asked the investigators about whether they were aware of Jenkins' possible mental health problems.

Police say Jenkins used a sawed-off 12-gauge shotgun loaded with deer slugs on Aug. 11 to kill Cajiga-Ruiz and Uribe-Pena, whose bodies were found inside a pickup truck in southeast Omaha. Police say he used a small-caliber gun to kill Bradford, who was a onetime prison acquaintance, on Aug. 19.

Then on Aug. 21, authorities say, Jenkins pulled Andrea Kruger from her SUV as she drove home from work after midnight and shot her four times before speeding off in her vehicle.

### Nebraska

## Dubas Quits Governor's Race

BY GRANT SCHULTE  
Associated Press

LINCOLN, Neb. — Democrat Annette Dubas said Monday that she is dropping out of the 2014 Nebraska governor's race, citing family demands.

The Fullerton state senator made the announcement during a brief, emotional press conference at the Capitol, as friends and supporters watched. She left without taking questions.

With her husband, Ron, at her side, Dubas said the rigors of a statewide campaign had taken a toll on her family.

"While my belief in this candidacy and what I stood for never wavered, it became apparent to me that campaign life was taking its toll on me and my family," she said, fighting back tears. "We were fully committed to running a successful campaign that was focused on people. But even with our best laid plans, it became harder and harder to continue to attend to family matters, serve my legislative constituents and campaign for governor. So something had to give."

Dubas launched her campaign for Gov.



Dubas

Dave Heineman's job in September. She toured the state after establishing her campaign and earned the support of a dozen fellow state lawmakers.

Heineman must leave office in 2015 because of term limits. Five Republicans have announced that they are running for the job, but Dubas and former University of Nebraska Regent Chuck Hassebrook were the only Democrats in the race.

Dubas thanked her supporters and promised to continue her legislative work in her final year as a state lawmaker.

"I am sincerely sorry for letting down those who have supported my candidacy by committing their time and financial resources," she said. "Your outpouring of support and encouragement touched my heart and gave me the motivation to go out each day and work hard on the campaign trail."

Chris Triebisch, a campaign

spokesman, said Dubas' withdrawal was not based on any specific incident. He said the decision was made within the last week, and campaign staff members were notified over the weekend.

"She did not feel she could balance the campaign, her legislative duties, and her family responsibilities in a manner in which she wanted to," he said. "... It takes a lot out of a candidate, to be able to devote the level of attention that a campaign needs."

In a statement, Hassebrook thanked Dubas for her service as a lawmaker.

"She has been an excellent state senator, and I know she will continue to work hard for Nebraska in the Legislature," he said. "I wish her all the best in the future."

Dubas, who was elected to the Legislature in 2006 and re-elected in 2010, has spent much of her time in office focused on child welfare issues, renewable energy, and economic development for rural Nebraska.

Dubas serves as chairwoman of the Legislature's Transportation and Telecommunications Committee. She is unable to seek re-election to the Legislature because of term limits.

## SD Proceeds With Raw Milk Label Rules

BY BOB MERCER  
State Capitol Bureau

PIERRE — South Dakota's new regulations requiring safety labeling and upgrading other health standards for raw milk that is sold commercially will go into effect Dec. 11, state Agriculture Lucas Lentsch said Monday.

State law allows citizens to request that a new rule be delayed up to 90 days.

Lentsch said his office received dozens of requests. He said none came from state legislators.

"All of those requests for delay, I have not granted," he said.

Several Republican lawmakers from Rapid City including Sen. Phil Jensen indicated earlier this month they would pursue the delay, so that raw-milk regulations could be considered in the 2014 legislative session.

Unless legislators pursue the issue, Lentsch's decision might bring an end to a long dispute.

His department held three sets of public hearings this year before settling on a final version of the rules.

The rules received clearance from the Legislature's rules review committee on the second try, after the panel initially told department officials more work was needed.

Opponents led by Dakota Rural Action fought vigorously against the new rules at each step, contending that more regulations will deny people the freedom to choose their foods.

The new rules call for each bottle to now carry a label warning consumers

that raw milk can cause illness, as well as a label listing the name of the dairy and the date of production.

DRA on its web site posted a sample letter requesting a delay and urged members and followers to use it.

There was also this message from DRA: "So far, we haven't been listened to by the Department, but in the upcoming legislative session, we'll be talking to a different set of people, people who are elected by us, and they will listen."

The changes are sup-

ported by state Health Secretary Doneen Hollingsworth and have the Dugaard administration's backing.

"To delay the rules puts public health and safety at the back of the line, and that never has been our intent," Lentsch said.



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