

### 9 Charged With Using Undocumented Workers

SIoux FALLS (AP) — The U.S. Attorney of South Dakota has charged nine people who own and operate logging companies and a check cashing business in the Black Hills with employing undocumented workers in a bid to defraud the government.

The indictment against the nine individuals was unsealed Thursday. In it, federal prosecutors accuse the nine people of defrauding the federal government by bidding on U.S. Forest Service contracts with undocumented workers who earned less than fair wages.

The federal government says the nine individuals shared workers among several different logging companies and used a check cashing business to issue one check for several of the workers.

The defendants own or work at Munoz Logging and Construction, Black Hills Thinning, Escalante Logging, SM Logging and Benja's Mexican Store.

### Sanford, USD To Study Native American Health

SIoux FALLS (AP) — Sanford Research and the University of South Dakota are embarking on a \$13.5 million, five-year study examining Native American health issues.

The first \$1.5 million in funding comes from the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services to create a collaborative research center headquartered in Sioux Falls.

In each of the remaining years, \$3 million is expected to be allocated for research.

U.S. Sen. Tim Johnson of South Dakota calls the planned research a "major development" for Indian Country. He says the area's reservations face unique health challenges and that such investments will improve Native Americans' lives.

### \$202 Million Powerball Ticket Sold In Iowa

BONDURANT, Iowa (AP) — Iowa Lottery officials say someone bought a winning \$202 million Powerball ticket at a convenience store in the suburban Des Moines city of Bondurant.

The ticket matched the six numbers drawn on Wednesday night. They are 13, 26, 39, 41, 42 and the Powerball number 10.

The prize is the second giant Powerball jackpot sold in Iowa this year. A group of 20 Quaker Oats employees in Cedar Rapids shared a \$241 million Powerball jackpot when their numbers came up in June.

Lottery officials planned a news conference Thursday morning at the Casey's General Store where the latest jackpot ticket was purchased. There were no signs the winner had stepped forward.

Besides the jackpot winner, someone bought a ticket in the eastern Iowa city of Williamsburg that's worth \$1 million.

# Stubborn Drought Maintains Grip On Lower 48 States

BY JIM SUHR  
Associated Press

ST. LOUIS — The nation's worst drought in decades consumed a larger portion of the lower 48 states last week with the Midwest corn harvest in full swing, according to the latest update by a drought-tracking consortium released Thursday.

The U.S. Drought Monitor's new map shows 65.5 percent of the contiguous U.S. experiencing some form of drought as of Tuesday, creeping up from 64.8 percent a week earlier. The portion of the U.S. in extreme or exceptional drought — the two worst classifications — rose three-quarters of a percentage point to 21.5 percent.

The latest update did not reflect storms that pounded portions of Missouri and Illinois this week, in some areas missing as much as 7 inches of rain that growers embrace as potentially beneficial to soybean crops still in the fields. Farmers also welcome moisture in the fall and snow in the

winter that softens the soil and provides needed saturation for the next planting season.

Storms were expected in portions of the nation's midsection into the weekend, with some states needing the rain more than others.

The latest map released by the National Drought Mitigation Center at the University of Nebraska in Lincoln showed that the area of Iowa, the nation's biggest corn producer, deemed to be in exceptional drought rose from 2.4 percent last week to 2.5 percent. The area of land subject to that most severe classification increased 2.3 percentage points in Nebraska to 73.25 percent, while conditions in Kansas, Missouri, Illinois and Indiana did not change.

Over the next few days, "unfortunately little if any rain is expected to fall across the hard-hit drought areas in the eastern Dakotas, eastern Nebraska and the Upper Mississippi Valley/Upper Great Lakes region," Anthony Artusa of National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration's Cli-

mate Prediction Center wrote in Thursday's update.

The forecast rain will have no impact on the already-matured corn crop currently being harvested.

As of Monday, 39 percent of that crop had been brought in from the fields — three times more than by this date in the previous five years due to early planting, the U.S. Department of Agriculture reported. More than 54 percent of the corn crop in Illinois has been harvested, while Iowa has harvested 37 percent and Missouri 80 percent.

About 51 percent of the U.S. corn crop is classified as being in poor or very poor shape, essentially unchanged from a week earlier, the USDA said. A year ago, 20 percent of corn in the fields was listed that way.

Twenty-two percent of the U.S. soybean crops have been harvested, with 34 percent considered poor or very poor, the USDA said.

# As Senate Debates Loom, Kerrey Seeks To Narrow Gap

BY MARGERY BECK  
AND HENRY C. JACKSON  
Associated Press

OMAHA, Neb. — With a national pedigree, a measure of celebrity and a long relationship with Nebraska voters, Bob Kerrey was supposed to give Democrats a real shot at holding onto the seat being vacated by retiring Sen. Ben Nelson.

Instead, Kerrey finds himself badly trailing in polls as he heads into a pair of key debates with his opponent, previously little-known

GOP state Sen. Deb Fischer. National Republicans, once concerned that Kerrey's candidacy could alter the dynamics in a race they hope will put them one seat closer to a Senate majority, are moving on to other targets. And national Democrats remain, for the most part, conspicuously absent from Kerrey's race.

The struggles of Kerrey, who served one term as governor and two as senator, raise questions about Democrats' long term prospects in Nebraska, a conservative state where Republicans

have gradually seized control of state and federal offices.

"Nebraska is not just Big Red in football — it's a big red state politically," said Chris Lehane, a Democratic strategist. "Based on just the pure political composition of the state, even if you had a combination of Nebraska's most well-loved natives, say Fred Astaire, Grover Cleveland Alexander and Warren Buffet, and you put a D next to their name, they would have a challenging time on the ballot."

Kerrey appears to be a tenser

candidate than the one who dropped into the race after a protracted will-he, won't-he saga in February and noted breezily "you'd have to bet against me."

The most recent poll in the state, conducted for the *Omaha World-Herald* and published on Sunday, showed Fischer with a 10 percentage point lead among registered voters and a 16 percentage point lead among likely voters.

In an interview, Kerrey insisted he is still within striking distance. "I'm very encouraged. I believe it's closer than that," Kerrey said.

## OBITUARIES

### Danny Merchen

IRENE — Danny Lee Merchen, age 53 of rural Irene, South Dakota, went to heaven on Tuesday, September 25, 2012 at his home after a three year battle with ALS.

Services will be 10:30 a.m. on Saturday, September 29, 2012 at St. Columba Catholic Church in rural Irene with Reverend Mathew Vazhappilly officiating. Burial will be 1:00 p.m. on Sunday at Beaver View Cemetery in rural Crofton, Nebraska.



Merchen

Danny enjoyed pheasant and deer hunting, which became much more than hunting. The planning and preparing for the hunts became a yearlong event.

Danny also enjoyed his cattle. He loved being outdoors and finding ways to improve his pastures. He was an easy going, quiet, level headed man who loved his family above all else.

Visitation is from 5:00 to 8:00 p.m. at St. Columba Catholic Church with a prayer service at 7:00 p.m.

Arrangements are under the direction of the Wintz & Ray Funeral Home in Yankton, South Dakota.

Pallbearers are Danny's nephews: Aron Merchen, Nathan Merchen, Michael Hansen, Brandon Thompson, Nicholas Merchen, and Paul Wiebelhaus. Honorary pallbearers are Danny's nieces: Megan Winckler, Amber Jansen, Annette Short, Joan Jansen, Natalie Hansen, Ashley Thompson, Heather Thompson, and Jenna Wiebelhaus.

Having been blessed to have Danny in their lives are his wife, Judy of Irene, South Dakota; three daughters: Sara (James) Gubbels of Pierce, Nebraska; Holly Merchen of Sioux Falls, South Dakota; and Candace Merchen (Tyler Larson, special friend) of Sioux Falls; six sisters: Eileen Merchen of Tulsa, Oklahoma; Marcia (Kenneth) Sutherland of Yankton; May (Tony) Hansen of Elkhorn, Nebraska; Gail Merchen of Elkhorn; Sandra Merchen (Buck Thompson) of Little Rock, Arkansas; and Darlene (Jeff) Wiebelhaus of Elkhorn; one brother, David (Tony Lynn) Merchen of Crofton, Nebraska; mother-in-law, Rose Marie Guenther and many nieces and nephews.

Danny was born on November 2, 1958, in Osmond, Nebraska to Philip and Mavis (Douglas) Merchen. He grew up on a farm northwest of Crofton, Nebraska. He graduated from Crofton High School in 1977. He was involved in 4-H and FFA by showing cattle and hogs. Danny got his Bachelor's Degree in Animal Science at UNL in 1981. He returned home and farmed with his brother raising cattle and working part-time for FHA. On February 8, 1986, he married Judy Guenther. They resided in Crofton, Nebraska for 2 years. Danny then got a job at the National Resources and Conservation Service (NRCS). They moved to Vermillion for 2 years. In 1990, they bought a farm northwest of Irene near the Mayfield Store. Danny worked for the NRCS in Vermillion, Sioux Falls, Yankton, and Parker all while building up his cow herd and doing rotational grazing. In 2008, he sold all cows and started raising heifers.

He was preceded in death by his parents, grandparents and father-in-law, Clarence Guenther.

Help find a cure for ALS (Lou Gehrig's Disease) by participating in a walk in Sioux Falls, SD on October 20, 2012 or by donating at [www.walktodefeatals.org](http://www.walktodefeatals.org). Give another family HOPE.

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

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September 28, 2012



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

### Thomas Foes Sr.

Thomas "Big Foot" Foes, Sr., age 64, died Tuesday, Sept. 25, 2012, at Avera Heart Hospital of South Dakota, Sioux Falls.



Foes

Thomas L. Foes was born Jan. 27, 1948, at Sioux Falls, to Francis L. and Bessie (Skinner) Foes. He attended school at Beresford and graduated from Howard High School in 1966. He served in the U.S. Army during the Vietnam War as a Military Policeman. Thomas married Rebecca Hieb in 1971 at Howard. They lived at Sheldon, IA where he attended trade school. They moved to Yankton, SD where he worked at Kaiser Heating & Cooling. Later he worked for Sioux Steel and Apex in Sioux Falls and Rock Creek Construction in Canova, South Dakota; and Candace Merchen (Tyler Larson, special friend) of Sioux Falls; six sisters: Eileen Merchen of Tulsa, Oklahoma; Marcia (Kenneth) Sutherland of Yankton; May (Tony) Hansen of Elkhorn, Nebraska; Gail Merchen of Elkhorn; Sandra Merchen (Buck Thompson) of Little Rock, Arkansas; and Darlene (Jeff) Wiebelhaus of Elkhorn; one brother, David (Tony Lynn) Merchen of Crofton, Nebraska; mother-in-law, Rose Marie Guenther and many nieces and nephews.

Survivors include one son, Thomas L. Foes, Jr. of Ft. Bragg, NC; two daughters, Angella (Ryan Byykkonen) Pechous of Tyndall and Theresa (Eric) Turner of Yankton; three grandchildren, Nicholas, Emily and Rachel Pechous; three brothers, Jack and Curtis Foes, both of Sioux Falls and Steven Foes of Omaha, NE; two sisters, Kay (Roger) Harms of Lennox and Nancy Mentele of Mitchell; and several nieces and nephews.

A Celebration of his Life will be held at 2 p.m. Friday, September 28, 2012 at St. Agatha Catholic Church, Howard, with Father Bill Osborn as Celebrant. Interment is in St. Joseph Catholic Cemetery, Howard, with Military Honors by Howard American Legion.

Scripture Service is at the church at 7:00 p.m. Thursday, September 27, 2012.

Casketbearers are Brent Hoffman, Jerry Harms, Robert Foes, Eric Foes, Ryan Byykkonen and Tom Kommes. Honorary Casketbearers are Bonnie Kidder and Mike Mentele.

Willoughby Funeral Home, Howard, is in charge of arrangements.

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### Wilbur Brunick

VERMILLION — Wilbur Wayne Brunick, 86, of Vermillion, SD passed away Wednesday, September 26 at the Sanford Vermillion Hospital.

Wayne was born October 6, 1925 in rural Vermillion to Lewis and Lillian (Brown) Brunick. He attended country school and joined the Navy serving during WWII. He married Laura Girard on November 21, 1946 in Vermillion.

He worked for the City of Vermillion Water Department for 23 years until his retirement in 1987. He enjoyed his grandchildren and great grandchildren, fishing, hunting and golfing and was a member of the Vermillion Volunteer Fire Department for 44 years.

He is survived by his wife of 65 years Laura of Vermillion, three sons: Doug (Rena) of Meckling, SD, Larry (Darlene) of Eudora, KS and Paul (Ann) of Vermillion, two daughters: Mary (Chuck) Taggart and Tricia (Leo) Taggart all of Vermillion, a brother Marion Brunick of Lakeland, FL, and a sister Vivian Mount of Volin, SD. He is also survived by 18 grandchildren and 19 great grandchildren and many nieces and nephews.

He was preceded in death by his parents, three sons: Bruce, Tom and Donnie, a granddaughter Laura Brunick, five brothers and three sisters.

Funeral Mass will be 10 a.m. Sat-

urday, September 29 at the St. Agnes Catholic Church with burial to follow in the Calvary Cemetery in Vermillion. Visitation will be from 5 - 7 p.m. Friday at the Hansen Funeral Home in Vermillion.

hansenfuneralhome.com.  
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### Darla Van Asselt

Darla Rae Van Asselt, 44, passed away on September 25, 2012 at the Dougherty Hospice House after a battle with cancer.



Asselt

She was born on December 26, 1967 to Clement and Mary Ann Kloucek. She graduated from Scotland High School in 1986 and from SDSU in 1991 with a double major in microbiology and medical technology.

Her current position was the Histology Supervisor at Avera McKennan.

Darla was a spunky, spirited young woman who gained everyone's love and respect through her straight forward approach to life. She will be missed by many, but her spirit will live on in everyone she touched.

Grateful for having shared Darla's life are her husband Tom and children Austin, Alex, Tanner and Derek. Her mother Mary Ann Kloucek, and 2 sisters Carol (Dennis) Streyle, and Ann (Peter) Kinney. Her father and mother-in-law, William and Ramona Van Asselt, and in-laws Rhonda (Dave) Anderson, Mark (Peg) Van Asselt, and Mary (Mike) Will along with many nieces and nephews on both sides of the family.

She was preceded in death by her father Clement Joseph Kloucek and infant great niece Carolyn.

Visitation will be held at First Lutheran Church in Colton, SD on Friday September 28, 2012 beginning at 5 p.m. with family present at 6:30 p.m. and prayer service at 7 p.m. Funeral services will be held at 11 a.m. on Saturday, September 29, 2012 at First Lutheran Church in Colton, SD.

The family has established at memorials fund in Darla's name.

For full obituary and online registry, please visit [minnehahafuneralhome.com](http://minnehahafuneralhome.com).

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### Donald Brewer

Donald "Donnie" Joe Brewer died after a courageous battle with cancer. By his side, was his wife of 42.5 years, Connie Brewer.

Donnie was born July 28, 1952 in Yankton, South Dakota. He and Connie spent their last several years in Kentucky.

There will be a celebration of Donnie's life held at "The Moose Lodge" in Yankton, South Dakota on October 13, 2012 at 4 p.m.

Don joins his father, Lyle Brewer and brother Dana and is survived by his wife Connie, children Jason and Dree, daughter in law Jonna, grandchildren Ashley, Hunter and Myles, his mother Nita June Sceney, brother Terry Brewer and sisters Shelly Baumgardner and Nita Troupe.

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### Jim Nohr

CROFTON, Neb. — Jim Nohr, 74, of Crofton, Neb., died Thursday, Sept. 27, 2012, at Avera Sacred Heart Hospital, Yankton.

His services are pending at Wintz Funeral Home, Crofton.

## IN REMEMBRANCE

### Brandon Nelson

10:30 AM, Friday  
St. Rose of Lima Catholic Church  
Crofton

### Irene Imig

2:00 PM, Friday  
Trinity Lutheran Church  
Yankton

### Peter Del Favero

Scripture Service  
7:30 PM, Friday  
Wintz & Ray Funeral Home  
Yankton

### Danny Lee Merchen

10:30 AM, Saturday  
St. Columba Catholic Church  
Rural Irene



FUNERAL HOME  
and Cremation Service, Inc.  
605-665-3644  
[www.wintzrayfuneralhome.com](http://www.wintzrayfuneralhome.com)



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Hartington, Coleridge, Crofton  
402-254-6547

## First Responder Course and Medical Technician (EMT) Courses offered this fall.

The following courses are being offered to Yankton and surrounding areas to assist in increasing the number of trained emergency care providers.

**Emergency Medical First Responder Course:**  
This is a 40 hour First Responder Course for individuals who are affiliated with an organized first response unit or individuals who desire a greater knowledge of pre-hospital emergency care but are not in need of the EMT training.

- Start Date: October 17, 2012
- Application Deadline: 5pm Monday, October 8, 2012
- Tuition: \$75 per student. Tuition included text book.

**For more information please contact:** Mark Nickles at [mark@co.yankton.sd.us](mailto:mark@co.yankton.sd.us) or 668-9033

**Emergency Medical Technician (EMT)**  
This 160 hour course was developed by the Department of Transportation. The EMT National Standard Curriculum prepares individuals to work for first responder groups or an ambulance service.

- Start Date: October 16, 2012
- Application Deadline: 5pm on Wednesday, October 10, 2012
- Tuition: \$625 per student. Tuition includes textbook.

YRAHEC and ASHH will provide \$300 to students upon course completion and licensure

**For more information please contact:** Troy Cowman at [troy@co.yankton.sd.us](mailto:troy@co.yankton.sd.us) or 668-9033

## Snow Thrower Tune-Up

Special - \$39.99

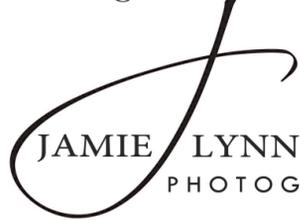
INCLUDED IN TUNE-UP:

- CHANGE OF OIL
- REPLACE SPARK PLUG
- GENERAL CLEANING
- ADJUST SKIDPLATES & SCRAPER BAR

- PICK UP AND DELIVERY AVAILABLE (ADDITIONAL CHARGE)
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What's your Story?

I am *thrilled* to announce my return home, as Yankton is where my story began. My *passion* is to capture *your story* in a fresh, modern, graceful approach that will truly *embody* you and your *loved* ones. Take a peek at my portfolio online, I look forward to hearing from you soon.

Jamie Selver