

Lake

From Page 1

consists of three lakes, each with a separate purpose of hunting, recreation and wildlife, Deurmier said. The Park Avenue Project will cover 20 acres at the lower southwest tip of the south lake. The organization is currently working on fundraising and permits.

While the project benefits all ages, Deurmier sees particular benefits for the younger generation.

"We want to reconnect our youth with nature. That's huge," he said. "Our high school kids have done water tests at the site, and it can be used for our science curriculum. And the educational center is only two blocks from our elementary school. Our students can receive an education on wetlands, grasses and others parts of the surrounding area."

The playground equipment should provide a natural draw for families, according to Patti Ronfeldt, who chairs the playground committee for the Park Avenue Project.

Ronfeldt is no stranger to the effort, as she helped spearhead a successful campaign to beautify the Lake Andes city park.

"We re-did the city park in 2012, and that definitely helped in working with this one (at the lake)," she said. "We knew about fundraising, applying for grants and getting help from people."

Wellmark provided a \$7,500 grant for the Park Avenue Project playground, Ronfeldt said. Other funds came from the city and private donations.

"We have, for the most part, raised all the money," she said. "We purchased the equipment in 2014, and it's already stored."

The committee originally chose a weekend that could use National Guard members for helping install the equipment, Ronfeldt said. The Wagner unit has since received

orders to deploy for Kuwait, but the original date will still remain even with the change in situation, she said.

"We plan to put up the equipment Sept. 12 with the help of volunteers," she said. "We figured it would be easier to find people willing to help at that time of year, and it shouldn't be hot."

The new playground will receive a proper recognition, Ronfeldt said. "Wellmark plans to do a dedication for us the week that we install the playset," she said.

The current effort to restore Lake Andes actually began in 1993, Deurmier said. More recently, the supporters took a formal step in conjunction with a Lake Andes

National Wildlife Refuge complex.

"On Dec. 28, 2006, some of the original board members came together with other community leaders to re-evaluate the lake's condition," he said. "At this time, the group secured reinstatement as a corporate entity through the State of South Dakota. The Refuge was working on a 15-year plan, and we reinstated the CMCLRO so we could help with the plan."

The CMCLRO operates as a 501(c)3 non-profit corporation, making donations tax deductible, Deurmier said. He hopes the group's status encourages more contributions.

"We're focusing on the Park Avenue Project right

now, but we're still focused on restoring the entire lake," he said "It's a big job, because the surface area of the lake is 4,616 acres and the watershed contains 95,723 acres."

"Hopefully, the Park Avenue Project will kick-start things and we can take care of all three lakes," he added.

The CMCLRO educational and recreational efforts have received support from the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Services' Mike Bryant, who serves as project leader for the Lake Andes National Wildlife Refuge Complex.

"The CMCLRO is advocating for improving water quality in Lake Andes and they are spearheading a project

that would create a park on the edge of the town of Lake Andes," Bryant said. "Both projects are important to us."

The CMCLRO has shone a spotlight on the lake's environmental needs, Bryant said.

"Lake Andes (the recreation site) suffers from poor water quality that impacts fish, wildlife, plants and even insects," he said. "At times, the oxygen content in the water gets so low that fish, aquatic insects and aquatic plants cannot survive."

"Having this non-profit group educating the surrounding community is great. It's just what the lake needs."

to the next level, Bryant said. "I see many recreational benefits from this," he said. "However, one of the most important benefits is educational."

The end result benefits everyone, Bryant said.

"Reconnecting people to nature is a goal for the Fish and Wildlife Service," he said.

For more information on the park project, email cm-clro@cme.coop or write to Box 701, Lake Andes SD 57356.

You can follow Randy Dockendorf on Twitter at twitter.com/RDockendorf. Discuss this story at www.yankton.net.



Out On The Town

CABIN FEVER GETAWAY

Royal River Casino & Hotel, Bus Tour, Flandreau, S.D.

April 16th & 17th

Walmart, Columbus, NE - 10:00am
Arrow Stage Lines, Norfolk, NE - 11:00am
Jerry's Hilltop - 11:45am
Yankton Mall by Fryin Pan - 12:45pm

per person double occupancy up to \$60 back & 2 meal vouchers

\$7500

402-538-3544 for details
ROADTRIP TOURS

ANNUAL COMMUNITY EASTER EGG HUNT

APRIL 4TH, 2015
1:00PM SHARP
SERTOMA PARK
YANKTON, SD

AGES: 0-2 FIELD A • 3-4 FIELD B
5-7 FIELD C • 8-9 FIELD D

This event is sponsored by: Elks USA • Walmart • Dairy Queen
Larry's Heating & Cooling • Slumberland • Casey's General Store
LARAYE E. ANDERSON, ALLISON SPAK, MEMBERS OF THE YANKTON ELKS, YANKTON AREA BUSINESSES

CASUAL SPEAKEASY

The Copper Room

PRESENTS

Trinidad Smoke

This Featured Drink is a rum cocktail made with homeade tobacco syrup, homeade cinnamon and clove syrup and infused to perfection with pipe tobacco.

UPSTAIRS AT 2222 W. 520 ST YANKTON SD
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Easter Sunday BRUNCH

APRIL 5th 10am-2pm

Enjoy breakfast and dinner selections, Minervas signature salads, and chef-inspired entrées including Chef Carved Ham, Bloody Mary Flank Steak, Apple Brandy Pork Loin, and Creole Chicken Penne Pasta

Buffet served with delicious side accompaniments and an assortment of desserts.

Reservations recommended for parties of 5 or more.
Call 605.664.2244 to reserve your table.

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VFW

Post 791 209 Cedar
OPEN TO THE PUBLIC
Sunday Only

5-7pm Cooks Choice

Thursday
5-7pm - Domestic Beers **\$1.50**
5-7pm - Hamburger/ Pizza Burger & Fries **\$5.00**

Friday
Meat Loaf, Salmon Loaf, Pollock
Serving 5:30-8:00

Saturday Entertainment
No Band
Regular Menu 5:30-8:00

Bingo Wed. at 7:00p.m.
Sunday at 6:30p.m.
Happy Hour M-F 4:30-6:00

Chislic Served Last Wednesday of Month

Dog Sense Obedience Training Sessions

Start Saturday, April 17th

- Basic Obedience Class
- Positive Based Training

Rachel Stoddard, ABC Certified Trainer
Clay Stoddard, Assistant Trainer

Call 605-660-5694 or 660-0246 or E-mail dogsense12@gmail.com for complete details and to sign up

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YANKTON MALL Easter Drawings & Portraits with the Easter Bunny By Expressions Photography

Friday, April 3rd 12pm-3pm

Drawings to be held every 30 minutes starting at 12:30pm.

Register to Win Prizes! • \$300 Mall Gift Cards • \$300 in Children's Prizes • Photography Certificates from Expressions Photography and much more!

Happy Easter Come Dine With Us Sunday, April 5th Breakfast Brunch Buffet

Served 9am-2pm

Featuring freshly prepared scrambled eggs, bacon, sausage, pancakes, hash brown casserole, assorted Danish, donuts, mini muffins, cookies, pies, cinnamon rolls, breakfast pizza, gourmet cheeses & crackers, Sweet and sour chicken, general's chicken, fried rice, egg rolls, crab rangoon, turkey breast, fried chicken, herb chicken, spiral ham, vegetables and Baking Stone breads.

\$14.99 per person
\$6.00 children 12 & under

HyVee EMPLOYEE OWNED

2100 Broadway, Yankton 665-3412

Contest

From Page 1

everybody wants to come to, everybody wants to live in, everybody wants to stay in."

Hunhoff said the Onward Yankton group is open to a wide number of suggestions from the public.

"I want to stress — the big idea can be about anything," he said. "It could be about our schools. It could be about healthcare and our hospitals. It could be about agriculture. It could be about creating better jobs. It could be about our historic downtown and the great history we've talked about. We do want it to be doable and realistic and something that can be accomplished, but we want it to be something really big. Something that will really change our town for generations as Yankton College did for so many years, as Mount Marty College continues to do, as the bridges have done, as the schools have done."

Entries will be gathered on Onward Yankton's website. After 100 days, the ideas will be narrowed down to an undetermined number of finalists, from which one idea will be chosen. The person(s) responsible for that idea would be awarded \$10,000.

Ness said that he hopes the big idea can lead to a number of outcomes, but the community needs to get the ball rolling on it.

"It will be something that improves the quality of life in Yankton, that maybe will provide jobs for people in Yankton," he said. "Maybe it'll get other businesses to move to Yankton from who knows where. But if we don't start the process of creating our own future, it isn't going to happen. This is our start."

Hunhoff said ideas like this are critical, not only for the city's growth, but also for its very survival as well.

"All cities our size are suffering a brain drain — especially rural states and rural communities like Yankton — and we've got to fight back," he said. "Communities like Yankton serve a great value, not only to South Dakota, but to the nation."

A repeat presentation was held at Yankton Middle School later in the day.

At press time, a number of suggestions had been added to Onward Yankton's Facebook page.

For more information on Onward Yankton or to submit an idea, visit <http://onwardyankton.com/>

You can follow Rob Nielsen on Twitter at twitter.com/Rob-NielsenPandD. Discuss this story at www.yankton.net.